I’m interested in studying governance in worker-owned cooperatives, and I’m particularly interested in the relationship between member education, ideology and democratic structures. I’m interested studying these related questions:

- How cooperatives educate new and current members, including the role of formal and non-formal education (training, mentoring, culture, ideology). Members of worker cooperatives need to understand both their job and the firm. How is information shared? Does everyone understand it?
- How cooperatives evaluate the success or failure of their educational efforts
- How cooperatives view the relationship between member education and governance
- The role of formal and informal democratic structures in governance and decision-making. How does the cooperative judge member engagement in governance and decision-making? What are the barriers to full engagement by members?

For the group projects, I could approach this topic by studying one cooperative, or a group of cooperatives.

Anne Reynolds
9/24/10