# Part 4: Economies and Cultures of Capitalism

## Discussion Questions (Collated from the text)

1. How has the meaning of the phrase “Indian gift” transformed away from its original meaning? What does its original meaning convey about the social meanings behind gift giving?
2. Apply your understanding of reciprocity (generalized, balanced, and negative) to describe the various obligations gifts carry.
3. How are children enculturated to learn about the social meanings of gift-giving? Provide examples from across the world (from the readings) and from your own upbringing.
4. What role does gift-giving play in politics and diplomacy?
5. What is primitive money? Why is it of interest to anthropologists but not to economists?
6. Why was “brideprice” redubbed “bridewealth”?
7. The title of this selection is “money is an inadequate substitute.” An inadequate substitute for what? How does the practice of bridewealth illustrate this point?
8. Why does Ho call Wall Street “the white-collar sweatshop”?
9. What kind of work is privileged on Wall Street? What does the “inside joke” chart that Ho observed hanging in one of her co-workers’ offices reveal about the kind of work that is valued?
10. Review the relationship between spatial segregation and Wall Street’s culture of work and “smartness.” Do you see examples of spatial segregation associated with prestige in your work or school environments?
11. What was the structure of recovery assistance in post-Katrina New Orleans? What kinds of companies were subcontracted to provide relief efforts? What worked about it? What didn’t?
12. What are the drawbacks of private-sector companies subcontracting with the government?
13. What is disaster capitalism? Where have you seen other examples of disaster capitalism?
14. Discuss the racialization of recovery and prioritizing of those who were already market visible.