

OTHER TECH WORLDS ARE POSSIBLE

VOL. 2



Other Tech Worlds Are Possible Vol. 2, FACTTIC

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Credits

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Contributors: Cecilia Muñoz Cancela, Laura Arcuri, Elena Ficher

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INTRODUCTION

by **RAFAEL GROHMANN**

What do technologies mean? Too often, our imaginations are dominated by the visions of tech bros, a very specific perspective from Silicon Valley. But that is far from the only way to think about and build technologies. The *Other Tech Worlds Are Possible* project sets out to show, through artistic narratives in comic form, the stories of worker collectives across Latin America who are expanding what technologies mean as they fight for social justice. These stories celebrate the power of imagination, always political, social, technological and artistic, to tell other stories about technologies, beyond Silicon Valley's ideology.

This second volume takes us to Argentina, where we meet the Argentinian Federation of Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Worker Co-operatives, or simply FACTTIC. Like a constellation, each co-op shines with its own light. But it is when they connect with one another that their collective force reveals itself. The story follows projects born from the strength of the collective: in assemblies, through cooperation among co-ops, and in the development of technologies that place co-operative values at the centre. Meanwhile, capitalism lurks like a vulture, feeding on individualism, indifference and precarious labour. But its power is never absolute. In its cracks, something new takes root. The co-operative phoenix is real, and it shows that cooperating is a powerful path toward other possible tech worlds.

Other Tech Worlds Are Possible is funded by the University of Toronto through the UTSC Departmental Research Fund awarded to the Department of Arts, Culture and Media, and by the SSHRC Insight Development Grant through the Worker-Owned Intersectional Platforms (WOIP) project.

Happy reading!

WHO MADE THE COMIC



NATÁLIA SIERPINSKI
(research and script - @n.sierpinski)

Natália is the writer of the comics Afeto and Panorama, which explore gender issues and the ethical use of technology. She researches gender, education, and narratives, and holds a Master's in Communication and a teaching degree in Educommunication from the University of São Paulo. She currently teaches in the undergraduate program at LifeLab, the human skills training program at ESPM (Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing).



GERMANA VIANA
(Illustration, lettering, and layout - @germana_fazgibi)

Germana is a comic book artist and writer. Her indie and self-published works include Só Mais Uma História de uma Banda, Nós Quatro, and Gibi de Menininha. She's also adapted works by Jane Austen, Julia Lopes de Almeida, and Machado de Assis into comics.



RAFAEL GROHMANN
(coordination, translation and editing - @grohmannrafael)

Rafael is an assistant professor of media studies (critical platform studies) at the University of Toronto and director of DigiLabour. He leads the Other Tech Worlds Are Possible project.

Co-production and review:

FACTTIC - Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Trabajo de Tecnología, Innovación y Conocimiento

Collaborators:

Cecilia Muñoz Cancela (Código Libre),
Laura Arcuri (Animus), Elena Ficher (ALT)



IMAGINE A CONSTELLATION OF
ARGENTINIAN TECH CO-OPS.



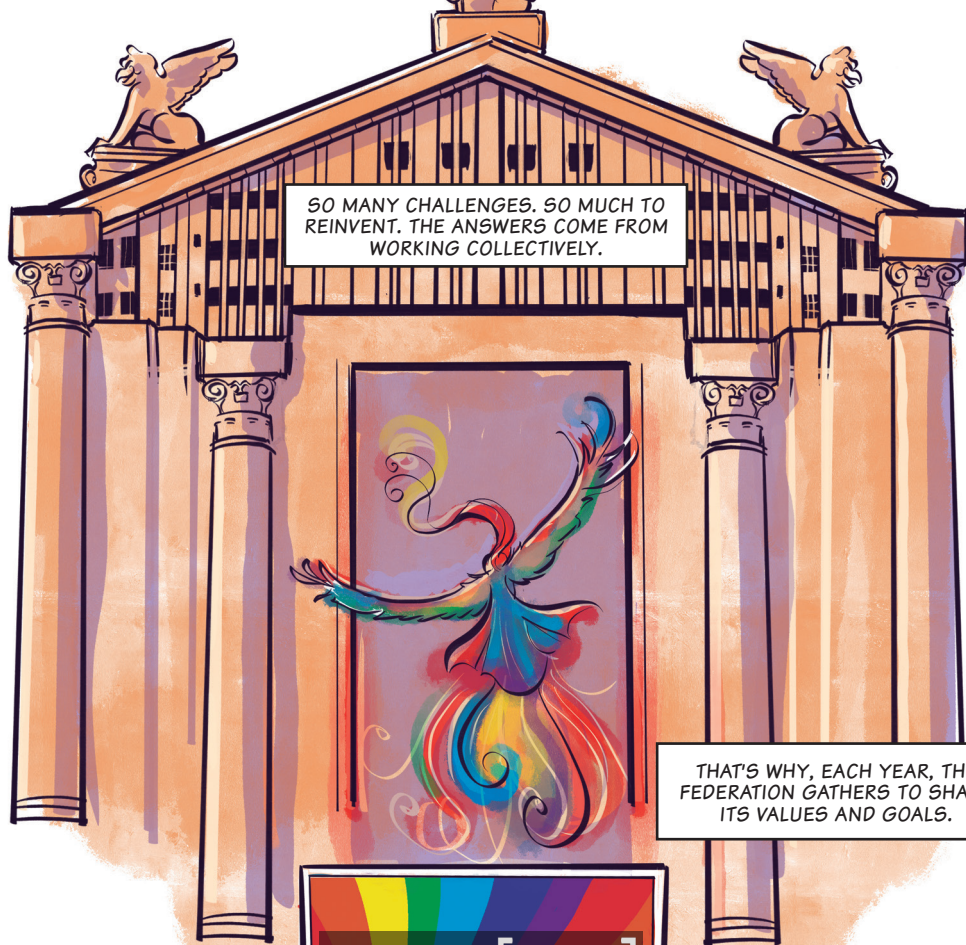
EACH ONE SHINES ON ITS OWN, BUT
THEY'RE WAY STRONGER WHEN THEY
CONNECT AND WORK TOGETHER.



UNITED, THESE CO-OPS
FORM A FEDERATION.



THE ARGENTINIAN FEDERATION OF TECH WORKER
CO-OPERATIVES (FACTIC).

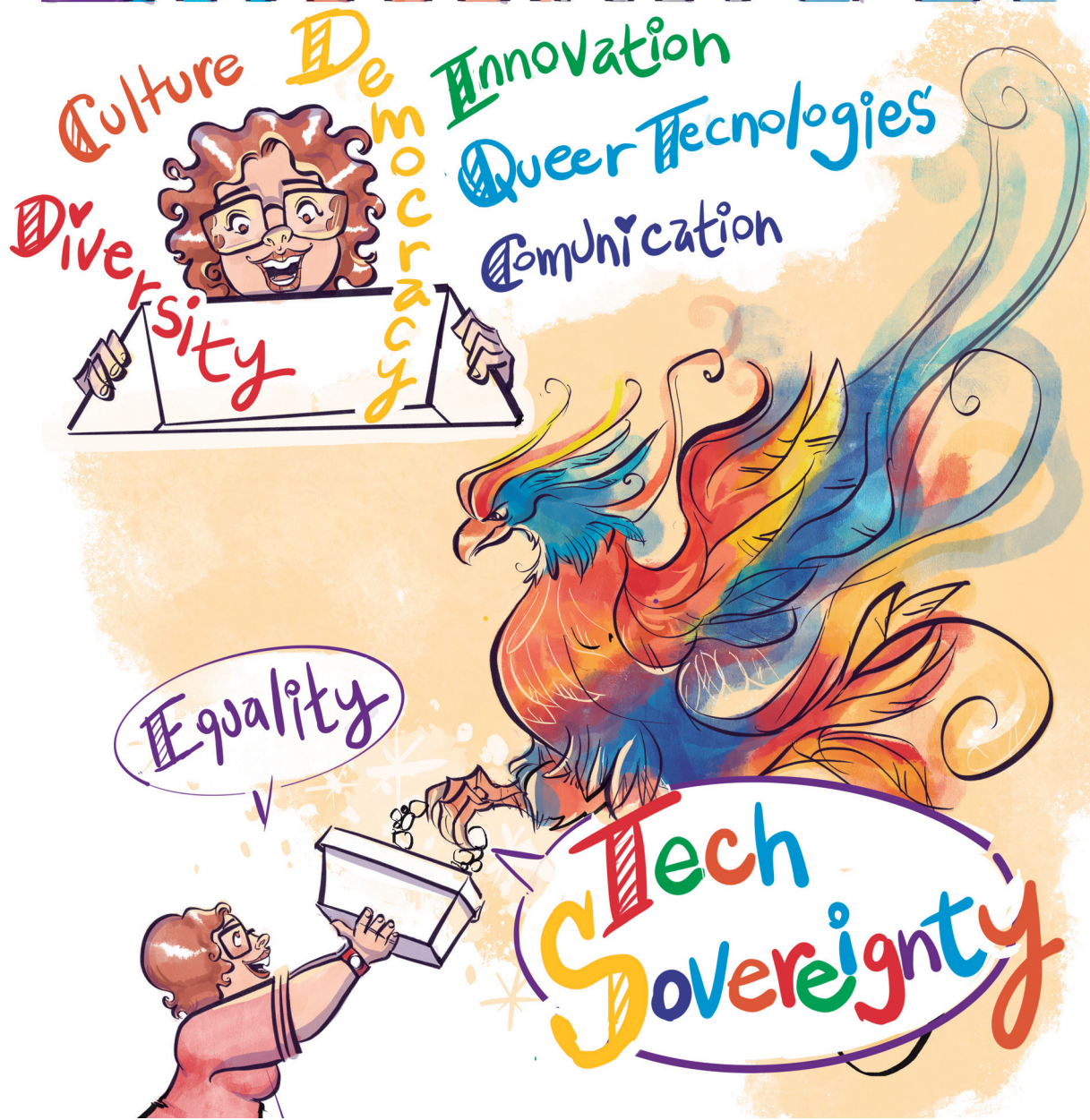


SO MANY CHALLENGES. SO MUCH TO REINVENT. THE ANSWERS COME FROM WORKING COLLECTIVELY.

THAT'S WHY, EACH YEAR, THE FEDERATION GATHERS TO SHARE ITS VALUES AND GOALS.









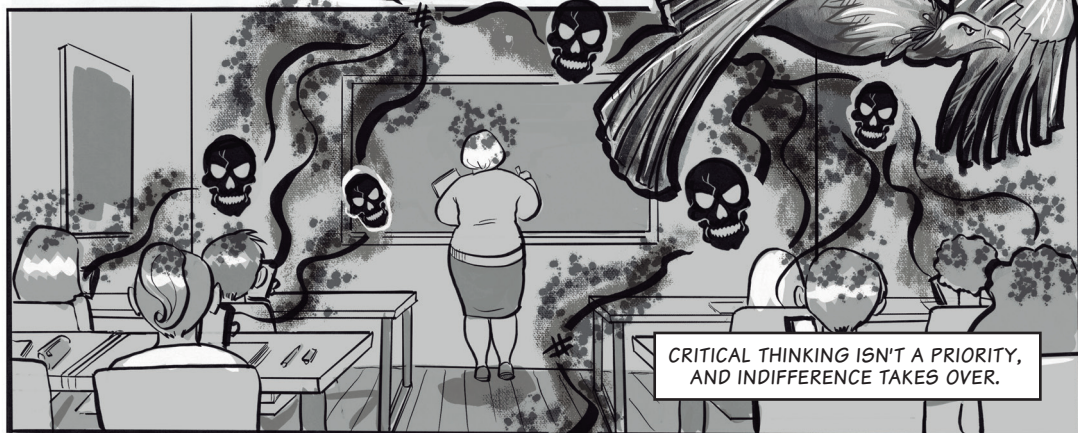
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WORK ON COLLECTIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL OF SOCIETY.



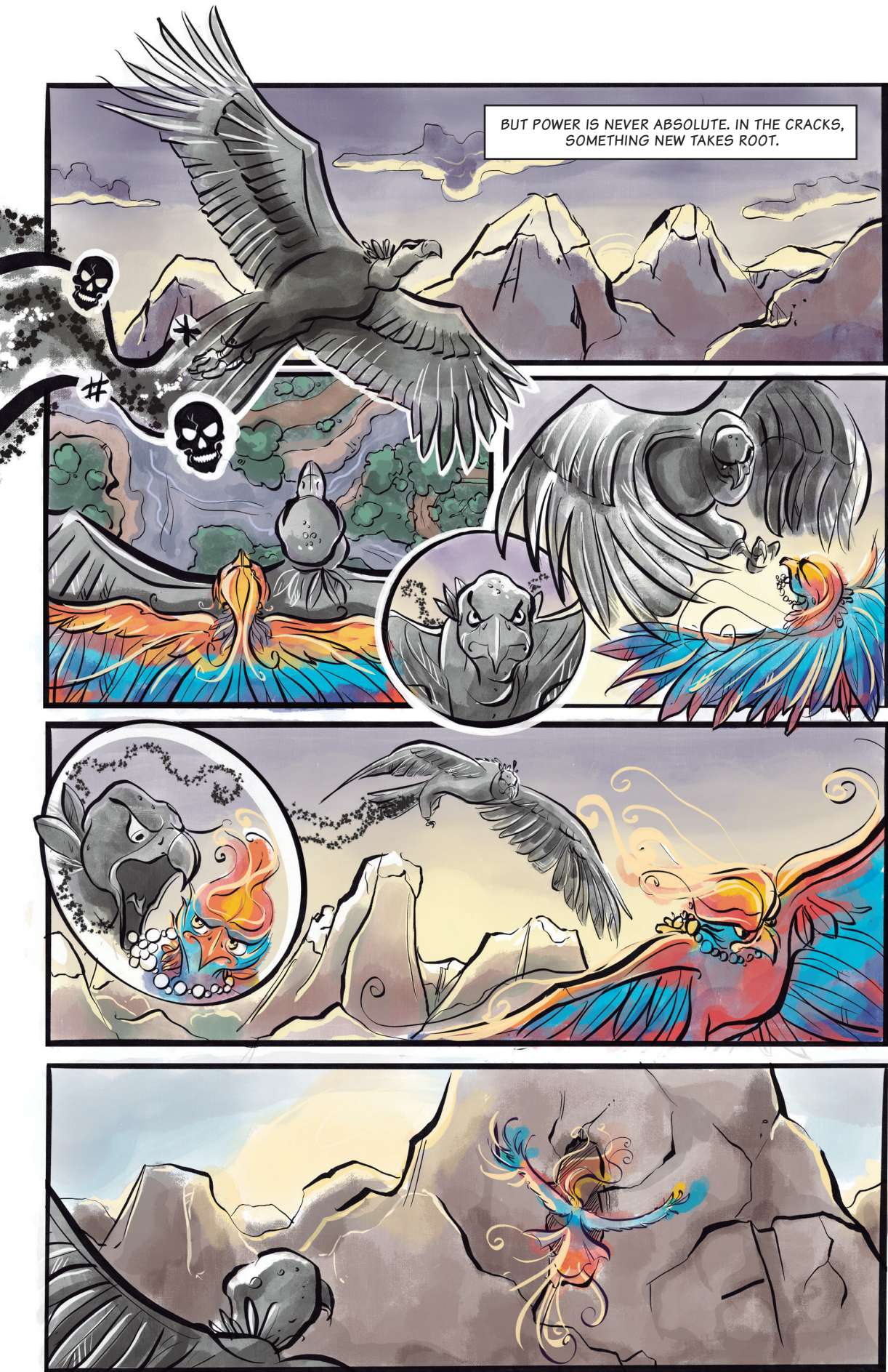
OTHERS FEED OFF INEQUALITY AND INDIVIDUALISM.



LEAVING SOCIETY MORE BROKEN BY THE DAY, AND REINFORCING THE ILLUSION THAT INDIVIDUAL EFFORT IS THE ONLY WAY OUT.



BUT POWER IS NEVER ABSOLUTE. IN THE CRACKS,
SOMETHING NEW TAKES ROOT.





WHAT IF WE
BUILT OUR OWN
AI PROJECT?

YES! ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE FOR
COOPERATIVES, MADE
BY COOPERATIVES!
WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF IA4COOPS?*

SOUNDS
GREAT!

LET'S BRING IN
EVERY CO-OP THAT WANTS
TO JOIN. THAT WAY WE BUILD
A STRONGER TEAM.

```
logging.  
self.file = open(os.path  
self.file.seek  
self.fingerprints.  
@classmethod  
def from  
def  
res  
ff  
if  
file, settings  
diy(settings).  
self.request:  
fingerprints:  
erprints:  
(fp)
```

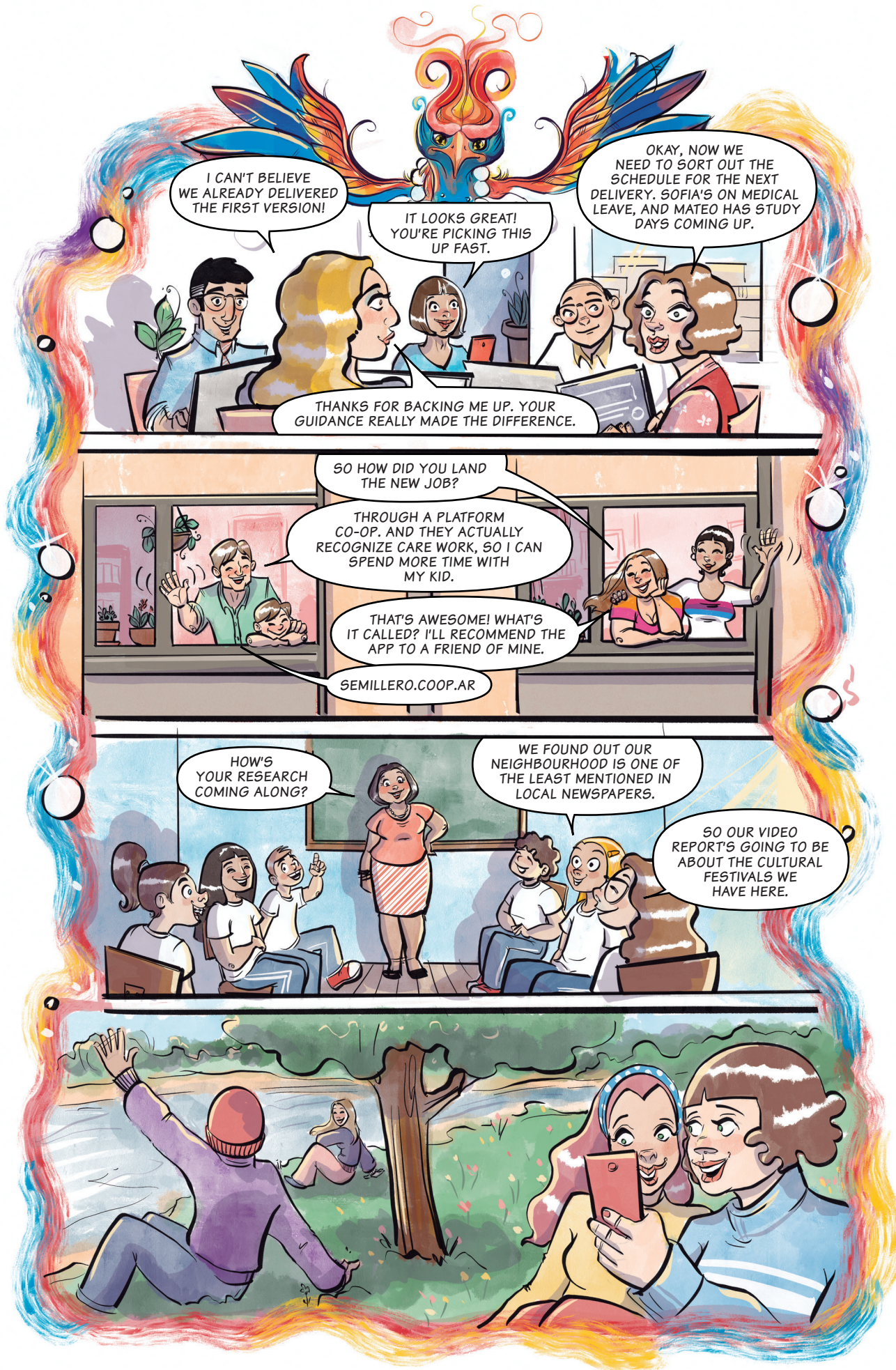



SOMETIMES, WINNING A BATTLE IS
JUST THE START OF THE JOURNEY.



AND WE CAN ALWAYS FIND NEW STRENGTH IN THE
SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL WINS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.





I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE ALREADY DELIVERED
THE FIRST VERSION!

IT LOOKS GREAT!
YOU'RE PICKING THIS
UP FAST.

OKAY, NOW WE
NEED TO SORT OUT THE
SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT
DELIVERY. SOFIA'S ON MEDICAL
LEAVE, AND MATEO HAS STUDY
DAYS COMING UP.

THANKS FOR BACKING ME UP. YOUR
GUIDANCE REALLY MADE THE DIFFERENCE.

SO HOW DID YOU LAND
THE NEW JOB?

THROUGH A PLATFORM
CO-OP. AND THEY ACTUALLY
RECOGNIZE CARE WORK, SO I CAN
SPEND MORE TIME WITH
MY KID.

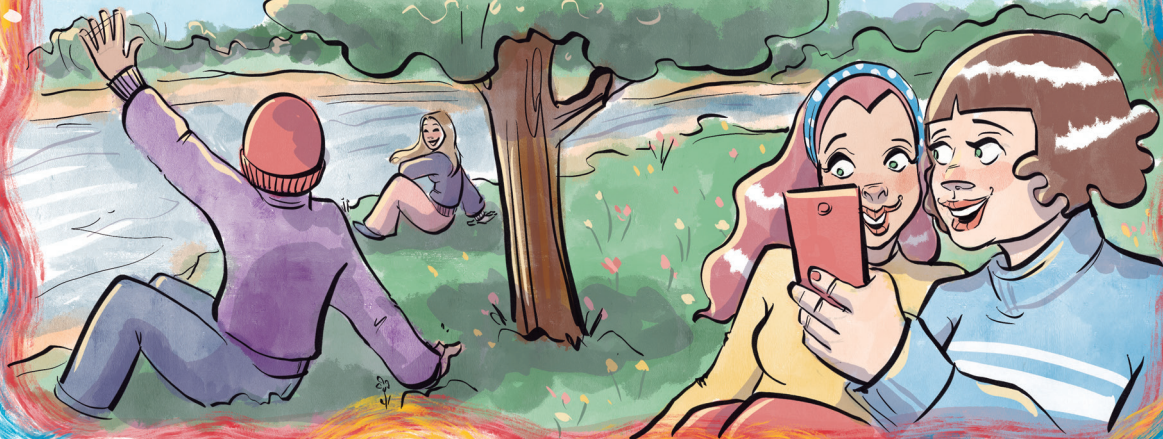
THAT'S AWESOME! WHAT'S
IT CALLED? I'LL RECOMMEND THE
APP TO A FRIEND OF MINE.

SEMILLERO.COOP.AR

HOW'S
YOUR RESEARCH
COMING ALONG?

WE FOUND OUT OUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD IS ONE OF
THE LEAST MENTIONED IN
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

SO OUR VIDEO
REPORT'S GOING TO BE
ABOUT THE CULTURAL
FESTIVALS WE
HAVE HERE.







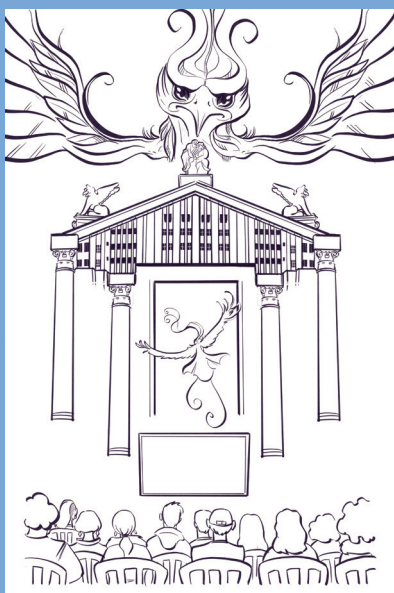
WHEN WE COME TOGETHER, SHARE
WHAT WE KNOW AND BUILD SOVEREIGN,
INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY, WE CREATE A
COLLECTIVE FORCE THAT TRANSFORMS
OUR WORLD AND BUILDS
FAIRER FUTURES.

CREATION PROCESS

While the first volume in this series gave us a story grounded in realistic settings and situations, this second volume opens onto a fantastical narrative full of visual metaphors, an invitation to reflect on how cooperativism and tech production rooted in the solidarity economy have been transforming Argentina.

Following a collaborative process for building the comic, and prioritizing how FACTTIC members wanted to be represented, writer and researcher Natália Sierpinski had many conversations with members of co-ops affiliated with FACTTIC to understand the federation's day-to-day work, projects, and practices. She also read related research, reviewed the co-ops' project portfolios, and took part in FACTTIC events held in Brazil.

It was in these early conversations that the idea of telling the federation's story through a fantastical narrative first emerged. From there, discussions about visual references for the settings played with that perspective, and Germana, while illustrating the comic, brought together different landscapes and landmarks from Argentina.





In the images above and on the previous page, we can see the building where the FACTTIC assembly takes place, which combines the architecture of the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine with the National University of Córdoba, and the setting where a new co-operative project begins, which combines the National Flag Memorial in Rosario (Monumento Nacional a la Bandera), El Palmar National Park, and the Devil's Throat waterfall at Iguazu Falls.

Once again in this volume, Rafael Grohmann's coordination was essential to help us focus the story, as we faced the challenge of representing a collective that brings together dozens of tech co-ops producing dozens of projects and initiatives every year. A lot had to be left out, but we focused on showing how the federation has built a collaborative culture and has been transforming the everyday lives of hundreds of people.

OTHER TECH WORLDS ARE POSSIBLE: VOL I



In the first volume of the Other Tech Worlds Are Possible series, we met the Tech Sector of the Homeless Workers' Movement (MTST) in Brazil, which has been creating and occupying technologies from within their own territories, critically, creatively, and as a form of struggle.



While the vulture of capitalism feeds on individualism and indifference, the co-operative phoenix grows stronger with every small win along the way.

In this second volume of the Other Tech Worlds Are Possible series, meet FACTTIC, the Argentinian Federation of Tech Worker Co-operatives.

Discover how tech co-ops turn cooperation and collective work into real projects like IA4Coops, an AI project made by co-ops, for co-ops. This is a story about the power of cooperation to build fairer technologies.

FUNDING:



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