



The Journal of Fair Trade

ACTION PRACTICE THEORY JUSTICE

The 2nd Journal of Fair Trade Society meeting, 4th May, 2023, 3- 4.30pm BST.

Thanks to all who attended the second Journal of Fair Trade Society meeting online on 4th May, 2023, 3- 4.30pm UK BST. We have saved attendees introductions from meeting chat here.

The meeting opened with welcome from Pauline Tiffen, Editor in Chief, who shared news of the recent change in Journal Manager position from Sally, who she thanked for her organisation and guiding of the journal since its launch, to Emma Anderson who presented herself, her experience and current work with the Journal of Politics. Pauline followed up to introduce a Dr Shireen Musa as a new member of the Journal of Fair Trade Editorial Board.

The Journal of Fair Trade Society and membership was presented by Ellie, membership coordinator, who explained that since the Journal's launch the membership Society has been developed to own and govern the Journal of fair trade. Ellie thanked all current paid members as well as all the original core supporters, who at one stage previously had either paid membership dues or donated. The society is comprised of individuals, institutions/ethical businesses and fair trade organisations who care about fair trade and the planet, come together to share their knowledge and ideas as well as help govern and guide the Journal of fair trade. Since becoming open access, in 2021, financial support from membership dues and donations is more crucial to funding core Journal of Fair Trade activities than ever. Upon launching the Journal of Fair Trade Society, with initial outreach through Pauline's contacts and their support in turn, the Society successfully gained almost 100 core- supporting paid members, donors and sponsored members. Unfortunately, currently only ¼ of these 100 core supporters still remain as members. This tragedy resulted from of an awkward change of membership system which meant original PayPal annual membership subscriptions were cancelled and core -supporters were ask to click and re-join (essentially setting up your original membership subscription again) on the new system. We apologies to our core members for the confusion this change in system caused and we hope you can re-join. We are really keen to have you, and your colleagues and acquaintances, join as members of the Journal of Fair Trade Society here.

From Pluto journals Eve Karam, the Journal manager, introduced Pluto journals the independent, charitable funded diamond Open Access publisher of cutting-

edge social science journal titles. Eve presented Pluto Journals as the first publisher to successfully switch its entire collection of Social Science journal titles to diamond open access, using the S2O model in January 2012, from previous standard library subscriptions. The benefits of being diamond access are that all published material is now freely available to anyone, anywhere without charge as well as ensuring absolutely no publishing charges to authors or institutions. Since becoming Open Access a huge increase in readership has been seen with JOFT figures from 2018 to date. The top 10 leadership nations were highlighted. Pauline Tiffen noted that readership figures can report on individual Academic Institutions' readership statistics. Since its entire journal collection become Open Access Pluto Journal has been working hard to encourage more Academic Libraries to subscribe to the Subscribe to Open (s2o) model to help secure the collection's Open Access future. If you think you could help reach-out to and encourage your academic institution's library to subscribe to S2O please email Eve at evек@plutojournals.com. Eve explained that Pluto Journals can help create a "best tailored" sales-pitch of S2O according to the specific academic institution and its library.

The Fair Trade International Symposium (FTIS23), 19-21 June 2023, Leeds University was presented by Prof Anne Tallontire. With support from symposium partners WFTO, FTAO and JoFT there will be some 10 FTIS23 workshops including one on a forthcoming FTIS23 and Journal of Fair Trade special edition. The symposium title "Fair Trade Connections" encourages dialogue between academics and practitioners. Likewise, the premise of the special JOFT edition is also to encourage authors of articles which are dialogues/co-authored between academics and practitioners. These types of papers could be more logistical to prepare and produce as well as result in articles that differ in style to traditional academic research articles. For this reason as part of the Call for Papers process anyone who would like to initially discuss a potential article proposal are welcomed to email. Please email emma.anderson@joft.org.uk. There is no specific requirement for potential authors to have attended FTIS, 2023. The Call for Papers deadline is 15th October 2023. Please read the Guidelines on this Special Edition Call for Papers here https://www.joft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/JOFT-special-issue-call-for-papers25_05_2023.pdf.

Transnational Institute (TNI) colleagues, Sylvia Kay and Tom Blickman, presented TNI and its plus 40 years of international research and advocacy with commitment to building a just, democratic and sustainable planet. In particular, TNI is committed to collaborative research with social enterprises and grass-roots movements on drug policy reform at all levels from the UN drug policy committee, drug dialogue committees through to direct dialogue with growers of cannabis, cocaine and opiate poppies. Sylvia presented her co-authored JOFT article on FT Cannabis and its premise of research and dissemination to empower small and traditional fair trade cannabis producers particularly from the Global South. This empowerment is based on a number of first order

principles (from the FT Charter), market strategies and public process. Sylvia highlighted the many issues and challenges to this including stigma, criminalisation, drug control, imposed conventions which making legal trade complex and bureaucratic and prohibitive cost of compliance as legal, licensed growers (including CCTV, fencing, and track and trace). This prohibitive cost was named as a huge reason from small and traditional producers for their being excluded from the legal market. Tom, Blickman, TNI, followed up to give examples of the challenges faced, as well as the positive steps to be followed, by fair trade cannabis producing communities he has worked with in Morocco and Germany. During questions and comments Indro Dasgupta raised “hemp” as an interesting development in that India growers, in certain regions, are now permitted to grow, harvest hemp and produce hemp fabric-products for the large American and Canadian consumer demand. Tom Blickman added that along with hemp CBD products are not illegal and can be equally used as a good test-ground for demand in the fair trade market. A question was raised by Meg Brindle over wrongful cannabis incarceration, who noted there were some 1/4 million cannabis arrests in the USA last year alone. She questioned how this can be handled. Sylvia, from TNI, responded that fair trade cannabis can’t advance alone. It must be in tandem with an overhaul of justice, legal reforms, “restorative justice”, expungement of prior cannabis records as well as an amnesty to help people move towards regulated cannabis production. Sylvia noted a new requirement in New Jersey whereby 70% of revenue from cannabis sales must be reinvested into black businesses and communities in honour of historical legal - wrongdoings against these communities.

To close the meeting Pauline Tiffen confirmed the next JoFT Society meeting date is confirmed as **Thursday, 2 November 2023, 3- 4.30pm UK GMT.**

Before November Pauline confirmed we will be in contact with updates on the following:

By summer we will update on the new advisory board and its governance of JoFT. This will update will arise from a co-authored Journal of Fair Trade Society and WFTO paper to set out the advisory board: what it is for, how it will govern JoFT and how to put yourself forward.

Before our November meeting we will email all on fundraising and project proposals. Pauline plans to share the JoFT budget and vision going forward along with ideas for collaborative partnerships and ideas. This will be open to all supporters to get involved and share ideas. In particular, Pauline will look at projects for continued strengthening between JoFT and Fair Trade Towns International as well as the new partnership with Leeds and FTIS.