



Fair Trade International Symposium: Portsmouth 26-28 June 2018

Fair Trade and the SDGs: Investigating the fairness of sustainable development

Fair Trade has been recognised as a socially-focused inclusive business model that can promote fairer trade relations, in agriculture, food, textiles and all labour intensive production. With its accents on producer empowerment, long-term partnerships, fair pricing for producers, living income and living wage for farmers.

"Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South. Fair Trade Organizations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade."

On 1 January 2016, the United Nations officially launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals designed to address the urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The Goals require the combined action of government, civil society and business in order to develop solutions to the complex challenges of poverty, inequality and climate change. The Goals are universal, and all nations are expected to build the SDGs into their national policies and plans.

While all of the goals are relevant for Fair Trade producers - Fairtrade International, the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Advocacy Office have jointly identified the following nine SDGs as the most closely related to Fair Trade's role. The aim of the conference is to investigate the ethics and practice of fairness that constitute the processes, goals and indicators of sustainable development.

FTIS 2018 Conference Themes:

SDG 1 - No poverty: How can Fair Trade contribute to the overarching goal of ending poverty in all its forms everywhere? How can researchers and practitioners measure and assess Fair Trade's impact on poverty reduction? Can researchers measure changes in poverty reduction by putting a value on poverty reduction, what metrics might be used to measure impact beyond financial benefits?

SDG 2 - Zero hunger: How does Fair Trade support sustainable agriculture and food security? To what extent do Fair Trade interventions increase standards of living and reduce vulnerability of smallholder farmers and workers?

SDG 5 - Gender equality: How does Fair Trade ensure that women receive equal pay to men? Do Fair Trade organisations enable women to participate fully in decision-making? What can Fair Trade contribute towards the changing of social norms in supply chains leading to increased female producer empowerment, including involvement in cooperative and union leadership?

SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth: How can standard-setting approaches, such as Fair Trade, improve working conditions and livelihoods in global supply chains? How do differences in market structures and institutional networks affect the dynamics and efficacy of Fair Trade programmes?

SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities: How does Fair Trade seek to address issues of inequality in international trade? How can Fair Trade address imbalances in power and influence between stakeholders in the Global North and Global South?

SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production: How does Fair Trade support a policy and market environment that promotes sustainable consumption and production? What does ethical consumption look like in 'emerging economy' contexts, and how does this inform existing notions of Fair Trade? To what extent are public policies on sustainable production and consumption addressing the fairness dimensions of sustainability? What are the risks and opportunities of governments engaging with Fair Trade?

SDG 13 - Climate action: How does Fair Trade promote sustainable farming practices? What is the balance between climate change mitigation and adaptation? What are the opportunities and challenges in the generation of 'carbon credits' by Fair Trade producers and how might this encourage or hinder sustainable development?

SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions: How does Fair Trade support inclusive societies, access to justice and accountable and effective institutions? What role can Fair Trade organisations play in influencing the accountability of institutions at a national and international level?

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: How has Fair Trade developed local and global partnerships? What are the challenges of shaping and influencing a multi-stakeholder initiative? What is the place of Fair Trade in the adoption of regulations and incentive structures by states to attract investments and reinforce sustainable development? Fair Trade is a multi-stakeholder partnership, what private or public governance models (within or beyond the Fair Trade movement) are best equipped to maintain a producer-oriented transformative agenda for Fair Trade?

We encourage researchers and practitioners to use the SDGs, in particular the nine identified above, as a lens to explore and assess Fair Trade's contribution to date and potential to support a global agenda towards sustainable development that has fairness at its core. Papers may set out to address a specific SDG, investigate cross-cutting themes relevant to Fair Trade and sustainable development, or focus on the role of specific actors such as governments, citizens or the private sector.

This list is indicative of some of the topics and questions that we consider will be of interest to Fair Trade scholars and stakeholders – however, we also encourage papers that explore alternative approaches and new perspectives on SDGs beyond those identified here.

FTIS 2018 Conference Highlights:

Since the first Fair Trade International Symposium in 2002, it has evolved to become the preeminent academic conference and international meeting for scholars, practitioners and policymakers working in the area of Fair Trade.

For FTIS 2018, we have keynote speakers from across the Fair Trade movement including: **Linda McAvan MEP**, Chair of the European Parliament's International Development Committee and Fair Trade Working Group; **Tsitsi Choruma**, COO Fairtrade Africa; **Rudi Dalvai**, President of the World Fair Trade Organization.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome **Dr Vandana Shiva** to deliver a Special Address on 'Fair Trade and sustainable food production'. Dr Shiva will present a keynote lecture that sets out some of the main challenges and alternative approaches for the SDGs, Fair Trade and sustainable food systems.

The symposium has become a unique platform for academics and practitioners to exchange ideas, build and consolidate networks, develop projects and identify new areas of research. We cordially invite you to join us at the sixth Fair Trade International Symposium where we look forward to continuing this tradition of engagement and impact.

FTIS 2018 is open to all participants interested in the latest research and practical developments in Fair Trade. Individuals do not have to be presenting a paper or poster in order to register as a conference delegate. All delegates are reminded that they will need to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Presenting at FTIS 2018:

The symposium will feature plenary keynote addresses, parallel paper presentations, poster sessions and participatory workshops. The main language of the symposium will be English - there will be an opportunity during poster sessions for multilingual presentations and discussions.

Papers

Researchers and practitioners who would like to present a paper are invited to submit an extended abstract (**5 pages written in English**). Paper sessions will include time for audience questions and feedback. Full papers will be eligible for a Best Conference Paper Award.

The abstract should include the theme addressed, the applied theory and methodology, the results obtained and the main bibliography. The abstract should not contain any reference to the author's name, either in the text or in the bibliography. Submissions should include a short abstract (max. 150 words) to be included in the conference proceedings.

Posters

Participants are also given the opportunity to submit a **1 page abstract** for poster presentations. Poster abstracts can be written in English, French or Spanish. Limited translation support will be provided, but authors are encouraged to consider an effective presentation format for an international audience. Submissions should include a short abstract (max. 150 words) to be included in the conference proceedings.

Workshops

A workshop is a working meeting that focuses on a specific area related to the conference themes. Proposals for workshops should be **3-5 pages in length**. Workshop presenters will not be anonymous to the reviewers.

The proposal should include a brief overview of the area of research, teaching or practice that will be addressed; a summary of the session's planned activities; and a brief discussion of the workshop leaders and some tentatively identified participants. Submissions should include a short abstract (max. 150 words) to be included in the conference proceedings.

A workshop session can require participants to read and prepare feedback on one another's abstracts or do some other preparation prior to the session.

PhD Workshop

The emphasis of the PhD workshop is on personal academic and research development. The session will be limited to a maximum of 10 students who will each have the opportunity to make a presentation providing a summary of their work and outlining questions and issues for discussion. The workshop will also be attended by a small number of more experienced and senior academics who will provide guidance and support.

Abstracts for the PhD workshop should be **3-5 pages in length**. Delegates should outline their current, or proposed, PhD research project including details of the background literature, applied theory and methodology, (tentative) findings and the main bibliography.

Abstract Submission Format:

All abstracts should be submitted online by **15 January 2018**, although the organisers would appreciate earlier submissions. All abstracts will be evaluated through a process of double-blind peer review. Notification of acceptance or refusal will be sent within 2 months. Reviewers may formulate suggestions, or in some cases require specific conditions, which will need to be taken into account for the acceptance of the full paper.

Please include a separate file that contains a **cover sheet** that states:

- The intended session format - paper, poster, workshop
- Designated corresponding author
- Contact information (name, address, phone, email) for the author and any other participants (e.g., workshop panellists, symposium presenters, etc.)
- Three keywords to assist in assigning reviewers.

Submission constitutes a commitment that at least one paper author will attend the conference if the submission is accepted.

Everyone submitting a proposal should be prepared to serve as a reviewer for at least three other submissions if requested.

Abstracts should be submitted online at: <https://www.formpl.us/form/5627105918320640>

Travel Scholarships:

For FTIS 2018, we are pleased to be able to offer financial assistance to help support travel to Portsmouth and participation by delegates from institutions based in the Global South.

We are able to provide travel expenses (up to the value of £700) for one presenter for each of the main conference tracks. In addition, we will also cover the conference registration fees and provide University accommodation for delegates awarded a travel scholarship.

If you wish to be considered for a travel scholarship please indicate this on the conference paper abstract submission form: <https://www.formpl.us/form/5627105918320640>

Funding will be awarded based on the quality of the research presented and an evaluation of the abstract submitted. FTIS is only able to fund one delegate for each conference track. Priority will be given to applicants based in institutions from Low-Income Economies and Lower-Middle Income Economies.

If you have any questions about eligibility please contact FTIS2018@gmail.com

FTIS 2018 Organisers:

The Fair Trade International Symposium is coordinated by the FTIS Steering Group and supported by representatives from [WFTO](#), [Fairtrade International](#), [Fair Trade Advocacy Office](#) and [Fairness Networks](#).

FTIS Steering Group:

- **Matthew Anderson** (University of Portsmouth)
- **Sergi Corbalán** (Fair Trade Advocacy Office)
- **Marie-Claude Desjardins** (University of Sherbrooke)
- **Christine Gent** (World Fair Trade Organization)
- **Arisbe Mendoza Escalante** (Fairtrade International)
- **Anne Tallontire** (University of Leeds)

For any conference enquiries please email: FTIS2018@gmail.com