

*How does fair trade
as practiced by Trade Aid and Minka
contribute to the aspirations of
Quechua in Peru?*

Research project for:
Master of Indigenous Studies
University of Otago
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Trade Aid (NZ) and MINKA (Peru)



International development and indigenous peoples

“Development is a dangerous fiction that reinforces unequal power relations, a vehicle used by states and dominant institutions to expand their domains and mainstream ways.”

Arturo Escobar - *“Encountering Development: The making and unmaking of the third world.”*

Methodology

The methodology had to be carefully considered for a number of reasons including:

- cross cultural and language differences;
- analysis of the MINKA interviews by a researcher with a different worldview from the participants’;
- the power imbalances inherent in the researcher/interviewee relationship;
- using qualitative interviews as the main source of information;
- the potential for vested interests of the researcher in the results of the research.

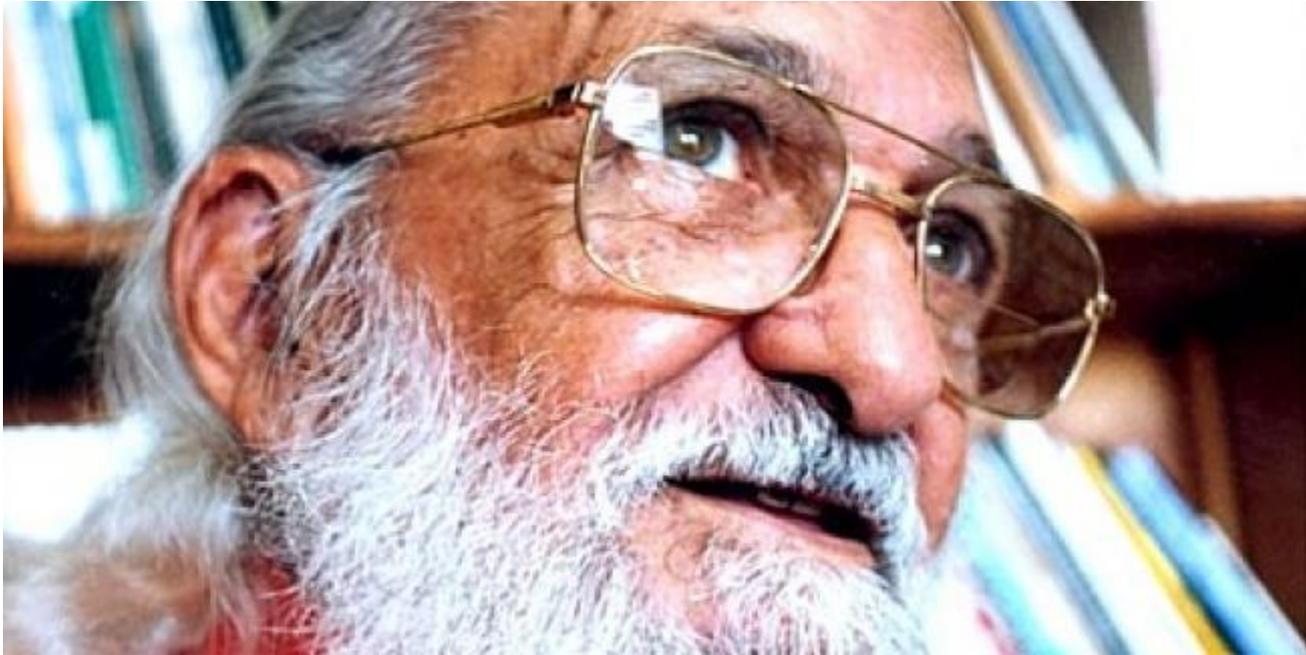
The theorists used to frame the research

- Linda Tuhiwai Te Rina Smith
- Michael Foucault
- Homi Bhabha
- Paulo Freire
- Emmanuel Levinas

What they have to say:

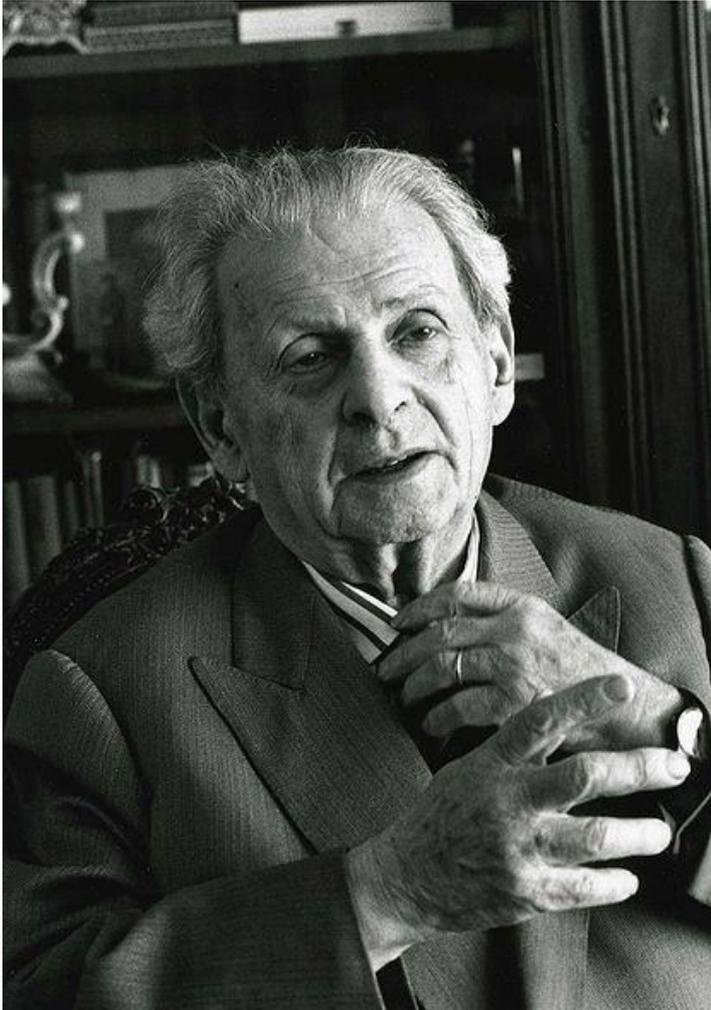
- indigenous peoples require others to understand that they have a different worldview and therefore, different solutions to their own problems;
- that these worldviews should not be made static through others defining what they are;
- that truth is contextual not universal, but that it is possible to create a space for discussion on a universal level that allows for different worldviews to interact and find similarities in ways of working;
- that conquest is necessary for liberation, and cannot be gifted;
- that love must be at the heart of real solidarity with the oppressed;
- and that ethical behaviour towards another comes not through our own understanding of the other, but through seeing them as 'other' and therefore worthy of our love.

Paulo Freire



“Freedom is acquired by conquest, not by gift.”

Emmanuel Levinas



Totalization: The denial of the other, when the other is limited to a set of rational categories - be they racial, sexual, or otherwise, the idea that we already know what the other is about before the other has spoken.

A summary of my findings:

Viewed through the lens of the five theorists, I believe Trade Aid and MINKA's relationship demonstrates the behaviours and desire consistent with:

- ❖ acknowledging different world views;
- ❖ building partnerships and networks which enhance commonality yet allow diversity;
- ❖ seeking real liberation through producer empowerment;
- ❖ providing opportunities for producers to choose and create their own development and direction;
- ❖ fairly and ethically working to understand and to portray the other as they would seek to portray themselves

Thank you for listening 😊

The full research paper (20,000 words) is available by emailing:

- Michelia.ward@tradeaid.org.nz
- Or by purchasing the book online at: www.morebooks.de – (use Michelia as the search term).