Handbook of Research on Fair Trade

Edited by Laura T. Raynolds, Co-Director, Center for Fair & Alternative Trade and Professor, Sociology Department, Colorado State University and Elizabeth A. Bennett, Assistant Professor, International Affairs Department, Lewis & Clark College and Associate, Center for Fair & Alternative Trade, Colorado State University, US

Fair trade critiques the historical inequalities inherent in international trade and seeks to promote social justice by creating alternative networks linking marginalized producers (typically in the global South) with progressive consumers (typically in the global North). The first of its kind, this volume brings together 43 of the foremost fair trade scholars from around the world and across the social sciences. The Handbook serves as both a comprehensive overview and in-depth guide to dominant perspectives and concerns. Chapters analyze the rapidly growing fair trade movement and market, exploring diverse initiatives and organizations, production and consumption regions, and food and cultural products. Written for those new to fair trade as well as those well versed in this domain, the Handbook is an invaluable resource for scholars and practitioners interested in global regulation, multi-stakeholder initiatives, social and environmental certification, ethical labeling, consumer activism, and international development.

‘Edited by Laura T. Raynolds and Elizabeth Bennett, both well-known and respected researchers in the fair trade movement, this Handbook is the first to amass critical studies of fair trade in one volume and will prove to be an invaluable resource for those interested in the history, challenges, and future direction of fair trade initiatives worldwide. . . . Overall, this volume is a welcome introduction to the history, theory, and praxis of the fair trade movement. The Handbook of Research on Fair Trade has provided an academically rich resource, while maintaining accessibility for practitioners and students interested in the future challenges of the fair trade movement.’

– Amanda D. Clark, Human Rights Review

‘Handbook of Research on Fair Trade is a critically important and highly recommended addition to governmental, NGO, and academic library International Economics reference collections and supplemental studies reading lists.’

– The Midwest Book Review

‘Fair trade is at a crossroads. It faces the challenges of managing successful rapid expansion in scale and scope, and tensions within the movement over whether its founding principles are compromised by mainstream commercial engagement. This Handbook brings together an excellent set of critical contributions at the cutting edge of research on fair trade. They provide a wide range of perspectives and insights into different conceptual approaches and empirical case studies covering a variety of products, issues and regions. The Handbook is vital reading for all academics, students and practitioners with an interest in fair trade and its future advance in a rapidly changing world.’

– Stephanie Barrientos, University of Manchester, UK

‘This is an important contribution to building the research field of fair trade globally. The contributions significantly move a range of important debates forward and offer a state-of-the-art account of this most significant sector within ethical consumption’

– Alex Nicholls, Saïd Business School and Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, UK

‘This Handbook is a long-needed, comprehensive examination of fair trade’s multifaceted and shifting coordinates by leading scholars from a wide range of disciplines. An invaluable resource for researchers and students alike.’

– Daniel Jaffee, Portland State University, US

‘Raynolds and Bennett have done a major service with this excellent Handbook, providing a sweeping overview of the past quarter century of fair trade work and research. The book offers wide-ranging insights from top experts concerned with theory and practice, and careful attention to fair trade’s gains and losses. It will be of great interest to practitioners, activists,'
and scholars, and bound to be a cornerstone for the next phase of fair trade work and research.
– Gavin Fridell, Saint Mary’s University, Canada