

Trade School Pietermaritzburg: BARTER FOR KNOWLEDGE

From 15th August to 3rd September, a Trade School will be running in Pietermaritzburg.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!!!

Trade School is an alternative, self-organized non-traditional learning space that runs on barter all over the world. It is a small part of the solidarity practices that reinforce values of mutualism, cooperation, social justice, democracy, and ecological sustainability. The movement started in 2010 with a small group of friends in New York and spread to Virginia and Milan in 2011. There are various operating schools across the globe's continents. The Pietermaritzburg T.S is the first to operate in the African continent. In April 2015, a small group consisting of students and staff from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg campus, initiated and facilitated the running of the school which operates under the Paulo Freire Project of the Centre for Adult Education in the School of Education.

The nature and basic principle of Trade Schools is that they are run by a local group of volunteers. We operate as a non-hierarchical collective and promote the value of teaching and learning from each other. As such, in a T.S anyone can be a teacher and anyone can be a student. We are thus consciously disrupting the idea that only certain people have knowledge or skills and that people need to pay money to learn something. Instead, T.S recognizes that time and energy is valuable. Therefore, since it believes in the power of non-monetary value, students are requested to bring any of the barter items that the teacher asks for in the proposed class of attendance.

How does it practically work?

1. The T.S. Collective puts together an exciting list of classes, ranging from a beginner's class in knitting to fracking, from aerobics to direct democracy, from how to make a short movie to hosting a radio show, from Highland Dance to how to make a decent cup of coffee – and lots more!!
2. 'Teachers' list the barter items they would like from students in exchange for their class
3. "Students' register for classes online by visiting <http://tradeschool.coop/pmb/> or, if Internet connectivity is a problem, by SMSing the Collective at 082 0888 198. Everyone is welcome!
4. You attend your class/es, bringing along your agreed on barter item!

For more information about the Trade School movement, visit www.tradeschool.coop, or watch a TED Talk at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krRM_WcYhPU. For more information about the PMB Trade School, visit our website; email us at tradeschoolpmb@gmail.com; or SMS us at 082 0888 198.