

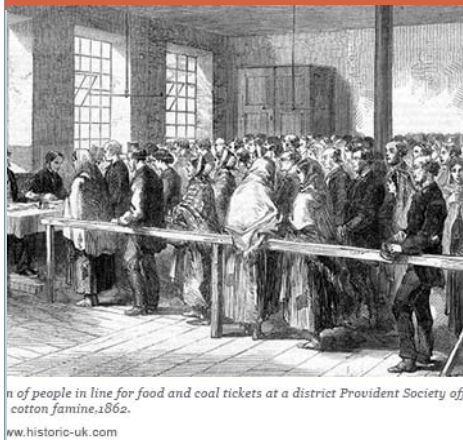
Participatory Action Research *is* a Political Activity!

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Speaking unwelcome truths to power

1862 Millworkers refused to use
slave-picked cotton

1863 Abraham Lincoln thanked
them for helping to end slavery



Peterloo Massacre

Peaceful march for democracy - children, women, men



Manchester home of the suffragette movement



- 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst and daughters founded the Women's Social and Political Union from their parlour
- 1987 The Pankhurst Centre opened as an educational, women-only space

Marx and Engels met in Manchester



- 1845 Condition of Working Class in England (Engels)
- 1848 Communist Manifesto (Marx & Engels)
- Engels' statue outside Home where Mike Leigh's film Peterloo was premiered
- Manchester bee - symbol of solidarity and community

Paulo Freire listening to Gramsci in the favelas



I listened to Freire on Manchester streets



- 1980s community worker in Manchester
- Freire's critical praxis influenced PAR and CD
- Principles and values frame theory and practice
- Freire Institutes worldwide

Abasindi Black Women's Co0perative



- 1980 Paula, founder member of Abasindi
- Whiteness as unearned, invisible privilege in the world
- White privilege one of the biggest lessons needed in today's political context

Local practice taken out of its political context:

- Scratches at surface symptoms of injustice
- Risks laying responsibility at feet of victims
- Fails to reach under the surface deep enough to find root sources of structural power

Profit over People and Planet: world crises of social and environmental justice

PROFIT

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PEOPLE ----- PLANET

Provocation!

- Can we claim to practice PAR, with its commitment to social change, without situating local practice in the political context which shapes people's personal experiences?