

Bob Thomson Brief BIO:

Bob Thomson is a lifelong activist. From his early days with CUSO in Peru and then in Ottawa and the Caribbean, to his work with Oxfam and Fair Trade Mark Canada (now Fairtrade Canada) and for Export Credit Agency Watch in Paris, Bob has championed social justice and fair trade across the globe. Over decades, he's worked with NGOs throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada and beyond, advocating for sustainable development and human rights. This is only a small part of his incredible story.

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Topic Title: *Mike Cooley's Learning Curve - How We Learn and Thus Who We Become*

Topic Description:

Mike Cooley's Learning Curve describes how we sort the "data" in our lives with our subjective "filters", which lead us to see patterns which become information, then knowledge. Our filters for example include gender, race, language, religious and political beliefs, scientific methodology and previous sets of filters and patterns that we may have stored for future reference. These patterns in the "data" of our lives become information, which when subjected to further broader filters and patterns, become knowledge, then perhaps "wisdom". The transition from data to information to knowledge and "wisdom" is a continuous, sometimes reversible, highly individual and subjective process, hence the bi-directional arrows on the x axis. At some points on our learning curves our filters will change and going back on the curve we see different patterns, we derive different information from the same or new data. For example, exposure to feminists, new languages and cultures certainly added to but also changed my filters and thus my "information" and "knowledge".

Mike Cooley's learning curve

