Surf On Paulino

Reflections and Stories about Paulo Freire

Budd L Hall
Paulo Freire – 1921 - 1997
biography

• Born in Recife, Penambuco in 1921
• Experienced poverty and hunger during the great depression
• Enrolled in Law School at University of Recife in 1943
• He never practiced law but became a secondary school teacher
• He married Elsa Maia Costa de Oliveira – four children
• 1946 – Director of the Pernambuco Department of Education and Culture – working with non-literate adults
• 1961 – Director of Extension for University of Recife
biography

• Early 60s – lead an experiment teaching 300 sugar cane workers to read and write in 45 days.
• This led to plans to create ‘cultural circles’ throughout Northeastern Brazil
• In 1964 – Freire was exiled and fled first to Bolivia and later to Chile
• His PhD research was published as Education a Practice of Freedom in 1967
• This was the basis of his most famous work, Pedagogy of the Oppressed published in Portuguese and Spanish in 1968 and English in 1969 and 70
biography

- 1969-70  a visiting Professor at Harvard University
  - During this time he was invited to all continents for talks and opportunities to work with those inspired by his ideas
- 1980 – Returned to Brazil and taught at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo
- 1988 – Director of Education for the State of Sao Paulo
- 1997 – He died
Concepts associated with Freire

• There is no neutral education
• From reading the word to reading the world
• Conscientisation
• Cultural circles
• Banking concepts of education
• Thematic investigation
• Codifications as learning tools
• dialogue
50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of Pedagogy of the Oppressed: Special Issue of Concept