

## Participatory Research and Learning Project

## PAULO FREIRE

Paulo Freire has revolutionized the way we think about education for social change.

Born in northeastern Brazil in 1921, Paulo Freire grew up knowing what it means to be hungry. At the University of Recife, he first explored law, then turned to education as his major field of study and work. Aided by his wife, Elza, an educator working with children, he developed his literacy programs through involvement and research with the peasants of the area. In the early 1960's, as a professor of the history and philosophy of education at the University of Recife, Paulo's work led to a major government program in literacy. The coup in 1964 forced him into exile in Chile, where he continued the same kind of educational activity and research with the agricultural extension service of the Chilean government, and as a UNESCO consultant.

In 1969, Paulo was Visiting Professor at Harvard, working with the Center for Studies in Education and Development and the Center for the Study of Development and Social Change. He was a consultant to the World Council of Churches for several years, serving as an educational advisor to new governments in the Third World. In 1980, Paulo was awarded the first King Baudouin Prize (Belgium) for his struggle against illiteracy and oppression. Since 1980, Paulo has been serving as a professor of education in the Catholic University in San Paulo and the State University in Campinas, Brazil.

In 1970, Pedagogy of the Oppressed appeared in English. Approved and pirated editions of this and his other books have been published in many languages, and have influenced a generation of educators and activists. Most recently, his book Politics of Education was published in the U.S.

He was appointed Distinguished International Visiting Professor to the University of Massachusetts/Amherst in 1985, and will be working with the Participatory Research and Learning Project.