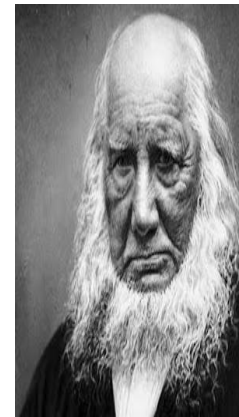


WHY DO WE NEED POPULAR EDUCATION TODAY?



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ADULT EDUCATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

- There is of course education and education, adult education and adult education, popular education and popular education
- Ideological underpinnings and values driving it are *important*
- Values driving mine are those of social justice and democracy
- Of dealing critically with life and not simply of adapting to what is present in life...the *status quo*
- Popular education based on non neutrality: *on whose side are we on when educating? Big business and its corporate demands or genuine substantive democracy? To accommodate or transform the system?*

Popular education is necessary because:

- of its potential for providing an alternative to the kind of technical rational fix that characterises much of what passes as formal education.



- Several parts of the world where people have had little access to formal education .Popular education has proved to be an alternative route.
- This alternative kind of education needs to be *recognised*.
- In same way as UNESCO recognized non-formal education in past

Without romanticising it or any education for that matter...

- popular education has the potential to foreground knowledge, learning and wisdom traditions given lip service in the mainstream hegemonic education traditions.



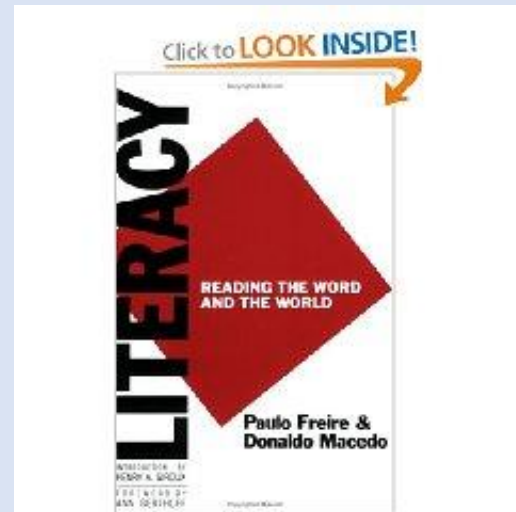
- They have the potential to keep these traditions alive, preventing them from disappearing through *epistemicide*.

Knowledge and learning promoted through popular education...

- can help revitalise formal education itself.
- The work of popular educator Paulo Freire and its impact on the lives and praxis of teachers who teach against the grain for social justice testifies to this.
- Of course it has to be a popular education which tackles issues and encourages teaching-learning dynamics from the perspective of subaltern groups of people
- Must have their emancipatory interests at heart. popular not populist.

Major challenges for popular education?

- Transforming popular spaces and events that capture the popular imagination into well-organised liberatory education experiences
- To allow its participants to *read* and *write* not only the *word* but also the *world* critically.
- Key in this age of fake news and the construction and establishment of false regimes of truth which render criticality a major casualty.
- Popular education for critical media literacy, as with Barbiana.



Popular not Populist

- Despite its clear ideological underpinnings certain knowledge needs to be learnt. Cracking power code.
- not to restrict people to the *margins* of political life.
- the political implications and ideological contingencies involved need to be explained.
- egs. teaching a colonial language such as English not as a purely technical activity but in a manner which highlights its imperial and social stratification functions.
- *One ought to be careful not to throw out the knowledge baby with the ideological bathwater.*

Should FHS play greater international role?

- It has been doing so for donkey's years but: No cargo style transfer.
- FHS transformation into residential agricultural colleges in Tanzania during the time of Julius Nyerere's presidency.

- Highlander Folk High School (*image right*) in Tennessee USA for leadership preparation in the Civil Rights Movement.



- Popular university in certain parts of Spain
- Experiments are not to be transplanted but must be reinvented (Paulo Freire).
- *Reinvented* for a whole new way of life (Raymond Williams)

Quest for Truth and Knowledge

In this age of duplicity, 'fake news' and avoidance of the ongoing search for 'truth' (so-called post-truth):

- Critical literacy/conscientisation
- Capturing and making proper use of the 'living word' to free it from misuse that can render it a *cliché*, meaningless and the basis for platitudes and populist assertions.
- The 'living word' at its most genuine connects with people's ad communities' 'structures of feeling' (Raymond Williams), something deeply felt but not articulated by everyone.

