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Pedagogy for the Children of the Oppressors: Fostering Accountability to the World's Oppressed in American Christian Higher Education

(Religion / Arts and Sciences)

Paulo Freire, noted Brazilian sociologist wrote in his landmark text, "Pedagogy for the Oppressed" that meaningful social change in the confrontation of social injustice was directly tied to the task of educating those who were being oppressed about the nature and extent of their oppression. Inversely, in teaching about oppression from the context of North American Christian Higher Education we face a very different task. Slightly more than one percent of the people on the planet have ever been to a college or a university in their lifetime. Our challenge is to teach North American students how they can engage the oppression generated from their own cultural context in a way that is constructive and free from easy negativity and rancor.