



SOLIDARITY AND THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE 'OTHER' WITHIN 'US'

Maristela do Nascimento Rocha
Hasselt University

- **1. What is your field of study?**
- **2. What is your most significant concern about service-learning?**



Service-learning examples

- Brazil: Popular training courses – the Solidariedade neighbourhood experience
- Belgium: TADA – Workshop of the future


20 min



Task: identify differences and similarities between these projects

CURSO ONLINE

COMO CRIAR E COORDENAR UM CURSINHO POPULAR

COM JOÃO BULHÕES



   alfa.caixadeferramentas.org



Colonialism



A Redenção de Cam. 1895. Modesto Brocos.

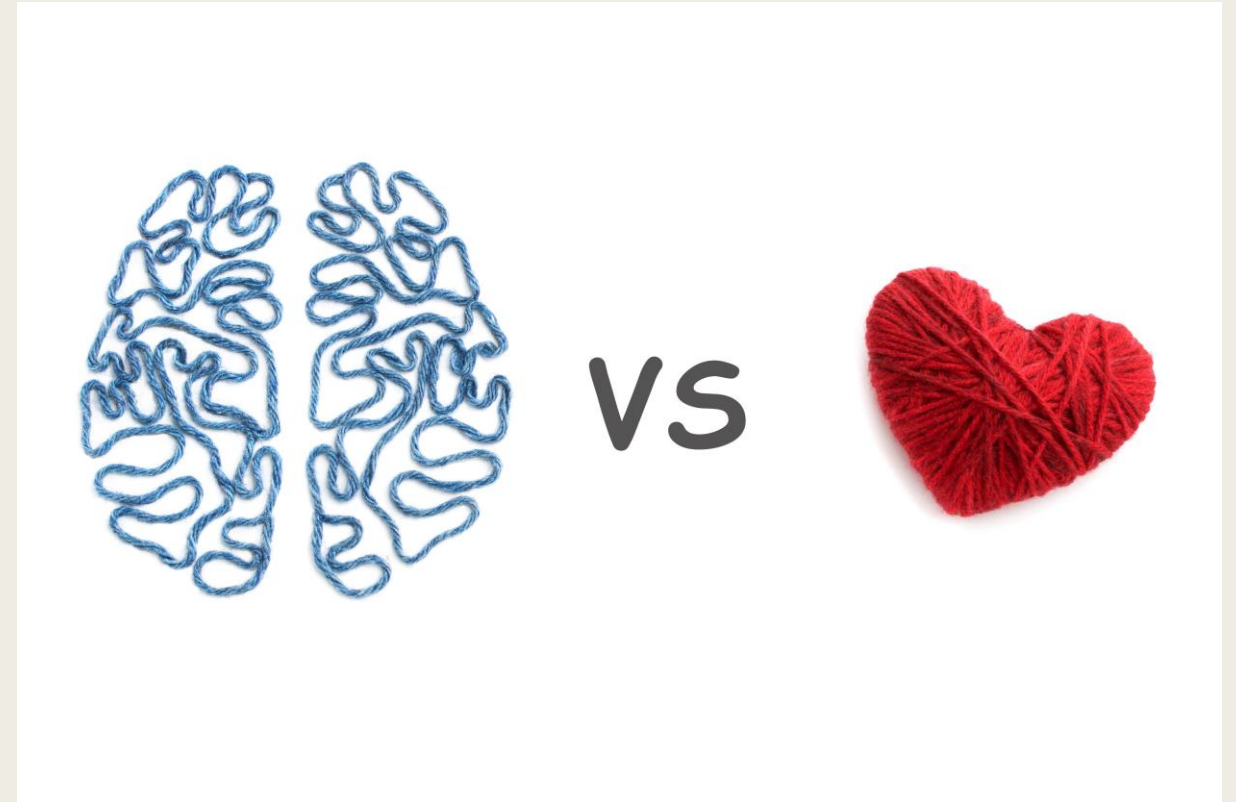
Dichotomies

- 'us' x 'them'
- 'diverse' x 'non-diverse'
- 'those who have' and 'those who don't'
- 'those who are smart' and 'those who are not'
- 'those who have talent' and 'those who don't'



Dichotomies

- 'hard sciences' x 'soft sciences'
- 'Women' x 'men'
- 'national' x 'foreigner'
- 'weak student' x 'strong student'
- 'enlightened' x 'alienated'
- 'reason' x 'emotion'
- 'individual' x 'society'



↘
Reproduction of social inequality

Service-learning for
student success

Benefit already privileged groups
with critical thinking and
multicultural skills necessary for
the knowledge economy

Service-learning for
entrepreneurship

Service-learning can reproduce exclusionary mechanisms by reinforcing the colonial and the neoliberal mindset

Fatalism

Deficit-thinking

Assistencialism

Neoliberal client –
company relationship

Wrong view about
social service

I am a Brazilian, I am my language, I am my food, I am my climate, just like you are your language, your climate, your food, your feelings, your dreams. And we cannot export dreams. (Freire, 1996)

Possibility to
reinvent, to dream

We are unfinished
beings

What is education?

Our existence in the world

Human nature

We are historical beings

Social transformation

Utopia

Learn about the different

**Education for whom? For what? In favour of
which dream?**

For a democratic society

Education is not neutral

Teachers also need to have their
own dreams

Two essential qualities of education:

The act of creation
and
Solidarity

Love and hope

dreams

Become humanized together

Recreate local power

Earth

Solidarity as anti-colonial praxis (Santiago-Ortiz, 2019)

Mutual recognition of the 'other'
inside 'us'

Overcomes the binary logic oppressor-
oppressed (Fernandes, 2016)

Shared struggle



Solidarity has to be constructed in our bodies, in our behaviours, in our convictions. (Freire, 1996, 81).

Make mistakes

Humanization – the capacity to dream your own dream

No fear

No shame



HUMAN

Maria

What do you know about the local communities? About their culture? Their dreams? About alternative ways of being? Of being successful? Of being happy?

What do you know about your own dreams? About your own struggle within the current system? About your own humanity?

**Learn to be interested in others and yourself.
It might save all of us.**

References

- Bourdieu, P. (1984/2000). Distinction. A social critique of the judgement of taste.
- Butin, 2006. The limits of service learning in higher education.
- Eby, 1998. Why service learning is bad.
- Fernandes, 2016. Pedagogia critica como praxis marxista humanista: perspectivas sobre solidariedade, opressao, e revolucao.
- Fernandes e Montrone (2009). De tolerancia a solidariedade.
- Freire, P. (1968/2022). Pedagogia do Oprimido. Paz e Terra.
- Freire, N. & Oliveira, W. F. (2016/2009). Pedagogia da Solidariedade. Paz e Terra.
- Harkins et al (2020) Building relationships for critical service learning.
- Mori, (2020). Aprendizagem solidaria e a responsabilidade social para outro mundo possivel.
- Prentice, Robinson (2010). Improving student learning outcomes with service learning.
- Santiago-Ortiz, 2019. From Critical to Decolonizing Service- Learning: Limits and Possibilities of Social Justice- Based Approaches to Community Service- Learning.
- Steinke & Peggy (2007). Assessing service learning.
- Westphal (2008). Diferentes matizes de solidariedade, 2008.