

- **No.16**
- **Relationships between Universities and Communities. The Cátedra Paulo Freire at the University of Seville**

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- **Abstract:**

- Relationships between Universities and Communities. The Cátedra Paulo Freire at the University of Seville. Traditionally universities have taught communities. According to Freire teaching and learning are two steps of the process to create knowledge. Thus, universities have to learn from communities at the same that are teaching. This is – in my opinion – the sense of knowledge transference. This was the major idea underlying the creation of the Cátedra Paulo Freire at the University of Seville in 2008. The Cátedra emerges from an agreement between the University of Seville and the Paulo Freire Institute of Spain – an organization from the civil society holding inside individuals, but also other social movements as trade unions, associations of adult learners, and so on. The major goals of the Cátedra are the following: i) Making connections between the academic world and social movements, ii) To generate transference of both experiences and knowledge that means a mutual enrichment. In the last years the work of the Cátedra has been focus on these tasks and it has tried to expand the University of Seville beyond its walls. In this sense we have developed two keynote series: i) how do I read Paulo Freire? and ii) Paulo Freire from a gender perspective. These keynotes have taken place outside the University in neighbours in the city of Seville, in villages near the city and in close relationships with local social movements in these places. Other action is related to cooperation activities. In this way, the Cátedra has organized some activities for supporting the literacy campaign in the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. These activities included the publication of teaching materials, the delivery and training of volunteers to collaborate with the literacy campaign, and the creation of solidarity networks with social movements and associations in the city of Seville. Finally I want to stress publications. The first book published by the Cátedra was a little book called: To participate by participating. The book is held of little texts explained some experiences from communities and it was written for the people in these communities. These issues will be further describing in the paper. I will try to link the work done in these two years with methodologies as Participatory Research as a way to empower communities and to build real useful knowledge.