

GICHUKI

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- **The Relevance of Paulo Freire's Contributions to Education and Development in Present Day Africa**  
by Juma E. Nyirenda
- **Locating Freire in Africa Today: Problems and Possibilities**  
by Pradip N. Thomas
- **Cultural Strategies in a Changing Development: Reassessing Paulo Freire in the Information Age**  
by Keyan G. Tomasseli and Mike Aldridge

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## Comments on this Issue

This issue on Paulo Freire is a special issue of the *Africa Media Review*. All the units here were presented at the 1994 9th Biennial Pre-Conference which was dedicated to Paulo Freire, (except Charles Okigbo's). The Pre-Conference was sponsored by the World Association for Christian Communication, London.

Paulo Freire is a Brazilian thinker and philosopher who has influenced many education specialists. The articles reflect a critical analysis of different aspects of Paulo Freire's philosophies.

Juma Nyirenda's article on "The Relevance of Paulo Freire's Contributions to Education and Development in the Present Day Africa", identifies and examines Freire's educational ideas which offer an important contribution to understanding educational practices and discusses their relevance to education and development in contemporary Africa.

Temba Masilela attempts a re-assessment of the legacy of Paulo Freire as a basis for an analytical framework based on development and political communication in his paper titled "Alternative Media and Political Change in Africa: Analytical Schemes for Assessing Significance and Potential."

Charles Okigbo, in his article, "Contextualizing Freire in African Sustainable Development", underscores the importance of Paulo Freire's ideas on content and strategies of education in an African context.

Participatory pedagogy as advocated for by Paulo Freire based on group dialogue, and not mass media, can aptly apply to any form of human communication, Jan Servaes points out in his chapter "Participatory Communication (Research) from a Freirian Perspective."

Pradip Thomas in the article "Locating Freire in Africa Today: Problems and Possibilities", brings out Freire's main themes of liberation, freedom, conscientization and practical action as contemporary concerns in African development.

Keyan Tomasseli and Mike Aldridge argue that Paulo Freire's sociology derives its character from the cultural and societal norms of his environment. They further point out that modernization theories, post structuralism and depending theory all reflect cultural patterns and references which can be located in specific times and places.

**Charles Nyambuga**