

Editorial

If the course of history was linear, I would now be here discussing the central issue put to us by Gimeno Sacristán¹, in his recent work – *The education that is still possible*: the problem of the (im)possibility of education in a de-schooled world in which, despite today's rhetoric, it is no longer a practical priority.

But, on 4 March our colleague and dear friend Rogério Fernandes died. This occurrence must take precedence in our journal.

Rogério Fernandes was a Full Professor at the Institute of Education of the University of Lisbon (IEUL), an active member of the Education Sciences R&D Unit of the University of Lisbon and an author of the *Sísifo journal*. He was 78 years old and was a professor emeritus. On the page dedicated to him on the site of the research unit, his most recent contributions are listed through reference to 55 publications and coordination of two research projects, the results of which he will now not share with us: *Pedagogical thinking, culture and educational activities in Portugal and Overseas —1700-1823*, which began in January 2008 and ends in December 2010 and *Pedagogical thinking, lettered Culture and educational activities in Portugal and Overseas — 1700-1850*, which began in January 2009 and shall end in December 2011. We saw him, two days before he deceased, preparing his participation in a videoconference, commenting with his refined sense of humour on the latest foolishness patent in national politics and recounting another of those delicious episodes he experienced.

This is not the time or the place for a well deserved tribute. This editorial is not the place to list

his vast body of work – written, spoken, acted – or describe his multifaceted profile, which comprises the long journey of an academic, politician, journalist and union leader... What is important is that he lived with a purpose, true to an ideal and with what he believed in until the very end.

Looking beyond, meanwhile, a review of his bibliography and references to the vast field of his action in education, one can state that Rogério Fernandes is probably one of the academics with the highest number of areas of intervention and interest: from the History of Education to teacher training, from the curriculum to educational research, among others. This review shows us, on the one hand, a cultured man, with ample knowledge, not limited by narrow disciplinary knowledge, and on the other hand someone with a concern to establish a coherent connection between personal experience and his academic activities. He was always a curious man, who was resilient, steadfastly following his own course, critical, serious, but at the same time full of sense of humour. Just like a *Sísifo* who, condemned to eternally repeat the useless task of carrying a rock up a hill that would end up rolling down again, got the better of Zeus and, every time he lifted a rock, and smiling, hauled it up the mountain, it was a different stone, showing that even knowing that no task is ever completely finished, one has to continue trying to rediscover new forms of doing it.

Going back, as such, to Gimeno Sacristán “Si la educación es aún posible, en un mundo en el que tanto se espera de ella y cuando tantos descontentos se

concitan haciéndonos visible su deterioro, es porque creemos en la posibilidad de redescubrirla” (2009, p. 1)². It seems to have been this sense of rediscovery, reinvention of education that guided Rogério Fernandes along the paths of education, making us believe that it was, and is, always possible.

With the death of Professor Rogério Fernandes, the fields of Educational Sciences and the History of Education has lost one of their most respected and active members.

And so many stories were left untold...

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ENDNOTES

1. Gimeno Sacristán, J. (2007, 2009). *La educación que aún es posible*. Madrid: Morata.

2. “If education is still possible, in a world that expects so much from it, and when there are so many unhappy people that strive to show its deterioration, it is because we believe in the possibility of rediscovering it” (translated from the Portuguese edition: José Gimeno Sacristán, 2008, *A educação que ainda é possível. Ensaíos sobre a cultura para a educação*. Porto: Porto Editora).

Translated by Thomas Kundert