

**Patricio Barriga
(1941 - July 2019)**



Comments from those who knew Patricio

Learning of the death of Patricio Barriga brought me a lot of grief, but it has also brought me nostalgia for the wonderful time that we share at CIE and where our guru Paulo Freire impacted us all in the search for a liberating education.

There we began a friendship that became much more profound when I was sent by CIE to Quito, to help him, for a few weeks, in a Non-Formal Education Project that CIE had started there and that at that time he was directing. Being with him on the slopes of Cotopaxi and seeing there, through a representation of the peasant theater, the effect of Paulo Freire's methodology in action, was something that marked me, I would say, marked Patricio and me, intimately. There a friendship was consolidated with him and became naturally deeper, by sharing a common educational ideal.

It was impressive to be able to openly dialogue with Patricio about Paulo Freire's methodologies and in an environment that was perhaps not very favorable to them, as Ecuador was in those years. But even so just being able to think that Paulo Freire's teaching could be implemented helped us to believe that we were going in the right direction.

Our respective careers continued in different countries. In Paraguay, I had the opportunity to fully implement Freirean methodology at the Peace Corps Training Center, a center I led for 23 years, and I was able to appreciate the value of the teaching we received, Patricio and I, as well as so many others, in the unforgettable environment of CIE at UMass Amherst.

Rest in peace, dear and remembered Patricio. **Edgardo Rothkegel Ortúzar**



Patricio's leadership during the Ecuador Project and beyond was an important key to the success of the Project. His deep concern for people that were marginalized was evident in all of his work. He will be missed. **George Urch**

I worked for Patricio for three years. He was a genius at finding the good in anyone. A fierce enemy of evil and an articulate and generous patron of justice. (1971 news article pictured at left about CIE's NFE project in Ecuador. Shown a dialogue session with

local workers. From right: Bill Smith, Patricio Barriga, Jim Hoxeng, Cargedores) **Bill Smith**

The Ecuador Project's fotonovellas inspired Bonnie Cain and I to work with local NGOs in Western Massachusetts to help students in their ESL classes design and act in their own fotonovellas. After that, we worked with members of a community in Troy NY to produce a fotonovella focused on action to improve public health and address racism, which became the focus of my dissertation. Much later, my wife, Rima, popularized fotonovellas in public health programs in the US. Patricio's work inspired a lot of good he may never have known about.

John Comings

Sigh -- but how wonderful he was working on some good things again in Ecuador -- the whole idea of *buen vivir*. **Valerie Miller**

There was Patricio. And Enrique Tasiguano. And Jim Hoxeng. All of them mentors in development work, and in my development. I remember arriving in Ecuador for a project evaluation, walking out with the staff on the campo, when Patricio suggested I pick up a flower. It was a stinging nettle, and when I had touched it and recoiled, everyone laughed. He looked at me and said, "Now they know you are a human being." This was emblematic of how one learned at CIE. **John Bing**

Losing Patricio is truly the passing of an era that was inspired originally by the excitement and hope of the teachings of Paulo Freire. An inextinguishable fire burned in Patricio that drove him all his life to advocate for the rights of those who were marginalized. His commitment had a strong impact on the setting the values which have continued to animate CIE since those early days. **DRE**

Jim Hoxeng's "Let Jorge Do It" was the seminal moment that made me come alive. The Ecuador Project touched so many of us, lending heart and strength to step forward.

'We come. We go. Gossamer is the veil that parts this life from the mystery beyond.' But the joy, the laughter, the searing memories of our times with those blazing souls so passionate about working hand-in-hand with our fellow travelers ... These riches, we will carry with us eternally. Onward, caro Patricio, caro Jaime! **Roshan Billimoria**