

Working for a “Psychology of Liberation” in a policed and power-structured world – the injustice of Psychology

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ABSTRACT: *“The concern of the social scholar must not be based as much on explaining the world as on transforming it”. - Martín-Baró*

KEY WORDS: liberation psychology, martin-baró, creativity, politics

Writings for a Liberation Psychology by Ignatio Martin-Baró (1996), has greatly shaped the understanding I have of my profession as a Critical and Liberation “Clinical” Psychologist, opening my eyes during the first years of my doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology in Italy. Fifteen years later, this book and Padre Nacho are still good companions in my everyday practice in European National Hospitals and around the globe with NGOs. It has been almost 30 years now, precisely on the 16th November 1989, since Psychology came to lose one of its most important critical contributors; Prof. Ignatio Martin-Baro (Padre Nacho), who was assassinated together with another seven people inside the campus of the Universidad Centroamericana-UCA in El Salvador by the bloody hands of US trained soldiers of the Atlacatl Battalion. Guilty only of having denounced and brought to light the violence of the dictatorial system present in the country. His last words, heard above the blast of the shots in the night, were:

“This is an injustice!”