



The Student and the Fisherman

A student went to a fishing area to conduct some research and met a fisherman returning from fishing. The academic asked, "Do you know who the president of the country is?" The fisherman said, "No, I don't know." "Do you know the name of the governor of the state?" He said, "I'm afraid that I don't know." And then, the academic, losing patience, said, "But at least you know the name of the local authority." The fisherman said, "No, I also don't know, but taking advantage of asking these questions about names of people, I would like to ask you: Do you know the name of this fish? And the academic said no. "But, that one you know, don't you? The academic said no. "But this third one, you have to know," and the academic said, "No, I also don't know." The fisherman said, "Do you see? Each one with his ignorance."

Story shared by Paulo Freire in "We Make the Road by Walking" (Bell et al., 1990, p. 150).

References

- Bell, B., Gaventa, J., & Peters, J. (Eds) (1990) *We make the road by walking: Conversations on education and social change*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press