The works of Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire (Recife, 1921–1997) have had significant world impact in education, community development, and even community health. As a critical scholar-activist deeply committed to the work of humanization through conscientização—the development of a critical consciousness—Freire not only decried the role educational institutions often play in reproducing inequalities, but emphasized how education could instead be a tool of liberation.

Freire’s international influence grew after the publication of his seminal text, Pedagogy of the Oppressed (1970), an educational manifesto translated into more than seventeen languages. Other influential titles in his oeuvre comprise: Education for Critical Consciousness (1973); Education, the Practice of Freedom (1976); Pedagogy of the City (1993); Pedagogy of Hope (1994); Pedagogy of the Heart (1997); Pedagogy of Freedom (1997), and Teachers as Cultural Workers (1998).

In honor of this timeless educational scholar-activist, the College of Education and the Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies at San Diego State University have partnered to create The Paulo Freire Lecture on Education and Social Transformation, a bi-annual lecture featuring national and international scholars and community-activists whose critical scholarship and/or advocacy promote educational and social transformation.

It is a great honor to cordially invite the SDSU and the greater national and international educational communities to our inaugural lecture—“Social Justice in Applied Linguistics: Critical Perspectives on Language Teaching, Research, and Civic Engagement”—to be delivered by Dr. Uju Anya, assistant professor of Second Language Learning at Penn State University on November 30 at 10:00 a.m. (PDT). Dr. Anya is the author of Racialized Identities in Second Language Learning: Speaking Blackness in Brazil (Routledge 2017), winner of the 2019 American Association for Applied Linguistics First Book Award.

Please see the flyer for event details. We look forward to your participation!