



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Texas Education Review**  
College of Education

Journal Homepage: [Texas Education Review](#)

Published online: January 2023

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## *Foreword to the Special Issue: AFyL and the Reading of the Politics of Liberation*

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**To cite this article:** Dussel, E. & Herrera Salazar, G. (2023). Foreword to the Special Issue: AFyL and the Reading of the Politics of Liberation. *Texas Education Review*, 11(1), 5-7.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.26153/tsw/43973>

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## Foreword to the Special Issue: AFyL and Reading of the Politics of Liberation

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The Zapatista Revolution begins to show signs of activity in the 5<sup>th</sup> centennial of the memory of the invasion of America by the Spaniards, it emerges as a collective actor in 1994 with native peoples as protagonists, opening new questions in political philosophy with that of: “Among us—the Zapatistas proclaimed—those who lead, lead by obeying.” We will have to wait until 1999 with the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, and especially with the Bolivian one of 2005, to hear from Evo Morales, an American Indian, that of: “I exercise an obediencial power!” This formulation by Evo “hit the nail on the head” and allowed us to restructure the entire Politics of Liberation that I had been developing since the publication of *Ethics of Liberation*. The theoretical task articulates itself with ongoing revolutions, analyzing the concrete practical field of politics led to a political philosophy. Politics of Liberation is part of the process of what could be called the Latin American revolutions of the second emancipation, which have been developing since the second half of the 20th century, as a philosophy it must express the theory that is being created in the praxis of multiple participatory experiences that are already taking place in various horizons of the continent, and that, for example, Boaventura de Sousa Santos has exemplified in numerous publications.

This special issue is a small contribution to Latin American social movement, it is didactic and pedagogical, product of the seminar organized by the Asociación de Filosofía y Liberación (AFyL), which emerges as a proposal in 2010 in Mazatlán, where in a general assembly it was agreed to create spaces for the dissemination and development of the Philosophy of Liberation. The call for its creation was given during the Simposio de Filosofía de la Liberación registered in the Congreso Internacional de Filosofía, which took place in 2014 in Morelia, an initiative that is put into practice in the second semester of 2014 with the reading, exposition and discussion of the book *Philosophy of Liberation*. The proposal initially served as a pilot plan and was reformulated in January 2015 under the name of “Filosofía de la Liberación. Perspectivas y prospectivas” whose first session was titled: “Genealogía de la Filosofía de la Liberación de Enrique Dussel.”

The second session we titled: “Los orígenes de la Filosofía de la Liberación” with the aim of approaching the first criticisms to Philosophy of Liberation. Once cycle II was concluded, we began with session III titled: “Política de la Liberación: Crítica”. The objective will be an approach to the fundamentals of the Critical part of the Politics of Liberation. In the second half of 2021 we will continue with *Política de la Liberación II* and in the first half of 2022, Volume III.

In the seven years that we have been working without interruption, the AFyL seedbed is currently in a process of growth and internationalization, the uncertainty of the pandemic has led us to continue by electronic means that we are still exploring in an emergent way.

**Enrique Dussel** is Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa*, and in the College of Philosophy at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). He received a doctorate in philosophy at the National University of Cuyo, Mendoza and a second doctorate in history from La Sorbonne in Paris. He is president and founder of the *Asociación de Filosofía y Liberación* (AFyL).

**Gabriel Herrera Salazar** received his PhD from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). He has specialized in the fields of Ethics, Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Liberation. He is the author of the books: *Vida humana, muerte y sobrevivencia* (2015), *Ensayos heréticos* (2016) *Metodología de la liberación para las Ciencias Sociales* (2018) y *Buscando fondo en el vacío y otros cuentos* (2019). He has been a member of the *Asociación de Filosofía y Liberación* (AFyL) since 2010.