

*EDITORIAL***ABOUT A FREE SCHOOL: SUMMERHILL****Ivan Fortunato**

Itapetininga, 02 de janeiro de 2017.

I have always hated schooling, so I cannot explain why I went to the university to become a school teacher. I ran into “Summerhill” by accident when I was passing by a bookstore of old/used/rare books and it cost me only pocket change. Unfortunately, I had never even heard about the possibility of a free school during the years I have spent at the University.

For reasons I cannot grasp, very few academics in Brazil are willing to read and discuss Neill. In fact, I have written a paper about freedom and self-government that was rejected by at least five journals because it was “out of scope”... Therefore, over the past few years I finally understood that Summerhill is not only a word few people have heard about, but activists have been relating Neill’s work with the “anarchist pedagogy”. That is harmful to Neill’s memoirs, ideals and his effort to establish a democratic school aiming to foster happy people.

That is the main reason I started putting together a special edition for Summerhill: I believe we should focus on changing school itself and try to make it a place of freedom and self-government where students do not have to attend classes unless they want to - no matter how young they are. I do agree with Neill and I believe that I am not the one to decide the important things that youngsters must learn.

People who participated in this edition wrote about multiple aspects of Summerhill. I hope these ideas spread around only to make school education a little less harsh.