Michael Apple: The Tasks of the Critical Scholar/Activist in Education


Abstract:
Neoliberal, neoconservative, and managerial reforms now dominate the educational landscape internationally. They have taken on an almost religious power in that they seem to be nearly immune to counter evidence. Yet, there are alternatives to them that have made a significant difference. In the first part of my lecture, I shall critically examine dominant tendencies. After that, drawing from my recent book Can Education Change Society?, I shall turn to the responsibilities of those of us who wish to interrupt dominant tendencies. I shall discuss the tasks of the "public intellectual, what I call the critical scholar activist, in building and defending more critically democratic educational theories, policies, and practices.