



## PETRONILHA BEATRIZ GONÇALVES E SILVA: PROFESSOR, RESEARCHER, POLITICAL-SOCIAL ACTIVIST

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**Abstract:** Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva was born in Porto Alegre, in the Colônia Africana neighbourhood, on Rua Esperança, in 1942. She has a degree in Letters - Portuguese and French (1964), a Master's in Education (1979) and a PhD in Humanities - Education (1987) by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. Petronilha retired in 2012, when she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus at UFSCar (Universidade Federal de São Carlos). Furthermore, she promotes and develops actions for a high-quality education and for the struggle for a tolerant, harmonious, and unprejudiced coexistence in our society.

**Keywords:** Petronilha; antiracist education; black woman.

## PETRONILHA BEATRIZ GONÇALVES E SILVA: PROFESSORA, PESQUISADORA, MILITANTE POLÍTICO-SOCIAL

**Resumo:** Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva nasceu em Porto Alegre, no bairro Colônia Africana, na Rua Esperança, em 1942. É licenciada em Letras - Português e Francês (1964), possui mestrado em Educação (1979) e é doutora em Ciências Humanas - Educação (1987) pela Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. Petronilha se aposentou em 2012, quando lhe foi outorgado o título de Professora Emérita da UFSCar. Além disso, promove e desenvolve ações por uma educação de alta qualidade e pela luta por uma convivência tolerante, harmoniosa e sem preconceitos em nossa sociedade.

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**Palavras-Chave:** Petronilha; educação antirracista; mulher negra.

**PETRONILHA BEATRIZ GONÇALVES E SILVA: PROFESSORA,  
INVESTIGADORA, MILITANTE POLÍTICO-SOCIAL**

**Resumen:** Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva nació en Porto Alegre, en el barrio Colônia Africana, en la Rua Esperança, en 1942. Licenciada en Letras - Portugués y Francés (1964), Maestría en Educación (1979) y Doctora en Humanidades - Educación (1987) por la Universidad Federal de Rio Grande do Sul. Petronilha se jubiló en 2012, cuando obtuvo el título de Profesora Emérita de la UFSCar. Además, promueve y desarrolla acciones por una educación de calidad y por la lucha por una convivencia tolerante, armónica y sin prejuicios en nuestra sociedad.

**Palabras-clave:** Petronilla; educación antirracista; mujer negra.

**PETRONILHA BEATRIZ GONÇALVES E SILVA:  
PROFESSEURE CHERCHEUSE, MILITANTE POLITIQUE-SOCIAL**

**Résumé:** Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva est née à Porto Alegre, au quartier Colonie Africaine dans la Rue Espoir, en 1942. Elle est diplômée en Lettres - Portugués et Français (1964), maître en Éducation (1979) et docteur en Sciences Humaines - Éducation (1987) par l'Université Fédérale de Rio Grande do Sul. Petronilha a pris sa retraite en 2012, quand elle a reçu le titre de Professeur Honoraire à UFSCar. En plus, elle encourage et développe des actions par une éducation de qualité et aussi de la lutte par une convivialité tolérante, harmonieuse et sans préjugés dans notre société.

**Mots-clés:** Petronilha; Éducation antirraciste; Femme Noire

**INTRODUCTION**

Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva was born in Porto Alegre, in the Colônia Africana neighbourhood, on Rua Esperança, in 1942. She has a degree in Letters - Portuguese and French (1964), a Master's in Education (1979) and a PhD in Humanities - Education (1987) by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS).

She studied specialization in Education Planning and Administration at UNESCO's International Planning Institute in Paris (1977). She did a Postdoctoral internship in Theory of Education at the University of South Africa, in Pretoria, South Africa (1996), being a visiting professor at this university with the Didactics Department, as well as at the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelo, at the Centro de Estudios de PosGrado, in Cuernavaca, Mexico (2003), at the Latin American Studies Center at Stanford University (2014-2015) and at the College of Education at Georgia State University. She has participated in the International Research Group on



Epistemology of African Roots and Education, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Joyce Elaine King, from Georgia State University / USA.

She was an advisor to the World Education Research Association (WERA) representing the Brazilian Association of Black Researchers (ABPN), as well as the National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Education (ANPEd). Author of the thesis “Education and Identity of Black Rural Workers of Limoeiro” defended in 1987, in the Postgraduate Program in Education, at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, which served as a supporting document for the recognition of the Limoeiro community as quilombo, in 2005. In 2010, she was appointed as Wanadoo Wayouu - member of the Council of the Chief of the Songhoy people of Gao, in Mali, by Prof. Dr. Hassimi O. Maiga.

Petronilha retired in 2012, when she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus at UFSCar. She was an Advisor to the Higher Education Chamber of the National Education Council (CNE), as indicated by the Black Movement. At CNE, she was rapporteur for the opinion on Law 10.639 / 2003 and Opinion CNE / CP 3/2004, which regulates the mandatory teaching of Afro-Brazilian and African History and Culture, as well as the education of ethnic-racial relations. In 2017, among some of his various productions, she uttered the conference “Knowledge and recognition: challenges of the decade of people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean”, at the IX Brazilian Congress of Black Researchers. Still in 2017, she delivered the Conference “Black Race and Education - 30 years later: changes, successes and perspectives”, at the Black Race and Education seminar 30 years later: And now what else do we need to talk about ?, this one dedicated to the rescue of published themes in Cadernos de Pesquisa nº 63 “Raça Negra e Educação”, of which Petronilha is also the author.

Among other distinctions, on March 21, 2011, she was admitted by the President of the Republic, Dilma Rousseff, to the National Order of Merit, in the Knight's Degree, in recognition of her contribution to education in Brazil. In the same year, she was honoured by the Special Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR), from the hands of Minister Luiza Helena Bairros, the Education for Equality award, for being the first black woman to sit on the National Council of Education, for relevant services rendered to the country and for the valuable contribution to Brazilian education in the fight against racism.

In the same year, she received the Luiza Mahin Award from the Coordination of Black Population Affairs of the Municipality of São Paulo, in recognition of her work on behalf of black women. In 2001, she received recognition from the City Council of São Carlos / SP, for her commitment to promote and develop actions for high quality education and for the struggle for a tolerant, harmonious, and unprejudiced coexistence in our society. Petronilha turns her knowledge production into an instrument in the anti-racist struggle (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Petronilha Beatriz Gonçalves e Silva



*Source:* Photo provided by Professor



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