

# Anarchist Education and the Modern School

## A Francisco Ferrer Reader

**Francisco Ferrer**

**Editors: Mark Bray and Robert H. Haworth**

On October 13, 1909, Francisco Ferrer, the notorious Catalan anarchist educator and founder of the Modern School, was executed by firing squad. The Spanish government accused him of masterminding the Tragic Week rebellion, while the transnational movement that emerged in his defense argued that he was simply the founder of the groundbreaking Modern School of Barcelona. Was Ferrer a ferocious revolutionary, an ardently nonviolent pedagogue, or something else entirely?

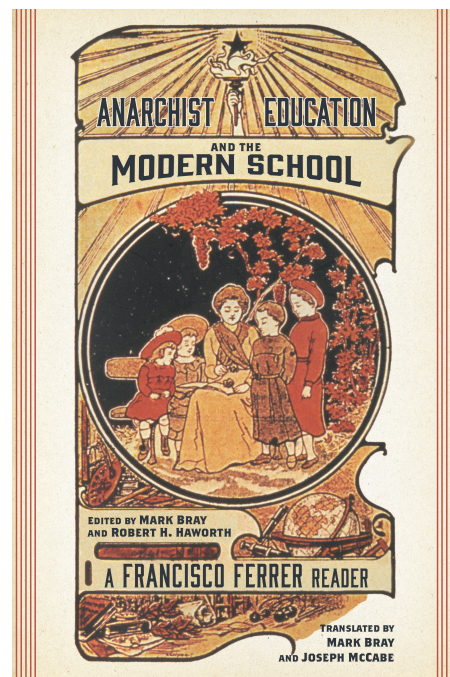
*Anarchist Education and the Modern School* is the first historical reader to gather together Ferrer's writings on rationalist education, revolutionary violence, and the general strike (most translated into English for the first time) and put them into conversation with the letters, speeches, and articles of his comrades, collaborators, and critics to show that the truth about the founder of the Modern School was far more complex than most of his friends or enemies realized. Francisco Ferrer navigated a tempestuous world of anarchist assassins, radical republican conspirators, anticlerical rioters, and freethinking educators to establish the legendary Escuela Moderna and the Modern School movement that his martyrdom propelled around the globe.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Francisco Ferrer Guardia** (1859–1909) was a Catalan anarchist. Following the declaration of martial law in 1909 during the Tragic Week, Ferrer was arrested and then executed at Montjuich Castle. He was the founder of la Escuela Moderna (the Modern School), an antiauthoritarian primary and secondary school. After Ferrer's execution, la Escuela Moderna attracted international attention, inspiring such figures as Emma Goldman, Upton Sinclair, Jack London, Edward Carpenter, Maxim Gorky, and Albert Camus.

**Mark Bray** is a historian of Modern European History, a political organizer, and the author of *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook* and *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*. He is currently a Lecturer at Dartmouth College.

**Robert H. Haworth** is an associate professor in the Department of Professional and Secondary Education at West Chester University, Pennsylvania. He teaches courses focusing on the social foundations of education and critical action research. He has published and presented internationally on anarchism, youth culture, informal learning spaces, and critical social studies education. Haworth is the editor of *Anarchist Pedagogies: Collective Actions, Theories, and Critical Reflections on Education*. He is also the coeditor of *Out of the Ruins: The Emergence of Radical Informal Learning Spaces*, also published by PM Press. Additionally, you can hear Haworth's music through his band Second Letter that is released through Lowatt Recordings.



### SUBJECT CATEGORY

Anarchism/Education

### PRICE

\$24.95

### ISBN

978-1-62963-509-5

### PAGE COUNT

352

### SIZE

9x6

### FORMAT

Paperback

### PUBLICATION DATE

11/18

### DISTRIBUTED BY

Independent Publishers Group  
(312) 337-0747  
[www.ipgbook.com](http://www.ipgbook.com)

### DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd  
t: 020 8829 3000  
[orders@turnaround-uk.com](mailto:orders@turnaround-uk.com)

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