



## **International Colloquium:**

### **Monolingualism or Multilingualism in the Production and Dissemination of Science: Dynamics and Challenges**

#### **Place:**

**Universidad del Rosario  
Auditorio Jockey Club (Carrera 6, # 15-18)  
Bogotá, Colombia**

**Date: November 14-15, 2017**

#### **NOTICE:**

**Decisions regarding presentations accepted will be announced on 20 September 2017.**

The International Colloquium “Monolingualism or Multilingualism in the Production and Dissemination of Science: Dynamics and Challenges” calls for engagement in the debate through presentations. We invite you to participate!

In modern Western culture, it is no longer a discourse that plays this role, but rather a transport, in other words, a practice: writing. The origin is no longer what is narrated, but rather the multiform and murmuring activity of producing a text and producing society as a text. “Progress” is scriptural in type.

Michel de Certeau

## **Language and the Dissemination of Science**

The development of links to incentivize international scientific cooperation is a common practice today in higher education and research. The role of language is important in this context, where about one fourth of scientific production is carried out with international collaboration. Language has a role in allowing for or facilitating the communicative process among researchers and between researchers and the society that contributes to science through public financing. While 86.5% of research needs are financed by industry itself in the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), state assistance to businesses conducting research is increasing. On the other hand, 35% of public research in the world takes place in non-OECD countries,

where 40% of researchers are concentrated.

We face the paradox of a strong potential for diversity as a source of scientific enrichment along with a hyper-concentration of international scientific communication in a single language, along with an increasing tendency along the same lines in individual countries. This tendency toward monolingualism is accompanied by increasing economic concentration of the major media that disseminate scientific knowledge, which are also monolingual as a result of a passive strategic policy, or possibly even an active one. This can have the benefit of facilitating communication, as everyone seems to be forced to know this language and no other one in this globalized world. However this could lead to an impoverish of different expression possibilities that diverse languages have, specially in the human studies field. Countries, media and people that have English as native language can pose a notable advantage regarding public image, superiority and economy as opposite to other linguistic communities that could be set apart just because of the language.

The colloquium is intended for researchers and those responsible for the production and dissemination of scientific books and publications. Topics addressed will include the sustainable economics of international scientific collaboration, the strategic roles of scientific journals and university publications in local and world markets, the quality of scientific expression in non-native languages, and the comparative effects of monolingualism and multilingualism in the medium and short term.

The general objectives of the colloquium are:

- To debate the role of language, particularly the language of science
- To analyze language, culture, and the diversity of thought
- To examine science, the transmission of scientific knowledge, and development
- To promote on line networking using different languages

The Colloquium proposes to organize the discussion into the following thematic focuses, which may be reformulated depending on the nature of the proposals received:

### ***Focus 1: The languages of science***

The work of editing, publishing, and disseminating scientific knowledge is arduous. Different constituencies recommend using just one language in order to receive higher evaluations from the many academic information systems that are used. But if our goal is to

make newly-produced knowledge available for debate in different contexts, and keeping in mind that science seeks to improve the lives of human beings, it is necessary to consider the diversity of languages.

1. Monolingualism or plurilingualism in the field of science and higher education;

- The field of science and higher education: production, circulation, and knowledge creation;
- Field models related to languages: monolingual and plurilingual proposals and experiences.

***Focus 2: Language, culture, and the diversity of thought***

One conception of culture is as a form of language that allows us to observe and analyze the different forms of comprehension that allow human beings to understand their surroundings, and how these ways of understanding relate to each other (Clifford Geertz, 1983, in *Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology*, New York, Basic Books).

The global organization of a culture is then constituted in a group of interpretative schemes that allow, in this specific context, to produce and perceive the social meanings of behaviour of a given group, and of the "objects" of the world, categorized and built by language and culture (Claude Claret, 1990, *Introduction aux approches interculturelles en éducation et en sciences humaines*, Toulouse, Presses Universitaires du Mirail). Different languages enrich the processes, the meanings, the symbolism, and the actions of each social group, and science is not extraneous to cultural processes. Thus, our challenge is to stimulate a productive dialogue for scientific progress and development from the Tower of Babel, preserving diversity.

2. Diversity of languages, scientific speeches and cultural models in science and higher education

- Higher education and college globalization: the language role;
- Globalization of investigation models and publishing from the Anglo-Saxon space opposite to local Latin American models;
- The role of knowledge, epistemology and indigenous languages in the science and higher education.

### *Focus 3: Language: science, transmission, translation and development*

The dissemination of scientific knowledge is a continuous challenge. The communication of high quality information to potential readers, those interested in widening their knowledge through reliable sources of information such as academic publishers, is even more complex when one or another language must be chosen in which to do so. Publishing all such content in one language increases visibility and reputation while doing so in several languages may bring about dialogue, diversity, and inclusion.

#### 3. Writing and publishing in different languages: challenges and solutions

- Higher education and college globalization: the role of the languages;
- Demands and requisites of English as a foreign language in research and international relations;
- Barriers and difficulties to publish in English and other foreign languages from science and higher education in Latin America;
- Evaluation: selection systems, prioritization and exclusion of scientific publishing and its relation with the use of a certain language.

#### **Requirements for the presentations**

1. Proposals should be written in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or English. They should have tentative titles and be accompanied by abstracts of 550-650 words (4,000-5,000 characters). No more than one proposal will be accepted from any author.
2. The proposal should indicate in which thematic focus the author wishes to participate, with a **brief** explanation of why. A summary of the presenter's resume should be included, not to exceed 150 words, and indicating his or her principal academic positions as well as current academic affiliation.
3. The deadline for receiving proposals will be **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**.
4. Proposals will be examined by the Scientific Committee, made up of specialists from different institutions and countries, which will select presentations for the Colloquium based on criteria of quality and thematic relevance.
5. The Committee will announce its decisions no later than **September 20, 2017**. Its decisions will be final and not subject to appeal.



Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia, June 2017.

**Send proposals to the following address:**

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