

# THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Multicultural Discourses



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## Plenary speaker

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#### Abstract

#### ***Multicultural discourses across 'glocalising' epistemologies in transnational research***

I propose to talk about plurilingual and intercultural epistemological exchanges in contexts of transnational research, and therefore, to argue about the need to strengthen the critical debate about understanding transnationalisation of research and interdisciplinarity in research with the support of intercultural studies. The purpose is to boost researchers' meta-reflection on critical issues that underlie their international, interlinguae and intercultural epistemological work and that, however, are generally left disregarded. The scientific background of this talk lies on the Glocademics project (<http://www.ces.uc.pt/projectos/glocademics/>), funded by the European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (2014-2017) whose two-year empirical study was carried out in Brazil and whose conceptual framework consisted in the development of three interrelated axes: (a) glocademics; (b) glocal languages; and (c) intercultural responsibility. This talk will refer to, on the one hand, the state of the art in the study of higher education internationalisation and its incipient calls for plurilingualism and intercultural epistemological work as well as, on the other hand, to the scientists who have come out of their niche, e.g. in biology and physics research, to make a stand about the limitations of monolingual and monocultural productions of science. Hence, this talk focuses on plurilingualism and interculturality/ *interculturalidade* in transnational research from a decolonial perspective and takes into account different ontological, cultural and epistemological perspectives, within multilateral critical approaches, and

aims to single out factors and elements that promote capacity-building development programmes aimed at transnational researchers. This talk also aims to introduce a discussion about the current notion of 'scientific diplomacy' and explore the role that transnational researchers can play to implement it critically at the grassroots level. Finally, it shall argue for the development of a conceptual framework for plurilingual and intercultural epistemological exchanges in contexts of transnational research, through 'research on research' and interdisciplinary theory and practice.