



OCTOBER 26-29, 2023

Interculturality & Education

5th Educational Forum for
Reflection, Exchange and
Action

III International Colloquium

INITIATED BY

IN COLLABORATION WITH





WORDS FROM WSIF

A year ago, the WSIF and the ISFDPM began to sow the first seeds of what would later become the Interculturality and Education Forum.

From the beginning, the intention was to create not only a Forum for educational organisations, but also to open the space for different individuals coming from the educational and social spheres. This is with the understanding that the school is in appearance separated from the social but actually very much connected to it. The educational and the social spheres should be bridged because although the forms of work and their contexts are different, their central question is the same: the human being.

And so it was under the premise that truth is to be found in active, multiple and plural dialogue, and that only by interweaving different forms and fields of action can the richest and healthiest transformative options for our future be developed, that the Interculturality and Education Forum began to take shape.

The Forum also provided a special opportunity to address a longing that both WSIF and ISFDPM shared: the need to build networks, bridges and connections that will endure beyond a single gathering. Seen long term, we also want to create a space of working with others, to learn from and with others.

Seeing the rich agenda that was planned together with the participants for 2024 and the diverse networks connecting after the Forum, I dare to say that both aims mentioned above, have been planted as seeds in each participant, which are ready to grow in their hearts and continue to spread in their communities.

*Guadalupe Olaizola,
Project manager
World Social Initiative Forum*

WORDS FROM ISFDPM

The Forum started August 26, 2023 with our online Preparatory Meeting. There were more than 70 participants from different regions coming from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. The meeting was structured based on the questions posed by the organising team in the first call and the three main areas as focus for the Forum:

1. School and Curriculum,
2. School and Community, and
3. Identity Building.

During the meeting, a group of members of the Network of Social Organisations in Waldorf Pedagogy, within the framework of FEWB (Waldorf Federation of Brazil), presented the history, the present and the future challenges of this impulse. This contributed significant questions in this expansion. Apart from sharing, the intention was to begin building bridges between the VI Brazilian Congress of Waldorf Pedagogy held in July 2023 and the Forum of Interculturality and Education, that was going to take place in October, in Buenos Aires.

More than 300 people took part during the Forum Interculturality and Education in one way or another. The activities open to the public generated a large circulation, allowing many people to participate according to their time and interests. Among the 300 participants, 125 people took part in all the proposed activities.

More than 85% of the participants represented 74 different educational organisations:

- 34 schools: Waldorf schools as well as other pedagogical frameworks such as humanist schools; intercultural schools; public and private schools, and cooperatives schools.

- There was participation from all different levels of education.
- 12 non-formal community/ educational cultural centres (linked or not to anthroposophy)
- Networks and Federations of Waldorf Schools from Argentina and Brazil
- 4 different training seminars in Argentina and Brazil (Youth Seminar, Eurythmy training, Kindergarten training, Seminar in popular education)
- An organisation based on Popular Economy
- Research and University Extension teams from 4 different universities (UNLu, UBA, UPC, UNTref) and 1 university institute (CUI)
- Art organisations: Orchestra Raíces/ Music, Ensamble Argentino/ Eurythmy, Teatro del oprimido/ Theatre)
- Representatives of 6 indigenous communities in Argentina (Guarani, Mapuche, Aymara)
- 3 intercultural work teams organised by indigenous peoples (Seminar on Intercultural Health, Self-Management Work Group on Intercultural Education, Punta Querandí Pluricultural Community).





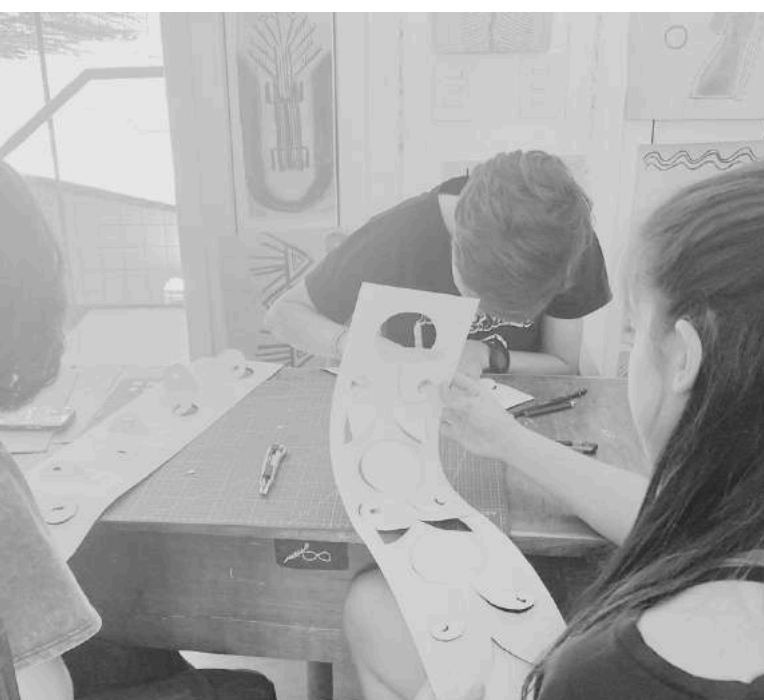
“Throughout the Forum, we were able to sustain spaces of dialogue together with speakers and participants around the challenges of education in Our America”.

There were also representatives from the Latin American Ethical Banking and the Argentinean Anthroposophical Society who joined in to learn about the needs and perspectives of these educational streams as well as to contribute coming from their respective fields. The rest of the participants, who were not members of any educational organisation, came with the aim of learning and getting to know each other.

Throughout the Forum, we were able to sustain spaces of dialogue around the challenges of education in Our America. We started building clear and concrete bridges among the worldviews of the native peoples of the continent, Anthroposophy and contemporary realities in different territories. The focus went beyond the constraints of the suburbs and big cities because we also included rural areas, medium-sized towns and small communities in the conversation. The place of multiple identities and interculturality as an educational perspective was discussed. The five questions posed by the organisation were powerful guidelines that helped to organise the dialogue.



Within the context of the Interculturality and Education Forum, an intercultural work day was held at the secondary level of the Waldorf School Perito Moreno. The day was framed in the commemorative activities of the 40th anniversary of the reopening of democracy in Argentina. During this day, we also joined the Argentinean education system in commemorating the month in respect for cultural diversity.



The students were organised into twelve intergrade groups, led by representatives of the different cultures present at the school. thanks to the Forum, we were able to celebrate together the cultural richness of Our America. It ended with an artistic exhibition shared by the participants, families, teachers and students of the school, warmly celebrated by the entire educational community.

*Paula Edelstein - Project manager
Instituto Superior de Formación Docente
Perito Moreno*





WORDS FROM THE PEDAGOGICAL SECTION

The 5th Research and Action Forum and the III International Colloquium "Interculturality and Education", held in October 2023 in Buenos Aires, still resonate strongly. It resounds in a pedagogical movement that for a hundred years has been involved in the educational environment, together with those who turn their eyes towards children and young people, in receiving them in a way that they can actively participate in life and in the realisations and longings of a shared world.

What has been said and heard with a listening full of interest and respect still resonates. Words that transform, that give hope, that raise questions and make us reflect on practices and knowledge. And, above all, they allow us to see, in a renewed way, the intertwining and connections that also constitute us.

They are impulses that renew and transform, full of life, the reality of education. Meetings such as the Forum/Colloquium make it possible to work together to take a closer look and listen more attentively. In this way, they transform the conditions for the pedagogical task.

Interculturality and Education is a theme full of potential with questions that speak of the core of coming into the world: with whom will we be, who are the others with whom the world opens up to me, in all its richness, beauty and complexity? In what spaces does the world present itself? How do we build and constitute the spaces as a community that educates?

Clear, powerful, loving voices spoke of these challenges. Educational leaders from indigenous communities, multicultural groups, neighbourhood organisations from popular sectors that operate in different territories of South America and in different areas of the formal and non-formal education system, spoke from experience, filling the environment with warmth and the certainty that educating lies in the openness for the humane in every human being.

From the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum our immense gratitude to all those who worked to conceive, organise and carry out these days of intense learning, of meetings full of recognition and respect. The strength, courage and joy of being able to sing, speak, learn and teach together are inspiring and a source of admiration.

Constanza Kaliks
Leader of the Pedagogical Section at
the Goetheanum

FORUM PROGRAMME

During the Online Pre-Forum and the In-Person Forum, we had four set of questions that guided the work and conversation as a starting point.

These questions were tackled in the Pre-Forum and also addressed during the In Person Forum through conversation rounds, plenary sessions, panel discussions, lectures and the different workshops.

- What can education contribute to social respect for the cultural diversity of humanity and the mutual enrichment that comes from intercultural encounters? How can we train ourselves as teachers to cultivate cultural freedom and learn to teach how to appreciate this richness?
- How can educational work in different fields be coordinated in a mutually supportive way in order to strengthen the personal development of children?
- How can anthroposophy help to address and support today's needs for a conscious and profound understanding of interculturality in education? How can this process be realised by interweaving the social and the development of individuality? How can this process be realised by interweaving the social and the development of individuality?
- What are the contributions to these reflections that identify us as Latin America? How is the knowledge of our continent projected to the world?





CONVERSATION ROUNDS

The Conversation Rounds held throughout the day became the core of the event. Each round addressed a specific main theme that was maintained throughout the Forum. This space also allowed us to explore the question of whether it is necessary to continue generating Forums that allow this type of work and the importance of building a network.

The horizontal and interwoven work enabled exchanges of equal status between people from very different backgrounds. The results of this work will structure the agenda for the coming year:

- Identity Building: Who are we? How do we define ourselves? How much do we know about the cultural belonging of the population we work with? How representative is it of the territories where we work?
- School and Curriculum: What cultures/cosmovisions nourish the curriculum that I design/follow in my institution? How are the knowledge systems of the continent present in it?
- School and Community: With which organisations/institutions does the school/organisation I participate in articulate its work? What role do these other actors play? Do we work in a network?

PANEL DISCUSSION

During the Panel Discussion listened to distinguished speakers and specialists in each area. They made it possible to discuss specific and important aspects of the educational task, in which intercultural encounters are a fact, even when this is not made visible. In total there were seven spaces, with balanced attendance.

Some of the panel generated concrete actions shared with the entire day, such as planting native trees or building a portal with multiple artistic languages. We also have the presentation of the map of indigenous languages of the territory of the current Argentine Republic, the opening to participation in the Higher School of Spiritual Science, the projection of a research space in teacher training and the assembly of an educational network of socio-community work.

Different Panels:

- Anthroposophy, Christmas Conference and Spiritual Science Studies
- Language, Identity and Human Encounter
- Art and collaborative processes as a path to intercultural encounter and social transformation
- Challenges of Educational Research and Teacher Training
- Legal and economic dimension of socio-educational organisations
- Building and managing socio-community organisations
- The work on the earth as a path of intercultural encounter and social transformation





DEEPENING TABLES

In the evenings, we counted on the presence of different outstanding personalities in their fields, with local, national and international recognition. From the direct voices of their protagonists, the main aspects of humanist thought present at the meeting were addressed in the first person. Each round table ended with an artistic performance designed in line with the ideas presented. The complementarity of these approaches was highly valued by the participants in their feedback.



Interculturality in Our America

- Mirta Millan. Coordinator and member of the Pillán Manke community of the Mapuche people.
- Marina Onorato Quispe. Researcher and teacher at the National University Tres de Febrero and the National University of Lujan. Master in Intercultural Health.
- Maria Ochoa. Mama Kuna of the Marka Wasi Kolla Community and president of the regional council of indigenous communities of La Plata, Berisso and Ensenada.

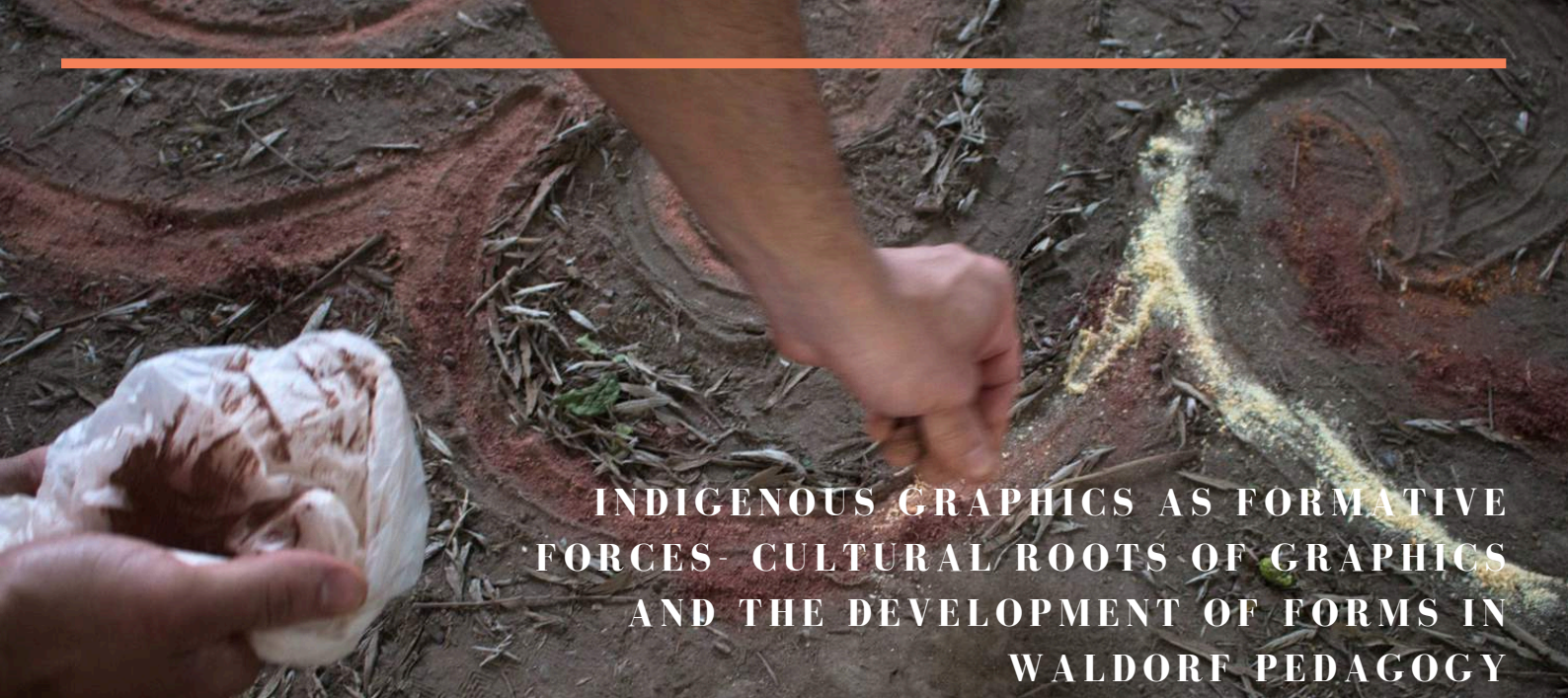


Interculturality in Urban Territories

- Referents of local neighbourhood and community organisations in the region, with socio-cultural activity from art (Jose Luis Batisttin), land (Ezequiel Kowalsky) and food (Mary Martinez).

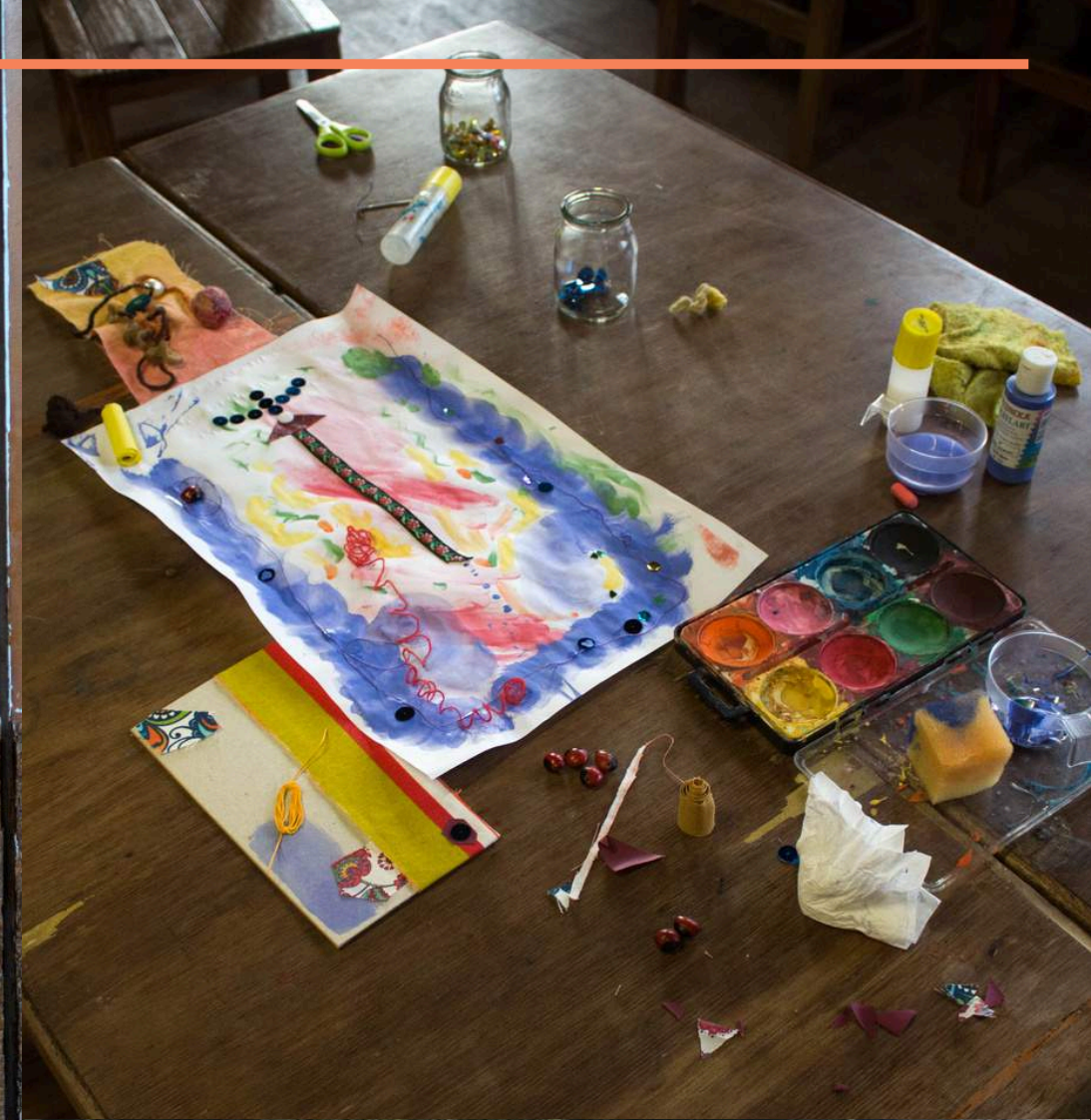
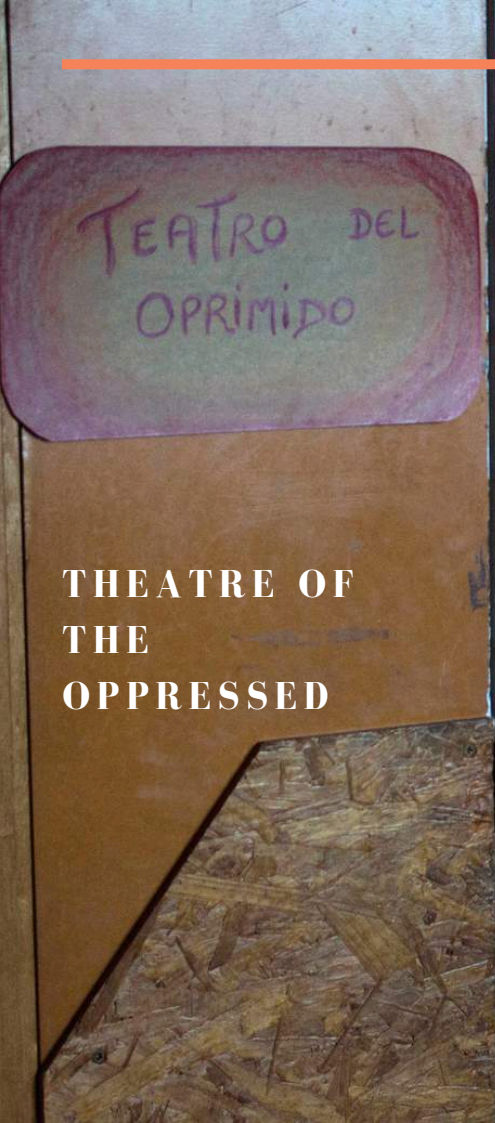
Anthroposophy as an Intercultural Perspective

- Ph D. Constanza Kaliks, Goetheanum



**INDIGENOUS GRAPHICS AS FORMATIVE
FORCES- CULTURAL ROOTS OF GRAPHICS
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORMS IN
WALDORF PEDAGOGY**





A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph focusing on a person's hands and arms as they play a guitar. The person is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The guitar's body and strings are visible, with a blurred background showing other people in a room.

**MUSIC AS AN ENCOUNTER:
COLLECTIVE DOING, FEELING
AND THINKING**



PURPOSES

The Forum “Interculturalidad & Educación. Aportes para la tarea de educar desde la interculturalidad” aimed to:

- To provide spaces of reflection in which people with different backgrounds and professional trajectories in the educational and social sphere can share questions, problems, resources and work approaches.
- To generate multidirectional spaces for interaction, ensuring eye level encounters in order to share these questions, problems, resources and work approaches.
- To integrate different types of cultural manifestations, understanding them all as acts of production of genuine and equally valid knowledge.
- To reinforce the role of the teacher and teacher training. Understand the importance of including an intercultural perspective in the teaching profession.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

- The Conversation Rounds provided horizontal and diverse spaces for dialogue, which were highly enriched and positively valued by the participants.
- The artistic workshops, collaborative social art proposal and spaces for free initiatives functioned effectively as spheres of non-planned interaction among participants present on the day.
- The whole day functioned as a space for the interweaving of different cultural manifestations. Particularly remarkable was the structure of the in-depth roundtables each evening.
- The role of teachers and the needs of teacher education were at the heart of all the conference activities.
- The presence of active teachers and students in training was predominant and balanced. The Argentinian training network asked for support in order to deepen the intercultural axis in this year's meetings. Partnerships were created between the different training courses in Brazil and Argentina with the intention of continuing to work together in the future.

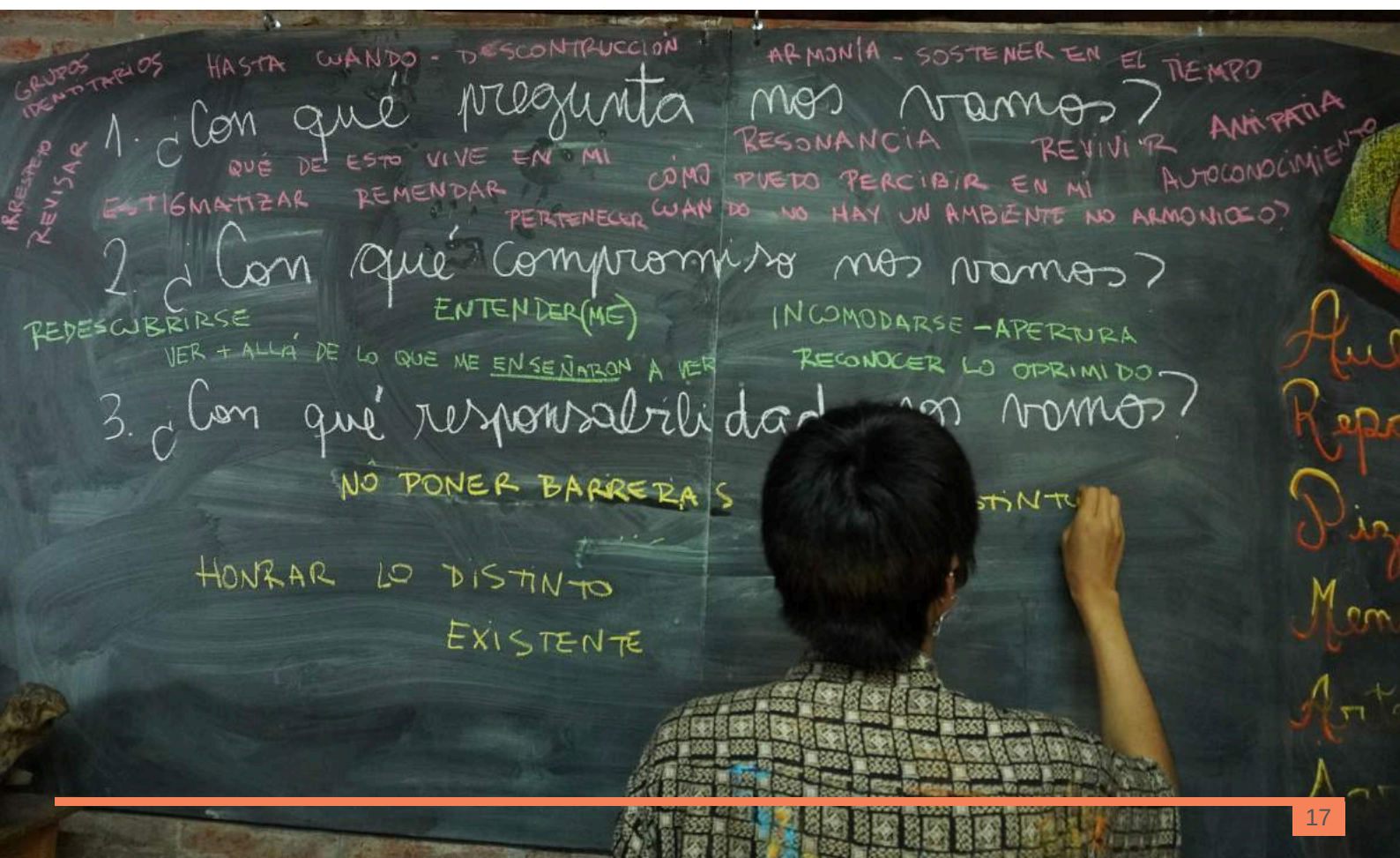
IMPACT LONG AND SHORT TERM

"It was a deeply emotional space and such a deep feeling is not easy to create. That's why I think that this whole experience can be a very valuable guide for us to think about art and classrooms in their transformative power."

Ruben, 38 years old

The 5th Educational Forum for Reflection, Exchange and Action: "Interculturality and Education" aimed to achieve the following short- and long-term impacts:

- Increasing visibility, connectivity, and strengthening of local and international initiatives, working out of the fruits of Anthroposophy, the WSIF network and like-minded impulses.
- Strengthening intergenerational and intercultural bridges through sharing on personal and organisational levels, as well as diverse cultural offerings.
- Develop new forms of encounter between community organisations and schools.
- Establish new bridges between organisations and spaces that are currently dispersed.
- Enriching our own experiences from the experiences shared with others.
- Creating a network of schools, initiatives, organisations and communities that work actively in the social and educational fields, which will endure and grow over time.
- Giving space and visibility to different social, economic and cultural realities.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

In November 2023, 35 people from 15 different organisations present in the in-person Forum, joined the Online Post-Forum. The intention was to find ways to continue the work and our journey together, as we make our wishes more concrete after the Forum.



During the online meeting it was agreed to:

- Generate a digital space for the exchange of bibliography, methodological tools, databases, documentation of processes, and a schedule of activities.
- Create a joint work agenda for 2024 with the main purpose of carrying out a diagnostic survey of the territorial work. The structuring questions for this diagnosis arose from the work in the rounds of conversation. The proposal will start with a virtual meeting in April 2024 and will have a first in-person meeting in a workshop to be held during the Iberoamerican Congress in Santiago de Chile on the 19th to the 25th of July 2024.
- Two other online meetings will be held this year - one in July/August 2024 and the other in November/December 2024. And in-person meeting will then take place in October 2024, where an exchange regarding progress and projections will take place. The organising team in Argentina for the October 2024 in-person meeting has already started planning the event as a seminar for the study and deepening of the intercultural perspective in education. This is with the intention of taking further steps in building dialogical bridges in-between anthroposophy, indigenous cosmovisions and urban community constructions. Dr. Neil Boland, the specialist Marina Quispe, Dr. María del Carmen Maimone, Prof. José Luis Batisttín, Lic. Javier Barbona, among others, will be present. The programme will be structured around the central questions of the Paradigmatic Interrelationship Model. The dates are still to be confirmed.



“The whole Forum was inhabited by young people and people from different communities with very diverse expressions and experiences. For me, this highlighted the need to differentiate between identity and identification, the mobility of identifications and the construction and deconstruction of identity.”

Soledad, 45 years old

Several of the institutions present at the in-person Forum and the online Post-Forum began to build ways of working together. For example:

- The Raíces orchestra began designing a work plan with the Eben Ezer Community Centre and the UPC Extension Secretariat.
- The ISFDPM began to articulate new forms of work with the Civil Association La Quinta.
- The Network of Social Organisations in Waldorf Pedagogy in Brazil became a reference for several educational social impulses present at the event (Munro Itinerant Library, La Quinta Civil Association, Raíces Orchestra).
- The Havispa Foundation and Flor de Laburo exchanged work materials and are articulating actions for this year.
- A social science research group is being structured, with teams from the Rudolf Steiner Faculty, the ISFDPM and freelance teachers, with research in progress in various university settings.