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The REDES Project: A Follow-Up after 10 Years

It is common knowledge that research projects are incomplete without a final assessment of their results. However, in the Humanities, outcomes tend to focus on the quantity and quality of the knowledge produced, but rarely if ever on the impact the project may have had on the researchers themselves. Founded in 2002, for about a decade the international REDES (Research and Development in Empirical Studies) project functioned to promote the investigation of literature and language from a multicultural perspective (Chesnokova, Jandre 2008; Viana, Chesnokova et al. 2009). More than stimulating research by students in different countries (Viana, Fialho et al. 2007; Mendes 2008), it aimed at helping them become autonomous researchers by way of using empirical methods (van Peer, Zyngier et al. 2011).

This presentation focuses on how participants benefited from the experience after over a decade. To this end, 53 project participants from three regional groups (Brazil, Germany and Ukraine) answered a questionnaire about the effect of REDES over their lives and careers. They also evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the project so as to instruct future enterprises.

The results from data analysis indicate that not did the project motivate participants to pursue further academic degrees, but the skills acquired considerably influenced their future careers in many different fields.

After the presentation, the audience will be invited to participate in a debate about the relevance of international team work in the Humanities, especially at undergraduate level, and how far similar projects may foster quality of education and self-development.

References

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