



# **Multilingualism, Sustainability, and Education in Amazonia (MSEA)**

**Faculty of Wellbeing Education  
and Language Studies (WELS)**

Call for PhD projects starting in October 2024

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# Project description

## School

Languages and Applied Linguistics

## Members

Dr Santiago Sanchez Moreano	<a href="https://www.open.ac.uk/people/ssm253">https://www.open.ac.uk/people/ssm253</a>	<a href="mailto:santiago.sanchez-moreano@open.ac.uk">santiago.sanchez- moreano@open.ac.uk</a>
Prof Rosina Marquez Reiter	<a href="https://www.open.ac.uk/people/rmr278">https://www.open.ac.uk/people/rmr278</a>	<a href="mailto:rosina.marquez-reiter@open.ac.uk">rosina.marquez- reiter@open.ac.uk</a>

## Aims

The project aims are:

- To understand the relationality between people, language, and the natural world.
- To ensure sustainability, wellbeing and social justice for young indigenous people living in urban and peri-urban settings in Amazonia through plurilingual education.
- To raise school communities' awareness in urban and peri-urban settings in Colombian Amazonia on the value of indigenous languages in the epistemic dialogue of nature protection.

- To engage the school communities and relevant stakeholders in the production and knowledge share through participative action research.
- To integrate indigenous voices in the epistemic dialogue of nature protection through Multilingual, Inclusive, Teaching Sequences addressing three environmental issues: Deforestation, food supply systems, and ecotourism.
- To provide guidance and expertise to policymakers to operate changes in Education Policies.

## **Methodology**

Through a participatory, action-research based project, we will engage plurilingually the school communities and stakeholders in the research process and design teaching sequences that address contemporary environmental issues (deforestation-DEF, food supply systems-FSS, ecotourism-ECOT).

Students will be able to collect and systematize socio-ecological and interactional data. Then, through a multi-actor approach, they will be able to design three Multilingual, Inclusive, Teaching Sequences (MITS) to tackle deforestation, food supply systems, and ecotourism issues within indigenous schools.

## **Contributions**

- New research (MA and PhD thesis) work on the new field of pluriversal views of multilingualism for endo-sustainability.
- Replication in other contexts in the Amazonia and beyond.

- New research on the field, replication in other pluridiverse contexts.
- A larger audience will have access to the project insights.
- New practices inspired by our results in the project contexts and beyond.
- New ways of building and constructing local knowledge about nature.
- Shift from the current curriculum to a multilingual-based sustainable and inclusive curriculum.
- Create new policies, new networks, new collaborative projects.

## Website

<https://societal-challenges.open.ac.uk/challenges/multilingualism-sustainability-and-education-in-amazonia-msea-understanding-the-complex-relationship-between-social-actors-their-languages-and-the-natural-world/244>

# PhD project

The PhD project consists in providing sociolinguistic insights into the ideological stances (perceptions, attitudes, beliefs, and representations) that members of the school community and their families have on DEF, FSS, and ECOT through the analysis of large-scale socio-ecological, and ethnographically grounded interactional data. The PhD student will conduct a literature review in the fields of applied sociolinguistics, environmental (socio)linguistics, socioecological and linguistic approaches to people and nature relationship. They will collect socioecological quantitative data with the participant groups and their families to determine the saliency index of specific terms related to the ideological perceptions and symbolic charges that the participants may have about FSS, DEF, and ECOT. They will use programs for cultural domain analysis and social network data visualisation such as ANTHROPAC and UCINET. They will also contribute to collect ethnographic interactional data following a fine-grained perspective to observe the temporal and spatial semiotic interconnections of the lived experience of FSS, DEF, and ECOT by the research participants and members of their communities. They will correlate both quantitative and qualitative set of data, and the insights resulting will allow them to conduct analysis to better understand the relationship between people, language and nature.

