Panel: Higher Education Expansion and Aging Population in Latin America

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Wider access, changing national demographics and international mass migration: implications for higher education reforms and policy
Objectives

- Present an overview of the context of adult education in Brazil

- Analyse how Higher Education Institutions and educational policies respond to the ageing of population

- Discuss implications and possibilities for adult education in a multicultural, inclusive perspective
The Context of Adult Education in Brazil

- Educational inequality: overall illiteracy rate: 9.6 %; white: 5.9%; blacks: 14.4%; mixed-race: 13% (Brazil, IBGE, 2013); Brazil: 8th among the countries with the highest number of illiterate adults (UNESCO, 2014); 216 million people
- Compensatory, remedial perspective towards adults who have not acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills, to the detriment of permanent life-long learning
- Creation of SECADI (Secretary of Continuing Education, Literacy, Diversity and Inclusion): responsible for the development of adult education policies in Brazil together with the Ministry of Education: more focus on diversity and relevancy for adult learners.
Higher Education and the Ageing Population

- Diversity of higher education institutions: universities (teaching, research and extension); university centres, isolated higher education schools, technology higher education centres, integrated higher education schools.

- Public higher education institutions (federal, state and municipal); private institutions (mostly university centres or isolated faculties/schools). The majority of higher education institutions in Brazil are private (88%).

- Slowey and Schuetze (2012): global inequalities have been present with reference to access to even basic levels of education, let alone higher education- Latin America
EDUCATIONAL POLICIES FOR GREATER ACCESS to HEIs

- Access: ENEM (national exam for secondary education - most higher education institutions use it) - distribution by HEIs in the whole of Brazil (vacancies and grade)

- PROUNI: polemic - tax relief for private HEIs – scholarships for disadvantaged candidates that successfully passed the ENEM

- Quotas for blacks, indigenous and disadvantaged groups in public HEIs - more cultural diversity, more inclusion of ageing population of minorities
Extension Perspective of HEIs

- Partnerships for the production of adult education goals and curriculum guidelines in primary and secondary schooling in municipalities, with municipal authorities (Ivenicki, 2015)

- Teacher continuing education in multicultural perspectives: improve teachers’ performance that take into account cultural values of aging plural groups

- Undervalued in the HEI evaluation systems - SINAES: advances, but room for improvement
The PNE (2014-2024) - National Plan for Education (Brazil, 2014)

Some aims referring to higher education:

- increase the toll to 50% of entrance (12);
- increase masters and doctors at the higher education level to 75%, minimum of 35% doctors (13);
- teacher education so that all of the teachers should hold a HEI degree (15) and 50% a post graduate degree (Masters and PhDs) (16);
- increase the number of students at the Master (60000 per year) and PhD (25000 per year)
CONCLUSIONS

- Higher education: diversification of the system, policies geared towards expanding access, goals of the National Plan for Education (widening access and focus on teacher education, Master and PhD), minority groups of adults as targets to counter inequality.

- Room for improvement: more emphasis on evaluation that focus on HEIs actions for adult education - extension programmes geared towards curriculum development, teacher continuing education for adult primary and secondary education;

- More focus on free courses for adults in addition to vertical education; HEIs curriculum and support pedagogical actions for quotists. Thank you!!!! Obrigada!!!!