

**Panel: Higher Education Expansion and Aging Population
in Latin America**

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**13th International Workshop on Higher Education Reform: 13th International
Workshop on Higher Education Reform, Dublin, September 7-9, 2016**

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

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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!!!!