

Global Young Academy Young Scientist Ambassador Programme



Ambassador:
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Country of Origin: Brazil
County of Destination: Argentina
Time of Visit: 16-20 July 2019

Mission Report

YSAP Activities Overview

- 1) Engage scientists at Universidad de San Mantín, Universidad de Buenos Aires and the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social for collaborative academic enterprises in Childhood Studies based on Latino American own theory.
- 2) Coordinate with LA colleagues to engage in collaborative research projects, publications, mobility programs, and all sources of academic partnerships.
- 3) Introduce and increase the visibility of the GYA in Argentina.

Background

This YSAP mission comes from the desire to develop bridges of international scientific interactions between the GYA and Latin America. The idea is to increase engagement between nations that historically have had minimal scientific contact. In this case the first idea was to foster a relationship between Brazil and Cuba. The few members from Cuba within the GYA and our general ignorance about the Cuban science system was detected by YASP group members, and the challenge was taken.

Firstly, I got in touch with my network of colleagues with close relationship with Latin America and I came across a young Cuban psychologist Karima Oliva Bello, currently working in Mexico. Karima kindly introduced me to Odet Noa Cománs and Nancy Batista both working at Centro de Referencia Latinoamericano hosted by the Instituto Central de Ciencias Pedagógicas. Karima also introduced me to Patricia Batista working at Universidade de Havana. These two institutions were happy to receive me. However, with the new presidential government that came to power in Brazil in 2019, Brazilians were discouraged from pursuing scientific ties with institutions in Cuba. In this context, my visit planned for early February 2019 had to be cancelled.

Together with John Malone, the co-lead of the YSAP Working Group at the GYA, we decide to keep the academic endeavor and to look for a different country where I could pursue my science mission. The title of the previous mission "What can we learn from Cuban Children? Towards a Latin American Childhood Studies" was changed to "Towards a Latin American Childhood Studies".

Childhood Studies

Childhood Studies is an interdisciplinary area of studies that had a great development in the 1980s, especially in Europe. Most of the research done and the concepts used were developed in and for urban-modern countries. For a growing number of researchers from the Global South it is time to research our own children and childhoods and to build concepts that are based on our own experiences. For example, the concept of “agency” largely used in Childhood Studies to understand what children do at school, in the family or in the community is based on an individualistic view of society where community ties may not be key, such as life in modern megacities, such as London in the United Kingdom. However, does the concept of “agency” tied to the concept of individual is useful to understand the lives of children in traditional populations, such as indigenous groups in Brazil (Szulc, 2018)?

Finally, the “Towards a Latin American Childhood Studies” YSAP mission aimed at fostering the pathway to a Latin American Childhood Studies, echoing other researchers in Latin America, such as Lucia Rabello de Castro and Valeria Llobet, and contributing actively to the scientific progress from a de-colonial perspective.

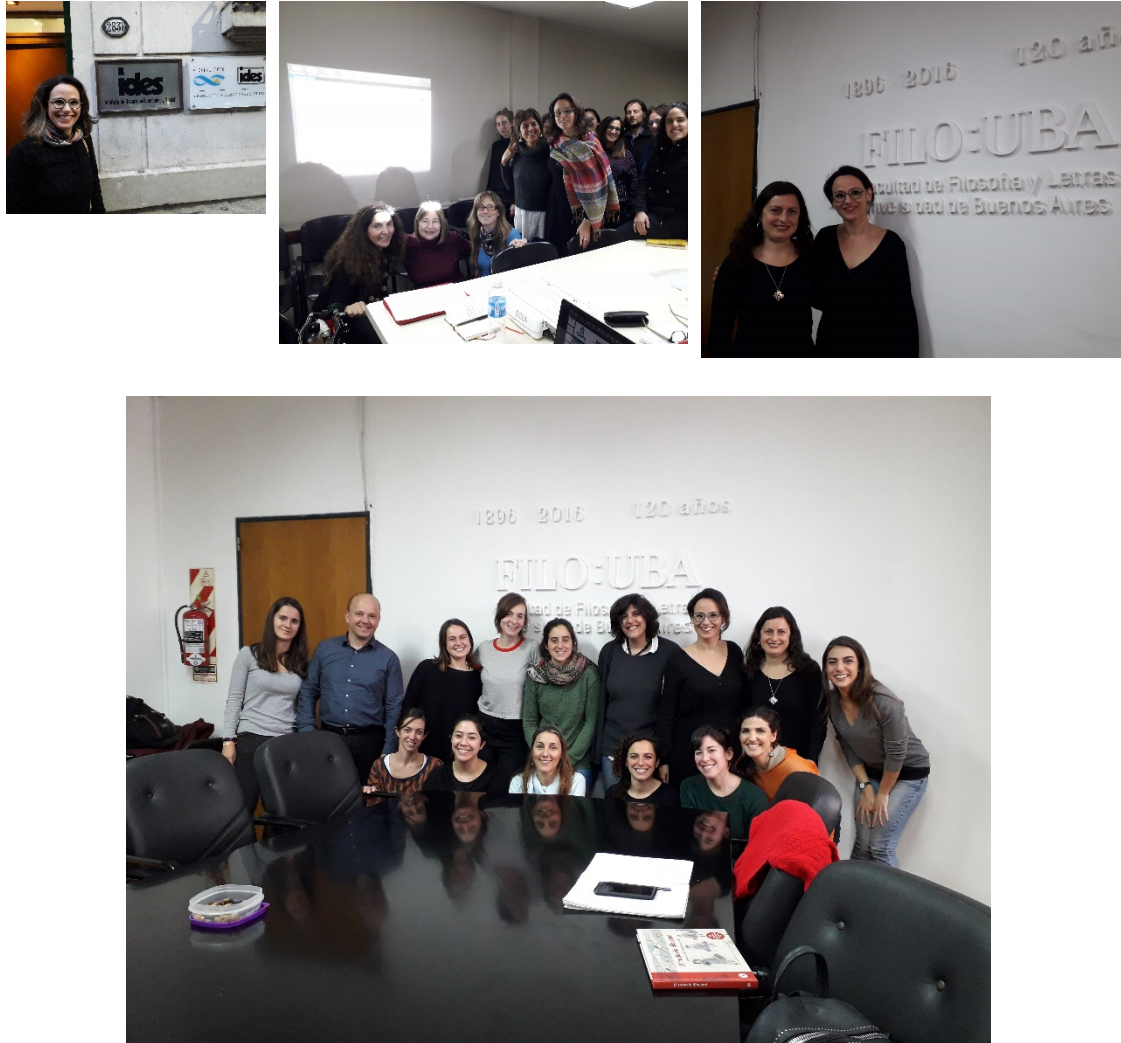
YSAP Activities, Argentina

In Argentina, I presented a research paper at the Departmental Seminar - Seminario Permanente del Centro de Antropología Social del IDES, invited by Cecilia Carrera e Laura Zapata. The paper was entitled “A negação e a invenção da infância: mudanças geracionais a partir do Programa Bolsa Família”. In the audience there were about 15 people - professors, researchers and graduate students.

I then participated at the Congreso de la Sociedad Argentina de Ciencia Política (SAAP) at Campus Miguelete, Universidad de San Martín (UNSAM), presenting a paper on the panel “Usos, efectos y tensiones en las políticas sociales de infancia y juventud. Aproximaciones desde la teoría feminista”, debated by Vanesa Vazquez and Julieta Grinberg. There were about ten participants in this panel session.

During my stay in Argentina, I also held a research meeting with colleagues and students, invited by Valeria Llobet, at the Conference at the Universidad de San Martín (UNSAM) - Programa de Estudios Sociales en Género, Infancia y Juventud, del Centro de Estudios Sociales en Desigualdades, Sujetos e Instituciones (CEDESI).

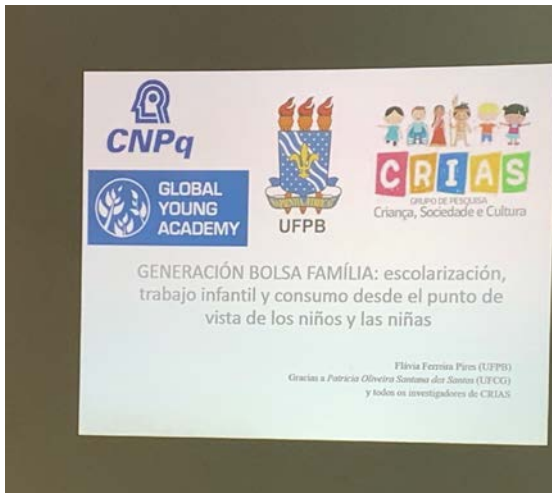
Another research meeting was held in the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras with the Project Niñez Plural, invited by Andrea Szulc, with undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and professors. This meeting was attended by 20 people.



YSAP Follow-up Plans

I was approached by two researchers recently graduated from their PhD in order to pursue their Post-doctoral research in Brazil at my university under my supervision. I was also able to discuss a joint publication book entitled 'Infancias do Sul' with a number of colleagues.

My research group CRIAS – Criança, Cultura e Sociedade was invited to participate in RIEEN – Red Internacional de Etnografia con Niñas, Niñas y Jóvenes by Diana Milstein (CIS CONICET IDES).



Flávia Ferreira Pires, João Pessoa, Brazil
September 2019