

MAPPING UK HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

CASE STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Field trips to the Colombian Amazon

140 students over 12 years

Led by Dr Berrio and Dr Boom



**SOCIAL INTERACTIONS DURING THE YEAR THREE
UNDERGRADUATE FIELD COURSE IN COLOMBIA**

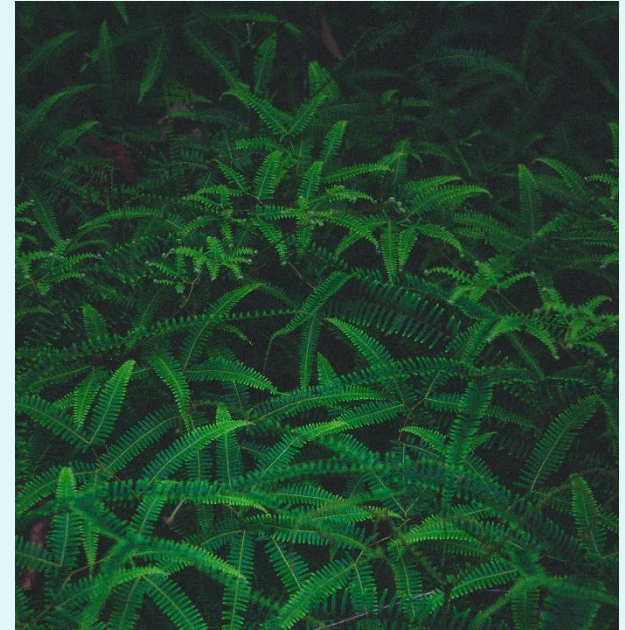
BACKGROUND

The School of Geography, Geology and Environment (SGGE) at the University of Leicester has a long-standing collaboration with Colombian academic institutions and funding agencies, with particular emphasis in understanding both palaeo- and contemporary-ecology and biodiversity.

Collaboration with Colombia began as a result of the appointment of Dr Berrio in 2005 and has encompassed both teaching and research.

AIMS OF THE COLLABORATION

- **To provide opportunities for UK students to study and understand ecological issues within neotropical rainforests,**
- **to present opportunities for Colombian academics and students to visit the UK to develop their research,**
- **to provide a collaborative research environment to address key ecological challenges.**



ABOUT THE FIELD TRIP

The visit incorporates studying typical aquatic and terrestrial Amazonian ecosystems.

The module has facilitated interactions with universities in Bogotá, such as the Universidad de la Sabana, who offered a short Spanish course to undergraduate students.

The trip has been consistently praised by the students as one of the highlights of their time at University.



RESEARCH AND TEACHING

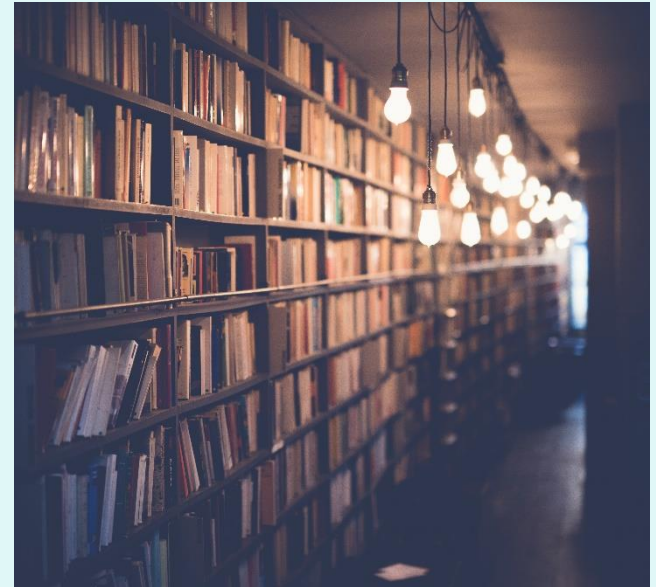
Research links exist with several Colombian universities:

- National University of Colombia
- University of the Andes
- Universidad del Rosario
- Eafit University
- Javeriana University

Members of staff from SGGE at the University of Leicester have contributed to local academic programmes through research seminars at postgraduate level and teaching.

TWO-WAY MOBILITY

As a result of the consortium developed between the UK and Colombian universities, direct links with the Colombian bodies Colciencias, Colfuturo and Icetex have supported opportunities for mobilisation of Colombian academics to visit the University of Leicester, and Colombian graduate students with bursaries for postgraduate studies to study at SGGE at Leicester.



FURTHER FUNDING AND FURTHER COLLABORATION

More recently, QR GCRF funding was used to carry out a collaborative workshop to discuss key issues linking biodiversity and ecosystem services that are currently under threat due to the intensification of agriculture in high-Andean ecosystems.

This has led to partnerships with key Colombian academic and governmental institutions¹, with a commitment to collaborate on research into environmental change at different temporal and spatial scales in order to assess risks and threats to natural ecosystems.

¹ Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the Alexander von Humboldt Institute (attaché to ministry of Environment), the Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, and the Medellin branch of the Colombian National University

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM, UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, BOGOTÁ

Fostering collaboration between world-leading and emerging academics in heteronymy



BACKGROUND

Heteronymy, or writing under different authorial guises, where those authorial voices have biographies, histories, and ideologies of their own, is a practice strongly linked with the Hispanic and Lusophone worlds.

Antonio Machado and Fernando Pessoa were both key poets engaging in heteronymy in the early twentieth century.



INTRODUCTION

The initiative between the University of Durham and the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá brings together a number of established and emerging scholars who work on a wide range of authors from across the Hispanic and Lusophone worlds who write ‘heteronymically’.



THE UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMICS

Nicholas Roberts in Durham is the world-leading critic of the Venezuelan heteronymist Eugenio Montejo.

Universidad de los Andes is the hub for academics such as Mario Barrero Fajardo, who works on the Colombian poet Álvaro Mutis, and Francisco Pizarro, who writes on Pessoa (Francisco Pizarro), as well as having ties with numerous academics across Colombia working on other heteronymic authors.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMICS

In addition, the Universidad de los Andes has a strong postgraduate community and diaspora who have benefited from the expertise in heteronymy at their institution and have, in several cases, gone on to be develop this interest in other universities, including in the US.

The aim of this collaboration is thus to foster dialogue between these different scholars and the authors they study, with the goals of furthering understanding of the divergent implications and uses of this mode of writing in different sociohistorical contexts, and opening up new ways to theorise the practice of heteronymy.

BUILDING ON THE COLLABORATION

The collaboration was inaugurated with a one-day Symposium held at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, as part of the city's *Semana de las Artes y las Humanidades* in April 2018. This event brought together academics from the groups mentioned above, as well as practising poets and dramatists.



The project has thus begun to spread beyond the field of poetry to engage with and question the ramifications of heteronymy in theatre and as a political practice.

FURTHER COLLABORATION

The lead collaborators Nicholas Roberts and Mario Barrero are currently working on publishing the papers given at that event in a special journal edition in Colombia, and a further conference, taking up directions signalled in 2018, is being planned.

This work is part of a broader collaboration between Durham University and the University of Los Andes which includes an active student exchange which has been on-going for several years.

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