

16.00-17.30 CET 6th November 2025

Interview (open event)

Valuing Intersectionality and Marginalised Voices through Project-based Learning in a Spanish as a Foreign Language Teaching Context

Speakers: Francisco Rosales Varo and Javier Pérez Zapatero

These interviews focus on the work of experts (researchers, practitioners, educators, policy-makers and other agents) on the field of Action-oriented, Plurilingual and Intercultural Education, as a way to know their personal and professional trajectories as well as some of their contributions to the field.

Here follows the **abstract** of this interview:

This interview will explore **Contexto eLeGTB+**, a digital platform for teaching Spanish through an integrated LGBT+ and intersectional lens that critically examines marginalisation. We will discuss how it helps educators incorporate content on affective-sexual, gender, ethno-racial, and socio-economic diversity, challenging traditional curricula to advance **equitable language education**. The session will analyse original teaching materials highlighting **LGBT+ and intersectional realities** across Spanish-speaking contexts, focusing on historically excluded voices. We will demonstrate practical applications of **project-based learning and mediation strategies**, illustrating how these foster meaningful, critically engaged pedagogy.

We will provide tools for designing inclusive curricula that connect language acquisition with socially relevant content, nurturing **linguistic and critical cultural skills**. Finally, we will show how these approaches create inclusive classrooms, contest structural inequities, and prepare students for **diverse real-world communication through socially conscious teaching**.

And here the information about the **speakers**:

Francisco Rosales Varo

Francisco Rosales Varo holds a PhD in Hispanic Philology from the University of Granada (UGR) and has over thirty years of professional experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language. He has taught at institutions including UGR, UIMP, the Cervantes Institute in New York, and Päivölän Kansanopisto (Finland). He is currently Senior Lecturer at Columbia University, where he has developed innovative courses, including *LGBT Contexts in Spain* and *Spanish Pragmatics*. He has co-authored the Difusión textbooks *Abanico* (1997), *Ventilador* (2006), *Campus Sur* (2017), and *Proyectos* (Difusión-Klett, 2019), and contributed to the monograph *Mediación en el aprendizaje de lenguas* (Anaya, 2022).

Javier Pérez Zapatero

Javier Pérez Zapatero, whose teaching career began in 1989, is currently Senior Associate at Barnard College-Columbia University, where he has taught since 2007. He served for a decade as Director of the Spanish Programme at these institutions and edited the Columbia-Barnard adaptation of *Gente* (Pearson). His academic interests centre on translation pedagogy and inclusive approaches to language teaching, reflected in courses he has developed, such as *Rethinking Spanish Translation* and the co-created *LGBT Contexts in Spain*. He co-authored the Difusión textbook *Proyectos* (2019), the North American edition of *Campus Sur* (2017), and contributed to *Mediación en el aprendizaje de lenguas* (Anaya, 2022).

The interview will be followed by a **QsA section** where the participants will be able to pose their questions to the speakers.