

# **Emerging Themes in Higher Education Equity Policy from Latin America and the Caribbean**



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## Presentation of the research



School of  
Population and  
Global Health

École de  
santé des populations  
et de santé mondiale

Department of  
Equity, Ethics  
and Policy

Département  
d'équité, d'éthique  
et de politiques

- **McBurney Fellowship x UNESCO IESALC**
- **Literature Published from 2015-2025**
- **1,480 sources screened; 193 sources selected**
- **~50 page report focusing on:**

**How can higher education policies better serve EDGs students?**

**Equity Deserving Groups (EDGs)- groups who have been historically and systematically excluded from higher education systems; this term is contextual.**



**unesco**

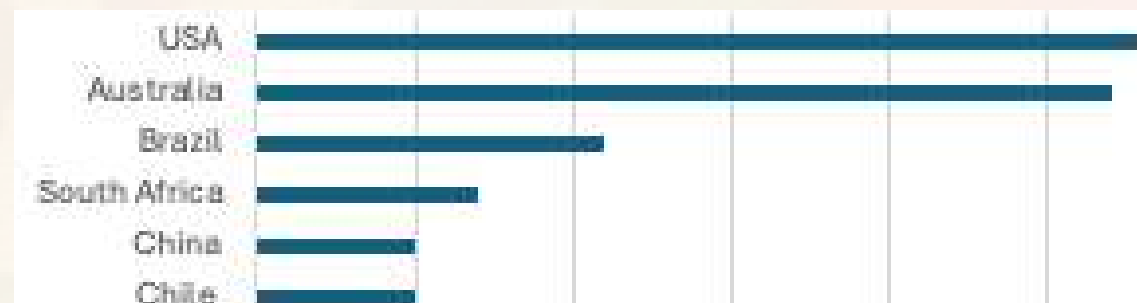
International Institute for  
Higher Education in Latin  
America and the Caribbean

## Turning the focus to Latin America and The Caribbean

- ~8% global population comes from Latin America and The Caribbean
- **Limitation of the research: sources were in English**

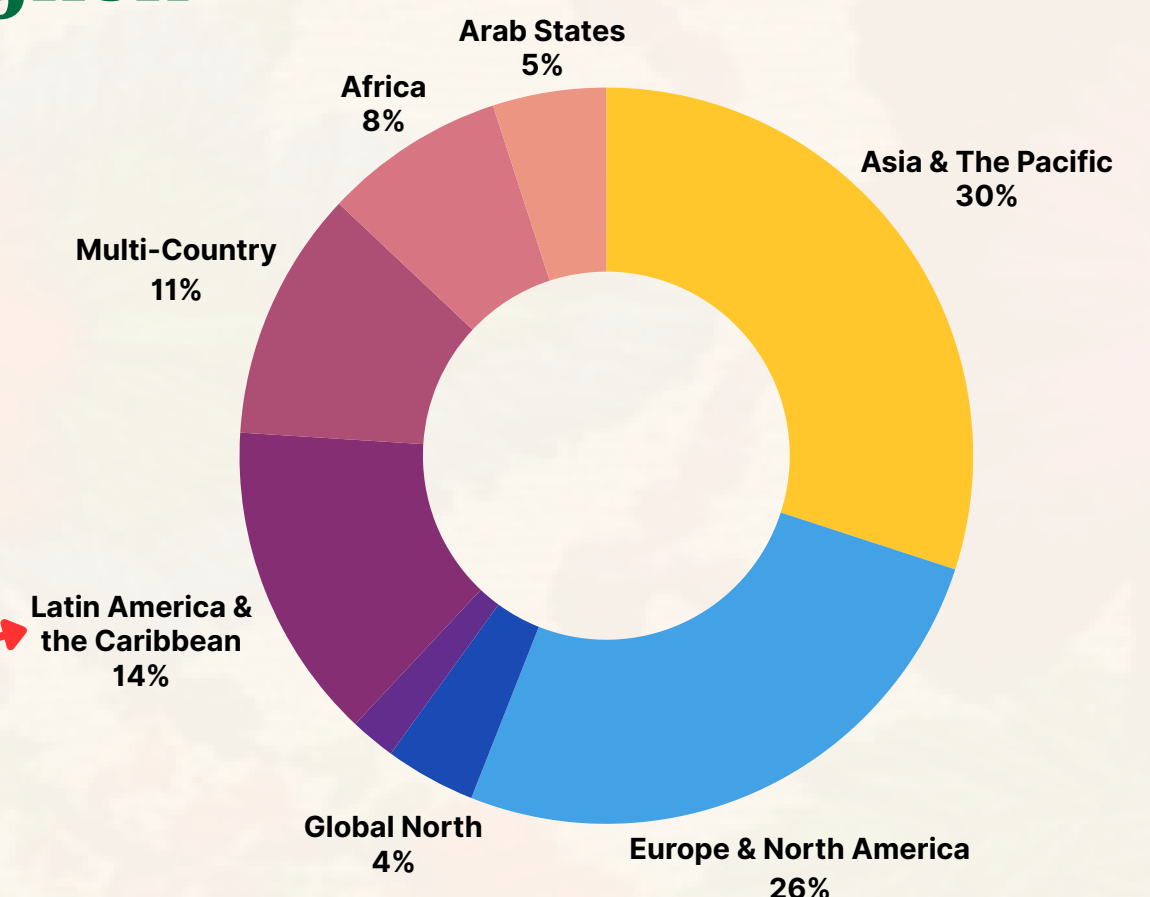
### Lack of Data from the Caribbean

#### Most Mentioned Countries



**Brazil was the 3rd**

**Chile was 5th (tied)**



#### Distribution of the Literature

# **TRENDS**

**Targeted  
Affirmative  
Action (Quotas  
& Scholarships)**

**Integration  
of Refugees  
and  
Migrants**

**Re-framing  
Higher  
Education as  
a Right**

**Intercultural  
and Bilingual  
Education  
Policies**

**South-South  
Cooperation**

# ***Targeted Affirmative Action***

- **Brazil: Quota Law and ProUni**
- **Chile: PACE and High School Ranking (HSR)**
- **Peru: “Beca 18” (Scholarship 18)**
- **Columbia: Ser Pilo Paga (SPP) and Generación E**

# ***Integration of Refugees and Migrants***

- In the Literature, focus on **Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants**
- Countries with Higher Education Pathways  
Included: **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia,**  
**Mexico, Peru and Uruguay**

# ***Reframing Higher Education as a Right***

Increased view of policymakers positioning higher education as a:

- **Fundamental Right**
- **Public Good**
- **Collective Responsibility**

# ***Intercultural and Bilingual Education Policies***

Made to address educational inequities for  
Indigenous populations

- **Mexico - Intercultural Universities**
- **Ecuador - EIB (educación intercultural bilingüe)**

# South-South Cooperation

- **MERCOSUR bloc**
- **Bilateral agreements eg. Brazil and Venezuela**



# **CHALLENGES**

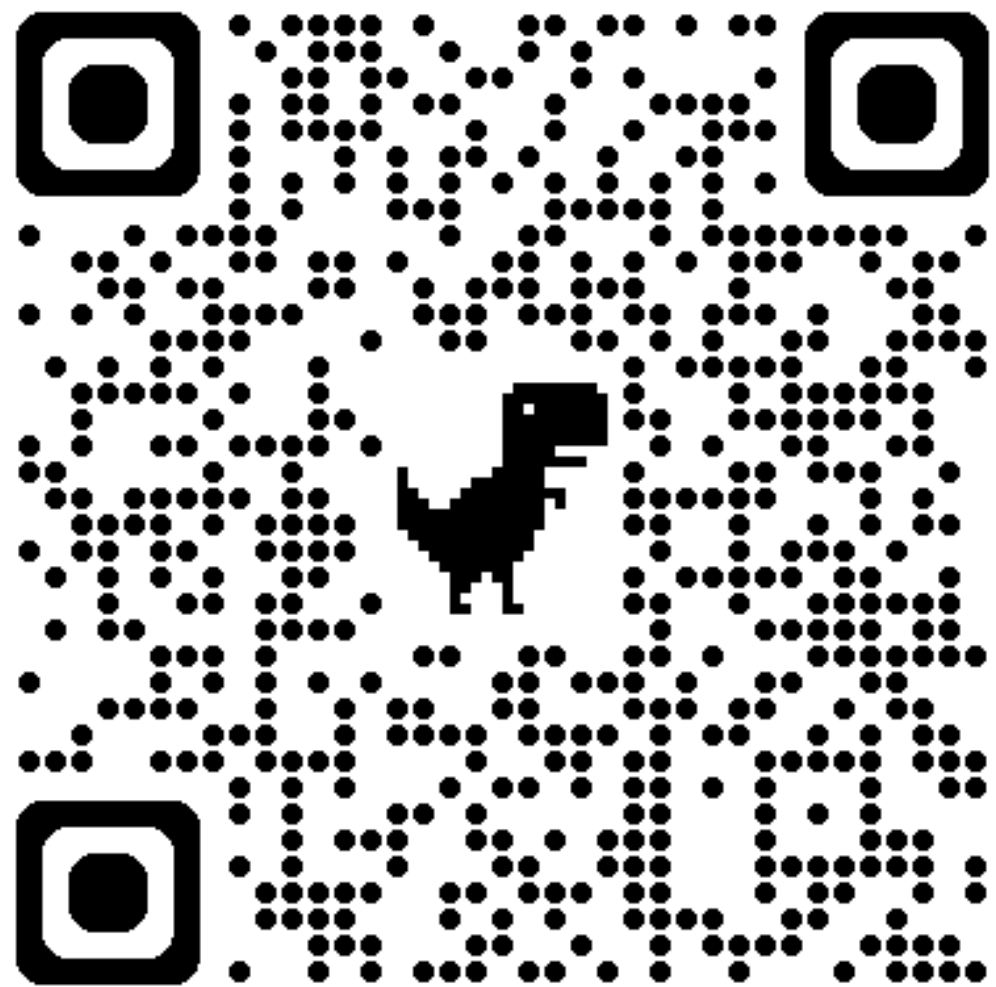
- **Financial Exclusion**
- **Academic Preparation Gaps**
- **Privatization**
- **Limited Access in Rural and Remote Areas**

# ***WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LAC?***

- **Explicitly state who the policy seeks to serve**
- **Embrace a varied range of knowledge**
- **Work to bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality**

# THANK YOU!

Sears, M. D., & Harden-Wolfson, E. (forthcoming). Towards Higher Education Equity: A Global Review of Policy Approaches. UNESCO IESALC and McGill University.



Link to references specific to this presentation; as seperated by country

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