Peaceful coexistence in schools increases educational quality.

In this seminar, Maria Carolina Nieto, Visiting Scholar from Colombia, will present the experience of seven schools in five countries of Latin America, where the Pedagogy of Care and Reconciliation (PCR) was implemented with the purpose of validating this proposition.

The seminar will describe the implementation, the rationale behind the methodology and the results obtained.

Violence is putting at risk democracies and sustainable development in Latin American countries. No doubt, it is crucial to educate new generations to care and prevent violence.

To begin, an invitation is extended to every person in the school community to “Look themselves at the Mirror of their own practice”, and realize the need for a meaningful change: education for employment yes, but more importantly, education for peace and coexistence. Under this new perspective, teachers take on a fundamental principle for their lives: existence is a gift.

This philosophy would inspire a narrative twist for teachers and for the school institutionality.

Maria Carolina Nieto Ed.M (Harvard graduate School of Education); MA (Essex University), has been an education consultant and project manager for government and international organizations over the last 10 years. Maria began her career as a lawyer, and moved into the educational policy with the Colombian Ministry of Education.

Between 1996 and 2000 she served as Secretary of Education for the Department of Cundinamarca where she had the opportunity to work with teachers, principals and advocate for education decentralization. From 2000 – 2005 she leaded the Education for Peace Culture Partnership with the active participation of international, governmental and non- governmental institutions such as the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, OIM, Ministries of Education and Culture. Between 2006 and 2010, Maria coordinated educational projects for Sesame Workshop in Colombia and for AED in Guatemala (Central America), where she capitalized on the experience of creating knowledge and practice for peace education in multicultural contexts.

For the last 4 years, Maria worked in Foundation for Reconciliation in Colombia, developing theory and method for care and reconciliation in schools. She is currently a certified Satyananda yoga teacher and continues to look for opportunities to educate head, heart and hands.