

Title of the Project: Proyecto Turpial: Diasporic Youth Encounters
Country of Implementation: México, Colombia and Argentina
Sponsoring College: Trinity College - Hartford, Connecticut
Designated Project Leader: Daniel Santos (Venezuela, Trinity College, UWC Pearson)
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Summary: Proyecto Turpial is an initiative to interconnect and support the Venezuelan migrant youth. In a context where the ongoing humanitarian crisis has forced 1 in every 5 Venezuelans to leave their home country, we will gather young Venezuelan immigrants with diverse backgrounds and demonstrated leadership potential in projects and initiatives. We will organize experiential, weekend-long retreats in three major cities of the Venezuelan diaspora in Latin America to establish baseline connections between them and develop their networking, project development and communication skills. These retreats are essential to strengthen the emotive connections of participants with Venezuela, and thus mobilize their intentions and capabilities in favor of the country.

Context & Problem: Venezuela is going through the worst humanitarian crisis in its history. The crisis has dispersed 5.6 million refugees, close to 20% of its population, around the world - the second largest migrant crisis on the planet, only second to Syria. The Venezuelan youth has been specially affected, as many have left the country in search of better life chances. This has led to the loss of young Venezuelans with high potential for leadership and changemaking, who are isolated from other leaders with whom to connect, are slowly losing emotive links to their home country and with their ideas and aspirations largely ignored. Unlike migrant communities in Europe and North America, the Venezuelan diaspora in Latin America is much less organized and connected to their home country.

Objectives: our overarching goal is to help establish the foundations of a new generation of changemakers within the Venezuelan diaspora in the region, by connecting them to each other, rekindling emotive links to their homeland, and making them more visible in public opinion. Our specific goals are classified upon the scope of the goal (inside or outside Venezuela) and the timeframe of the goal (short-term or long-term).

- Short-Term Goals, Outside Venezuela (ST): **1.** Offer spaces for participants to linkup and collaborate, **2.** reconnect emotionally to their country and **3.** network with high-impact Venezuelans with major projects or works around the world.
- Short-Term Goals, Inside Venezuela (ST): **4.** Make participants more visible in Venezuelan public opinion (who they are, what they do and what they are working on) while also **5.** connecting them to high-impact Venezuelans making a difference inside the country.
- Long-Term Goal, Outside Venezuela (LT): **1.** Give the Venezuelan diaspora new voices, highlighting these young changemakers within the diaspora and abroad.
- Long-Term Goal, Inside Venezuela (LT): **2.** Establish a pool of highly talented young people who are living all over Latin America but are in the service of helping rebuild a Democratic Venezuela.

Table of Objectives, Products and Outcomes:

Obj.	Short term	Long term	Product	Outcome
Outside VZLA.	ST1; ST2; ST3	LT1	Experiential retreats; report of conversations and experiences; WhatsApp groups.	Creation of new leadership references; possibilities for NGO volunteering; increase in emotive connection to peers/country.
Inside VZLA.	ST4; ST5.	LT2	Press reports; report of results; oral history archive of participant testimonies.	Pool of engaged young changemakers; giving the diaspora a new voice and image.

Participants: the estimated 10 young Venezuelan changemakers attending each retreat will be selected on the basis of a diverse set of criteria, following an asset-based community development approach. Candidates will be nominated in two rounds of selection: nomination from networking partners and core team members, followed by peer-nominations from admitted candidates. We are conscious of the fact that seeking demonstrated leadership potential and university education may

imply a socio-economic bias towards the upper middle classes. But we believe that talented leadership and projects can come from diverse backgrounds and we will strive to select them as such.

- Age: 18-29 years old.
- Area of Interest: public sector; private sector; social sector; arts & media; culture & sports; Academia.
- Educational Level: from Undergrad students to PhD graduates.
- Project Initiative: the candidate has taken the initiative of starting a project, which may be at different stages of development and take many forms (organization, company, portfolio, collection of essays, music album, etc).
- Ideological Diversity: balance of political views (based on David Nolan’s “political compass”).
- Past Achievements: Candidates’ past personal, professional and collective achievements.

Description of Events: Each retreat requires 7 days of work from the core team (made up of 3-4 team members). Having the retreats in person is ideal to maximize the experiential learning process and facilitate the creation of stronger emotional bonds throughout the project.

Day 1 Wed.	Day 2 Thur.	Day 3 Fri.	Day 4 Sat.	Day 5 Sun.	Day 6 Mon.	Days 6-7 Mon & Tue.
Core team arrival to host city	Core team organization; participants arrive at night and the event begins Friday night.	Diasporic Youth Encounter		Participants leave the host city.	Core team debrief and wrap-up of logistics. Preparations for the next city.	

In the retreat (days 3 to 5), participants will engage in workshops focusing on three skill-sets:

1. Team Building and Networking: participants get to know each other, their migratory experiences, and their relationship towards their home-country.
2. Project Development: participants talk and critique each other’s projects, building from each other’s strengths to enhance their projects as well as identify areas of collaboration.
3. Communication: workshops in media training, in which participants learn to develop pitches, thinking and reflecting on desired audiences, and engage with different kinds of media.

Host Cities: we have selected Mexico City, Bogotá and Buenos Aires based on criteria related to the Venezuelan community, conditions on the ground, and the presence of partners.

- Regional Distribution: all cities in Latin America, covering major sub-regions - Central & North America, Andean Countries and the Southern Cone. This captures different regions of the continent and the inherent lifestyle differences caused by geography.
- Diversity in Migration Experience: these cities provide diversity in migratory experiences faced by participants (e.g., flying to Argentina vs. walking through the border into Colombia).
- Diversity in Socio-Economic Conditions: these cities have a mixed set of migrant communities with some being well-off, others being middle class and some more being working class.
- Diversity in Attitudes Towards the Venezuelan Community: a variety of attitudes and policies from local citizens and the state towards Venezuelan migrants are represented in the cities selected.

Partners: We have received the support of 7 partners (both individuals and organizations) to help us with implementing the project. We also expect to seek new partnerships in the coming months.

- Media Partners - Artsy Media Content Hub and Soy Arepita: Digital media with good audience reach in Venezuela and its diaspora, that can help us give visibility to participants and their projects.
- Network Partners - Log Consulting, Asuntos del Sur in Argentina, Derecho a No Obedecer in Colombia, and Pablo Collada in Mexico: Organizations and individuals with wide access to networks of young Venezuelans in the diaspora, who can help us identify potential participants.
- Research Partners - Observatorio Nacional de Juventudes: organizations that have research know-how, and can help us build research instruments that allow us to learn more about the young Venezuelan diaspora, their aspirations, opinions, attitudes towards the country, etc.

Research: the encounters will also allow us to learn about the Venezuelan young diaspora, serving as a sort of live focus-group. Through participant observation, interviews and other research methods, we will produce knowledge that helps us understand the different relationships of participants with their home country, from a migrant perspective. The study results will be summarized and analyzed in a research report to be shared and hopefully published within the academic community. We expect this to help us reach the goal of providing visibility to participants and their projects (Objective ST4).