The Latin American Philosophies of Education Symposium took place at the University of Miami on April 14th and 15th. It was a very successful event, with 14 people coming in from out of town, including Walter Kohan from Brazil, Juliana Mercon and Enrique Dussel from Mexico, and Julieta Paredes from Bolivia. Each session had around 30-40 participants with the two keynotes reaching up to 60-70 people. We also recorded every session and turned it into a podcast, and people have been listening to them on the LAPES website since April. In anticipation of the event, I did a lot of promotion through social media, which proved quite effective: there were several people who came from FIU and FAU. A group of undergraduate students also drove down from Gainsville for the event.

The different presentations and dialogues were also quite productive. We began with a graduate student roundtable where five graduate students from across the country presented their current work on decolonial education. That same day, Juliana Mercon led a workshop on participatory research in Mexico and Julieta Paredes gave the opening keynote focusing on the concept of comunitarian feminism. The following day, Tracy Devine Guzman talked about the failures of decolonial education in 20th century Peru, Walter Kohan discussed the notion of the ignorant schoolmaster, and Enrique Duseel, during the closing keynote, presented global history from a decolonial perspective. Each presentation was followed by an hour-long collective discussion. The audience was composed of academics, teachers and education activists which led to very productive dialogues and tensions. We discussed different examples of decolonial education in Latin America and whether those could be implemented in the United States. The audience wanted to know how to bring in more community members into these discussions. They thought it was important to expand this conversation into non-university spaces. I thus believe we accomplished our goal of expanding our ways of theorizing education as well as developing techniques for improving educational practices in the United States.

During the symposium we also agreed on future joint projects. We are currently collectively editing the third issue of LAPIZ which will contain all the talks and discussions from the symposium. LAPIZ will also translate Juileta Paredes’ book Feminismo Comunitario and I
am going to Bolivia in November for a series of workshops on communitarian feminism. Walter Kohan also invited LAPES members to participate in a Philosophy of Education conference in Rio in October. The symposium has thus been very beneficial for me in terms of developing professional contacts. We are currently planning the release of LAPIZ III which will take place in October, and next year’s LAPIZ symposium which will take place in San Francisco, California. SEEDS funding was absolutely essential in organizing the event and has allowed us to have such a diversity of participants and audience members.