

Discussion Guide

Episode 8: José Morcillo-Gómez on Teaching Spanish and Latin American Culture in China

About Global Learning

Global learning is the process of diverse people collaboratively analyzing and addressing complex problems that transcend borders (Landorf & Doscher, 2015). Among many student learning outcomes, global learning develops:

- **Global Awareness:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- **Global Perspective:** Ability to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- **Global Engagement:** Willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving

About this Episode

José Morcillo-Gómez is Visiting Instructor and Coordinator of Florida International University's Dual Degree program in Spanish with Qingdao University. He holds a BA in Education and an MA in Speech Disorders from the University of Granada and a Masters and PhD in Spanish from FIU. In this episode, Morcillo-Gómez gives us a glimpse into his unique experience teaching students enrolled in FIU's Bachelor of Arts in Spanish dual degree program with Qingdao University in China. Launched in 2014, the program has approximately 350 students currently enrolled and has graduated 134. Morcillo-Gómez's perspective on the borderless nature of knowledge is deeply informed by his experience as an international PhD student and his linguistic identity as a Spaniard from the country's southern region. Morcillo-Gómez is passionate about language and views global

learning as more than an approach to teaching—it is a way of life.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

Upon reflection, listeners to this episode will be able to:

- Identify themes that can be used to enable intercultural learning
- Describe how culture, language, and business intersect and provide a fertile ground for global learning
- Articulate reasons and methods for adapting content to different cultural contexts

Discussion Questions

- What does Morcillo-Gómez mean when he talks about “global Spanish?”
- Morcillo-Gómez says that we cannot put borders on knowledge. To what extent should institutions take into account how or where international students will use knowledge when deciding whether to open a program or campus abroad?
- Why does Morcillo-Gómez say he is teaching true “global students” in a true “global learning” context?
- How does Morcillo-Gómez connect Chinese students to Latin American culture?
- What principles does Morcillo-Gómez follow in designing his courses for his students?
- Why does Morcillo-Gómez design off-campus cultural programming for students and community members?

Suggested Activities

- Have listeners locate current news articles and opinion pieces on the relationship between the U.S. and China in global higher education and research. Discuss these in light of Morcillo-Gómez' thoughts about knowledge, borders, and power.
- Have listeners take a face-to-face assignment or project and revise it to facilitate global learning in an online modality.
- Challenge listeners to choose two distant nationalities or cultures, perhaps on separate continents, and identify as many points of connection between them as possible.

APA (6th edition) Citation

Doscher, S. (Producer/host). (2020, February). *Jose Morcillo on teaching Spanish and Latin American culture in China* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu/episode-8-jose-morcillo/>

About the Podcast

“Making Global Learning Universal” is a collection of conversations about engaging diverse perspectives, collaboration, and complex problem solving in higher education—on campus, online, in local communities, and abroad. Episodes are posted seasonally. Guests are from a wide variety of institutions, geographies, and areas of teaching, research, and practice. All episodes are accompanied by show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides to enhance global learning professional development, leadership, and teacher preparation.

The podcast is hosted by [Stephanie Doscher](#), Director of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University and co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All*.

The “Making Global Learning Universal” podcast is produced through a partnership between Florida International University’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Media Technology Services, and Disability Resource Center.

Episodes, show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides are available at <http://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

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Listener recommendations

“Making Global Learning Universal” is always looking for new guests to join the show and interesting topics to cover. [Email us](#) to make a suggestion!

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