This publication contains all the papers and lectures presented at the V Training Seminar for Young Researchers in Intercultural Dynamics (FJIDi) of CIDOB which, under the title “Knowledge Policies and intercultural dynamics: actions, innovations, transformations”, took place in Barcelona between December 14-16, 2011.

The Forum was created in 2004 as a meeting place for doctoral students under the framework of the Intercultural Dynamics Programme of CIDOB. It aims to create an open space for the exchange of ideas and research tools, made by and for researchers working in the field of intercultural dynamics from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The proposal to establish an annual meeting emerged at the Forum itself in 2006, after two years of collaboration and common reflection workshops.

The thematic areas chosen by the young researchers are discussed and debated throughout the year, culminating in the Training Seminar. The first such Seminar, “The politics of the diverse: production, recognition or appropriation of cultural aspects?”, questioned identities and imaginaries as intercultural practice in the search for new spaces of negotiation and new tools for investigation. The second edition, “The dynamics of contact: mobility, encounters and conflicts in intercultural relations,” examined the subject of spaces of contact, as well as the dynamics that are established within them, delving deeper into issues of conflict negotiation and into strategies of transforming the uncertainty of contact into known codes. The third edition continued in the same research trajectory and approached the issue of the acceleration of mobility and, consequently, of the exchange between people. From this perspective, we analyzed the relationship between culture and politics to reflect on the meaning of cultural democracy.

In 2010, with the intention to further open the Training Seminar to new areas of research and participation, the young researchers of the Forum raised the problem of forms-others of knowledge which sometimes remain outside the purely academic knowledge or the methodologies of traditional research. With this aim the fourth seminar was born which focused on the “Forms-Others: Knowing, naming, narrating, doing”
with the proposal to bring together points in motion, connections and transformations capable of organising themselves without setting axes or coordinates.

The fifth edition of the Training Seminar took place in 2011 and followed the intention to continue the route taken and to question the politics of knowledge themselves and their relationship with the creation and development of intercultural dynamics. Guided by Mieke Bal, Sanjay Seth, Alexandra Zavos, Ramin Jahanbegloo y Gonçal Mayo Solsona, the participants established a long debate on the categories of intercultural dynamics as well as on their capacity to adapt to different disciplinary perspectives and methodologies. In this sense, the focus laid as much on academic knowledge as on other sources of knowledge production and new means of information diffusion and knowledge processing. This volume, combining the contents which have been addressed, proposes numerous points of view on the role of the researcher and the research as well as on the sources of knowledge production, recognizing the ambiguities and contradictions which the young researcher encounter while carrying out their research. Beyond academic knowledge –reflecting on practices that produce knowledge on the one hand and mirror it on the other hand– a thorough debate develops along the texts on the difficulties and limitations of knowledge and the possibility of alternatives and potential options for new spaces of intercultural dynamics. The publication also includes the items contained in the closure of the V Training Seminar, a panel on the relationship between methodological research methods and the construction of a particular form of knowledge, with a reflection, in particular, on the ethics of online social research.

On this occasion, together with the four directors of the panels who contributed the introductory articles for each of the blocks of this publication, the event had Mieke Bal as keynote speaker who, besides introducing and concluding the seminar, and dialoguing constantly with the participants, presented her film “A history of Madness”. In this volume we present her introduction on the concept of “Extranjerías” (an untranslatable Spanish term according to the author).

The aim of this publication is to disseminate the collective work of the members of the Forum of Young Researchers of CIDOB and record their work which will continue to create broader networks that disseminate and deepen the research themes and study of intercultural dynamics.

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