



The slide features a central photograph of five people working in a field, likely engaged in agricultural or ecological research. To the right of the photo, the title 'Interdisciplinary Research as Epistemic Justice' is written in orange. Below the title, the presenter's name 'Marleen Haboud Bumachar' and the event details 'Humboldt Colloquium Chile, 27. 03.2026' are listed. The slide also includes logos for 'Oralidad Modernidad', 'geolinguistics', and 'Humboldt Colloquium'.

Abstract

This presentation examines interdisciplinary research as a practice of epistemic justice, particularly when grounded in collaborative work with Indigenous and local communities. Drawing on long-term research initiatives in Ecuador developed by the *Oralidad Modernidad* Interdisciplinary Program, including geolinguistics and ethnobotanical documentation, it highlights the intrinsic interconnections between language, territory, and knowledge.

The presentation identifies three persistent challenges: (1) hierarchies that privilege scientific paradigms over local and ancestral knowledge systems; (2) the invisibilization of Indigenous languages and local Spanish varieties as living epistemic frameworks; and (3) disciplinary fragmentation that separates language from ecological and social contexts. In response, it proposes an approach grounded in interdisciplinarity, collaboration, and research understood as a form of epistemic justice.

Through cases such as large-scale georeferenced sociolinguistic mapping and joint documentation of medicinal plant knowledge, the study shows how research can shift from extractive models toward dialogical and relational processes. In these contexts, language emerges not only as a means of communication but as a repository of ecological, medical, and cultural knowledge.

Ultimately, the presentation argues that interdisciplinary research opens paths to epistemic justice by restoring relationships among knowledge systems, affirming the legitimacy of diverse epistemologies, and supporting community-driven processes of revitalization and sustainability.

Marleen Haboud Bumachar
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