

Scientific Identity in a Second Language: Challenges of Academic Migration for Early Career Researchers

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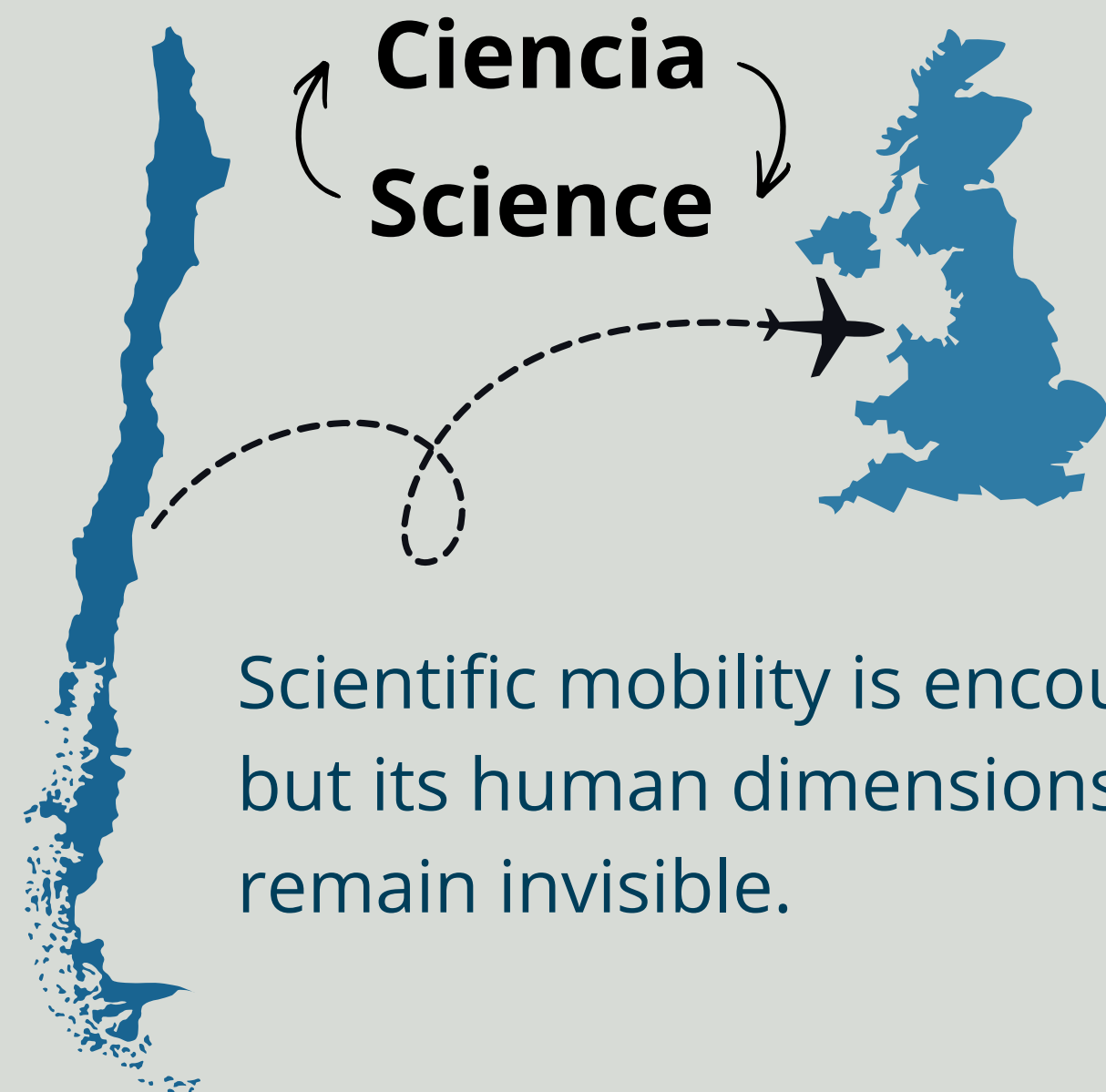
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ABSTRACT:



CONTEXT

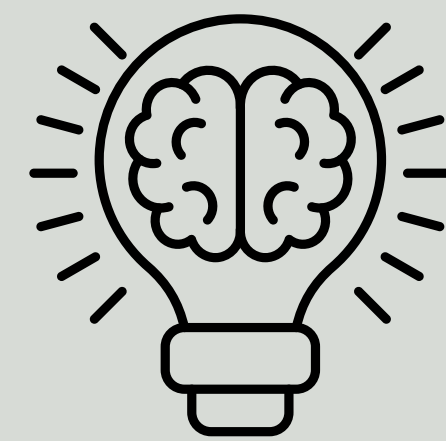
Science is increasingly international, but access to English-language training is not equally distributed worldwide.



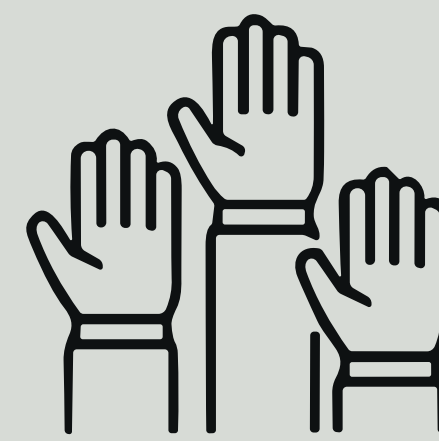
Scientific mobility is encouraged, but its human dimensions often remain invisible.

In many Latin American contexts, bilingual education remains strongly shaped by socioeconomic inequality.

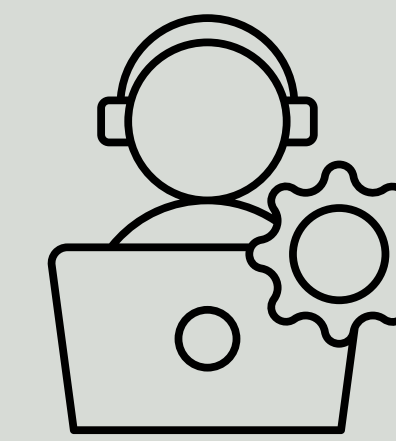
CHALLENGES



Processing and expressing scientific ideas often becomes slower in a second language.



Speaking less does not mean having fewer ideas.



Language barriers also affect coding, scientific writing, and collaboration.

Reconstructing scientific identity



Expertise developed in one context may feel diminished in another, leading to a temporary loss of confidence and the need to rebuild one's scientific identity.

This process also builds

- Adaptability
- Conceptual clarity
- Critical thinking
- Interdisciplinary awareness

SOLUTIONS

- **Mentoring:**
Value ideas over fluency
- **Research environments:**
Create space for participation
- **Communication:**
Flexible expectations and clearer support systems

LANGUAGE SHAPES WHO GETS TO PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE