Abstract
Almost forty indigenous/peasants have studied since 2003 at the University of Cuyo, in Argentina, migrating from their rural environment. Because of their sui generis capacity for identifying and, if necessary, for formulating common sense rules, indigenous students become quasi "ethnographers" of both environments, urban and rural. This practical consideration contradicts some prejudices against indigenous and peasant people, supposed to be fragile, naïf, weak and passive individuals. Yet, the students' daily work, to accomplish the inherited (ethnic and peasant) statuses, is dramatic. Self-esteem and other people's estimation are at stake, as well as the recognition as "authentic" members of their reference group. Analyzing students' reasons and rationality, the research focuses on how one can accomplish the ethnic status in intercultural conditions, in Mendoza.

Keywords
Ethnicity, Huarpes, intercultural communication, practical knowledge, rules.