

## Ana M.<sup>a</sup> Rico Martín

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Ana María Rico Martín. PhD. in Spanish Philology from the UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) of Spain in 1996.

Since 1998 she is full time lecturer at the Faculty of Education and Humanities of Melilla, University of Granada, where she coordinates the master degree in Primary Education.

As a member of the Department of Teaching Language and Literature, Ana M.<sup>a</sup> Rico has participated in many several innovative education projects, in research projects and in work team related to the European Higher Education Area. She has also published some books and articles related to this area.

She is also researcher in the group "Curricular Innovation in Multicultural contexts" (University of Granada). Her main research lines are a) Plurilingualism; b) Bilingual education and second language acquisition, especially Spanish as a Foreign or Second Language; and c) Intercultural and multicultural contexts in teacher training.

At present she is working with her research group on a project, requested by the Ministry of Education in Spain, about causes and implications of early dropouts and, particularly, she also participates in a project of the same Ministry for the "Improvement of Communication Skills in the city of Melilla".