**MARGARIDA GARCIA:**

**1.**     **What was the greatest benefit of being a scholar at the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation?**

The greatest benefit of being a Trudeau scholar was being exposed to a bold project, led by a rich, diverse community united by certain core values that influenced me, such as philosophical courage, intellectual generosity, and the importance of transformative action. For me, being a Trudeau scholar also meant having the luxury of freedom of thought, the privilege of having time to reflect (which is necessary for creativity), the opportunity to debate with enthusiastic and inspiring colleagues and to ask myself forward-thinking questions in a unique and stimulating context of radical interdisciplinarity.

**2.**     **What do you think about the importance of engaged leadership in meeting the challenges we face in our society?**

I believe that leadership, as a way of being and acting, is necessarily engaged because it’s linked to the achievement of something greater than oneself. Leadership is essential to bring about futures that could not otherwise become real, to make a concrete difference, and to foster fundamental change. Only leadership can provide new paradigms capable of generating the innovations that will enable us to effectively tackle our contemporary challenges.

**3.**     **Why is it important for leaders to dialogue with people who hold different views?**

Why deprive yourself of the richness of the world and the point of view of the Other? Effective leaders know that they cannot take their own viewpoint as gospel, that they necessarily have blind spots, and that the best way to illuminate those unseen regions is by listening sincerely and attentively to the Other. Difference and even disagreement are celebrated by leaders who’ve been able to step out of the restrictive confines of the ego, which often stands in the way of successful and inspiring leadership.