**MARGARIDA GARCIA:**

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

The greatest benefit as a Trudeau scholar was being exposed to a bold project, led by a rich, diverse community united by certain core values which 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 accomplishment of something greater than oneself. Leadership is essential to bring about futures that could not otherwise become real, to make a difference that really makes a difference, and to foster change that goes beyond the normal development of a situation. Only leadership could 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, from the point of view of the other? Effective leaders know that they cannot take their viewpoint on matters for the truth, that they necessarily have blind spots, and that it’s by listening sincerely and attentively to the other that light can be shed on what they don’t see they don’t see. Difference and even disagreement are celebrated by leaders who’ve been able to step out of the restrictive confines of what we call the ego, which often stands in the way of successful and inspiring leadership.