



## KATEMARI DIOGO ROSA: GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY IN PHYSICS

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**Abstract:** Katemari Diogo Rosa was born on October 16, 1979, in Porto Alegre. He did elementary school in a public school and high school integrated with a technical course in Secretariat, at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Since adolescence, she already showed affection for the area of physics. She has a degree in Physics from UFRGS, a Master in Teaching History and Philosophy of Science from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) and a PhD in Science Education from Columbia University. She is currently an adjunct professor at the Federal University of Bahia, where research on teaching physics and the formation of physical and physical teachers and teachers in the initial grades and discussions involving the intersectionality of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status in the construction and science teaching.

**Keywords:** Katemari; physics; black women.

### KATEMARI DIOGO ROSA: GÊNERO, RAÇA E ETNIA NA FÍSICA

**Resumo:** Katemari Diogo Rosa nasceu dia 16 de Outubro de 1979, em Porto Alegre. Fez o ensino fundamental em uma escola pública e o ensino médio integrado a um curso técnico de Secretariado, na Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Desde a adolescência, já demonstrava afetividade pela área da física. É licenciada em Física pela UFRGS, Mestra em Ensino de História e Filosofia de Ciência pela Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) e Doutora em Science Education pela Columbia University. Atualmente é professora adjunta da Universidade Federal da Bahia, onde pesquisa sobre ensino de física e formação de professoras e professores de física, física nas séries iniciais e discussões que envolvem as interseccionalidades de gênero, sexualidades, raça, etnia e status socioeconômico na construção e no ensino das ciências.

**Palavras-Chave:** Katemari; física; mulheres negras.

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## KATEMARI DIOGO ROSA: GÉNERO, RAZA Y ÉTNICA EN FÍSICA

**Resumen:** Katemari Diogo Rosa nació el 16 de octubre de 1979 en Porto Alegre. Hizo la primaria en una escuela pública y la secundaria integrada con un curso técnico en Secretaría, en la Universidad Federal de Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Desde la adolescencia ya mostraba cariño por el área de la física. Tiene una licenciatura en Física de la UFRGS, una Maestría en Enseñanza de la Historia y Filosofía de la Ciencia de la Universidad Federal de Bahía (UFBA) y un Doctorado en Educación Científica de la Universidad de Columbia. Actualmente es profesora adjunta de la Universidad Federal de Bahía, donde investiga sobre la enseñanza de la física y la formación de profesores y docentes físicos y físicos en los grados iniciales y discusiones que involucran la interseccionalidad de género, sexualidad, raza, etnia y estatus socioeconómico en la construcción y enseñanza de las ciencias.

**Palabras-clave:** Katemari; física; mujeres negras.

## KATEMARI DIOGO ROSA: GENRE, COURSE ET ETHNIQUE EN PHYSIQUE

**Résumé:** Katemari Diogo Rosa est née le 16 octobre 1979 à Porto Alegre. Il a fait l'école primaire dans une école publique et lycée intégrée avec un cours technique en Secrétariat, à l'Université Fédérale de Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Depuis l'adolescence, elle a déjà montré de l'affection pour le domaine de la physique. Elle est titulaire d'un diplôme en physique de l'UFRGS, d'un Master en enseignement de l'histoire et de la philosophie des sciences de l'Université fédérale de Bahia (UFBA) et d'un doctorat en éducation scientifique de l'Université de Columbia. Elle est actuellement professeur auxiliaire à l'Université fédérale de Bahia, où des recherches sur l'enseignement de la physique et la formation d'enseignants et d'enseignants physiques et physiques dans les classes initiales et des discussions impliquant l'intersectionnalité du genre, de la sexualité, de la race, de l'ethnicité et du statut socio-économique dans la construction et enseignement des sciences.

**Mots-clés:** Katemari; la physique; Femme noire.

## INTRODUCTION

Katemari Diogo Rosa was born on October 16, 1979, in Porto Alegre. She did elementary studies in a public school and her high school integrated with the technical course in Secretarial Services, in the mid-1990s, at that time, the Technical School of Commerce of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). She started working at the age of 15, at the library of the UFRGS School of Business and Economics, and remained there during her three years of high school. Katemari says



that there was a year when she studied in the morning, worked in the afternoon at the Porto Alegre city hall, at the Municipal Housing Department (DEMHAB), and at night worked in the library.

Since that time, she already showed affection for the area of physics and, by chance or coincidence, the first year school was located in the central field of UFRGS and the astronomical observatory was next door, very close to the it. She went to many planetarium sessions during her high school. The children's sessions took place in the morning and she sometimes missed classes to attend them. After that, she participated, during one year, of an extension project at the Physics Institute of UFRGS, with laboratory activities for high school students.

After completing it, she got a job at TV Educativa for the daytime period and was studying mathematics at Porto-Alegrense College (FAPA) at night. The following year, Katemari closed the Mathematics course and passed the Physics Degree course at UFRGS. During her graduation, she worked in a Basic Education Program for Young and Adult Workers, PEFJAT at UFRGS - the first time she had a teaching experience in her life. In addition, she worked in a non-governmental organization (NGO) that helped students prepare for university entrance, founding in 2000, together with other colleagues, the non-governmental organization for popular education (ONGEP).

At the end of her graduation in Physics, he participated in a summer course at USP, when she became interested in the area of complex fluids and thought about taking a master's degree in the same area. However, there was a strike at UFRGS, and the calendars were not reconciled, making her lose her opportunity to entry Master's degree program. In the meantime, she also participated in an exchange program at the Department of Atmospheric Physics at Imperial College, London. She became interested in History and Philosophy of Sciences. After her return, she completed her undergraduate degree and went to Salvador, to do a master's degree in a Postgraduate program in Teaching of History and Philosophy of Science, at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). Following the end of her master's degree, she was a visiting professor at the State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS) and, when she was there, she started to guide a student on the theme "Black Women in Science". From this point on, she began to realize and question herself: Where did registries mentioned women in science and where are the black women? In this reflective and questioning process, she realized that



she was the only black woman in Physics that she knew. Formerly, in Brazil, there was nothing mentioning this issue, with records on it only in international literature, which included research on the subject.

Subsequently, she made a research project for her doctorate and also underwent a selection process that coincided with the opening of the call for scholarships for a full doctorate abroad. Therefore, she chose the latter one, which lasted almost a year. It is interesting to highlight that, being her project on the life path of black women in physics, she was advised to consult a professor from the postgraduate program in which she had completed her master's degree specifically addressing gender issues. She said to Katemari, “–Oh, why do you want to look at black women? There are so many things to talk about women in science ... ”; “–Ah, I understand that there are specificities of black women, there is black feminism, but there is a lot to look at in women in science”. She also told her that, methodologically, her project contained problems by looking at the issue of race and gender at the same time, as they were “different categories of analysis”.

At the time, Katemari knew nothing about intersectionality, for example, but that sounded very strange: "How couldn't she look at gender and race together?" Then, she wondered how she could not master the methodological and theoretical tools about these issues. Even so, she was sure that this was something that could be studied and, therefore, she really wanted to do it.

The researcher was then approved on a scholarship from abroad and went to New York to study at Columbia University, where she completed her doctorate and remained there for almost five years. In 2013, she returned to Brazil and subscribed to the selection process to be a professor at the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG) - she got the job and started working there. At the end of 2016, she applied for a public tender at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) and, in April 2017, joined UFBA, where he currently works, at the Physics Institute. Katemari says that her first semester of teaching at UFBA was brutal, as she took heavy subjects - subjects she had never taught before. She was preparing and teaching class by class, being a very troubled period of his career, because in addition to moving to the city, he had that real feeling of starting to organize her life.

Subsequently, she joined the permanent professors' group at the Postgraduate Program in Teaching, Philosophy and History of Science, in which she created the discipline "Decolonization of Knowledge: the contribution of the science of African and Afrodiasporic people". She is currently a member of the Brazilian Physics Society, where she serves as a member of the Minority Working Group in Physics and representative of the Northeast region, in the Physics Teaching Commission. Also, she is a member of the American Physical Society, acting as a member of the Executive Committee of the Forum on the History of Physics. He is also a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers, on which she is a member of the Committee for International Physics Education. In addition, the researcher is a member of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP) and the Brazilian Association of Black Researchers (ABPN). She has published six articles in journals, three books and subscribes to three book chapters, in addition to having supervised more than eight course completion and scientific initiation works, and a master's dissertation (Figure 1).

Adupé!

**Figure 1:** Katemari Diogo Rosa.



*Source:* Investiga Menina! 2019.

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