Call for Papers

INTERNATIONAL WINTER SCHOOL (IWS)
[Escuela Internacional de Invierno, EDI]

Inequalities In Latin America: Gaps To Close And Roads To Open
Towards An Integrated Vision Of Development

8-11 July 2020, Buenos Aires

The international research networks, Social-One, Psy-Com, and the Political Movement for Unity (MPPU) in association with the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of El Salvador (USAL, Buenos Aires) and the Sophia University Institute, organize the Winter School: "Inequalities In Latin America: Gaps To Close And Roads To Open. Towards An Integrated Vision Of Development".

1. The foundation of inequality as a school issue

Today we are facing a dizzying process of changes, indeed a change of an era. Dominant global trends in the economy and society have exacerbated the contradictions of a style of development that has become unsustainable. These contradictions are undeniable. This is demonstrated by the unprecedented rise in global inequality in recent decades, the deepening of the environmental crisis, especially around climate change, and the ambivalent role of the technological revolution that, while opening up options for sustainability, has created tensions in the labor markets that have worsened as new technologies territories have expanded. Deep economic, social, and environmental imbalances have led to the international community's search for responses, through efforts that have matured for several decades. The broadest and most ambitious of them is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the 193 countries represented at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. These collective commitments recognize equality and sustainability as the guiding, shared and universal principles on which a new set of global, regional, and national strategies and policies must be based. Has the moment for equality arrived for Latin America? We are convinced that the time has come to build new policy instruments and actions, new tools, and forms of implementation which can be put into practice, and where institutional and collective actions will be decisive. An ambitious and urgent agenda has emerged where sustainability and equality are at its heart, one that it is based on a development theory that has consistency and provides a foundation for the future. It's about moving from a culture of privilege to a culture of equality. Exploring these paths, helping to lay its foundations, is the purpose of the reflections and efforts of the International Winter
School, all at the service of a tomorrow that is more just, dignified and egalitarian for the people of our common homeland.

2. An interdisciplinary method

The social sciences have a special responsibility in building egalitarian societies that promote inclusive and sustainable human and social development. The IWS/EDI proposes an interdisciplinary approach since the problem of inequality is multidimensional, therefore a perspective composed of different approaches is required to find alternative solutions capable to consider the nature, magnitude and diverse forces and causes involved in the generation of inequalities. The IWS/EDI offers a unique space where dialogue between participants and their disciplines, can become a useful tool to create an inclusive point of reference, in order to understand how to overcome the many social inequalities of today and promote inclusive and sustainable development within our Latin American contexts.

How can social-agape love, fraternity, mutual recognition, and social empathy shape more egalitarian societies?

The IWS/EDI proposes an interdisciplinary approach to deal with the complex matrix of inequalities in Latin America by using three different disciplinary perspectives. The three research networks, Social-One, Psy-Com, and the Political Movement for Unity (MPPU), have been developing concepts and tools that will contribute to the approach to the theme of IWS/EDI discussions, depth, and possible paths of solution. The winter school will try to highlight, in an interdisciplinary perspective, those dimensions that exists in contemporary society, that are often not sufficiently reinforced by social research, and are grounded in the critical capacity of social actors to their relation to the status quo and social inequalities. Consequently, the conference will be study in depth, those hermeneutic tools considered useful in order to understand, interpret and engage social interventions for change, such as the concepts of social-agape love, fraternity, mutual recognition, and social empathy. These should not be considered as normative concepts, but rather as devices implemented by social actors and evidenced by the research pathways promoted by this school.

In fact, Social-One, it is a group of sociologists, scholars of social work that in recent years has oriented its research on the social dimension of love and care, that have resulted in numerous publications (e.g. Iorio 2014; 2015; Araújo et al. 2015; Araújo et al. 2016; Martins and Cataldi 2016). Taking as its reference, the work of Luc Boltanski, Love and Justice as Competences (1990), these works expanded the typological gallery of action, available by classical sociologists, with a new conceptual category linked to the concept of love and care. The road had already been laid out by some giant intellectuals – including Simmel (1907; 1921; 1989; 2001), Sorokin (1954), Giddens (1995) and Luhman (1987). Their work had made it possible to carve the historical path of the evolution and transformation of the concept of love. But love-agape is a novelty for the social sciences: agape, in fact, has emerging characteristics,
that simultaneously contain and transcend previous concepts of love understood only as *philia* and *eros*. It thus defines itself as a category for reading the eminently empirical social reality based on unconditional love towards the other. On this basis, Social-One as a study group defines love-agape as "an action, relationship or social interaction in which subjects exceed (in giving, receiving, in not doing, in letting do) their background/tendencies, and therefore offer more than the situation requires in the attempt to provide benefits" (Iorio 2015, p. 25). In this sense the question is: what contributions does agape offer in reducing inequalities and shaping more egalitarian societies?

On the other hand, Psy-Com in recent years has developed a research agenda focused on the changes experience in the field of psychology and how its center of gravity is moving from the intrapsychic to the intersubjective, as well as the impact that this has on prosocial behaviors, social cohesion, inclusion and individual and social empowerment. From contemporary philosophy (Nussbaum, 2005) to the numerous empirical evidences (e.g., Batson, 2011) they all show how that empathetic tendencies (i.e., affective response aligned with what others feel; Eisenberg, Spinrad and Knafó-Noam, 2015) can reduce prejudice and help improve attitudes toward people in other social groups. While there is no one all-embracing definition of empathy, it is generally considered that the empathetic response includes the ability to understand the other and put oneself in someone else’s position. Thus based on what people observe, their verbal information or the information accessible from their memory, produces a congruent affective reaction (Eisenberg et al., 2015). However, it is also noted that empathetic responses do not necessarily lead to intergroup cohesion and can even maintain social exclusion and reinforce the power gaps between those who help and those who receive. This is probably more characteristic of socially unequal societies, as is the case with Latin American societies (Luengo Kanacci and Jiménez-Moya, 2017). Therefore, the current challenge is to study the role that empathetic and prosocial responses play in building symmetrical and egalitarian interpersonal relationships characterized by reciprocity in societies historically marked by inequality.

The MPPU has been developing research on the concept of fraternity in politics. If the historical motto of the French Revolution – freedom, equality, fraternity – is adopted as a theory relevant to political science, it must be affirmed that fraternity has been constituted as a requirement of politics, once the realization of the other two principles illustrates it as incomplete or even unsuccessful. We are questioning, then, whether democracy, mainly in the debate on its quality and breadth, would have found in the fraternal element an inducer that provides democracy with new possibilities. This is a particularly important question, in those territories where there has already been wear-and-tear on their structures and practices. On the other hand, in the face of the many inequalities in which we live, particularly in Latin America, we question how the concept of fraternity can be a guiding principle toward the formation of more egalitarian societies. Bernard Kliksberg, in his considerations about inequalities as contrary to humankind, affirms that fraternity is the key word for the future of our society. Current proposals concepts, such as the Social Economy and Solidarity, as well as the Economy of Communion, give us indications and signs that, by enhancing the fraternal element, new alternatives
can be considered and embraced. Does the current scenario of our countries, with their many political, economic, and social crises, represent an opportunity to reformulate the traditional model of development?

3. Strategies and modalities of learning

Since the formation of egalitarian societies requires a profound change in the objectives, approaches, policies and civil behaviors, the role of empirical evidence in research is more imperative than ever. Indeed, in the promotion of social change, praxis and research must "go hand in hand". Therefore IWS/EDI will combine both presentations of fundamental themes (traditional expositions) and interdisciplinary dialogues of small stakeholders. In particular, the following sessions will take place:

1) **Interdisciplinary thematic sessions**, in which two scholars from different disciplines will introduce and guide the conversations. These sections will include input from both students, researchers, and young professionals. The section will end with an intergenerational conversation among the participants.

2) **Working sessions and workshops** for dialogue between researchers, representatives, and professionals of social and community organizations.

4. To who is the IWS/EDI aimed at:

The IWS/EDI is aimed to graduate and undergraduate students of social sciences (especially sociology, psychology, political science, social work, advocacy, economics, & anthropology), academics and professionals interested in the subject and who want to present works and research in line with the topics of the conference/school.

5. The school's program

The school will start on Wednesday 8th July from 17.00 to 19:00 hrs. in the headquarters of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of El Salvador (USAL), in the Ciudad Autonómica de Buenos Aires (CABA). The rest of the program will be taking place at the "Mariápolis" Convention Center in the town of José C. Paz, located 20 minutes from CABA, until Saturday, July 11th at 18:00 hrs. The school will be “residential,” and structured interactively and based on equal peer relationships between students and academics. Research laboratories will be organized with local organization, and community social actors.
The program will include:

(a) Interdisciplinary sessions on the research topics led by leading academics as well as the research developed by graduate and undergraduate students and/or young academics;
b) Parallel working session for innovation: "from theory to application; and from good practices to theory: academic research should be integrated with civil society for the development of egalitarian societies"
c) Small group meetings for dialogue on specific areas of interest;
d) Parallel session on methodological topics and evaluation tools (workshops).

The program will be articulated around five research areas/axes:

1. Personal and social empowerment and autonomy for equality
2. Ethnic, racial, gender and territorial inequalities
3. Equal rights and inclusive and sustainable development
4. Public policies and egalitarian societies
5. Inequalities, collective action, and social movements

More details of the program will be announced at the end of April 2020

6. How to participate at the International Winter School

The IWS/EDI has two modalities of participation:

1) Submit a research summary, according to one of the five thematic research areas/axes
2) Submit a poster proposal related to good practice experiences (see attachment)
   * For both modalities is essential to read the attached application form

The application form must be sent to edi.argentina2020@gmail.com

The deadline for submitting the application is April 30, 2020
The result of the submissions will be announced on 11 May.

All summaries should include:
(a) the theoretical approach the link the candidate's research proposal and central IWS/EDI’s theme,
(b) as well as an explicit connection to one or the five research areas/axes of the conference (see suggested bibliography address the concepts of converging research groups).
(c) The abstract cannot exceed 400 words
(d) It must include bibliographic references.
Abstracts that include empirical evidence (quantitative and/or qualitative) will be particularly welcome, as well as those interventions and analysis of good practices around the five research areas/axes addressed in this document.

7. Rates and accommodation
Rates include accommodation, meals, and transportation (from Buenos Aires to José C. Paz, and from José C. Paz to Buenos Aires). Transportation from the airport to Buenos Aires is not included: US $170.

8. Scholarships
To facilitate participation, graduate and undergraduate students as well as young researchers are invited to apply to one of the several IWS/EDI scholarships, as detailed below (see document: nomination for scholarships):

There are
- 13 scholarships of €100 euros each, for candidates based in Argentina.
- 9 scholarships of €200 euros each, for candidates from other Latin American countries.
- 4 scholarships of €400 euros each, for candidates from other countries outside Latin America.

The call for presentation summaries is also available online on these web sites:
- http://www.social-one.org/it/
- http://www.psy-com.org/it/
- http://www.mppu.org/es/
## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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## CALL FOR PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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Abstract (400 words maximum)

Bibliography:
Suggested bibliography:

- Benavente, M. y A. Valdés (2014), Políticas públicas para la igualdad de género. Un aporte a la autonomía de las mujeres, Libros de la CEPAL, N° 130 (LC/G.2620-P), Santiago
- CEPAL (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe) (2016), La matriz de la desigualdad social en América Latina (LC/G.2690(MDS.1/2)), Santiago
---- (2012), Cambio estructural para la igualdad: una visión integrada del desarrollo (LC/G.2524(SES.34/3)), Santiago
---- (2016), Desarrollo social inclusivo: una nueva generación de políticas para superar la pobreza y reducir la desigualdad en América Latina y el Caribe (LC/L/4056/Rev.1), Santiago
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- Sen, A. (2010), La idea de la justicia, Ciudad de México, Santillana