

Title: Thinking from the South: social thought in Latin America

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Program:

We have recently witnessed a lot of talk about the “Global South”. This concept seems to be replacing former labels such as “underdeveloped countries”, “peripheries” and “Third World” as a way to depict new geopolitical configurations in the southern Hemisphere. Despite of its lack of precision, the concept addresses real concerns about the need for a de-centered perspective on the global order, one that takes into account alternative modes of thinking in postcolonial nations.

In social theory, there’s also a growing interest in new locus of discourse that both “provincialize” the European experience and encompass different intellectual traditions from the so-called peripheral countries in the South. However, this debate is still concentrated on authors and texts from South Asia (such as the *Subaltern Studies* group) and other societies that were recently de-colonized. Thus, the aim of this short course is to present the debate through classical and contemporary texts that address social sciences from a southern perspective, with a special reference to the Latin American social thought. We will discuss the following questions: is it possible to speak of a Southern perspective? What are the intellectual roots of this debate? Is it possible to relate contemporary discussions on the “postcolonial” with classical essays from Latin American thinkers? How can we avoid the traps of essentialism and provincialism?

Schedule (6 classes, 3 hours each):

1. 07/03/2011

Theme: Is there a Southern perspective?

Topics: Presentation of the course; general view of the topics; the contemporary discussion on southern social theory; What is the “South”?; the concept of Latin America.

Texts:

CONNELL, Raewyn. “Empire and the creation of a social science”. In *Southern Theory. The global dynamics of knowledge in social science*. Cambridge, Polity Press, 2007.

MIGNOLO, Walter. "Preface". In *The Idea of Latin America*. Oxford, Blackwell, 2005.

2. 09/03/2011

Theme: Social thought in Latin America - intellectual roots.

Topics: The classical sources; the dialectics between autonomy and Eurocentrism; What America meant?

Texts:

ZEA, Leopoldo. Philosophy and Thought in Latin America. *Latin America Research Review*. Vol 3, n.2, 1968. pp. 3-16.

ZEA, Leopoldo. "History and the Latin American mind". In L. Zea; A. Oliver (ed). *The role of Americas in history*. Maryland, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1992.

3. 11/03/2011

Theme: Central ideas in Latin America social thought.

Topics: 'mestizaje', 'antropophagy'; hybridism and indigenous thinking.

Texts:

BURKE, Peter; PALLARES-BURKE, Maria Lúcia. *Gilberto Freyre: Social Theory in the Tropics*. Oxford, Peter Lang, 2008.

VASCONCELOS, Jose. *The Cosmic Race/ La Raza Cosmica*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University, 1997.

ANDRADE, Oswald. "Cannibalist Manifesto". Available in http://www.graduateschools.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/43030300/Heise-Materialien/andrade-cannibal_manifesto.pdf

4. 14/03/2011

Theme: Sociology in Latin America I

Topics: The history of sociology in Latin American; modernization and urbanization; CEPAL and structuralism; the contradictions of development; internal colonialism.

Texts:

STAVENHAGEN, Rodolfo. “Sept theses erronés sur l’Amerique latine”. In *Sept theses erronés sur l’Amerique latine ou comment décolonizer les science humaines*. Anthropos, 1973.

KAY, Cristóbal. “The Latin American contribution to development theory”. Available in <http://publishing.eur.nl/ir/repub/asset/18931/wp82.pdf>.

5. 16/03/2011

Theme: Sociology in Latin America II

Topics: Dependency theory and its critics; dependency x imperialism; the critique of CEPAL

Texts:

CARDOSO, Fernando H. “Preface to the Second English Edition”. *Dependency and Development in Latin America*. 1978.

GROSFÓGUEL, Ramon. “Developmentalism, Modernity and Dependency Theory in Latin America”. In *Neplanta: Views from South*. 1:2, pp 347-374.

6. 18/03/2011

Theme: Recent discussions

Topics: Modernity theory; the debate on colonialism and modernity; postcolonialism in Latin America.

Texts:

DOMINGUES, José M. “Global Modernization, ‘Coloniality’ and a Critical Sociology for Contemporary Latin America”. In *Theory, Culture & Society*. Vol 26(1), pp 112-133, 2009.

QUIJANO, Anibal. “Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America”. In *Neplanta: Views from the South*. Vol 1:3, 2000.

SECONDARY LITERATURE:

ALVAREZ, Sônia; DAGNINO, Evelina; ESCOBAR, Arturo. *Cultures of politics/politics of culture: Revisioning Latin American Social Movements*. Boulder, Westview Press, 1998.

CORONIL, Fernando. *The Magical State: Nature, money and modernity in Venezuela*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1997.

DOMINGUES, José Mauricio. *Latin America and contemporary modernity: a sociological interpretation*. New York, Routledge, 2008.

_____. "Revisiting Germani: the interpretation of modernity and the theory of action". Available in http://socialsciences.scielo.org/pdf/s_dados/v1nse/scs_a01.pdf

DUSSEL, Enrique; MENDIETA, Eduardo (editor). *Beyond Philosophy. Ethics, history, marxism and liberation theology*. Maryland, Rowman & Littlefields, 2003.

KAHL, Joseph. *Three Latin American Sociologists: Gino Germani, Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, Fernando Henrique Cardoso*. New Jersey, Transaction Books, 1988

MIGNOLO, Walter. *Local Histories/ Global Designs. Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledge and Border Thinking*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2000.

O'GORMAN, Edmundo. *The Invention of America: an inquiry into the historical nature of the New World and the meaning of its history*. Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 1961.

SANTIAGO, Silviano; GAZOLLA, Ana Lúcia (editor). *The space-in-between: essays on Latin American culture*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2001.

STAVENHAGEN, Rodolfo. *The return of the native: The indigenous challenge in Latin America*. University of London, Institute of Latin American Studies, Occasional Papers no. 27, 2002

