

ABSTRACTS

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The Latin American Sociology Association: a history of its first congresses

Alejandro Blanco

National and regional sociology associations in Latin America, their structure and makeup, as well as their changes remain to be examined in the history of the discipline. This paper traces the history of the early years of the Latin American Sociology Association, in order to characterize the context of its emergence, its core traits and its role in the formation of sociology in the region.

Key words: association, sociology, international, institutionalization, teaching, investigation

The origins of the Latin American Sociology Association: a few notes through the outlook of Alfredo Poviña

Adrián Scribano

This article intends to show, through Alfredo Poviña's narrative, the possible atmosphere of the first congresses of the Latin American Sociology Association (ALAS). It is not restricted to a mere reproduction of the authors words; rather, based on them – which are seen as partial and interested – it attempts to show in a very preliminary way a few questions that allow to move on with the interrogation about the genesis of ALAS.

To achieve the proposed aim, some texts are summarized, which allow to get to know ALAS' foundation. Data are briefly presented about the six first ALAS congresses. Poviña's idea of sociology is reviewed, closing with a brief systematization of the core points that emerge from his work, which would allow a more adequate interrogation about the origins of ALAS.

This essay is very simple and has a provisional and preliminary character. It

only seeks to shed some light to explore the past in order for its occlusion not to deform the future, based on the conviction that sociology must be a scientific discipline that makes epistemic vigilance and reflexivity its central activities.

Key words: ALAS congresses, mission, metaphor, meaning

Latin American and Caribbean multinational integration: an approach from the critical and participatory perspective

Luis Suárez Salazar

Based on the main theoretical-practical enunciations of the so-called “critical perspective”, after taking stances in face of debates now under way about the implications of “globalization” and the “imperialist phenomenon”, as well as conducting a synthesis of the distinct components of what its author has been calling “a new Pan-American order”, this article carries out a critical analysis of the distinct projects of multinational integration under development in Latin America and the Caribbean: the System of Central American Integration (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Community (CAN) y el Common Market of the south (MERCOSUR).

Based on that analysis – and taking into account some of the enunciations of the Bolivarian Initiative for the Americas and the Caribbean (ALBA), recently made public by the presidents of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, and Fidel Castro, respectively – the author proposes some ideas linked to what he calls “a new paradigm for multinational integration in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which, in unison, would be able to confront the “coercive integration” encouraged by the US government (through the FTAA and the other FTAs) with other Western governments, as well as to overcome the limited results of “open regionalism” encouraged since a decade ago by the Economic commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL).

Key words: Globalization, Imperialism, New Pan-American Order, FTAA, Multinational Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean

Intermittent dialogues: relations between Brazil and Latin America

Lúcia Lippi Oliveira

The America we call Latin has lived under an obsession with the future and facing a hard time to consolidate its national communities since the second half of the 19th century. Distinct modernizing thoughts, including scientism, faced nationalist ones concerned about identity, with the past being represented by Indian and Iberian cultures. It is within this historical-cultural framework that relations of identity and differentiation between Brazil and the other countries in Latin America are approached. The article will focus on 1950s and 1960s sociology as a development of the CEPAL matrix, and the constitution of two variants of sociological making: the Mertonian and the Mannheimian Conceptions. Finally, CLAPCS and the *América Latina Magazine* are presented, relating to FLACSO as a space for action and circulation of an elite of Mertonian sociologists.

Key words: Latin America; modernization; Mertonian sociology in Latin America; CLAPCS; *América Latina magazine*.

Legacies of and future directions for knowledge in Latin America

Raquel Sosa Elízaga

In Latin America, the study of social determinations of knowledge, or what we could call a sociology of ways of thinking, is not common. We can, without mistaking it, assume that such field is virtually unexplored. Life in our subcontinent develops at paces that are hardly captured by social investigation, and those responsible for producing knowledge stay behind really existing changes. The reasons are related to the loss of historical memory, the conservatism and academic haughtiness, which ignores or downplays knowledge produced by their colleagues in other parts of the region, in other times, or also in places that are distant from their own investigation centers. They are also related with the deadlines set for

delivering results, but, most of all, to the dynamics of intense social experiences that university witnesses and participants are still reluctant to broadly collect in their studies.

Our essay is aimed at evaluating the weight of predominant orientations, such as the perspectives of the construction of a critical thinking in contemporary Latin America. The exercise we carry out can be reproduced – if it is useful – in virtually every field of social knowledge, as long as it necessarily includes the task of producing knowledge tools that go beyond the perspectives established by a way of thinking tormented and suffocated by the pressure to be incorporated into the majority group of reproducers of what others have done.

Key words: coloniality, subalternity, domination, critical thinking, construction of problematic thinking.

Sociology's contribution in Latin America to sociological imagination: analysis, critique, and social commitment

José Vicente Tavares dos Santos e Maira Baumgarten

The article focuses on the role played by Sociology in the analysis of processes of change in Latin American societies, in the process of construction of Nation and State, in the debate of social issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Six periods in Sociology in Latin America and the Caribbean are examined: I) sociology's intellectual legacy; II) sociology as a cathedra; III) the period of "Scientific Sociology"; IV) the institutional crisis, the consolidation of "Critical Sociology", and the diversifying of sociology; V) sociology of authoritarianism, democracy and exclusion; VI) institutional consolidation and globalization of Latin American sociology (since 2000). It may be said that the distinctive features of sociological knowledge in the continent were: internationalism, hybridism, the critical approach to processes and conflicts of Latin American societies, and the sociologist social commitment.

Key words: Sociology in Latin America, Latin American societies, Latin American Sociology Association.

Novelty in Latin American sociology

Lucio Oliver Costilla

The paper examines several current characteristics of social sciences in Latin America, in parallel to the development of the subcontinent in recent years. The starting point is the sign that the contradictory combination in Latin America of an intellectuality that has a high cultural level and the existence of social and political movements in an explosive social situation creates wide possibilities for the development of sociology. The crisis of social sciences follows those significant changes, seeking new analytical perspectives able to demonstrate the pace of contemporary changes.

Strictly speaking, the article tries to demonstrate that what Latin American sociology sees as novelty is a regression to the critical thinking that characterized it in the past. One of the most important legacies of Latin American sociological history is the study and classification, from a perspective of totality, of social structures and sociopolitical processes as a basis to examine actors' stances and the dynamics of social institutions.

Therefore, there is room for a healthy trend in social sciences: overcoming empiricism, regaining theory. A founding need for Latin America today is to update its search for development: how is it possible to be up to the world, to universalize in order to live a historical moment with all its social potential, overcoming backwards and age-worn ways of production and life. And more: how to co-participate in the criticism of new modern and postmodern ways, envisaging new models of civilization, criticizing liberal democracy and Latin Americans' national States of competition, and encouraging the recovery of the democratic public in face of the tendency to state authoritarianism.

The contributions that Latin America can give to the criticism and the renewal of democratic politics, to the reform of production and life, and to humanism and renewed radical communitarianism have to meet the old aims of national and social liberation of today's world, adjusted to the new conditions.

Key words: Latin America, Latin American sociology, empiricism, social theory, civilization, political crisis, democracy, exclusion, neoliberal State, civil society, State public.

Social Sciences, Sociology, and poverty in Guatemala

Edgar S. G. Mendoza

From the perspective of Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge, it is possible to understand the state of the art of poverty studies in Guatemala between 1980 and 2004. This work is justified by the lack of investigations looking into the development of Social Sciences in Guatemala and it demonstrates its importance through theoretical and methodological experiences. Investigation on poverty can be said to have been neither systematic nor continued, due to the social and political process the country has undergone. Nevertheless, it can also be sustained that there is a heterogeneous and considerable bibliographic corpus between 1980-2004. This investigation aimed at a taking stock of the theoretical and methodological trends of the studies in the last 20 years. I shall point out that bibliography on poverty is quite broad and a selection of a sample of the most representative works was inevitable, not only in the decades examined, but also in terms of the issues. It is not possible to understand poverty studies detached from Social Sciences and historical, political, economic, and social processes of Guatemala and their relation to other fields of knowledge in Central America and Latin America.

Key words: poverty, social sciences, sociology, citizenship, democracy.

The development of sociology in Peru. Introductory notes

Julio Mejía Navarrete

This work is a synthesis of the evolution of sociology in Peru since its incorporation as a university cathedra in 1896. A discourse is build in order to link to the changes that are typical of the developments of modernity in the country and, at the same time, it is supported on the theoretical debate resulting from the slow process of institutionalization of the discipline and the emergence of a higher awareness of the plurality of paradigms, methodological perspectives, and

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interpretive possibilities on social reality in recent years.

Key words: Social Thinking, Sociology as a cathedra, power and revolution, constructivism, institutionalization of the discipline, rationality and undisciplinarity.

The pathways towards a Sociology in Cuba: historical, theoretical and professional changes

Teresa Muñoz Gutiérrez

This article presents an overview of the History of Sociology in Cuba, combining approaches from History of Ideas and History of Science. It offers a characterization of the fundamental stages sociological science has undergone in Cuba, combining a look at the universal, the regional, and the local, underlining specificities of Cuban processes as well as their correlates in Europe and Latin America. It attends to the processes of construction of a type of thinking, its institutionalization, and the formation of a scientific community.

Key words: sociology in Cuba, sociological perspective, theoretical and methodological preferences, institutionalization processes, practices of the scientific community.

Sociology in Brazil: history, theories, and challenges

Enno D. Liedke Filho

This study focuses on the history of sociology in Brazil and receptions of European and North American sociological traditions by Brazilian sociology. The stages and periods of development of Sociology and its institutionalization as an academic-scientific discipline in Brazil are presented in their main features, as well as sociology's current situation at universities, the main fields of research of Brazilian sociology, and the new themes and approaches that came to be proposed for explaining and/or understanding Brazil's social situation.

Key words: sociology in Brazil, history of sociology in Brazil.

ARTIGOS
ARTICLES

Donald Pierson and the Sociological School of Chicago in Brazil: urban studies in the city of São Paulo (1935-1950)

Edgar S. G. Mendoza

This paper is an overview of the influence of Donald Pierson, formed in the Sociological School of Chicago, which had more repercussion on urban research in Brazil in the 1930s and 1950s, both within Sociology and Anthropology, in the city of São Paulo. Urban research in Brazil – both sociological and anthropological – had theoretical references that left their marks on the works of that time. According to my argument, regarding the scientific fields of anthropology and urban Sociology in Brazil, one of the theoretical trends in a certain historical and theoretical context was the Sociological School of Chicago. Revisiting pioneer urban studies in São Paulo could assert the influence of the School of Chicago. In spite of being isolated studies, they have strongly stressed properly urban issues. It would be risky to define them these days as Urban Sociology in its own right, in São Paulo. The reason for bringing them up is to demonstrate that they really represented antecedents to urban studies in Brazil between 1935-1950. Therefore, I can say that the sociology of the School of Chicago had its impact on three fields in Brazil: a) racial relations (blacks, whites, and immigrants); b) community studies (small rural towns); and c) studies in the city (especially in São Paulo). Therefore, I think of the city of São Paulo as a scenario in general terms, as an agenda for institutional research in 1935-1950. Among the few and modest sociology studies having the city of São Paulo as their object, an ethnography of the city or urban ethnography was conducted that was different from classic studies on communities or small rural towns. Initially, we have eight works published mainly as journal articles, and their research object was some neighborhoods in São Paulo or other cities. The main feature of the article is the extensive bibliography found and presented at the end of the text, about the impact of the School of Chicago and its repercussion in Brazil.

Key words: Donald Pierson, Sociological School of Chicago, urban sociology, urban Studies in the city of São Paulo, urban ethnography

Sociology of labor at the University of Havana

Euclides Catá Guilarte

The article is a brief overview of the development of Sociology in Cuba. In a particular way, an analysis is conducted about Sociology of Labor in the University of Havana, its approaches, areas of influence, as well as the institutions that took part in teaching and research within the labor field in Cuba. Finally, the perspective and directions of Sociology of Labor in Cuba are examined.

Key words: sociology in Cuba, sociology of labor, labor research, themes in sociology of Labor.

INTERFACES

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About a master: Gino Germani, founder of sociology in Argentina

Inés Izaguirre

This article summarizes some aspects of the academic and intellectual life of Gino Germani, who arrived in Argentina from Italy in 1934, persecuted by Fascism, and died in Rome in 1978. He was the founder of the sociology career and scientific sociology in Argentina, as well as the master of many of us who teach at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). We have managed to leave some marks of his fundamental passage through UBA in the 1960s, such as the name of the main Institute of Inquiries and some books that remember him. Nevertheless, Germani is not widely known among students and younger professors. As is the case with several events and processes in our social life, the effects of the two last military dictatorships over university life were disgraceful and produced a breakdown, an interruption of our historical memory. This work stresses the strength of Germani's work as a sociologist, the passion he put on his task, and the ethical conduct that

marked his life, which objectively examined the political and social processes of a time of great wealth of ideas and hopes. While we work to leave behind the scars of market neoliberalism in society, it is still embedded in several institutions, and the University of Buenos Aires is one of them. It is time for us social scientists regain the ethical exercise of our profession, denouncing and confronting impunity incarnated in social life, as did Germani through the example of his life.

Key words: scientific sociology, anti-fascism, ethical conduct

The passing of Octávio Ianni: sociology loses a master

Maria Stela Grossi Porto

The paper is a tribute to Professor Ianni on behalf of the Brazilian Sociology Society – SBS. The text underlines Ianni's importance for the formation of generations of sociologists and as a sensitive observer of Brazilian reality. However it stresses his fundamental legacy for the process of institutional construction of the scientific field of sociology – a task he carried out with the conviction and professionalism of a life dedicated to the trade of sociologists as active and effective agents of institutionalization and consolidation of sociology in and of Brazil.

Key words: Octavio Ianni, Sociology, Teaching and Research

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RESENHAS
BOOK REVIEW

Un nouveau paradigme. Pour comprendre le monde d'aujourd'hui
TOURAINE, Alain. Paris: Fayard, 2005. 365 p.

Alain Touraine: a new paradigm or the end of social discourse
on social reality

A few months before turning 80 years old, Alain Touraine enters a new stage in his sociological reflection, proposing a different interpretive key, "a new paradigm" to account for social reality. At the center of his new book is a core issue: sociology has reached the end of its journey and, just as it had replaced another approach that provided a political reading on social reality, we have seen, for several decades now, the tools for analyzing social life disappear under cultural-type analysis. Particularly, all references to society as a principle of legitimacy for social conducts in behalf of the individual tend to disappear. It is actors in person – who assign to themselves such ability for self-legitimizing – that Touraine calls subject.

Key words: Alain Touraine, sociological theory, social paradigm, culture, subject.