

INVITE

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Transnational forms of cooperation and intercultural dialogues: towards alternatives to human development and rights

Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) – to be confirmed
La Paz, Bolivia, May 11-19 2009

Keynotes

TBA

Description

The focus of this workshop is on alternative modernities and human development. Human development is understood as being in the crossroads between development and rights. The focus on alternative modernities and human development implies the equally important exploration into intercultural dialogues for transnational cooperation. This is because one of the major problems encountered in efforts concerning development and rights relates to the difficulties of communication between knowledges and political practices. The workshop is aimed at participants interested in identifying a platform for understanding and conceptualization of the problems related to human development and to establish basic categories and methodologies which serve the purposes of achieving a common language between the different knowledges and political practices at a global, national and local level, including universities, political organs and policy making, NGOs, economic and legal institutions and social movements.

Objectives

General objective

To consolidate a transnational and transdisciplinary North-South working group within the DDRN concerned with intercultural exchange, knowledge construction and development through an initial approach to human development and intercultural and transsectorial communication. The tentative name of the North-South working group is “Transnational dialogues and (pro)positional perspectives. Between knowledges and political practices”

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The specific objectives of the workshop are:

1. To identify a platform of understanding and conceptualization of the problems related to human development.
2. To establish basic categories and methodologies which serve the purposes of achieving a common language between the different knowledges (academic, technological, practical, political, organizational, environmental and cultural) and political practices (i.e. the practices of the state, of NGOs, of social movements and other stakeholders).
3. To engage in collective knowledge construction whose results will be written in two different papers, each regarding the two above mentioned objectives (see section on communication and dissemination).

The workshop deals, thus, with a double edged but interrelated thematic; one on how and where to find alternatives to human development, and another on issues related to transnational forms of cooperation and intercultural dialogues toward collective knowledge construction.

Participants

The workshop is not restricted, and targets stakeholders from social movements, NGOs, universities and governmental or international organizations working on development or at the crossroads between development, interculturality and rights. The workshop encourages participation and active involvement of young people from different experiential backgrounds and disciplines.

Methodology

The workshop will use participative methodologies. There will be three days of plenary sessions and three evenings with debates on the themes of the workshop. In these sessions, important Bolivian and international stakeholders from the development sector, the academic sector and from social movements, and an international group of young scholars will participate. The plenary sessions and the sessions in the evening will form the base from which the second part of the workshop will take off. In this second part, interested participants will divide into two groups in order to work intensively on the themes of the workshop. The work conducted in this second part aims at collective knowledge construction, and the

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products will be the drafts of two papers, to be worked on at a distance after the workshop finishes. By this, the aim is to consolidate the transnational working group.

Communication and dissemination

The results of the workshop will be written in two papers, each one corresponding to each of the central themes of the workshop. These papers will be published in an open-access electronic source. We expect the finished versions of these papers to be ready for publication in English and Spanish by the beginning of December 2009.

Additional information

The workshop will be in Spanish. Group sessions can be in English or Spanish depending on participants' preferences.

Participation in the workshop is free of charge, but registration is necessary. Registration to the workshop must take place through e-mail to the coordinators listed below **NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2009**. Please state whether you intend to participate in the intensive group sessions as these have limited space due to the methodology of work.

Coordinators

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