

# **Society, Culture, and Nature in Latin America.**

## **New Political Tendencies**

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**The 5th Nolan Conference – November 10-12, 2010, Copenhagen**

**Call for Papers**

**Deadlines:**

**For submissions of proposals for work-shops: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**For submissions of abstracts for individual papers: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

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Nolan, the Nordic Latin American Research Network, is pleased to announce its 5<sup>th</sup> conference, to be held at the University of Copenhagen and the Copenhagen Business School in 2010, November 10-12. The conference is hosted by the Danish Network for Research on Latin America, LA-net. We invite scholars from the Nordic countries and the rest of the world from a broad range of disciplines and theoretical perspectives to discuss themes such as:

- The Political Ecology of extractivism: Social conflicts over access and control with natural resources in Latin America.
- New forms of democracy and political cultures.
- National and local responses to climate policies and regulatory instruments
- Civil society organisations, new and old social movements.
- Local responses to global challenges.
- Changing visions of collective identities.

- New narratives of the nation and other identity forms.
- Representation of changing realities in literature, film, popular culture etc.
- Migration and the emergence of new communities in LA and USA

Other topics for work-shops and individual presentations are welcome.

The conference takes place on the background of a decade of intense and radical changes in the political map of Latin America. New social movements, including indigenous people's movements, the growing strength of both a moderate and a radical left are just some of the most visible manifestations of a process of profound changes. Politics and political culture as well as identities are being transformed. Economic strategies are undergoing important changes – neoliberal strategies are being challenged by an increasing role of the state as economic actor in a number of countries. While recognizing the enormous importance of these processes, it is equally important to acknowledge that they are extremely complex and that their results by no means are given in advance. Utopia is not necessarily round the corner! The lack of immediate results of some left administrations might reverse recent political tendencies in some countries, while the difficulties and confrontations, the more radical political projects are met with in others, also can lead to reversal and authoritarianism from more than one political actor as seen in Venezuela or Honduras. But political processes are by no means limited to the formal scenes of parliaments, governments and presidencies. A still more varied range of social movements play an increasingly important role in all social segments, in urban and rural contexts and in every region of Latin America. Especially the indigenous movements have contributed to push for a revision of the traditional Western perspective on natural resources as means for profit. This is particularly manifest in the Andean region, but such new ideas can and should transcend, not only to the rest of Latin America, but on a global scale. Also new patterns of migration and the increasing importance of transnational practices and identity construction challenge traditional ideas of the nation-state as a basic unit, while at the same time this nation-state plays an even growing role as political, economic and symbolic resource in other contexts. All these, often contradictory, processes of change require new interpretations, including new narratives of identities, of nations, of communities of all kinds. Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela are just

examples of narratives of national identity being reinterpreted and maybe changed more or less radically. In political discourse, culture and aesthetics – including ‘high’ or elite, as well as mass and popular culture – these changes come and will come to expressions in multiple manners that still need to be explored. As a whole, Latin America is now, 200 years after the independence revolutions, 100 years after the Mexican revolution and 50 years after the Cuban revolution, more than ever, a fascinating and necessary object of study. So, we invite scholars from all disciplines to participate in the Nolan Conference in Copenhagen, November 2010.