From researcher to political subject: questioning scientific-metodologic parameters in the quest for aplicability of knowledge

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The applicability of social science has a series of implications, though known, they are not always fully taken into account. Through an experience that could be called ‘autonomous research’, this article reflects on how the understanding of certain realities becomes the beginning of a process of questioning methodologies and scientific parameters, and their use outside Academy. In this sense, knowledge and understanding of these mechanisms and realities becomes in turn a rationalized anger that “forces us” to intervene, using and experimenting with different ways in which such knowledge becomes an effective tool for political activity (in its broadest sense).

Keywords: autonomous research, autonomy of learning, experimentation, social movements.

Changes in the Latin American policy and a new international reality of Argentina

ROBERTO MIRANDA

One of the characteristics of the Latin American policy of the last years has been the tension between integration and fragmentation. In this context, there was a reproduction of well-known situations. But also major changes took place. One of them was related to the irruption of the regional leaderships, of diverse nature and importance. The hierarchy of Brazil and Mexico as regional powers has been the main component of such a great diffusion of power. From another angle and with smaller repercussion, we found a very peculiar struggle between the leadership of Venezuela, with an alternative project, and the geopolitical answer of the United States through
Colombia. The reality of the leaderships caused impact in Argentina in a notorious way. It was evident that from the 2001 crisis that it lost its capacity of influence on the region, which represented a clear reduction of its international power.

**Key words:** Latin American policy. Changes. Leaderships. Argentina. Influence.

**Solidarity: a bridge that united Mexico and Soviet Russia.**

**HUMBERTO MONTEÓN GONZÁLEZ**

On May 25th 1923, General Alvaro Obregón, president of the United States of Mexico, received a letter from D.H. Dubrowsky, representative of the Russian Red Cross in America, New York-based.

The Central Committee of that humanitarian organization thanked the government of Obregón for the aid offered by the Mexican people and government to the victims of the starvation the Volga region endured during the 1921-1923 period.

The objective of the present article is to dust this extraordinary episode for being, in our opinion, the most outstanding prolegomenon in a process that ends with the establishment of the relations between Mexico and the Soviet Union, on August 2nd, 1924.

**Key words:** Russia, Solidarity, diplomacy, starvation.

**The triphasic elective process in Latin America.**

**Impact analysis of interaction in the new institutional instruments**

**ADRIANA GALLO**

This paper will analyze the effects of the concurrent application of two institutional instruments -open primary elections and majority run off system- suggested during the last
political reforms in Latin America. The relevance of the thematic is due to that both share similar objectives that synthetically are: to give citizens more political discernment tools, to provide the parties with better democratic conditions, to consecrate the medium voter candidate, and to increase the electoral base and democratic legitimacy of the President.

By the exposition and discussion of certain theoretical models proposed, we will try to evaluate the balance between potential benefits and hidden costs of the application of both system, and their impact on democratic representativeness.

Key words: Open Primary Elections, Majority Run Off, Party Representativeness

“All past time was better?”: ghosts and social fantasies in the Argentinean deindustrialization

GABRIELA VERGARA

The present work approaches the deindustrialization in the city of San Francisco (Cordova, Argentina) which became manifested from the Eighties as expression of the most global process occuring in Latin America and the country. From a qualitative perspective, there is an attempt to identify the ways in which the subjects draw up and support certain judgments with regard to transformations happened from the analysis of semi-structured interviews. As a working hypothesis, we will sustain that the experience of these critical processes of structural transformation is possible by the good offices of social ghosts and fantasies at the level of the subjects’ bodies and emotions.

Key words: capitalism, deindustrialization, judgments, bodies, social fantasies and ghosts.
Biocultural diversity in the State of Jalisco. Indigenous peoples and regions with high biological value

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In Mexico and in other parts of Latin America, a large overlap can be observed between indigenous territories and regions of high biological value. In this paper, we ask if the same overlap can be observed in the state of Jalisco, in western Mexico. To answer this question, we start with a succinct analysis of the two main indigenous regions in rural Jalisco: the Huichol Sierra in the northern part of the state and the Sierra of Manantlán, in the southern part. Then, we extend our analysis to the state in its entirety in order to measure the overlap between indigenous territories that have been “desindianized” and regions of high biological value. This is done by comparing the municipalities that contain agrarian centers designated as “indigenous communities” and the municipalities that areas officially recognized for their ecological importance. A high correlation between these two variables is observed, leading to the question “why”. A series of hypotheses is developed and these are contrasted with empirical evidence through a case study of the ejido of Ayotitlán, in the Sierra of Manantlán. Although different forms of environmental degradation can be observed in Ayotitlán, it continues to be one of the best conserved territories in the state of Jalisco, with high levels of biodiversity. This is due, not only to its isolation, but also to the way in which the indigenous inhabitants have interacted with the environment and because of their activism in defense of their territory and natural resources.

Key words: biodiversity, cultural diversity, indigenous groups, environment, protected areas, Jalisco, Mexico.
The political opposition in Mexico: reflections on trade unionism, social movements and the instrument of convergence

JAIME TORRES GUILLÉN

The following article tries to show the reader that in Mexico, the ideological and political struggle is and has been very rich in experiences. Although in the last years, some attempts have been made to make invisible and at certain moments the trade union and social struggle has been criminalized, it carries on standing against the extraparliamentary political powers. The work shows in a very synthetic way the historical development through which Mexican trade unionism has passed as opposed to the state and patronal power. As for the social movements, it reports its theorizing and diversity, especially under the polysemic and little clear category of civil society. The argument is kept that the social movements in Mexico have been the product of the reactivation of the civil society against the authoritarian political society. Deep in the essay, it is proposed to think about the convergence instrument with which the trade unions and the different civil institutions could stand against the political and economic crisis into which the project of the present-day government, ally of the patronal and ecclesiastic elite, has plunged the country.

Key words: Trade unionism, social movements, civil society, convergence, Mexico.