



PRE ALAS MEXICO 2017

Gender, Social Movements and Emerging Citizenships

Sessions prior to the 31st Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association (ALAS)

As part of the preparations for the 31st Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association to be held towards the end of the present year in Uruguay, The University of Tijuana- with the support of The Latin American Sociology Association (Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología, ALAS), CLACSO, and the Academic Board for Social Studies of the Social Research Institute in Baja California Autonomous University, as well as other South Californian organizations- successfully celebrated the PREALAS Sessions entitled “**GÉNERO, MOVIMIENTOS SOCIALES Y CIUDADANÍAS EMERGENTES**” (Gender, Social Movements and Emerging Citizenships). Several master conferences, panels, and working groups were housed at the Hotel Playa Grande, Los Cabos, on October 25, 26 and 27, 2017, with the participation of renowned social scientists and education specialists from The United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico.

More than three hundred participants attended the academic activities, including students and teaching personnel at the University of Tijuana and the educational system in Baja California Sur, academics and researchers in higher education institutions, education authorities, and representatives from different local organizations.



The main themes were: >GENDER APPROACH > GENDER, EMANCIPATORY PRACTICES AND SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES. >GENDER EQUITY

> SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND GENDER> GENDER IDENTITY >GENDER REPRESENTATIONS> GENDER, POWER AND COMMUNICATION > GENDER AND JOBS >FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGY, METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH >GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY> GENDER AND EDUCATION > GENDER, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY > FEMINISM AND POSTFEMINISM> NEW MASCULINITIES> GENDER AND PUBLIC POLICIES>GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE>SAFETY, GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

This has been the first PreAlas Congress to address the Gender topic, as stated by Dr. Nora Garita, ALAS President, in the opening speech for the Congress, in which she highlighted the relevance of the event, which included many ways of participation: Master Conferences, Panels, and Working Groups. Moreover, other activities were carried out: Civil Society Organizations Forum, Workshops, Film Discussions, and Book releases. Four master conferences were given, six panels, and four workshops, besides thirteen presentations organized in three working groups.



As master lecturers and panelists, the event counted on the participation of renowned international researchers such as Margaret Abraham, PhD. (USA), President of the International Sociology Association and Professor at Hofstra University; Nora Garita, PhD. (Costa Rica), President of the Latin American Sociology Association; Marta Lamas, PhD. (Mexico), Professor at UNAM; Alicia Palermo, PhD. (Argentina), Coordinator of CLACSO working group” Critical Thinking and Emancipatory Practices;” Martha Nélide Ruiz, PhD. (Mexico), Rector of the International University Institute of Toluca and University of Tijuana; Ana Laura Rivoir, PhD. (Uruguay), ALAS Vice-President; Montserrat Sagot, PhD. (Costa Rica), Director of the Research Center on Women’s Studies from the University of Costa Rica; Gladys Tzul Tzul,

PhD. (Guatemala), researcher and social activist; Lya Niño, PhD. (Mexico) from Baja California Autonomous University; and Jaime Preciado, PhD. and Juan Carlos Ramírez, PhD. from the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

As a whole, the master conferences and panels focused on analyzing the complex global transformations and their impact on the social processes and movements in Latin America, reflecting on the emergence of social movements aimed at changing collective intellect which question the legitimized truths about the production of hegemonic knowledge and forms of dominance by intellectual producers. Special importance was attached to the feminist and gender movements, which have boosted important institutional, legal, political, and economic changes in society, regarded as a true revolution.

In this regard, during the opening conference, An Emerging Citizenship: Sex Workers, Dr. Marta Lamas from UNAM presented the analysis of the movement of female sex workers in Mexico City, who are emerging as new political actors even if traditionally deprived of legal recognition towards their job. By carrying out their right for self-determination and defying stigma and discrimination, these workers have implemented an unprecedented way of shaping a citizenship.



Other equally relevant aspects dealt with during the conferences were gender and intersectional violence, a concept discussed by Dr. Margaret Abraham, which expresses the articulation between gender violence and other inequalities. Abraham highlighted the need to implement the academic studies about gender and contribute enforceable theoretical postulates to the practice of the social movements that fight for women's rights.

Gender violence was addressed in all its expressions, ranging from feminicide- to which Dr. Sagot refers to as

“Gender Necro-policy” since it constitutes a maze of discourses and practices that instrumentalize women’s life with the State’s complicity- to symbolic violence in its multiple forms, such as discriminatory expressions in discourse or the pay gap between women and men, addressed by Dr. Martha Nélide Ruiz.

Both a critical approach and a Latin American perspective characterized the analysis, which combined the search for new theoretical options with the ethical and political standards of Latin American social sciences.



An important principle of CLACSO working group “Critical Thinking and Emancipatory Practices”, which co-organized the event, is the link between academics and researchers and the movements and organizations of the Civil Society. That is why the event also housed the South Californian Civil Society Organizations’ Forum, which brought together women representatives of the civil society that advocate for gender equality, of the Sol Mar and Letty Coppel Foundations, as well as of The National Feminist Front in B.C.S and the Asociación Mexicana de Mujeres Empresarias, Capítulo San José del Cabo, all this in a space for open dialogue and reflection.



As far as panels are concerned, they addressed several current topics such as Emerging Citizenships and New Social Movements; Gender, Communication, and Culture: New Expressions and Representations; Gender, Education and Professions; and Masculinity, Diversity and New Gender Conceptions.

Finally, the working groups constituted spaces to debate on the main themes of the event. Relevant aspects were addressed such as Gender, Social Movements and Public Policies; Gender and Violence, and Gender and Professions.

The participating speakers belong to different academic and scientific institutions such as the University of Colima, University of Guanajuato, Universidad Iberoamericana-León, Universidad Veracruzana, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana- Xochimilco, and Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo –UAEH; among others.

The event was also characterized by the active participation of the student community of the University of Tijuana in the academic activities.



Another distinctive element to this original PreAlas was the opening of three artistic exhibitions: “Emancipations”, with works by Guillermina Victoria and poems by Alberto Bialakowsky from Argentina; “The Purity of The Line”, Drawings by Pierre Salama, and the Performance Exhibition in memory of the Disappeared “Obra Colectiva. Lotería 43”, the presentation of which was led by José Santos Urbina, M.A. from the University of Guadalajara. The curation of all these exhibitions was carried out by Martha Zarina Martínez (México).



As a result of these sessions, a compilation was elaborated with the proposals presented by the speakers and participants: students, teachers, researchers, and civil organizations, with the commitment to implement them in social actions and educational practices. Several publications will also result from this.

PreALAS Congress in Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, constituted an opportunity to debate on relevant issues of our region, based on the idea that the combination of critical knowledge, reflection, and action are key aspects in social transformation.



The researchers acknowledged the progress that has been made in terms of equality and the fight against gender violence and violence against other marginalized groups. However, the persistence of numerous discriminatory practices was also pointed out, which are even more serious due to their structural relation with the State and other institutions.

The participants thanked the University of Tijuana for the relevance and validity of the topics addressed in this PreALAS, which are not always included either in academic events or at universities due to the many existing taboos on gender and sexual diversity.

Finally, PreAlas Congress 2017 constituted a remarkable academic space to gather researchers towards the 31st Congress of the Latin American Sociology Association to be held in Uruguay in 2017.

