Call for papers:

Workshop on "Democracy, indigenous rights and ethno-racial mobilisation: Latin America in comparative perspective" 6 October 2018







Graduate Institute, Geneva Application deadline 20 August. Paper proposals invited

In association with the Europaeum (Oxford). The Europaeum are looking to recruit five graduates from their member universities for this event.

After the demise of official discourses of mestizaje in Latin America, the mobilisation of indigenous and ethnic groups has substantially strengthened and diversified in recent decades. Encouraged by civil society movements (e.g. Zapatist movement, Black Movements in Brazil and other indigenous grassroots organisation), transnational organisations (e.g. UN-ICERD, Ford Foundation) and national policies (e.g. census data, affirmative action, legal procedures), Latin American ethno-racial movements have recently gained political visibility domestically and globally.

This workshop aims to discuss the potentials and limits of these ethno-racial movements in contemporary Latin America, where historically high levels of inequality are coupled with unstable global commodity economies and growing threats to democracy. To do so, the workshop welcomes studies of these movements in Latin America, as well as perspectives from other regions that might afford comparative insights into the relationship between ethno-racial movements and populism on the one hand, and extractive and non-extractive political economies of inequality on the other. In particular we will address questions such as: How has the issue of race and ethnicity shaped the democratic debate in Latin America and elsewhere in recent years, from the early 2000s turn to the left in countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia to the recent return of right wing governments in countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina? How has the increasing dependency of Latin American economies on extractivism affected the democratic participation of groups who claim to have a common ethnic or racial identity, and how does this compare to the political economy of ethnoracial-based democratic participation in other regions? How has the contemporary populist wave affected the battle of indigenous communities for fair representation and for access to natural resources?

The workshop will discuss the plurality of democratic experiences by focusing on the dynamics of participation and protest by ethno-racial movements and by citizens at large. We welcome theoretical and empirical studies that address these questions from a variety of disciplines (sociology, anthropology, history, law and political science). We will consider papers discussing political, economic and legal changes affecting the democratic representation of indigenous, afrodescendant and other ethnic groups and minorities, or triggering resistance in defence of their rights and territories. We encourage paper presenters to dialogue with the ideas of Albert Hirschman by for example analysing the changing forms of civic engagement in terms of 'exit, voice and loyalty' (Hirschman 1970).

This is a full day workshop in the context of the activities organised by the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy at the Graduate Institute during the Geneva Democracy Week. Paper presenters are expected to circulate short draft papers (3000 words) in advance of the workshop. Among the outputs, a special issue of the blog/journal on development in Latin America Alternautas is planned with a selection of the papers presented in the workshop.

Convenors: Graziella Moraes Silva, Diego Silva, Rafael Sánchez, Filipe Calvão

Submit your abstract (300-400 words) by 20 August 2018 to: euroinfo@europaeum.ox.ac.uk

How to apply: https://europaeum.org/opportunities-2/apply-for-a-europaeum-event/

Travel (within Europe) and accommodation covered.