

# Conference Announcement

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## North and South America – Contrasts, Common Patterns, and the European Background

### General Remarks

- the general purpose is to compare North and South America; Latin American ‘underdevelopment’ should be kept in mind though should not represent a priori the general theme of the conference;
- the European background should always be taken into consideration;
- special emphasis should be placed on developments in crucial historical periods;
- disciplines included: Anthropology, (historical) Demography, History, Literature and Language, Political Science, Social Geography, Sociology;
- there will be no specialized sections but rather thematic divisions with contributions from the various disciplines;
- three kinds of contributions are solicited: (a) comparisons of North and South America; (b) parallel papers for North and South America on the same topic; (c) papers concentrating on critical areas in which differences and conflicts manifest themselves (see below, VII);
- the following selection contains areas which seem desirable, but is neither binding nor all-inclusive.

### I. Resources and Territory

- natural resources;
- frontier and frontiers people;
- from colonial settlements to a modern network of cities.

### II. Population

- generative behaviour according to historical period, race, class, region, environment;
- immigrants and their heritage;
- problems of assimilation and internal migration.

### III. Race and Class

- Indian policies, together with acculturation strategies of missionaries;
- systems of Afro-American slavery;
- Afro-American cultures and languages;
- strategies of ethnic demarcation and division of labour against the background of a European racist tradition (e.g. 'limpieza de sangre');
- social stratification and mobility.

### IV. Economics

- large landowners, small farmers, tenants;
- development of an industrial bourgeoisie;
- foreign trade and economic ties to Europe;
- 'dependencia' vs. internal causes of economic backwardness.

### V. Culture

- import of values, changes in values and conflict of values (e.g. between French and Anglo-Canadians);
- significance of religion;
- the role of women and the family (emancipation vs. 'machismo').

### VI. Political Systems

- mother country as model and ruler: political culture;
- Old World models of colonization (e.g. Reconquista, Canary Islands, Ireland);
- patterns of recruitment and formation of political élites;
- forms of corruption;
- types of revolution and decolonization;
- violence, the military, and discipline;
- types of legitimacy.

### VII. Relations between North and South America

- from the 'Monroe Doctrine' to the 'Alliance for Progress';
- focus U.S.A.: Chicanos;
- focus Caribbean;
- focus Philippines.

### VIII. Effects on Europe

- image of America in Augsburg libraries, 16th-18th centuries;
- flow of goods (bullion, triangular trade, tea, cotton, etc.);
- U.S. hegemony;
- U.S. popular culture (consumer goods, especially fashion and music);
- Latin American culture (literature, music).

If interested, please write to:

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