
International Seminar:
Democracy and Diversities:
Experiences for the construction of peace, development and inclusion.
Guatemala City, February 15 and 16, 2018.

I. Introduction

Guatemala is experiencing a deep political crisis that, although intensified by the accusations of corruption against senior officials and the citizen mobilization since April 2015, also expresses the exhaustion of the democratic system introduced in 1985 and the impossibility of the current State to respond to the needs and demands of the indigenous groups.

From this perspective, two parallel, but interrelated debates are taking place in Guatemala. On one hand, the discussion of institutional reforms that allow for more participation, better representation and equal conditions of political competition. On the other hand, a debate about the need of the refoundation of the State (refundación del Estado) as a whole, so that its organization and policies respond to the pluricultural reality of Guatemala.

These problems and the need for reforms are not exclusive to Guatemala, and knowledge and study of the way in which other societies addressed and address these problems can contribute to the debate.

La Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, as the only public university in the country, is in charge of analyzing and preparing proposals for the country's problems. Thus, through the School of History and within the framework of the international project "Ethnic power relations and conflict in fragile states", has organized the International Seminar "Democracy and Diversities". This seminar will discuss different experiences of democratic order construction, both those that have given positive results and some problematic experiences. The Seminar will be held in Guatemala city on February 15 and 16, 2018.

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II. Objectives

1. Analyze different models of democracy in multicultural societies.
2. Discuss the conditions in which social and political conflict can produce violence.
3. Identify the reforms to the political system and the State that can deepen democracy in multicultural societies.

III. Participants

- Researchers participating in the project Ethnic Power Relations and conflict in Fragile States.
- Researchers from Latin America.
- Professors and Researchers of Guatemala.
- Postgraduate and advanced students of the country.
- Special guests.

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IV. Program (Preliminary)

Wednesday, February 14.

Salón Piedras Negras III, Hotel Barceló, Second Floor.

8:30 -12:30 Internal Meeting, specific program.

12:30-14:00 Lunch, Hotel Barceló.

14:00-17:00 Internal Meeting, specific program

19:00 Hotel lobby and walk to Restaurante Kardamomous, Welcome Dinner.

Thursday, February 15

Biblioteca Central, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, Salón 1.

9:00 Opening Ceremony

- **Hans Rüedi Bortis**, Embajador de la Confederación Suiza.
- **Artemis Torres**, Directora de la Escuela de Historia de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala.
- **Lars-Erik Cederman**, Proyecto Relaciones de Poder Etnicas y conflicto en Estados Frágiles.
- **Manuel Vogt**, Proyecto Relaciones de Poder Etnicas y conflicto en Estados Frágiles.

9:30 **Democracies in multicultural contexts**

- A diverse society with direct democracy institutions: the Swiss experience
 - **Simon Hug**, Universidad de Ginebra, Suiza.
- The biggest democracy in the world: India
 - * **Madhushree Sekher**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India.

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10:30 Pause / Coffee

11:00 Pending presentation

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11:30 Debate

12:30 Pause / Lunch

14:00 **Conflicts and democratic responses**

Chair: Nesreen Nasser, Drexel University.

- War and peace in Sudan.
 - **Hamid E. Ali** American University in El Cairo, Egypt.
- Diversity and democracy in Ivory Coast
 - **Roch Yao Gnabeli**, Université Felix Houphouet Boigny d'Abidjan, Costa de Marfil.

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- The Colombian paths: clues for understanding a long and complex conflict..
 - **Guillermo Dabbraccio**, Universidad Nacional, Manizales, Colombia.

15:30 Pause / Coffee

16:00 Debate

17:00 End of the first day

19:00 Group Dinner.

Friday, February 16

9:00 Indigenous Movements and State Responses in Mesoamerica.

- The Guatemalan experience.
 - Marta Juana López, Universidad de San Carlos.
 - Democratic crisis, social movements and state response in Honduras: from the state coup of 2009 to the electoral coup 2017.
 - Eugenio Sosa, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
 - The dimensions of the ethnic conflict in El Salvador.
 - Carlos Lara, Universidad de El Salvador
- 11:00 Pause / Coffee

11:30 Debate

12:30 Conclusions

- Lars - Erik Cederman, ETH Zurich
- Seraina Rüeger, ETH Zurich
- Ricardo Sáenz de Tejada, Universidad de San Carlos.

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13:00 Lunch

18:00 Public Panel:

Democracia y movimientos sociales en América Latina.
Auditorium Edificio S-1, USAC.

- Manuel Vogt, University College London.(Introduction)
- Marta Juana López, Universidad de San Carlos
- Eugenio Sosa, Universidad Nacional de Honduras
- Carlos Lara, Universidad de El Salvador
- Guillermo Dabbraccio, Universidad Nacional de Colombia