

E-CONFERENCE: JULY 20TH - 23RD AND JULY 27TH - 30TH, 2020

BODIES IN THE AMERICAS: SUBJECTIVITIES AND IDENTIFICATION IN TIMES OF POLARIZATION

CALL FOR PAPERS

Staged around three conceptual axes: Subjectivities and identification, Polarization, and Bodies. Our second international conference seeks to guide the conversation regarding increasing contemporary tensions and divisions that have become more evident across the continent.

From Trump in the U.S.A. to Bolsonaro in Brazil, populist political and corporate leaders have capitalized diverse subjectivities and lived experiences, creating polarized, divisive, and even antagonistic feelings within different sectors of society. In turn, these fractures have deepened some of the pre-existing social, economic, and environmental inequalities.

Subjectivities and identification: Imposed or self-constructed, our identifications determine how we interact with our surroundings. On a smaller scale, these *identities* shape how we are perceived by others and how we interact with other subjects (either on an individual level or as part of a collective).

On a larger scale, identities permeate the power relations and configure the reality(ies) in which we live. These power configurations have socio-political repercussions which become evident in public, economic, domestic, and international policies when the discourse of Otherness plays a role in contrast to the imagined "Self".

Polarizations: The turn of the century in the Americas provided evidence of the contradictions of the socio-economical systems implemented in the 20th century. The discourse of international opening and collaboration has encountered a counterpart of growing skepticism towards globalization, and waves of social movements and civil disobedience condemning social inequality.

Contemporary horizontal and leaderless grassroots movements intertwine and contrast with more traditional (un)organized civil society. This contributes to polarization amongst political leaderships and social groups, as political and corporate elites seeking to maintain their power promote division by focusing on civil unrest, emphasizing issues of national security while criminalizing social dissent.

Bodies: As Judith Butler argues, materiality is an effect of power; therefore all these discourses also have repercussions on concrete human bodies. Regardless if it is the body of the citizen, the body of a community inside a nation, or the body of an imagined community (UN, political parties, etc.), different policies, ideologies and relations determine what a legible body is and how it might be intervened in, modified or even erased.

As it has been argued in the latest stage of capitalism, bodies themselves (un)willingly became commodified, to the point where human lives become disposable while remaining profitable, as in the case of the prison-industrial complex and the whole illegal invasive migration discourse in the Mexico- USA border.

DEADLINE JUNE 19TH, 2020

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We highly encourage papers that articulate the three proposed nodes. We will approach these topics from different disciplines (Political Science, International Relations, Human Rights, Literature and Cultural Studies, among others) while searching for a more interdisciplinary dialogue and a hemispheric perspective.

The congress will be held in English and Spanish. Abstracts must not be longer than 700 words and the presentations should not exceed 30 minutes. Please send your proposal, including in which language your conference would be held, to stuve-ma-americas@fau.de

