

PRESENTATION

The articles included in three volumes of the *Ciência & Trópico Journal* have been produced in the frame of the Fifth South-South Summer Institute on Rethinking Development: Global and Regional Alternatives for the Development in the South which was held in the cadre of the Africa/Asia/Latin America Scholarly Collaborative Program, in Recife, May 2012. The Program, coordinated by the Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA), the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), was co-organized with Foundation Joaquim Nabuco (Fundaj). The challenge of training to younger scholars on the diverse problems facing the countries of the South has been a main axe of work.

The articles selected to be included to the *Ciência & Trópico Journal* were presented at the Institute and they are original contributions to an understanding of the Rethinking Development: Global and Regional Alternatives for the Development in the South. Rethinking development and the dilemmas confronted by the South in

contemporary times is a current crucial issue to create new thoughts in order to find solution for many vulnerable and critical social situations.

The structural adjustment years were characterized by a fixation with the macro-economic indicators defined by neo-liberal doctrinaires as being central to the construction of economic well being and to build investor confidence. Furthermore, systematic national planning for economic growth and development was discarded in favor of a reliance on the magic of the free market which, the Bretton Woods institutions insisted, was the only viable path to economic transformation in the South. Needless to add, the state was relentlessly attacked and spirited efforts were made to de-legitimize it as an actor in the economic development process. Perhaps even more disturbing was the systematic erosion of policy making and policy capacities in the South and the location of key macro-economic decision-making levels in the international financial institutions or, if some of them remain at home, beyond the reach of democratic structures. In this framework it was inconceivable that development can ever proceed on the basis of externally-defined policy priorities and strategies or in the absence of a state that was able to lead the process of formulation of coherent strategies.

In a global context, it can be asserted that the International Financial Institutions fulfilled an important role in reproducing the asymmetries of an extraordinarily unequal international system, facilitating a huge transfer of natural resources, rents, incomes, and riches from the South to the North, and therefore, compromising the possibilities to reach the so required development. In the face of the blatant injustice prevailing in the international system and the bankruptcy of the existing multilateral organizations, how can the Southern countries promote their development strategies against poverty and exclusion in an adverse global context?

Insofar as the countries of the South are concerned, the disappointing outcome of two decades or more of International Monetary Fund (IMF) structural adjustment, coupled with apprehensions about the effects of the neo-liberal underpinnings of the accelerated processes of globalization, have both provided a context for – and resulted in a revival of – interest in the question of development and how to secure it on a self-sustained – social, economic, political and ecological – basis. The issues which are posed in this context are fairly straightforward and can be summarized in one grand question: what policy framework is required in order to return the countries of the South to the path of development and what type of development agenda do these countries have to generate in order to achieve growth in a context that secures the livelihood opportunities and prospects of the citizenry? Besides the call to redefine the global scenario into a more democratic and equitable order, maybe the most suitable answer to that query is coupled to the regional level, along with the cooperation and integration agreements and processes among the countries of the South. That it is why, in the past, in the context of the structural adjustment programs –vigorously promoted across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the regional integration and cooperation projects were distinctly discouraged as a strategic policy option, particularly for developing countries. The political and geo-strategic sources of opposition to South-South integration and cooperation schemes were clear enough: an array of new technical arguments was deployed to complement pre-existing political hostility to regional cooperation among the countries of the South. In this way, South-South regional schemes were not only considered to be inefficient and sub-optimal, they were also treated as trade-diverting and market-distorting; global economic welfare, it was argued, would be better served by the World Trade Organization

framework and mixed North-South cooperation schemes structured around a hub-and-spoke model.

The discouragement of South-South regional cooperation during the 1980s and 1990s went hand-in-hand with the vigorous promotion of structural adjustment programs across the South. However, the poor record of the structural adjustment programs themselves, together with the international geo-political and economic re-alignments arising from the end of the old East-West Cold War combined to revive the idea of regionalism and to spur the investment of new energies in various kinds of integration and cooperation schemes across the international system, North and South. This revival was manifested across the global South through the revamping and/or rationalization of existing cooperation and integration schemes, as well as the launching of new initiatives; some of which attempts at the revival of the spirit of Bandung regionalism and efforts to accomplish the pattern of development in the South. The most prominent of these are centered on the World Social Forum movement and its campaign for an alternative, people-driven globalization, Hugo Chavez's counter-hegemonic Bolivarian alternative for the Americas (Alba), the currently vigorous South American Nation Union (Unasur) and the pursuit of tri-continental strategic coordination as in the case of the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa).

Taking into account the above mentioned issues, more than 40 scholars participating in the Summer Institute reflected on these matters and examined some of the copious existing inputs about the global and regional alternatives for the development in the South. Professors and specialists coming from 22 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Philippines, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Mexico,

Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela and Vietnam) participated debating in the following thematic axes: international relations and South-South cooperation; rethinking development strategies and social movements; democratization, education and religion; cultural diversity, cultural practices and political change; the role of the State and the industrial and trade policies; regional integration processes among countries of the South; and political rights and migrations.

These themes were discussed deeply in the Institute and are offer today in this publication through all contributions: Recognizing Religion in Democratization Processes in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Case from Niger (Abdoulaye Sounaye, Niger), The Biochar: an alternative energy for the development of the Sahel countries (Abibatou Banda Fall, Senegal, Cultural Diversity, Endogenous Knowledge Systems and Learning for African Development: Multiple Views from the South (Asasira Simon Rwabyoma, Uganda), El rol de IBSA (Índia, Brasil y Sudáfrica) en El sistema internacional contemporáneo: ¿ Qué tipo de desarrollo y para quién? (Clarisa Giaccaglia, Argentina), The Decline of Neo-Liberalism and the Rise of Neo-Keynesianism: A Conceptual Analysis (Dedy Permandi, Indonesia), African perspective on the crisis of global capitalism (Demba Moussa Dembele, Senegal), De los agentes a la agencia: *jóvenes urbanos y prácticas culturales en Colombia* (Estefania Gonzalez Velez, Colombia), Toward an Africological education: An alternative strategy for the development of Sub-Saharan African countries (Fortoumata Keita, Mali), How political regime and trade liberalization help to rethink development in Central Africa: Empirical evidence (Gerard Tchouassi, Camaroes), Desarrollo participativo em La sociedad cubana actual: repensando los gobiernos municipales como principal actor para El desarrollo, desde um estudo de caso (Hans Carrillo Guach, Cuba), A brief

history of anti-neoliberalism: South American Political Economy and Development Paradigms in the XXI Century (Jose Francisco Puello-Socarras, Argentina), Sociological theory, history, global modernity (Jose Mauricio Dominguez, Brasil), La Diplomacia de los Pueblos, relaciones internacionales alternativas desde el Sur Karla Dias Martines, Venezuela), Los desafíos de una agenda regional para el desarrollo. Hacia un sistema social de innovación en el Mercosur: el caso del diseño industrial (Luciano Borboblio, Argentina), Ampliación de los Derechos Políticos de los inmigrantes: caminos hacia una ciudadanía desnacionalizada en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (Maria Virginia Bonora, Argentina), Market Led Agrarian Reform in the Global South: Histories, Issues and Prospects (Mark Stevenson Curry, Filipinas), Linking Development with Security in the Global South? An introduction to the Security Sector Reform (Mathias Valdez Duffau, Japon), Política industrial, La experiência boliviana (Robertodel Barco Gamarra, México), The Dekasegi and Pinoy Descendants: Labor Conditions and Migrant Dynamics of Brazilian and Filipino Nikkeijin Workers in Japan (Ron Bridget Vilog, Japón), Perspectives from the Contested Terrains of Africa: Intellectualism, Development and Social Movements Siphesihle Dumisa, Sudafrica), Economic and Social Policy in Post-Neoliberal Latin America: Analyzing Impact on Poverty, Inequality and Social Wellbeing (Tara Ruttemberg, Costa Rica), Los condicionantes hegemónicos sobre las alternativas regionales de desarrollo en el Sur. El caso del MERCOSUR y las perspectivas del Alba y la Unasur (Victoria Mutti, Argentina), Rethinking Development: The Need for Ethics in Development Theory and Practice (Workineh Kelbessa, Etiopia).

As it was the experience in the Seminar, these articles show the effort to promote a revival and expansion of comparative thinking and cross-regional networking among a younger generation

of Southern scholars. The debates between more than 40 people from Africa, Latin America and Asia have broadened the analytical perspectives and the overall quality of the scientific engagements of them. The articles of the book are mirror of that experience, showing a greater diversity of disciplines, themes, methodological perspectives and representativeness in terms of countries.

This rich debate and academic exchange reflected in these articles was possible thanks to the democratic, plural and high quality academic level offered by the colleagues of Fundaj, specially Alexandrina Sobreira (Scientific Coordinator), Cibele Rodrigues (researcher) and Zarah Lira (Coordinatin of Institutional Sector).

Finally, we would like deeply thanks to all the contributors of this publication, and also professors and colleagues who enriched the debate. They made possible the quality of the volume of this journal that we expect will be an important contribution to rethink the South integrated into the global world. In this sense we would like to make a special recognition to Fundaj who make possible to disseminate the production of the Seminar in the *Ciência & Trópico Journal*.

Carolina Mera (Clacso)
Carlos Cardozo (Codesria)
Julio Teehankee (Apisa)