

AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION: SNX 2010
The South-North Exchange on
Theory, Culture and Law



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***The Global Politics of Food:
Sustainability and Subordination***

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO * MAY 6-8, 2010



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**Departamento de Derecho, Universidad Iberoamericana
Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc. ("LatCrit")
Seattle Center for Global Justice, Seattle U. School of Law**

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The South-North Exchange on Theory, Culture and Law (“SNX”) met for the first time in 2003 to foster and sustain a trans-national, cross-disciplinary and inter-cultural dialogue on current issues in law, theory and culture. This Exchange consists of two parts: an annual encounter and, afterward, a scholarly publication based on the live proceedings. Both the “live” and published versions of the Exchange aim to bring the combined specialties of the participants to bear on a contemporary issue or topic of common interest across the Americas, through a series of interactive plenary sessions spanning two to three days. This year’s SNX is on *The Global Politics of Food*.

The corporatization and globalization of food production and consumption continue apace, despite increasing evidence of their negative impacts on social, environmental, and human health. Hunger remains a seemingly intractable problem, caused not by lack of supply but by inequality and income disparities. Productivity has increased, but it has led to environmental deterioration and irrevocable losses of agro-biodiversity. Trade agreements often undermine the agricultural systems of small scale producers in developing regions, while benefiting large corporations. Low-priced exports to the South wreak havoc on those agricultural systems, and the latest technological fix, genetically modified crops, poses risks for human health and ecosystems alike. Food-related laws and policies that enhance the consumption styles of privileged classes in the U.S. and Canada compromise the health, safety, and wellbeing of low-income populations in both North and South America. Overfertilization and long-distance food shipping exacerbate the global energy crisis and contribute to rising obesity (due in part to the poor quality of irradiated food doused with preservatives to ensure long shelf-life).

Yet policymakers ignore or actively obscure the complex global and hemispheric dimensions of food-related practices, and despite recent attention to the “global food crisis,” the media and public appear to be virtually oblivious of those dimensions. The SNX on *The Global Politics of Food* will provide an opportunity for legal scholars, social analysts, policymakers, and activists to critically examine the role of food policy in perpetuating the subordination of marginalized

populations on a global scale, as well as the promise of the growing sustainability movement to address those inequalities.

The 2010 Exchange organizing committee invites paper proposals addressing:

1 – the international trade regime, food policy and the obstacles to the diffusion of sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries, as well as how the goals of food sovereignty can be dovetailed with the objectives of sustainable agricultural and food production;

2 – trade policy in the Americas, including its differential impact on workers in the North and South and comparative analyses of arguments proffered to justify that policy;

3 – how the ideologies of liberal individualism and free market fundamentalism obscure the relations of domination instantiated by food law and policy;

4 – comparative analysis of consumption issues, such as corporate product-pushing in schools; regulation of product labeling; and corporate manipulation/cooptation of governmental advice on eating and health (eg, the U.S. “food pyramid”);

5 – the law of informal or “street” food, including how the informal sector conditions food habits, diets and food quality; and

6 – the impact of advertising, North-South tourism and South-North labor migration on both Southern and Northern diets and public health, as well as on the impact of transnational companies on food pricing, diets, and consumption habits.

Papers might focus on individual cases or compare two or several national or regional cases.

Presentations can be in English or Spanish, and simultaneous translation (English/Spanish) will be provided. Every effort will be made to provide translation of other languages with advance notice.

Fees:

Participation fee is US\$90 (\$48,400 Mexican pesos). Partial sponsorship might be available for participants with limited financial resources to cover air transportation and/or hotel accommodations. These funds are limited and sponsored participants must present at the conference and must submit papers by the dates indicated here. *To apply for sponsorship, please contact the organizing committee by March 10, 2010.*

Local Arrangements:

The venue for the gathering is the Universidad Iberoamericana. Arrangements are being planned for participants to stay at a nearby hotel, within a 10-minute walk from the University. Transportation from Mexico City’s airport to the hotel costs approximately 20 USD by official taxi. Hotel telephone and FAX numbers will be posted in the near future on the LatCrit website: www.latcrit.org. Please check the website for further updates.

Program Coordinators: Nancy Ehrenreich, Professor of Law, Univ. of Denver, nehrenre@law.du.edu; Beth Lyon, Assoc. Professor of Law, Villanova University, lyon@law.villanova.edu; Dr. José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Coordinador de la Maestría en Derechos Humanos, Universidad Iberoamericana, luis.caballero@uia.mx; Dr. Miquel Rábago Dorbecker, Académico e Investigador del Departamento de Derecho, Universidad Iberoamericana, miguel.rabago@uia.mx.

Paper Proposals and Abstracts Should Be E-mailed To: SNX.2010@gmail.com **or FAX’d to:** Nancy Ehrenreich at 303-871-6711.

Practical Information/Questions (e.g. housing, transportation) Should be Sent To: Dr. Miquel Rábago Dorbecker, Académico e Investigador del Departamento de Derecho, Universidad Iberoamericana, miguel.rabago@uia.mx or SNX.2010@gmail.com.

The South-North Exchange 2010:
Program Participation Guidelines and Form

ABSTRACTS, ADVANCE DRAFTS, FINAL PAPERS & PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: *Each session of the Exchange will feature three-four presentations (15-20 minutes each) based on the timely responses to this Form, and will be facilitated to ensure interactive dialogue. Presentations may consist of or be based on (a) recent or ongoing research projects relating to the Exchange topic; (b) a thought piece responsive to the Exchange topic; or (c) an analysis of current affairs in a particular locality or community as they relate to the Exchange topic. **To participate in the Exchange, please fully complete and submit this Form, with an Abstract (1-3 paragraphs) of your proposal, by Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010. To facilitate interactive discussion at the Exchange, all participants additionally are requested and urged to submit a short Advance Draft (2-5 pages) or outline of their papers by Saturday, April 3, 2010 for advance circulation among Exchange participants. Finally, all Exchange participants are invited to submit a Final Paper (15-35 double-spaced pages) based on their participation by Saturday, August 28, 2010 for inclusion in the published symposium. Thanks for your cooperation in meeting these Program Participation Guidelines ... see you soon in the Distrito Federal!!***

TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL:

1) Please e-mail your abstract and form by Thursday, January 7, 2010, to SNX.2010@gmail.com

OR

2) Please FAX your abstract and form by Thursday, January 7, 2010, to Nancy Ehrenreich, 303-871-6711.

1. NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

2. POSITION & INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION : _____

_____ PHONE(S) _____

3. MAILING ADDRESS:

4. ___ Yes, I am interested in presenting a paper/essay at the South-North Exchange in Mexico City, from May 6-8, 2010. The paper title is:

_____. Please provide a brief description or Abstract of your presentation (along with your Name & the Title) on a separate sheet.

5. ___ Yes, I will be able to submit an Advance Draft or outline of my remarks (2-5 pages) via email or otherwise by April 3, 2010, for advance circulation to other Exchange participants.

6. ___ Yes, after the Exchange I will be able to submit my Final Paper (15-35 double-spaced pages) by August 28, 2010, for inclusion as an essay in the published symposium based on this event.