

AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION: SNX 2009

The South-North Exchange on Theory, Culture and Law



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LATCRIT@LAW.MIAMI.EDU

***Teoría Crítica y Políticas Públicas
en las Américas***
Critical Theory and Public Policies in the Americas

Sponsored by:

Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc.,
Georgia State University College of Law

Chile * 30 de abril - 2 de mayo de 2009/ April 30-May 2, 2009

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 that are of common interest across the Americas. 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 to bear on a contemporary issue or topic the combined specialties of the Exchange participants. Ideally, this annual Exchange will help to build networks of knowledge that, over time, will help to foster social justice awareness and activism, and help to inform public discourse and policymaking nationally, hemispherically and globally regarding current affairs in law and society. To do so, each year the Exchange examines a topical general theme, and participants “exchange” views, experiences, proposals and work through a series of interactive plenary sessions spanning several days.

Throughout the Americas and the Caribbean, left and center-left governments have, in recent years been elected to lead their countries. Even in the notable exceptions to this trend (e.g. Canada, Colombia, the United States), progressive voices have gained popular support and increased visibility. To be sure, there are huge differences in the rhetoric and policies of the governments that have come to power in the region. In Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela, the rhetoric of the progressive governments is more self-consciously socialist and radical in tone and initiative (favoring state control and aggressive land reform, for instance), while elsewhere in the region (e.g. Argentina and Chile), the policies and political rhetoric of progressive governments is more moderate. Still elsewhere (Brazil, the Dominican Republic), progressive governments have undertaken – or been accused of adopting – policies more neoliberal than progressive. Nonetheless, despite these differences, it merits asking (1) what accounts for this leftward shift throughout the Americas and the Caribbean, (2) what new governments

have in common and how they are different and, finally (3) to examine the legal and policy challenges facing progressive governments throughout the region as they seek to implement their visions after years of largely neoliberal governments and reforms. This exchange invites scholars, policy makers, activists and senior graduate students to address these and related questions.

The 2009 Exchange organizing committee invites paper proposals addressing the:

- 1 - Phenomenon of progressive governance in the Americas and the Caribbean;
- 2 –Differences among progressive governments; and
- 3 -Theoretical considerations of the challenges and benefits of governing from a politically progressive perspective.

Papers might focus on individual cases or compare two or several national or regional cases, or be entirely theoretical and/or philosophical in scope. Proposals from scholars and senior graduate students in diverse disciplines are encouraged.

Program Coordinator: Colin Crawford, Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta, USA,
ccrawford@gsu.edu

Paper Proposals and Abstracts Should Be Sent To: Hugo Rojas, Santiago, Chile, hugorjascorral@gmail.com

Practical Information/Questions Exchange Site in Chile: Hugo Rojas, Santiago, Chile,
hugorjascorral@gmail.com

Practical Information/Questions about getting to Chile (e.g. housing, transportation): Colin Crawford,
Atlanta, USA, ccrawford@gsu.edu

The South-North Exchange 2009

Program Participation Guidelines and Form

After reviewing the Guidelines below, please email your completed Form and Abstract to Professor Hugo Rojas Corral at hugorojascorral@gmail.com soon as possible, *and no later than Monday, January 5, 2009*, so that we can follow up appropriately in advance of the South-North Exchange 2009 in Chile. *Muchisimas gracias* for your timely response. ¡Saludos!

ABSTRACTS, ADVANCE DRAFTS, FINAL PAPERS & PARTICIAPTION 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 timely return this Form by February 9^d, 2009 with an Abstract (1-3 paragraphs) of your proposed presentation/paper. 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 Monday, April 6, 2009 for advance circulation among Exchange participants. Finally, all Exchange participants are invited to submit a Final Paper (15-35 pages) based on their participation by Thursday, August 28, 2009 for publication as part of a law review symposium. Thanks for your cooperation in meeting these Program Participation Guidelines ... ¡see you soon in Santiago!***

1. NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

2. SCHOOL: _____ PHONE/S: _____

3. MAILING ADDRESS: _____

4. ___ Yes, I am interested in participating in the inaugural South-North Exchange in from April 30-May 2, 2009 in Santiago, AND would like to present a paper/essay there on (please provide title and brief description or Abstract of your presentation below, or attach a separate sheet if necessary):

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 6, 2009, for advance circulation to other Exchange participants.

6. ___ Yes, after the Exchange I will be able to submit my Final Paper (15-35 pages) by August 28, 2009 for publication as an essay in a law review symposium based on this event.