



Consortio para la Investigación comparada en Integración Regional y Cohesión Social RISC / *Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion*

Conferencia anual 2009 / *Annual Conference 2009*

"Reconfiguraciones regionales: cambios locales, nacionales, internacionales"
"Regional reconfigurations: local, national, international changes"



Instituto de Estudios Regionales Iner

Con el apoyo de:
Instituto de Estudios Políticos IEP

Annual Conference 2009
Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion

"Regional reconfigurations: local, national, international changes"

Institute of Regional Studies
Institute of Political studies
University of Antioquia, Medellin (Colombia)
3-6 November 2009

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS
The proposals need to be submitted by June 30.

Summary

Contemporary societies are facing multifactor changes in their local, national and international configuration. Transformations caused by globalized capitalism, risks and disasters, changes in political regimes, cultural and religious segmentation and the increasing impacts of human mobility processes create worldwide regional reconfigurations. These processes directly compromise the lives of people and social groups and occur in the center of political, cultural and economic conflicts. Vulnerable populations are, in principle, marginalized and exposed to risks in health, housing, education, labor and environmental quality. In addition, they are also excluded from decision-making processes concerning public issues, and exposed to work and live in informal sectors and in insecurity, expelled from their places of origin and denied access to basic resources.

The Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion aims to analyze the Regional Reconfigurations that result from these multifactor changes. Through comparative research, theoretical and methodological problems will be analyzed. Furthermore, contextual situations of current processes will be studied. Different issues will be discussed, such as the commitments of multilateral agencies, the policies adopted from decision-making at the national, sub-national and local level, as well as collective action that has been undertaken to confront these problems.

The conference Regional Reconfigurations is organized by the Institute of Regional Studies of the University of Antioquia in the celebration of its 20 years of existence, with the local support of the Institute of Political Studies of the same university. It will be held in the city of Medellin, Colombia, from the 3-6 November, 2009. The academic community as a whole and members of the public and private sector are invited to attend the conference.

Academic Committee

Harlan Koff, Laboratoire de Sciences Politiques, Université du Luxembourg, President RISC
Lucelly Villegas, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia
Fabio Giraldo, Instituto de Estudios Políticos, Universidad de Antioquia
Deon Geldenhuys, Department of Politics, University of Johannesburg
John Agnew, Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles



Local Organizational Committee

Claudia Puerta Silva, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia
Juan Carlos Vélez, Instituto de Estudios Políticos, Universidad de Antioquia
Catalina Ospina, Instituto de Estudios Políticos, Universidad de Antioquia
Ana Rocío Arbeláez, coordinadora logística, Instituto de Estudios Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia

In Luxembourg
Carmen Maganda, Executive Director RISC

Organization

RISC Annual Conference

Two keynote panels will be held, the first of which will address events in 2009 that are related to conflicts and their implications for regional configurations; the second will focus on the analysis of international initiatives towards regional reconfigurations. The guest speakers of the panels will represent, so far as possible, all the regions in the world, especially those regions in which RISC has members.

Central Panel 1: *Conflicts and Regional Reconfigurations in 2009*. The implications over regional configurations of the most recent conflicts related to international borders, the use of resources, ideological differences, among others.

Central Panel 2: *The quest for regional integration: Drivers, designs and dividends*. The search for regional integration (in different parts of the world), highlighting the motivations, the plans or formulas, and the results of these initiatives.

In addition to the two keynote panels, each working group will develop a panel that covers the subject of regional reconfigurations in terms of their research objectives, which include migration, democracy, public policies, strategic resources, disasters, religion, urban conflict and citizen security.

We will recommend that panels have not more than three presentations, in order to have sufficient time for interventions by other participants and debate among panelists.

The conference will be held in English, French and Spanish with simultaneous translation. The Scientific Committee of RISC in accordance with the Organizational Committee of the conference will decide if the conference will be free or not. In any case, prior conference registration will be obligatory due to the limited number of available seats.

Budget

The event will cover four hotel nights for a maximum of 40 participants (including breakfast) and lunch for three days during the conference. RISC will organize a gala dinner by invitation only. The other dinners will be for the participants' own account.



RISC will cover between 6 and 8 air tickets for the central lecturers, but not for other participants.

Participants are advised to obtain funding for their travel arrangements from their own institutions. Transport between the airport and hotel (approximately 60,000 pesos or 18-22 euros / 26-30 dollars) will be for the participants' account. We recommend that all participants obtain international medical insurance.

RISC Scientific committee meeting

The meeting will take place on 2 November from 9 am to 1 pm.

Annual meeting of institutional representatives

The meeting of institutional representatives will be held on 2 November from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Working group meetings

Logistic support will be given to working groups interested in holding their meetings or workshops during the 2009 annual conference. We propose that these take place on 5 November in the afternoon and/or 6 November. The expenses for these meetings will be assumed by the groups. This year RISC will assign the equivalent of an air ticket to each group.



Working group panels

PANEL I

Working group: Management of Strategic Resources, Environment and Society

Panel Title: Environmental Reconfigurations, Human Security and Territory

History is full of examples of management of natural resources aiming to facilitate human life and socio-economic activities. However, most of these examples are characterized by vertical decisions, lack of social participation, and hidden power relationships behind the management of strategic resources. For example, many dam/hydroelectric projects built in Latin America provoke important territorial transformations and they have significantly detrimental socio-economic effects on local communities. This is evident in the case of many displaced persons whose human security is threatened in the name of "development and progress." Through the construction of large infrastructure projects (i.e. electricity/water supply/mining, etc.), many individuals and families are victims of forced displacement because authorities follow technology-based energy solutions without consideration for social equity or justice. Thus, poorer communities must often pay for the social costs related to environmental/energy advances which benefit wealthier areas

This panel will analyze these environmental reconfigurations and their impacts on human security and territory. Through the examination of both historical and contemporary cross-regional cases related to multilevel governance, the selected papers will focus on political and social responses to environmental conflicts, displaced people, health and environmental impacts, environmental rights and territorial conflicts.

These subjects will be treated in relation to strategic resources including water, energy, mining, soil and air, as well as climate effects.

Relevant questions include (but are not limited to):

What are the characteristics of the impact of environmental reconfiguration on human security and territory?

Who are the actors involved in these environmental impacts? How do they address human security, conflicts and territorial issues related to these impacts?

How have local, national or regional actors responded to environmental human security threats?

What is the role of environmental NGO's in these cases?

What is the role of armed conflicts on environmental impacts and human security?

How does multilevel governance address/promote/affect environmental human security policy responses?

How can human rights or social equity benefit from technological advances in environmental contexts?

What paths could provide human security and territorial equity related to environmental reconfigurations? Do any environmental reconfiguration best practices exist?

Organizer: Carmen Maganda, Unité de Recherche IPSE, Université du Luxembourg carmen.maganda@uni.lu



PANEL II

Working group: Civil society, vulnerable populations, and state policies of health and well-being

Panel Title: Initiatives and limitations regarding regional integration of public health and welfare policies

Regional/international coordination of public health concerns that are not directed from centralized international agencies such as WHO or PAHO has only recently become viable in most parts of the developing world as they reform and consolidate internal national health policies and infrastructure. Unlike the European Union, for example, national public health policies within other regions are vastly different as to their underlying ideology, infrastructure, financing, insurance, as well as their treatment of vulnerable and migrant populations, and efforts to integrate them may well be untenable at a national level unless directed toward very specific issues such as international border areas including the indigenous populations who by tradition and/or legislation and international agreement are able to cross without formal restrictions.

The focus of this year's panel of the working group, Civil Society, Vulnerable Populations, and State Policies of Health and Well-being, is to examine nascent efforts at regional integration of public health and well-being policies that emerge as: 1) a result of political initiatives at the national and regional level; 2) a recognition of the influx of large migrant populations with specific social, economic, and/or cultural needs in situations of vulnerability due to economic difficulties or local conflict; 3) a local initiative—actions engendered by the welfare system users themselves—that become or are becoming public policy; and/or 4) local user-based strategies to ensure health and well-being coverage that has not yet been officially endorsed.

Organizers: Robert VH Dover, INER, Universidad de Antioquia. rvhdover@gmail.com

Claudia Puerta Silva, INER, Universidad de Antioquia. cppuerta@gmail.com

PANEL III

Working group: Comparative Border and Migration Politics

Panel Title: Border (Re)configurations and their Impacts on Human Security in Different Migration Regimes

Human security and international migration rarely coincide. Both voluntary and involuntary migration processes often place individuals in circumstances that place their physical and moral security at risk. Because international migration has a trans-border character by its very nature, adequate political protection and social relief have been slow to develop. Moreover, because regional integration schemes often promote the creation and expansion of transnational markets while nation-states are simultaneously reinforcing national borders, migration takes place in local, national and global systems in which political strategies do not coincide with economic trends. Consequently, this panel examines political responses to human security and migration in cross-border contexts (i.e. refugees, displaced persons, clandestine migrants, human trafficking, etc.). Pertinent questions include (but are not limited to): How have global or regional actors addressed transnational human security issues related to immigration? How have local, national or regional actors responded to human security threats through cross-border programs? How have non-governmental actors created cross-border networks aimed at protecting human security? How have migrant communities addressed human security in transnational contexts? Do different models of multilevel governance affect human security policy responses positively or negatively? What avenues exist for the creation of cross-border cooperation in the fields of migration and human security?

Organizer: Harlan Koff, Unité de Recherche IPSE, Université du Luxembourg, harlan.koff@uni.lu



PANEL IV

Working group: Urban conflict, violence and citizen security.

Panel Title: Urban conflict, violence and citizen security: old problems in new contexts

The recent economic, political and cultural crises contribute to the increase of violence, crime and social protest in urban spaces. Because these events usually occur simultaneously, their analysis has become complex and confused, which also contributes to the adoption of homogeneous and generalized public policies of security. In extreme cases, multiple expressions of armed confrontation converge and juxtapose between the State and subversive and anti-subversive groups, criminal bands dedicated to illegal business and to "private security" and "private justice". These situations lead to diffused and indeterminate violence, as well as unrest manifestations by social groups against increasing poverty and marginality. These expressions affect mainly poor and excluded populations such as children, youth, women, displaced people and immigrants among others, who are exposed to higher levels of insecurity and informality.

The working group on Urban Conflicts, Violence and Citizen Security propose a panel to reflect on: a) the ways in which recent political, economical and cultural crises contribute to an increase in violence, crime and social protest; b) the actors, goals and underlying actions in these forms of conflict; c) the correlations and reciprocal influences in each of them; d) theoretical and methodological proposals for their analytical differentiation and integral understanding; e) what is shown and hidden by statistical analysis about violence, crime, poverty and wealth; f) design, impact and evaluation of national and local public policy aiming at addressing these problems; g) contrast between the different security approaches (human, public, civil and democratic) privileged by public policies.

Organizer: Juan Carlos Vélez Rendón, Instituto de Estudios Políticos de la Universidad de Antioquia: velezerre65@yahoo.com.mx

PANEL V

Working group: Quality of Democracy

Panel Title: Regional Reconfigurations and the Quality of Democracy: local, national, international changes

Throughout the twentieth century, democratic quality was often determined by amounts of citizen participation and levels of electoral accountability. The century began under the auspices of universal suffrage movements and different calls for deeper enfranchisement evolved from there. Territorial changes played a central role in these developments. Toward the last quarter of the twentieth century, regional systems, such as the European Union or the Andean Community of Nations, played increasingly significant roles in the promotion of democratic participation at local, national and regional levels. The emergence of multi-level governance as a conceptual tool has pointed to regional integration as an avenue to better represent citizens' interests at different levels of government.

As the twenty-first century begins, this model is properly being questioned. Can we measure the quality of democracy simply in terms of citizen participation in policy-making? Can we assume that multi-level governance only has impacted systems positively or has the introduction of institutional complexity had unintended consequences? What impact have territorial reconfigurations had on other important characteristics of the quality of democracy, such as: rule of law, inter-institutional accountability, responsiveness, freedom, equality, etc. This panel aims to present papers that examine the impact of territorial reconfigurations on topics related to the quality of democracy. Pertinent topics include studies related to governance at the local, national and regional levels. Studies related to multi-level governance will be given special attention because they address the relationship between different territorial arenas of decision-making and sources of political power.

Organizer: Prof. Jesús Tovar Mendoza, El Colegio Mexiquense A.C.; email: jtovar63@msn.com



PANEL VI

Working group: Construction of Risk and Disasters

Panel Title: Global risks, local disasters: environmental transformations as elements of social vulnerability

Modernity and development models have directly affected patterns of urban growth, changed land use and tendencies in agricultural practices, migratory models, etc. In the last century, industrialization has been the moving motor for development, which has produced geopolitical reconfigurations and environmental transformations on a global basis.

Even though there are numerous studies which link development and modernity to risk and disasters, it's still necessary to do careful analyses of how global models are implicated in regional and local transformations.

Disasters are the result of correlations between hazardous natural phenomena with certain conditions of vulnerability, the last being often determined by social, economic and cultural factors which are very hard for vulnerable social groups to have control over. Some analysis models have showed that vulnerability is linked to root causes instead of disaster itself. Disaster processes in developing parts of the world (where they have a higher incidence), are based on social vulnerability itself and the increasing social construction of risk, which derives from poverty and inequality to which we have to add both fast demographic sprawl and environmental degradation.

This panel proposes the collection of common themes in approaches connected to the analysis and debate of impacts in different scales. For this, we'll give preference to those submissions/proposals sustained by field work which address key aspects for understanding environmental transformations which, once in correlation with global elements, permit us to know the direct effects and impacts of those transformations at a local level, all of which may help lead to a better understanding of vulnerability and social construction of risk.

Questions and common threads:

What are the global environmental transformations which produce local vulnerabilities?

What are the relations between global political, social and economic processes, and specific processes of territorial and environmental transformation at a regional and/or local level?

How does global risk impact local arenas, particularly regarding the reconfiguration of social vulnerability?

Which case studies can illustrate the impact of global transformations on local arenas?

What role do environmental transformations play in regional reconfigurations and in local, national and international changes?

Organizer: Dra. Virginia García Acosta, CIESAS, México. Correo-e: vgarciaa@ciesas.edu.mx



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Paper proposals of no more than 400 words should be submitted directly to the panel organizers. Please outline the research question addressed, the paper's theoretical contribution and the study's methodology. All papers are asked to respond to general theme: "*Regional reconfigurations: local, national, international changes*".

The proposals need to be submitted by June 30.

Please submit paper proposals to the following people:

Panel I: Carmen Maganda carmen.maganda@uni.lu

Panel II: Robert VH Dover rvhdover@gmail.com; Claudia Puerta Silva cppuerta@gmail.com

Panel III: Harlan Koff harlan.koff@uni.lu

Panel IV: Juan Carlos Vélez Rendón velezerre65@yahoo.com.mx

Panel V: Jesús Tovar Mendoza jtovar63@msn.com

Panel VI: Virginia García vgarciaa@cieras.edu.mx

Each panel coordinator will select participants from the proposals submitted. Questions regarding a specific panel should be sent directly to the organizer. For general questions about the conference or for more detailed information, please contact Claudia Puerta Silva (Tel: (+574) 2195699; risc2009@iner.udea.edu.co) or Carmen Maganda (Tel: (+352) 4666449572; carmen.maganda@uni.lu).