

# Editorial

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This special issue of the JLACR in association with the Journal *Controversias y Conurrencias Latinoamericanas* (publication of the Latin American Sociological Association, ALAS) is brought to you as a result of a cooperative relationship between ALAS and ALAIC developed since ALAS Conference at Recife (2011).

It began with a first division organized between ALAS and ALAIC, extended in 2012 for a coordinated action in the RC14 at the International Sociological Association (ISA) that took place in Buenos Aires. A second ALAS-ALAIC division was also convened in 2012 (ALAIC Conference at Montevideo) and a third one at ALAS, in Santiago de Chile, 2013.

The bottom line is that the dialogue between these two associations is based in the common concern about the development of Latin American critical thought across that knowledge border established between communication and sociology. This key issue is crucial for the capitalist restructuring and the strengthening of social and political processes in the region, marking a transition from the 20th to the 21th century.

One of our main goals is to build a significant production of scientific knowledge in Latin America and the world, and so we work in every issue (as in this ALAS-ALAIC coedition) to achieve the best standards with our editorial processes.

Both ALAS and ALAIC have established intensive collaboration with other well known associations. As a result of its international projection, ALAS strengthened his link with the International Sociological Association (ISA), where it belongs as a regional association. ALAIC, in the other hand, has been working since 2010 on establishing an international debate advocating for the high incidence of Latin American communication thought in the area. As an example, ALAIC began relationships with the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), to work together on boosting the (macro) associations in the field around the world. At this point, for exam-

ple, ALAIC also developed common interest actions with the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).

ALAS and ALAIC have a strong incidence in Latin American critical thought. That is the most relevant part of our contribution to the international epistemological debate. As a consequence, the decision of publishing this coedited issue has a double intentionality. In one hand, we would like to consolidate and enlarge the collaborative work that, at the moment, was only able to produce interesting conversations in the different conferences we mentioned earlier (which, of course, are significant). It was missing, however, introducing to the international and Latin American community a materialized result of this collaboration.

That was how we decided to collect papers from researchers belonging to this associations and publish this common project that is now available in Spanish and Portuguese in *Controversias y Concurrencias* and in English in JLACR as an effort of receiving, assessing, editing and working with the best human resources of both journals and associations. The result is available in each of their websites.

The manuscripts approved and published in this coedited issue are written by researchers of different countries and offer a small but effective sample about some important topics immersed in the communication research agenda.

Alejandro de Oto, in his article “Two colonial theories in relation. A Fanonian genealogy” warns about the contiguities between two spaces of contemporary critical thinking: poscolonial criticism and decolonial thinking. The essay focuses on the conceptual and political articulation between both fields analyzing the works of Frantz Fanon, and going through the thinking of various scholars on this topic.

“Written in racialized bodies. Language, memory and (Post)colonial genealogies of femicide in Latin America”, written by Karina Bidaseca is enrolled, as the author points, in the (pos) colonial genealogies in Latin America. She analyzes the languages of gender violence expressed in two artistic forms of literature and visual art, both found in the transdisciplinary intersection with social science.

Petrônio Domingues and Flávio Gomes, in their article “Printing Ideas: Intellectuals and Racial Mobilization in Post-War Brazil (1945-1955)” analyze the texts of *Quilombo* newspaper, published by the *Teatro Experimental del Negro* (TEN). The authors show that this group, led by black intellectuals, expressed themselves as a democratic antiracist political tendency with an ideology that advocated for a new hegemony in the racial discourse of the time.

Alberto Bialakowsky, Cecilia Lusnich, Guadalupe Romero and Pablo Ortiz address in their article “Universities in Latin America. Power and resistance to alienation of social intellect” the change processes in high education marked by the neoliberal intervention from past decades. Their approach includes the study of forms of production and distribution of knowledge at universities and ends with the presentation of an alternative solution for the resignification of the practice and social role of high education institutions.

Also in the article of Juan Enrique Huerta, under the title “Like parents, like citizens: Mexican children’s political socialization”, the author explains that even though the news have some effect in the civic awareness of children, they barely influence their attitude towards political participation.

At last, the article of Evan Light “Sputtering to a start: the history and future of radio spectrum regulation in Uruguay” tracks the history of radio regulation in Uruguay since its implantation until 2013. The article contributes to the comprehension of the media environment of the region, documenting the practices of the current radio system in this country of South America.

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