

## **ASIA-LATIN AMERICA**

The contemporary world system is undergoing a process of profound changes marked by the refocusing of its most dynamic economic centers, moving from Europe and the United States of America to Asia, and particularly to China, which since 2014 has become the largest economy in the world, replacing the United States. This reveals fundamental changes, not only in the dynamics of the world economy, but also in the reconfiguration of the world financial system and geopolitical alignments. In addition, this process is accompanied by significant changes in scientific and technological production, which show a shift in Sciences and Technology production worldwide to South, East and Southeast Asia, especially China.

In this context, contemporary Latin American conjuncture, which showed significant progress in the projects and regional integration processes, from a new cycle of political accumulation of progressive and left forces in the region at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, shows nowadays as a wide field of dispute between conflicting projects, with the beginning of a new wing of conservative governments in the region.

The new silk route “one belt, one road” (OBOR) proposed by China in September 2013, has the capacity to reorganize the Eurasian continent but also to impact the economy and world system as a whole. Certainly, the impact of these changes in Latin America will tend to deepen, decisively influencing regional economic and political dynamics.

Latin America seems to be between the possibility of developing new strategic relations with Asia, placing national and regional interests on the agenda and the negotiating table, or reproducing with Asia, and especially with China, the same relations of dependence and subordination that characterized its insertion in the world system during the last centuries. The challenges for the region are enormous and the future mainly depends on its ability to deepen the dynamism of the integration projects, enabling the region to pursue a more active role on the profound changes that are being developed in the world system.

This session welcomes proposals of presentation of research outcome dealing with direct or indirect relations between Asia and Latin America in diverse fields (culture, ecology, economy, politic, religion...) and levels (local, national, regional, international...).

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