

OUR VOICE

Coming out in summer 2017, this issue of *Voices of Mexico* is significant for two reasons that I want to mention to our readers. First and foremost is that Dr. Enrique Graue Wiechers, the rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, has consented to contribute an outstanding article. I want to thank him for that and for supporting my tenure at CISAN. Rector Graue's article expresses his profound humanist vocation and commitment to working for young people, revealing the range of qualities that have placed him in a position of leadership in our university.

His article heads up this issue, alerting us to the main challenges Mexico is facing in its relations with the United States. He recognizes their complexity, underlining the growing mobility of human beings, not only from South to North, but also encompassing all its manifestations in Mexico (our own Diaspora, the transit and reception of migrants into our country) that situate it globally as a huge migratory hub.

With these elements, our distinguished author weaves numbers and ideas together to argue the decisive issue: the need for education to tear down all manner of walls and stereotypes.

I want to take this opportunity to briefly underline certain emblematic elements of the Development Plan currently guiding our endeavors. Proposed by Rector Graue, it began to link up the UNAM's three fundamental goals in late 2015: teaching, research, and the dissemination of culture.

This important document recognizes our institution's activities as key pieces in fostering our country's development. It defines education as an inalienable human right and public good and points to knowledge as an essential part of freedom and justice. It ratifies its public, secular, plural nature and commits the UNAM to continuing to educate the new generations. Rector Graue's actions have shown that, while the acquisition of abilities and new knowledge is decisive in fulfilling the university's mission, communicational skills and ethical values are also inescapable requirements for a quality education. That is why I invite all those interested in a deeper understanding of higher education to visit the website at https://www.unam.mx/resultados?as_q=rector.unam.mx%2Fdoctos%2FPDF-2015-2019.pdf to appreciate the scope and depth of the document that guides our institution's activities.

This very special issue also includes a selection of articles on the extremely current matter of Mexico-U.S. relations and their resulting link to the third actor in the region, Canada.

Outstanding among the contributions are those of distinguished UNAM academics who have dedicated a large part of their careers to raising public awareness of these links. Sergio Alcocer, an eminent engineer who has made significant interdisciplinary inroads into the field of foreign policy, reflects on the cooperation between Mexico and our neighbor to the north. Taking NAFTA as one of his central axes, he argues that its proposed renegotiation must include a deeper commitment to issues such as education, scientific and technological innovation, and shared infrastructure to optimize its regional impact.

Mónica Vereá deals with the human tragedy facing undocumented Mexican migrants who may be deported from the United States and are harassed and persecuted by the Trump

administration. She concludes that the damage extends to both countries since it promotes animosity between U.S. Americans and Mexicans.

This issue adds an encouraging element: it combines the work of experienced pens with that of young researchers who explore new strategic horizons like the financial sector or the role of sub-national governments in regional governance. Claudia Maya and Roberto Zepe-da, respectively, contribute not only new interpretations, but also a rich approach to the complex interwoven reality of North America.

Thinking about our region leads us inevitably to observe other latitudes; and it is precisely in doing so that we note the article by our Finnish colleague Mervi Leppäkorpi, who has lived among us for a year and who, as a specialist in migration, speaks to us about the migrant experience in three European cities.

For faithful readers of *Voices of Mexico* —as well as those who are reading it for the first time—, the “Splendor of Mexico,” “Art and Culture,” and “Museums” sections will continue to delight the senses. In this issue, they delve into the traditions and customs of the Huichol people, the beauty and perfection of textiles and clothing made on the indigenous looms of Oaxaca and other regions of the country, and the many hopeful smiles depicted in a series of photographs of the Haitians who saved their lives in their massive surge toward Tijuana, on the Mexico-U.S. border, in search of a better future. These three articles reveal the iron will to struggle and resist of vulnerable communities, which will continue to be an example of the importance of human transcendence.

It is by no means an accident that I have left to the end the second reason this issue of *Voices of Mexico* is significant and that I should share with you. Almost eight years after having the great honor of being designated as the director of the Center for Research on North America (CISAN) by Dr. José Narro Robles, then rector of the UNAM —and I want to take the opportunity here to thank him for his confidence in me—, the relentless passage of time dictates that this will be the last “Our Voice” that I will address to you in my current capacity as the magazine’s director. Allow me to also underline my recognition of Rector Enrique Graue for his openness to the CISAN and his stouthearted interest in making the networks of readers of this valuable English-language publication grow.

After 18 issues, I will undoubtedly miss the experience of diving into the wide variety of its contents and at the same time enjoying the exceptional quality of its color sections on art, traditions, and the museums of my beloved country.

My understanding of time has at its center the recognition that we are finite beings and that life is an adventure worthy of being told and celebrated, without excluding farewells, since these take place uninterruptedly. *Voices of Mexico* will now begin a new era that everyone in the center’s community will warmly welcome. The central pillars of this magazine are the countless voices and efforts expressed in the contributions of its authors, the photographers, our editorial team, the graphic designers, the translators, and the many others who work together so that you, the readers, will close the virtuous circle that has kept this UNAM publishing project alive since another summer, but of 1986.

I am eternally grateful to all of you!

Silvia Núñez García
Director of CISAN
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NORTEAMÉRICA

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Foro abierto para debatir e intercambiar, desde una perspectiva multidisciplinaria, estudios y análisis de actualidad sobre la región de América del Norte y sus vínculos con el mundo

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Manual de las elecciones al Parlamento europeo

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Norteamérica, revista académica

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