

Portico

We are pleased to present this second issue of *Norteamérica, Revista Académica*, to the public. We invite our readers to accompany us in a rigorous reflection about the many topics common to the three countries of North America.

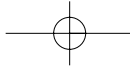
Today, the discussion in academia about this region tends to center on processes of globalization, integration and joint strategic focuses in order to broaden out our understanding of how we have built and consolidated the geo-political entity we belong to.

For some, North America is more than a group of countries in geographic proximity because it is actually one of the world's most important economic zones. For others, integration is barely beginning, slowly, with reticence, given that the social, political and cultural obstacles are more tenacious than the economic ones and more difficult to understand and overcome. In addition to each nation's problems, there are quite a few transborder problems which, in a world like ours, characterized by the constant movement of people, pose new challenges of all kinds, including theoretical and methodological ones.

In order to better pinpoint the obstacles the region as a whole is facing, this issue includes texts about regional history, cultural diversity, migrants' civic and political participation, the importance of development funds, natural resources and the social and historical constitution of the national imaginary and identity. All these are important topics dealt with from many theoretical and methodological perspectives.

This diversity of focuses reflects both our region's complex reality and the variety of interests of those who study it from different parts of the world. We should also underline that our aim is to contribute to promoting a fuller understanding of the region through the analysis of its different dimensions.

We believe that as the three countries of North America become aware of their common problems and needs thanks to a critical, reflexive stance, they will be able to not only channel their more legitimate concerns but also to reach a consensus about solutions to them.



NATTIE GOLUBOV E IGNACIO DÍAZ DE LA SERNA
NORTEAMÉRICA

Despite the broad range of topics touched on by the articles we present here, there can be a fruitful dialogue among them. Thus, for example, there are undoubted links between Germán Vega Briones's article analyzing the personal dimension of women's migration in northern Mexico and Mónica Vereá's text on U.S. government immigration legislation. Silvia Núñez's contribution, which proposes that the United States is ideologically and culturally divided to a great extent due to its multiculturalism, is also related to Nattie Golubov's article about cultural wars.

This issue also contains a special contribution by Luis Maira that sketches a historic panorama of U.S. policy toward Latin America from the 1980s until today. Then, we offer our readers an interview with former Foreign Minister Jorge G. Castañeda dealing with our current foreign policy and horizons that should be explored in the future.

Just as we did in the previous issue, at the end of this one, we offer a thematic chronology of the most significant events in North American life.

We invite our readers to get actively involved in these exchanges and their echoes with the aim of identifying the problems facing the actors who participate in this shared life project we call North America.

*Nattie Golubov
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