



EDITORIAL

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Academia & Derecho brings its readers articles on a wide range of topics, reflecting the concerns and debates of our time. These articles undergo analysis, review, and validation by peers and experts. Each new issue delivers works of excellent scientific and academic quality, the result of the dedication of authors and co-authors, the careful review by the external referees committee, and the knowledge and experience contributed by editors and editorial committee members at each stage of the process.

In the landscape of scientific knowledge, the social sciences play a crucial role in understanding human and social complexity. However, in the context of Hispanic American culture, knowledge production faces significant challenges. Science, as currently structured, is designed largely for a specific language and sector of the world: the Global North. This reality imposes barriers for countries in the Global South, which often must adhere to scientific standards constructed without their experience or participation.

Scientific knowledge in Hispanic American social sciences must reflect the plurality of perspectives and experiences in our region. The task is monumental, not only due to the inherent cultural diversity but also because of the power structures governing the production and validation of knowledge. Local scientific policies tend to underestimate local content and privilege external sources, reinforcing an epistemic hierarchy that favors elites. These elites, often with epistemic power, perpetuate a cycle where the indigenous and regional are disregarded in favor of the foreign.

Science, in its current form, is designed for a global context dominated by the English language and paradigms of the Global North. This setup poses a significant challenge for countries in the Global South, such as those in Latin America, where local realities and native languages are often ignored or undervalued. The imposition of these global scientific standards, which rarely consider the participation or experiences of our societies, results in a science that neither represents nor adequately responds to our needs and contexts.

Additionally, local entities that endorse science often develop policies that tend to devalue local and regional knowledge. This phenomenon responds to a logic of power that privileges elites with



access to and control over scientific resources and infrastructure. These elites, who possess epistemic power, perpetuate a cycle of exclusion and marginalization of indigenous and regional knowledge, favoring external and foreign perspectives.

This context compels us to deeply reflect on the importance of developing a social science that is inclusive and representative of Hispanic American diversity. To achieve this, it is essential to challenge and redefine prevailing scientific standards, promoting a science that incorporates our languages, experiences, and perspectives. The task is not easy, but it is fundamental to building knowledge that truly reflects the epistemic richness of our culture.

The first step in this process is to recognize and value the existing epistemic diversity in our region. Latin America is a mosaic of cultures, languages, and experiences, each with its own value and potential to enrich scientific knowledge. However, this diversity is often overshadowed by the hegemony of knowledge produced in the Global North. To counteract this trend, it is crucial to foster a science that is sensitive to our local realities, acknowledges the validity of our traditional knowledge, and is open to different forms of knowledge.

In this sense, scientific policies must be reoriented to support and promote research that has local and regional relevance. This means not only financing and supporting projects that address our specific issues and contexts but also ensuring that the results of this research are valued and recognized in the global academic arena. Creating networks of collaboration among researchers from different Latin American countries can be an effective strategy to strengthen our presence and visibility on the international scientific stage.

Another crucial aspect is the education and training of new social scientists committed to the reality of our region. Universities and research centers must foster training that includes a critical perspective on the production and validation of scientific knowledge. Future social scientists must be prepared to question and transform the power structures that influence science.

In this process, the role of academic publications is fundamental. Journals like *Academia & Derecho* must provide a platform for disseminating research that reflects the diversity and richness of our cultures. This implies not only publishing high-quality scientific work but also ensuring that these works are accessible and relevant to our communities.

Furthermore, it is essential to promote the use of our languages in scientific production. The dominance of English in the academic field has created a significant barrier to the dissemination of knowledge produced in Latin America. Encouraging publication in Spanish and other native languages facilitates access to this knowledge and contributes to the validation and legitimation of our perspectives and experiences in the global arena.

The path to an inclusive social science representative of Hispanic American diversity is long and challenging. It requires a concerted effort to challenge and transform the power structures



governing the production and validation of scientific knowledge. It involves recognizing and valuing the epistemic richness of our cultures, promoting scientific policies that support local and regional research, training new social scientists committed to our reality, and providing platforms for the dissemination of our knowledge.

Thus, the importance of scientific knowledge in social sciences for the diversity and epistemic wealth of Hispanic American culture cannot be underestimated. Despite the challenges, it is essential to continue working to build a science that reflects and values our realities. Only through this effort can we ensure that our voices are heard and our experiences recognized in the global scientific arena. The task is not easy, but it is essential to build a future where scientific knowledge is truly inclusive and representative of the diversity of humanity.

Under this reflection, we publish the *Revista Academia & Derecho* -RA&D in its 29th edition, corresponding to the period July-December 2024, confident in presenting articles that will provoke critical discussion with solid foundations in each of their fields.

Finally, we remind our future applicants and authors that all articles submitted to our journal must follow the guidelines in the author's guide, which can be consulted at the following link:

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