

Editorial

Inequalities

The CROLAR Editorial Team

♦ “Inequalities” is the subject of the first volume of **CROLAR**, the new online review journal on scientific publications on Latin America. There are many reasons for this choice: Not only is the continent the most unequal region in the world in terms of income, but it is also simultaneously deeply embedded in global configurations of inequality between north and south. Its inequalities are on the one hand perceived until today as a persistent legacy of its colonial past, but find themselves on the other hand contested by powerful revolutions, social movements and even moderately reduced during the past decade.

However, the main reason for our choice is not simply its vast and convincing empirical relevance, but the importance of Latin America for theory: today it is the site of a fundamental reconceptualization of the theoretical notion of inequalities as well as a major field of empirical studies. The ongoing engagement of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) during the last decade influenced and promoted this new research interest in inequalities in Latin America. Research projects like the proyecto desigualdades in Chile, the desiguALdades.net - Research Network on Interdependent Inequalities in Berlin as also the XXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) “Rethinking Inequalities” in 2009 are also vivid

examples of this heightened interest in the concept of inequalities.

The publications presented in this first volume illustrate this new diversity of research on inequalities and Latin America. **CROLAR** offers reviews about theoretical reflections and empirical studies on inequalities in and about Latin America. In the books reviewed by our authors, the continent is placed in a comparative perspective, analyzed from a global approach or taken as an impulse to rethink the notion of Latin America itself together with concepts like poverty, rights and democracy. We present in this volume also reviews on empirical studies on issues as diverse as gender, ecopolitics, education, environment, economy or collective action. Reviews on political interventions and actual debates give further insights into the issue and how it is being re/theorized today. In order to promote transfers between regions and languages, **CROLAR** is a multilingual journal - submissions are accepted in Spanish, Portuguese, English and German. ♦