

## Editorial

### **Volume 7, Number 2 (special) of the Latin American Review of Social Sciences, Childhood and Youth.**

This new issue of the Latin American Review of Social Sciences, Childhood and Youth is the beginning of a series of special editions inserted in the six-monthly continuity of our journal, which will maintain the corresponding pagination per volume, in this case Volume 7. This results from the great amount of articles which are part of our editorial process and from proposals with reference to having co-editions about specific topics or which result from research studies in various fields of knowledge. Texts concerning youth, childhood, social processes and education are published in this number. The last two issues of the journal have condensed monographic articles, from Volume 7 Number 1 about youth and from Volume 7 Number 2 about childhood. This will continue with the aim to tune with the academic, research and editorial dynamics generated by the studies in social sciences, childhood and youth in Latin America, the Caribbean and other scenarios that aim at dealing with these problems.

We hope our readers will be delighted with the great news about the structuring of the Network of Childhood and Infancy Publications in the framework of the Second World Congress and Ninth International Meeting in Early and Pre-School Education: Professional Formation and Development of Teachers and Education Agents, that was held in the state of Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico, from September 23 to 25, 2009. The charter of the network approaches the sharing and application

of some continental diffusion and communication policies to generate, share and to socialize interdisciplinary knowledge in the fields of childhood and infancy whose final aim is to promote the development of happy people from their early childhood who, at the same time, will become the constructors of democratic and inclusive societies. The Director of this journal, Héctor Fabio Ospina Serna, has been appointed the Coordinator of the Network of Childhood and Youth Publications, who along with Marcelo Mendoza, from Junji, Chile, will be in charge of leading the processes aiming at strengthening and dynamizing the network.

With reference to good news, we are pleased to announce the consolidation of the project consisting of translating the journal into Portuguese, which will be the responsibility of a group of Brazilian specialists who have already started this effort with Volume 7 Number 2 and will go on with the new issues of the journal. We are also asking some international institutions for the economic sponsorship in order to translate our journal into the English language. This initiative has been considered a positive one and there are positive reactions to it. Besides, the Editorial Committee, considering the aperture and internationalization of the journal, has decided to accept articles for publication written in French.

With reference to the Colciencias call, we submitted Volume 6 Number 2 and Volume 7 Numbers 1 and 2 of our journal with the aim to get the indexation by the National System of Indexing Colombian Scientific Journals. We hope we will be able to provide our authors and article evaluators with the news of having been indexed in Category A in the next number of our journal. Another important news is the inclusion of our journal in Ulrich's, which is an American bibliographic index with great international influence in the field of scientific publications. Similarly, Gale group Inc., a world well-known database, has proposed to us to include our publication in its collection. Accordingly, we are meeting the conditions necessary for that affiliation in compliance with all legal and methodological requirements of both our journal and the offering institution.

As a result from the alliance for co-financing a yearly number of the journal that has been defined with the Centers for Child Development,

Cendi, of “Tierra y Libertad (Land and Freedom) Popular Front, Monterrey, México, a monographic issue on childhood will be published for five years every second semester, with the possibility of renewal. This publication is an important issue for the World Congress in Childhood that is held annually in Monterrey.

There is the possibility to keep on publishing a special edition number for each volume as its complement, thus conserving the corresponding pagination. This system will accept the co-edition proposals we have been offered from other institutions.

Four articles are presented in the first section of this number, Theory and Metatheory”, which are inscribed in the fields of youth, citizenship and moral development. First, we find “The Youth Object in the I Latin American Youth Conference”, Argentina, by Lorena Natalia Plesnicar, where she analyzes how the youth object is discursively constructed in this event that was held in Argentina.

The second article entitled “Policies and Democratic Post-transition Youths in Peru” by Luis W. Montoya Canchis examines the policies applied with reference to Peruvian youths after the last democratic transition, at the end of 2000, after the fall of President Alberto Fujimori. Then, in the article entitled “Educational action as Narrative Action”, Mauricio Hernando Bedoya Hernández, María Victoria Builes Correa and John Fredy Lenis Castaño offer a look at the problem concerning the educational action in the classical instrumental pedagogy.

Finally, Eduardo Aguirre Dávila presents his critique to the Kohlbergian moral development model in his article entitled “Pragmatic Approximation to the Theory of Moral Judgment, from the Critique to Kohlberg.

The second section, “Studies and Researches” develops into three big research fields: youths, education and social analyses.

The first field develops itself into three subfields that start with the youths-culture relationship, where the article entitled “From the Historical Construction of Juvenile Condition to its Contemporary Transformation”, written by Edgar Diego Erazo Caicedo, approaches the meaning given to the general youth concept and to the youth subjectivation particular processes from a philosophical, historical and sociological perspective. “Clues to Understand New Sensitivities:

Studies on Juvenile Cultural Productions in Costa Rica”, by Priscilla Carballo Villagra, proposes to analyze the juvenile experiences from cultural productions, such as music, dance, aesthetics, soccer and street spaces. Martha Patricia Zarza Delgado in her article entitled “Mexican Male and Female College Students and the Symbolic Body as Gender Construction” studies the messages transmitted from the aesthetics of the body, its adornment and its movements in the college juvenile population in the city of Toluca, Mexico.

Another subfield identified is the citizenships-youths relationship. First, Jorge Baeza Correa and Mario Sandoval Manríquez with their text entitled “New Political Practices of Chilean Youths: 2000-2008 Accumulated Knowledge” present a state-of-the-art of the writings on new political practices of Chilean youths from 2000 to nowadays. Juanita Henao Escovar and Victoria Eugenia Pinilla also contribute to this field with “Youths and Citizenships in Colombia: Between Social Politicization and Institutional Participation” where they show some of the results from their research project on Juvenile Practices as Citizen Expressions, that was developed in three Colombian cities. In “Moral and Social Responsibility: A Juvenile Look”, Carlos Valerio Echavarría Grajales, Paula Andrea Restrepo García, Alejandro Antonio Callejas Trujillo, Paola Ximena Mejía Ospina and Ángela María Alzate look for the moral and political meanings which from the perspective of some male and female high-school youths, implied to construct a democratic, inclusive and pluralizing society.

From the youth-social analyses relationship, Nicté Soledad Castañeda Camey, from Mexico, approaches both spatially and temporally the urban migration to the United States by the youths of the Guadalajara Metropolitan Zone, in its conception as a dynamic totality process, that is, from a set of holistically interrelated characteristics in the article entitled “Migration Dynamics and Process to the United States: Guadalajara Youngsters, Jalisco, Mexico”.

To go further with social analyses and youth, there is the article entitled “Psychosocial Perspectives of Adolescents in Trial for Robbery and Crimes Against Health” written by José Guadalupe Salazar Estrada, Teresa Margarita Torres López, Carolina Reynaldos Quinteros, Norma Silvia Figueroa Villaseñor and Silvia Valencia Abundiz, where they

aim at identifying the life conditions, from a psychosocial perspective, of adolescents accused of robbery and of committing crimes against health. To end this subfield concerning youth, it is worth mentioning Ana Fernanda Uribe Rodríguez, Tatiana Vergara Vélez and Claudia Barona's "Susceptibilities and Self-Efficacy Concerning HIV/AIDS in Adolescents in the City of Cali, Colombia", who consider the implementation of prevention programs in sexual and reproductive health a priority, which takes into account the needs inherent to the adolescent population, their sociodemographic characteristics (gender, age, stratum) and their psychopathological conditions.

To wrap up the field of youth, we have its relation with communication in "Assertiveness, Listening and Tackling the Critique from Street Adolescents, Colombia", whose authors Leonardo Yovany Álvarez Ramírez, Carola Saldaña Solano, Julie Andrea Muñoz Ardila and Viviana Portela Meza define the aim as strengthening the development of abilities to assertively defend adolescents' rights, listening, effective responses to critique in a group of 40 street adolescents (20 per gender) in the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Another field with a lot of production in this number is Education. The first document is "Argumentation Models in Science: an Application to Genetics" where its authors Dora Cardona Rivas and Oscar Eugenio Tamayo Alzate characterize the argumentative models used by Biology students to solve Genetics problems, from the conceptual model, argumentative structure and discursive behavior categories. Another exercise on this sense of education is presented in "The Extracurricular Groups in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Caldas (Colombia): 1970-2006; From political Effervescence to Scientific Training", where Isaías Tobasura Acuña, Claudia Jurado Alvarán, Claudia M. Montes H. and a Group of Students in Agro-Rural Realities at the University of Caldas, Colombia, state that the training of professionals is a complex matter that surpasses the scopes expressed in the syllabi, thus being this the reason why the students have decided to complement their training by means of Extracurricular Groups.

Héctor Mauricio Rojas Betancur writes "To Skill Male and Female Researchers at the University: Optimism and Juvenile Indifference About Scientific Topics" to state that the generalized agreement existing

in Higher Education Institutions –IES- about the importance of the development of the scientific and technological activity is not a matter that has been effectively discussed in the university context. “The Critical Matter of School Equity: a Multicase Study”, by Marina Camargo Abello, states how school equity becomes a complex problematic for educational institutions, as the educational system has been historically configured in such a way that the segmentation by population groups – according to the position individuals have in society – and the scarce attention to the most disadvantaged groups, have resulted in historic inequity that is faced at present by means of compensatory focused policies, whose main aim is to prevent that the polarization between rich and poor people be more severe.

In this important field, Rosa Ávila Aponte and Javier Sáenz Obregón in “The Configuration of the Official School Principalship in Colombia” refer to the context of contemporary educational reforms and characterize how the public school principalship in Colombia is being configured from the power relations generated between the principal and the macro- and micro-political dimensions of educational institutions. Tomás Sánchez Amaya presents an “Approach to a Genealogical Study of Evaluation in Colombia, XX century”, where three problematizations structure the research: to describe the ways how evaluation has signed this historical lapse of Colombian education, to trace the genesis that have made possible its emergence, installation and operation through various power practices; to identify the modality of the subjects produced and managed by education, with reference to the establishment and legitimization of objective-subjective, inter-subjective and inter-institutional relations.

To close the thematic circle in this number, we have three articles about social analyses. First, Claudia Luz Piedrahita Echandía with “Political Subjectivity in Sexual Difference Feminism: Desire and Power” proposes, from the perspective of sexual difference feminism, a discussion about political subjectivity which is basically understood as a woman’s power and desire experience, constructed from the de-identification and de-territorialization of gender-assigned places, and expressed by means of a cultural revolution that surpasses the established phallogocentric frameworks. The article entitled “Social

Capital: an Introductory Review to Its Main Concepts”, written by Rodrigo González Reyes, discusses how the term social capital, that has become very popular in the last decade, is really a concept widely used in various areas of social sciences.

This series of articles comes to an end with “Transnational Families and Remittances: Migrant Fathers and Mothers”, where its author Adriana Zapata Martínez presents the results from a research study whose main aim was to understand the changes that take place in families from the migration of the father or mother and the remittance reception – social or familial – by the male and female children in the city of Pereira, Colombia.

The third section known as “Reports and Analyses” includes the Call for Volume 8 Number 2 (July-December 2010) of the Latin American Review of Social Sciences, Childhood and Youth, the monographic number in Child Rearing and Development. The updated cumulative author and thematic indices are presented. A very important feature is the presentation of the Charter of the Network of Childhood and Infancy Publications (Redpuni), created in Monterrey in the framework of the Second World Congress and Ninth International Meeting in Early and Pre-School Education, where directors, editors and administrators of journals and publications in childhood and youth, from American institutions and countries, as well as from the Iberian Peninsula, agreed to create this network and where our journal became the coordinator along with the Junji network from Chile.

This number also contains the conclusions from the Second World Congress and Ninth International Meeting in Early and Pre-School Education: Professional Formation and Development of Teachers and Education Agents, held in Monterrey, Mexico; from September 23 to 25, 2009.

Another document that we socialize with our readers is the Quito Declaration, “Better opportunities for the youngsters of the Americas: rethinking secondary education” signed by the Ministers of Education of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), who met in Quito from August 12 to 14, 2009, on the occasion of the Sixth Latin American Meeting of Ministers of Education.

A summary about the history and activities in favor of education

in their country of the Centers for Child Development of the “Tierra y Libertad” Popular Front of Monterrey, Mexico, is also included.

Finally, we are presenting the program of the Third International Congress in Occupational Health, “Psychosocial Factors, to Research to Transform”, a co-edition of the Center for Advanced Studies in Childhood and Youth of the University of Manizales- CINDE Alliance and Siglo del Hombre Editores.

As far as here, one more sample of the academic, research and editorial production from the great community of the workers in social sciences, childhood and youth, which, once more, shows the force, élan and growth of research in Latin America. It also shows the impact generated by the visibilization achieved thanks to effort of all the people participating in this project with the aim to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of boys, girls and youths of our countries.

The Director-Editor

**Héctor Fabio Ospina Serna**