

INSTITUTE OF IBEROAMERICAN STUDIES Göteborg University

The Institute of Iberoamerican Studies, originally established in 1939, now promotes and coordinates teaching and research on Latin America in the humanities and social sciences at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Institute's Library has several valuable special collections which makes it one of the major documentation centres on Latin America in northern Europe. The activities at the Institute include a research training programme at Ph.D. level in collaboration with the Department of History, an undergraduate area-study programme with courses at basic and intermediate level, international cooperation in Nordic, European and Latin American contexts as well as the publication of a series of reports. The Institute organizes workshops, seminars and conferences on a range of issues and acts as a forum for students and staff interested in Latin America. Research activities have expanded considerably in recent years and projects dealing with citizenship, ethnicity and gender have been initiated.

Research profile

The research focuses on contemporary problems viewed in historical perspective. The basic objective is to promote innovative research on Latin America and, in particular multidisciplinary research with a comparative and long-range orientation. The research activity consists of a limited number of thematic research programmes devoted to research of a multidisciplinary nature important to the advancement of relevant knowledge on Latin America. When examining the feasibility of a Swedish institute for advanced research on the Latin American countries, five requirements predominate. These are highlighted by the following points that, at the same time, constitute objectives for our institutional development:

- * *Continuity*: the decision to set up a limited number of thematic research programmes was influenced by this need.
- * *International cooperation*: we aim at strengthening the Institute's participation in international collaborative efforts.

- * *Innovative and relevant research*: theoretical reflection rooted in and stimulated by a concern for important societal problems - free from short-range policy concerns - forms the basis for the Institute's research efforts.
- * *Comparative and historical approach*: one of the defining characteristics of the Institute's research activities is a commitment to research with a comparative and historical dimension.
- * *Multidisciplinarity*: the Institute sees it as an important task to promote and strengthen empirically and theoretically motivated multidisciplinary research.

Major Research Projects

These concepts and criteria become visible in research projects with the emphasis on citizenship, ethnicity and gender. The projects dealing with these issues are briefly presented below.

Andean Agrarian Structures in the 20th Century: Argentinean, Colombian and Peruvian Case Studies

Three Ph.D. research students are active in this research project, led by the Director, that aims at making the Andean agrarian structures intelligible through case studies' approach. The theoretical and methodological basis for the study was laid down by Roland Anrup in a series of articles published between 1982-1996. Birgitta Genberg's dissertation is a comparative study of haciendas in the south of Peru, which forms part of the SAREC-financed project "The Evolution of Agrarian Structures in Cuzco". The subject of Maria Clara Medina's doctoral work deals with forms of articulation of social relations during the break-up of the hacienda structure in north-west Argentina. Renzo Ramirez' doctoral work, that has also received SAREC support, concerns the evolution of labour systems in a central Colombian coffee region.

Ethnicity and Power in Urban Contexts: Social Control and Social Closure in Latin American Ports

This SAREC supported project is run by the Director of the Institute with the participation of two Ph.D. candidates from Göteborg University and one from the University of Turin. The objective is to study the emergence of distinctive social and cultural patterns related to ethnicity and gender in the ports of Cartagena in Colombia and Guayaquil in Ecuador. The project is an attempt to provide an analysis of the role of racial ideology in intercultural context and social practices and to trace the intricate interplay between hegemonic constraints and modes of resistance to them. The main issues are:

- * to what extent the co-existence of ethnic and socio-culturally differentiated groups intensifies the demand for social control mechanisms and tends to create different forms of social closure and exclusion.
- * in what ways ethnic group closure provides a means of defending privileged positions and coincides with differential disposition over wealth, material and immaterial goods.
- * how gender relations are differentially structured within the different ethnic groups.
- * how different ethnic and social groups have tried to detach themselves from each other by raising different kinds of barriers to mark the boundaries between them.
- * the stereotypes, prejudices, mythologies and mutual images held by the various socio-ethnic groups.

Citizenship and National Identity in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador

Three Ph.D. candidates and a graduate student are working under the leadership of the Director. This research ultimately seeks to provide a framework for reappraising the question of democracy based on the

challenges entailed in political contexts where the idea of citizenship as an individual and collective mechanism for producing and sustaining democratic modes for articulating societal coexistence traditionally, has been weak or virtually absent from the collective ethos. The project analyses the role of citizenship as a national identity and the ideas and values that form the basis of Latin American post colonial culture.

Vicente Oieni (supported by SAREC) and Teresa Rosso are researching into the formative years of the Argentine republic. Guillermo Sosa is carrying out doctoral work on Colombian citizenship, national integration and territorial rights. Roland Anrup has, so far, published two articles on Colombia and Ecuador on the subjects of national integration, power symbolism and discursive struggles in politics. Anrup and Oieni are publishing a thematic issue of *Anales* No. 3 dedicated to citizenship and nation.

Women's Urban and Rural Movements: Towards a New Type of Citizenship and Political Culture in Mexico Today

This SAREC-supported project led by Edmé Domínguez and with the participation of the Mexican researcher Inés Castro, focuses on the role women's organizations have in the transformation of the Mexican political system. It studies women's participation in some of the civic organizations that have arisen since the end of the 80s in the urban areas and compares them with the participation of indigenous women in other organizations in the countryside. The latter concentrates on the evolution of Maya women's demands in Chiapas within the Zapatistas' ranks and in other indigenous organizations.

This project raises the following questions: Democratization and citizenship: What do these women understand about citizenship, political democratization and democracy? Gender: Does political participation contribute to structural changes in society in the private/public sphere with regard to gender relations? Ethnicity, class, generation: Who are these women? The aim is to look for a new alternative political culture and to find a theoretical framework that explains the relationship between feminism-democratization-citizenship-social movements and social change in a context of transition such as the one Mexico is experiencing today.

Chilean Discourses in the 19th Century

Las letras chilenas 1810-1879

Director of the project: Carlos Foresti

Participants: Alvaro Foresti, Eva Löfquist, María Clara Medina

By studying an extensive selection of novels and newspaper articles from the period, the project has reconstructed the codes of conduct that dominate the epoch. The primary aim of this interdisciplinary study has been to decide which function the texts had in society, i.e., if they were for or against the predominating system and which ideologies dominated the society at the time. During 1999 the project is going to publish a book on the narrative techniques of the time.

La mujer perfecta: un modelo ideal reflejado en el discurso chileno del siglo XIX

Director of the project: Eva Löfquist

Participant: María Clara Medina

An 18th century woman in Chile is subordinated to a system of social codes dictated by men. In the discourse of the epoch the ideal image of the “perfect” woman emerges clearly; an obedient daughter, a devoted wife and a good mother. The main questions are: where, how, by whom and for whom is this image constructed? Does the discourse about the woman imply any transgressions and if so, does it suggest any basic changes or just superficial ones?

Research seminars

The results of the above mentioned research projects form the basis for discussion at the interdisciplinary research seminars held on a weekly basis by the Director. Theoretical and methodological questions form the backbone of the seminars which are intended as a forum to discuss the work of the Ph.D. candidates, the staff and the guest researchers; occasionally guest lectures are given. The twelve research students whose theses are being supervised by the Director form the main body of participation.

The seminars are organized as a series of thematic lectures and presuppose active attendance by the participants. The main activity is to explore the problems of ethnicity, citizenship and gender: it has for example dealt with ethnic relations in Colombia and Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico, the conditions for women's participation in Mexico, the evolution of citizenship in Uruguay, education and citizenship in Colombia. In addition to empirical cases, the seminars have discussed recent theoretical contributions on the debate on citizenship, democratization and gender issues.

Anales

Final results from the seminar series are published in the Institute's academic journal – *Anales*. A thematic issue on "Ethnicity and Gender", edited by Roland Anrup and Edmé Domínguez has been published. This is a collection of 10 articles from different disciplinary perspectives including anthropology, history, international relations, literature and sociology. A thematic issue on "Citizenship and Nation: conceptual and rhetorical perspectives" is being edited by Roland Anrup and Vicente Oieni. It includes articles based on research carried out at the Institute as well as by affiliated researchers in this field. In this way we disseminate the work of research projects and/or the research seminar.

New Research Programme

A new research programme *Citizenship, Nation, Multiculturalism and Related Socio-political Concepts in a Comparative Perspective in Latin America* is in the initial stages. The relevance of such an undertaking which provides detailed information about key shifts in the vocabularies of politics, government, society and development, is evident. The findings of such an undertaking will clarify our understanding of the present situation and provide us with a clearer view of the concepts we use to think about politics and society.

Nordic Network of Research on Women in Latin America: Haina

By fulfilling the goals of promoting innovative research on the Latin American countries, the Institute strongly emphasizes its role as a stimulus and a resource for scholars and students with similar interests at Swedish universities. Thus, the Institute strives to operate as a national institution with links to all Swedish universities.

One important example of the Institute's coordinating role is the Nordic Network of Research on Women in Latin America: *Haina* for researchers working on gender issues in Latin America. The network is coordinated by Edmé Domínguez, Eva Löfquist and María Clara Medina. The purpose is to identify the research projects being carried out in the Nordic countries and exchange information between the Nordic researchers and those in Latin America. A first workshop was organized in May 1997 (supported by Göteborg University and SAREC) and conference papers were published, and a second workshop took place in Stockholm in May 1998 (supported by FRN). A newsletter is edited and sent through the network twice every semester and information can also be found on the Internet under the Institute's home page. Future plans include:

- * organizing meetings-workshops once or twice a year. Interest shown by researchers all over the Nordic countries confirms the need for continuity.
- * compiling a newsletter for the network on a bi-monthly basis with information about the network, publications, vacant positions, funds, international conferences and other events.

International Collaboration

Links to similar institutions abroad and contacts with research centres and universities in the area itself are of great importance to an area study institute like ours. The Institute is the Swedish counterpart to the "Euroamerican encounters" organized by the "Instituto Complutense de América Latina" in Madrid. It also maintains contacts with area-institutes in Great Britain (Cambridge, Liverpool and London), and Germany (Hamburg and Erlangen-Nürnberg). In Latin America, links are

maintained with several universities, especially intensive are the contacts in the cases of Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

España y Suecia: sus relaciones históricas

Director of the project: Magnus Mörner

A joint programme with the Universidad Complutense, Madrid that coordinates several research projects on the relations between Sweden and Spain throughout history beginning with the pilgrimages in the medieval period up to present-day tourism. A major international symposium on “*Modernity and Modernisation in Spain and Sweden*” is presently being prepared.

Undergraduate courses on Latin America

The Institute offers undergraduate courses at basic and intermediate levels. From the autumn of 1999 there will also be a course at advanced level. The purpose of the courses is to give the students a basic knowledge of the history, culture and the current situation in Latin America. Special emphasis is given to social movements and processes of democratization based on research in these areas carried out at the Institute. The courses are multidisciplinary, inspired by a comparative approach and based on recent research findings.

The Library

The library specializes in literature in Spanish and Portuguese about and from the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. It houses 40 000 volumes and about 115 current journals. The emphasis of the collection is on humanities and social sciences. It is run by a qualified librarian with expert knowledge in this field and provides a specialized service to researchers and students working on Latin America. Acquisitions have been registered in LIBRIS, the database of specialized libraries and university libraries in Sweden since 1981, and to date almost one-third part of the collection is searchable through Göteborg University Library’s database GUNDA/IDA, <http://www.ub.gu.se>.

PUBLICATIONS SINCE 1998

Roland Anrup

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