Editorial

Monographic International Migrations: Incorporation processes in Ibero-America

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Como referenciar la editorial:

From the last decade of the 20th century until now, there has been a considerable increase in global and intraregional migration flows (IOM 2015; UNDP 2009.) In the world, there would be more than 270 million of international migrants (United Nations, 2019), increasing their political, economic and cultural relevance. Not only have migratory flows grown in size and diversity, but they have also become the center of debates on public policy, human rights and social inclusion. Likewise, xenophobia, racism and discrimination have accompanied and overshadowed these processes. Latin America has not been exempt from these trends and concerns (housing, employment, health, education, among others), increasing displacement within the region significantly in recent years (Martínez and Orrego, 2016), being Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Chile, the countries that currently concentrate the greatest immigration flow at the regional level. On the other hand, since the 1990s, Spain has played an important role as a...
country of arrival for Latin Americans, the same as Portugal in the case of Brazilians (Padilla, 2009.) This new socio-spatial reality, dynamic and complex, raises multiple challenges, lectures and valuations around multicultural coexistence and social development in the receiving cities, calling the interest of the social sciences in Ibero-America, which has translated into a greater number of research projects, specialization courses, study centers and national and international interregional and transatlantic collaboration that reflect on migration, coexistence and social integration. These changes have led former emigration countries to become migration destinations (Spain and Portugal; Mexico), and conversely, that old immigration destinations (Venezuela) have become expellers of immigrants (Gissi, Ghio and Silva, 2019), or that host both emigration and immigration, reality that became evident in the Iberian Peninsula during the last world crisis (Padilla and Ortiz 2012) or in the new migratory context in Latin America (Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil), currently very marked by the Venezuelan exodus. Inclusively, it has become evident how political and electoral processes increasingly influence immigration (França and Padilla, 2018), for example, in the last two years, the growth of Brazilian migration to Portugal has accelerated, reaching an increase in 43% from 2018 to 2019.

South-North and South-South migratory flows, and even North-South, are due to both external and internal factors of the countries, where the processes of attraction and expulsion are relevant, as well as those of globalization (Padilla, 2009.) The latest international economic crises and neopopulist (example Venezuela) and neoconservative (example Colombia) political regimes have as a background the globalizing processes of the last four decades, in particular, the neoliberal structural reform that consolidated the world-system and global capitalism in a postcolonial historical context and the international and sexual division of labor (Wallerstein, 2007; Canales, 2015.) These macro phenomena, products of an export-oriented development model, have generated a new social “metabolism” that destabilizes space and cultural reproduction, generating a “tide that lifts all boats” (Portes and Roberts, 2005, p. 25), weakening social contracts and protection mechanisms, which were already fragile in many countries, and increasing asymmetries between countries and regions, and inequalities within each society, tending to increase risks, social exclusion and poverty (Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, 2012), as well as encouraging the imagination and desire of individuals and their families (Appadurai, 2001.)

This political and economic instability in Ibero-America has led to a new attitude towards
the benefits and risks of mobility (Douglas and Wildavsky, 1983), establishing large movements towards destination countries where the State provides greater security (Solimano, 2008), causing also changes in the immigration legislation of historically receiving countries worldwide, such as the United States, prone to a greater immigration control (Sassen 2015; Portes 2012), especially with the new migrations of refugees and the greater border controls implemented by President Trump In the USA.

On the other hand, the migratory processes and legislation of the countries of the Iberian peninsula have varied in the last 30 years, sometimes becoming more friendly and sometimes less, in relation to the evolution of migratory flows, 2006 being a key year given the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), which focused its efforts on border control and the fight against irregular immigration, intercepting migrants especially from Africa, which led to the continent being baptized as the “Fortress Europe.”

The cases of Spain and Portugal, countries that have historically been known for emigration, began to receive immigrant populations from the 1990s onwards, but with the 2008 crisis, they experienced emigration processes again. In Spain, in times of the Popular Party, immigration openness was restricted, where even the ultra-right has gained ground, with anti-immigration parties; question that is configuring a base of negative meanings around migrations in which the image of the immigrant appears (Aliaga, 2008) as a “scapegoat” (Aliaga, 2014), bearing the blame for the problems of society.

As a consequence, in terms of migrant reception, new axes of production of locality and subjectivity have been generated, through new objects, political forms and social behaviors, which have caused a change in migratory trajectories and destinations, as well as in the processes of incorporation and social exclusion, an issue that is reflected in Ibero-America as a whole.

In this regard, in this monograph we have nine chapters that illustrate these new realities in the Ibero-American space. In the text by Yulianela Pérez García, “State and migration: the reflection of policies in the external mobility of Cubans”, she realizes how Cuban external migration faces the challenges of a gradual dynamism, the diversification of its currents, the complexification of their motivations and the deepening of the links between migrants and their country of origin, being the normative activity of the Cuban State fundamental in these transformations, trying to control the migratory potential and neutralize its socioeconomic impact,
influencing, among other elements, in diversifying expressions of migration and modifying flows, once they are adapted to the opportunities offered by the national normative political framework.

In the chapter written by Wooldy Edson Louidor, “Traces of Post-Earthquake Haitian Migration,” he describes the traces of the migrant movements of Haitians throughout America after the earthquake of January 12, 2010, as well as the traces of the disastrous impacts of hostile migration policies from transit and destination countries on these migrants, particularly at the borders. From the reconstruction of the two categories, traces and trappings, taken from Édouard Glissant and Severo Sarduy respectively, and from the hermeneutic reading of a corpus of texts published from 2010 to 2019 on post-earthquake Haitian migration, the article evidences the heterogeneity of it from a double perspective, geographic and political-legal.

Jenny Moreno’s text, “Public policies for the integration of immigrants. Successes and failures in Venezuela”, outlines the policies of care for immigrants in Venezuela from 1989 to the present, through documentary analysis of scientific texts and newspaper articles. This paper describes the politics of immigrants from 1989 to 2003; it refers to the period of President Hugo Chávez that marks a differentiation with the rest of the presidential periods; it analyzes the social policies called missions that were born in 2003 and that remain until today, where the identity mission stands out, aimed at providing legal documentation to migrants arriving in Venezuela, it performs a detailed review of the legal framework and finally it describes the current situation.

The chapter written by Donna Catalina Cabrera Serrano and Stéphanie López Villamil, “Policies for the labor insertion of Colombian migrants returned between 2012 and 2018”, analyzes the coordination between migration policies and measures in labor matters for the returned population in Colombia since the approval of the 2012 Law of Return. It considers the context of emigration and return in Colombia, including the participation of the returned population in the jobs of the host countries, as well as the recent dynamics of the labor market in the country, understanding some structural factors such as unemployment and informality and the need to consider these aspects in the design of a proposal for socioeconomic integration for returnees. The main proposed interventions in employability and entrepreneurship are listed, and a detailed analysis of the management reports submitted by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and
Labor for the study period is carried out to demonstrate the existence of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms.

The chapter written by Leonardo Cavalcanti, Lorena Pereda, Marília de Macêdo and Tânia Tonhati analyzes the responses of the Brazilian State for the case of Haitian migration in Brazil. The formulation of the Migration Law (13,445 / 2017) allows the regulated entry of Haitian immigrants into national territory, however, through the qualitative study carried out in the Immigration and economic crisis investigation. The formulation of the Migration Law (13,445 / 2017) allows the regulated entry of Haitian immigrants into national territory; however, through the qualitative study carried out in the “Immigration and economic crisis, return migration from Haiti and circularity tactics research”, in Brasilia and Curitiba during 2018-2019, it was found that the integration structures and mechanisms did not develop at the same rhythm as the flow management rules, being a challenge for migration policy makers in Brazil.

On the other hand, the chapter written by Juan Carlos Rodríguez Torrent and Nicolás Gissi Barbieri, “Haitian Migration in Santiago de Chile: Expulsions, Imaginations and Social Insertion in a Neoliberal Nation-State”, argues that Haitian migration anthropologically questions the idea of spatial limits, temporal and Chilean identities, offering various planes from the perspective of the Haitian migrant on the possibility of overcoming the barriers they face in a neoliberal society. In this text, through fieldwork and in-depth interviews, Haitian migration in Chile is analyzed, including from the subjectivities, their vulnerable relationships they establish with the different actors with whom they interact in daily life and the role they play in gradual transformation of social and labor spaces.

The text written by Beatriz Padilla and Thais França, “Three decades later ... the evolution of the policies of incorporation of immigrants in Portugal: a new reading”, discusses the evolution of the Portuguese policies of incorporation of immigrants, from the 1980s to the current legislation of 2018. It is argued that, although progress has been made, there is no solid, continuous and coherent strategy on the part of the Portuguese State. Specifically, two types of incorporation policies are addressed to argue that, while great advances were made in access to nationality policies, progress in anti-discrimination legislation has been less accentuated, and this could be interpreted as an expression of institutional racism anchored in ancient colonial imaginaries.

The chapter written by Antonia Olmos Alcaraz, “Analysis of some vectors on international
migration in Spain: educational integration and integration policies under debate”, analyzes the Spanish migration management, on which the current multicultural society is being built in the country, understanding the integration processes as unidirectional dynamics that operate in different spheres of reality (educational, work spaces, etc.) and that go from the majority society to the rest of society. An analysis of a multilevel (community, state and regional-local) and sectoral nature is carried out (highlighting educational incorporation.)

Finally, the essay by Felipe Aliaga Sáez, “Theoretical approach to the integration of immigrants at three levels: understanding, adaptation and inclusion”, analyzes from a sociological perspective the integration of immigrants at three levels: through the emergence of a scheme understanding of individuals; adaptation to artifacts and processes; and inclusion in the basic functional systems of society. The essay seeks to propose a new thesis on integration, through analysis and conceptual articulation from various authors (P. Bourdieu, A. Giddens, A. Schütz, M. Walzer, Ch. Taylor, among others.)

REFERENCIAS


