

INTRODUCTION

Once presented the general context in which the Fifth South-South Summer Institute about Rethinking Development occurred, as well as the trajectory of some the South-South debate and particularly of the present initiative, one last word must be said about the thematic coherence of the articles presented here. Along with our shared understanding of the trajectory and last developments of our conference's theme: Global and Regional Alternatives for the Development in the South, previously presented, we can now proceed to an explanatory note on its relation with the articles which compose the present volume. We expect to explain some of the rationale used to select, group and guide the debates over the papers presented in the conference and regrouped here.

The search of development, or at least of the path of development has been one of the central characterizing elements of the modern history of the global south. Concomitant with political and social transformations which occurred as secondary process, the history of many of these countries can be summarized as a societal enterprise in search of economic development. Nevertheless, the basis of such affirmations are constantly challenged. The very

concepts on which they rely are matters of frequent debate. Here we have tried to bring a different perspective on these theoretical frameworks and on the analysis which derive from them.

The very concept of “development” has been subject to much debate, as argues the article by Workineh Kelbessa – Rethinking Development: The Need for Ethics in Development Theory and Practice – which states that “development theorists have been preoccupied with social and economic concerns, and ignored human and environmental well-being”. In the same way, the article by Rogério Gimenes Giugliano – Space and development: a non-hegemonic view – questions the validity of the mainstream concept of “development” as “the hegemonic flux that has its origins in the northern actor” arguing that “progress and change can also be the result of non-hegemonic relations and fluxes”.

Not only the concept of development has been subject to controversies, but the presumed path that leads to it has assumed the form of various procedures and recipes. Both academically and empirically the so-called path for development has known all kinds of theories, ideologies, and collective enterprises. Globally, we can call this quest for development one of the motivators for collective experiments and many of its most exotic forms were seen in the global south. Some of these paths are addressed in pieces such as Dedy Permadi’s “The Decline of Neo-Liberalism and the Rise of Neo-Keynesianism: A Conceptual Analysis”, as well as in ‘Jose Francisco Puello-Socarras’ “A brief history of anti-neoliberalism: South American Political Economy and Development Paradigms in the XXI Century”.

The debate over these so-called paths for development is discussed through a southern perspective, and serves as a preparatory theoretical debate for the following agenda of discussion contained in

the three volumes of the *Ciência & Trópico Journal*. This discussion integrates most of the papers, either as a secondary or underlying matter, or as a constant theme. Those considerations also go much beyond theoretical paradigms. It all happens in the midst of the pragmatic concerns of governmental decisions and human relations that permeate the academic debates. It is precisely to address these particularities that the selection of articles goes beyond theoretical discussions, bringing about a number of empirical cases of the international scenario.

Broader analysis papers such as “La Diplomacia de los Pueblos, relaciones internacionales alternativas desde el Sur” (Karla Diaz Martinez, Venezuela), “African perspective on the crisis of global capitalism” (Demba Moussa Dembele, Senegal), and “El rol de IBSA (Índia, Brasil y Sudáfrica) en El sistema internacional contemporáneo: ¿Qué tipo de desarrollo y para quién?” (Clarisa Giaccaglia, Argentina), help build a new analytic framework based on the perspective of the excluded global south. They bring important contributions by revisiting different established pieces of knowledge through the incorporation of excluded actors and cases which introduce a new perspective on accepted truths.

The geographical diversity of the authors and of case-studies was also an important variable in conforming the whole of the debate. An effort was made, not only to include a great variety of countries and regions, but also to emphasize on locations repeatedly excluded from the global debate. A particular African perspective on development was also emphasized through articles such as: “Toward an African-ecological education: an alternative strategy for the development of Sub-Saharan African countries” (Fatoumata Keita, Mali), “How political regime and trade liberalization help to rethink development in Central Africa: Empirical evidence” (Gérard

Tchouassi, Camaroon), and “Perspectives from the Contested Terrains of Africa: Intellectualism, Development and Social Movements” (Siphesihle Dumisa, Sudafrica).

Finally, a theme that could not escape our discussion is related to regional integration. One of the main controversies in development theories, regional organizations and common-market initiatives are a recurring subject in many of the articles presented at the Summer Course Fifth South-South Summer Institute. There is a wide range of perspectives: from revisiting the classical dependency theory which guided much of the regional integration processes in Latin-America to papers that discuss the relation between the new economic paradigms and the established knowledge on integration. The Latin-American experience is particularly emphasized in articles such as “Los condicionantes hegemónicos sobre las alternativas regionales de desarrollo en el Sur. El caso del MERCOSUR y las perspectivas del ALBA y la UNASUR” (Victoria Mutti, Argentina) and “Los desafíos de una agenda regional para el desarrollo. Hacia un sistema social de innovación en el MERCOSUR: el caso del diseño industrial” (Luciano Borgoglio, Argentina).

Other themes, as security, religion, democratization, inequality, culture and their mutual dialogue as well as their relation with the concept of development are included, not only through the variety of cases covered, but also through the variety of expressions they assume in the diversity of regions of the global south. Some of these subjects emerge in pieces such as “Desarrollo participativo en la sociedad cubana actual: repensando los gobiernos municipales como principal actor para el desarrollo, desde um estúdio de caso” (Hans Carrillo Guach, Cuba), “Market Led Agrarian Reform in the Global South: Histories, Issues and Prospects” (Mark Stevenson Curry, Filipinas), “Linking Development with Security in the Global South?

An introduction to the Security Sector Reform” (Mathias Valdez Duffau, Japon), and “Política industrial, La experiência boliviana” (Roberto del Barco Gamarra, México) when they present through specific experiences a new look at the theoretical constructions of the development debate.

The present edition of the *Ciência & Trópico Journal* tries to establish some theoretical ground to subsidize the discussion of current events and empirical cases on the matters proposed by the Fifth South-South Summer Institutes. Bearing that in mind, three main sets of articles can be identified. First, it is established a theoretical approach to the bases of development theory and to many of its marginal but inseparable subjects, always adopting an alternative southern perspective. A second group of papers can be classified as aiming at broader international analysis and generalizations, also trying to convey the international scenario through the south’s standpoint. Finally, the last set of articles deals with specific case-studies to identify the particularities of dynamics which are well known so often studied in the global north, and frequently ignored in the south.

Even though many, if not most, of the articles contained in this journal were not mentioned in this brief foreword, once all of the three numbers of the *Ciência & Trópico Journal* contributed to build a broader spectrum of the south-south debate. We never meant any statement on the quality or importance of any of the works that were, or were not, mentioned. All the papers were carefully chosen for their academic quality and relevance to the overall debate. Nevertheless, it was beyond the objectives of this explanatory note to detain itself in the particulars of each paper, but rather try to draw the picture of how they fit in the broader debate as well as how they discuss with each other.

Concluding this foreword, we expect to attain the objective of composing a piece in which different views were introduced into the broader mainstream of the South-South. It is relevant to highlight that, for Joaquim Nabuco Foundation, this event was extremely important for an institution that contributes to the dissemination of scientific, plural and interdisciplinary knowledge for the international context.

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