

Serna, Miguel, University of the Republic, Uruguay

What can Latin American Sociology of Development Explain about Cultural Regional Pattern?

The sociology of development was one of the most important specialized areas of Latin American sociology in the sixties and seventies to understand the trends and social challenges of Latin American societies. However, during the nineties the sociology of development had a paradoxical transformation. On the one hand, sociological development was replaced by the hegemony of theoretical economic thinking. On the other hand, development issues were taken up in the agenda of international agencies, especially from human development theory. The crisis of the so-called Washington consensus and reconversion of international agencies at the beginning of the new millennium triggers the renewal of development perspectives. The new perspectives highlight the role of the cultural capital and citizenship for development trends.

The paper reviews issues and differences between modernization theories, (ECLAC) structuralism, dependency theories, world system, action theory, Washington consensus and human development. Comparative perspective discusses different hypothesis about relation between cultural factors and economical development. Furthermore, the paper argue for include the role of cultural variables and social actors to explain the different regional development pattern in front of the globalization contemporary processes.