SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN LATIN AMERICA

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Days: Tuesday, Noon – 3

Course Description

The Solidarity Economy movement in the Latin America arose from the crisis of the labor market in this region after the 1980s. The movement has been seeking alternatives forms of socioeconomic survival for the unemployed and people marginalized from the formal labor market, including Afro-descendants and indigenous groups. Some examples of these alternatives are cooperative enterprise, solidarity currency, coalitions of popular entrepreneurship, microfinance to communities, and solidarity collateral.

The course will debate the content of this movement, its past origin and recent history, and some current problems regarding public policy. Issues addressed in the course include: cooperative movement history, socioeconomic rationality of popular entrepreneurship, community development, microfinancing, and alternative forms of production based on the principle of the solidarity.

Required reading (subject to change)


AGHION, A; MORDUCH, J. - The economics of microfinance. Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2010, 2nd Ed.

BURKE, B – “Para que cambiemos” / “So we can (ex)change”: economic activism and socio-cultural change in the Barter system of Medellín, Colombia. University of Arizona, 2012, (Dissertation in Anthropology, 386 p.)


PAPAVASILIOU, F – The political economy of local currency: alternative money, alternative development and collective action in the age of globalization. Emory University, (Dissertation in Anthropology, 320 p.)


YUNNUS, M - Bank to the poor. Aurum Press

Course Requirements

Grading for this class will be based on:
Participation (10%)
Weekly reaction papers (20%)
Class presentation/Leading discussion (20%)
Final research paper (50%)