

## PRESENTATION



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**E**ver since the end of World War II until the recent widespread capitalist crisis, the concept of development has followed a diversity of theoretical, political and institutional paths. The issue, however, has not always been under debate and the search for alternatives meant to improve general human living conditions has not been constant. The dominant approach to development is backed by the substantial geopolitical and economic interests of capitalist powers that, during this time, have implemented strategic responses to recurring crises, the presumed expansion of communism, or the desired international expansion of large corporations. Some development theories have served as an ideological alibi that preserves the interests of dominant capitalism and, nowadays, this role is fulfilled by neoliberal thought and its numerous theoretical and institutional expressions.

At the same time, a number of intellectual and social efforts have been made to structure new forms of thought and social practice that can lead to development alternatives that benefit the majority of the population. Latin American structuralism and dependency theories are an example of this, but these approaches were suffocated by the neoliberal counter-revolution and its structural adjustment reforms, market economy and globalization, all of which were supposed to bring a new era of progress and a crystallization of history. In this view, alternative modes of development or ideas that did not contemplate the construction of a total market were rendered senseless.

Internal and international migration were considered a necessary step that would incorporate excluded populations into market dynamics. Globalization and its promise of modernity were highly attractive to peasants, the poor and the marginalized. New communication and information technologies facilitated migration, and migrants who settled in the prosperous centers of global capitalism were seen as emissaries of development: they would take new, assimilated concepts, behaviors, consumption patterns and entrepreneurial ideas back home. Because of this, they would sooner or later become a transformative force in



their places of origin. In fact, migration was often portrayed as the «human face of globalization» and migrants became the «new heroes of development.»

Today, the systemic crisis suffered by global capitalism threatens human reproduction on several levels and demands a new, alternative approach to development. Neoliberalism has lost its credibility and legitimacy, even though the interests it represents remain in place and, during the current crisis, are faced with an opportunity to retrieve their power through economic downsizing, something that will further increase global inequalities and asymmetries.

We must rethink the world using critical or alternative approaches that can accommodate a variety of voices and forms of thought while suggesting new strategies and practices. The challenge is enormous, since it is not enough to reveal the causes behind the recurring crises, lack of social sustainability, inequalities and asymmetries that characterize our current world; we must also promote new forms of social organization and new political practices that, rather than damage the planet and the human population, can implement commendable, more harmonious and humane working and living conditions.

This issue of *Migration and Development* brings together five articles that analyze, from different points of view, recent changes in the theory and practice of development. This is necessary in order to understand the dynamics of this new type of migration—that is, population mobility as a consequence of neoliberal globalization.

In the first paper, Henry Veltmeyer provides a panoramic view on development and some elements with which to approach its study as well as concepts related to the social, economic and political contexts. In the second article, Ronaldo Munck highlights some analytical approaches to critical development theory which, under the concepts of postmodernism and postdevelopment, open up new areas of study such as gender, environment, and culture. Next, Humberto Márquez proposes we dismantle conventional views on migration and development and substitute them with a critical approach that reconstructs the dialectic between unequal development, forced migration, and salary-based remittances. In the fourth paper, Jaime Osorio reflects on the paradoxical forms of exclusion and inclusion assigned by capital to the so-called redundant population (including migrants) in the fields of production, consumption and politics. Finally, Branka Likic-Brboric analyzes the incorporation of Eastern European countries into the European Union via the penetration of corporate capital interested in exploiting cheap workforce, along with the challenges this posits to the decent work agenda.

Our section The Voice of Actors reproduces the Bogotá Declaration issued during the Second International Forum on Migration and Peace, while Juncture and Debate presents Fernando Lozano, Luis Huesca and Marcos Valdivia's estimate on the contribution of Mexican migrants' remittances to Mexico's public resources via VAT related payments.



Overall, the present issue offers ideas and suggestions with which to rethink development and its state in the intricate dynamics of neoliberal globalization, and understand the role played by migrations in this context.

The publication of this issue has been made possible by Fondos Mixtos (FOMIX) CONACYT-GODEZAC under the project ZAC-2007-CO1-81717, and the additional support of the Autonomous University Zacatecas and the McArthur and Ford Foundations.

