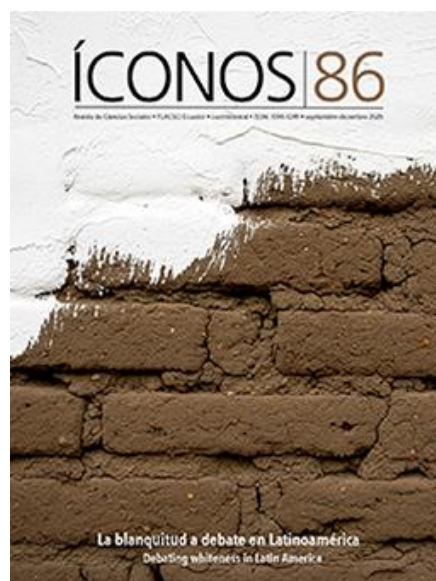


ÍCONOS
Revista de Ciencias Sociales

CALL FOR PAPERS

DEBATING WHITENESS IN LATIN AMERICA



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In Latin America, the study of race, ethnicity, and discrimination, as well as blackness, Indigeneity, and racism/anti-racism, has been a constant from diverse fields of knowledge production over a long period, from the colony to the world of today. In this general scenario, studies stand out from countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and Colombia in the 1970s and, in particular, the contributions from sociologist Aníbal Quijano, who addresses the historic relation between the notion of race and the conquest of the Americas. However, the specific questions regarding the racial configuration of whiteness, its genealogies in Latin America, and the forms in which it operates in our contemporary realities have taken time to emerge, although they have been latent in the study of social-historical processes regarding *mestizaje*, *criollismo*, and racial democracy.

In effect, in national contexts characterized by *mestizaje* as an official narrative, criticisms arise that refer to the place of whiteness in processes of racial differentiation from an apparent neutrality. Analyses that highlight the inclination towards whiteness in *mestizaje* proposals are well known, as are associations between *criollismo* and whitening and the unmasking of racial democracy as a whitening project. Although in these debates whiteness is present, it is overshadowed by various intersecting issues, and it is not possible to explore it in depth. By contrast, the author Bolívar Echeverría explicitly studies whiteness as the ethos that shapes an economic modernization project in the West, reflecting a turn at the beginning of the 21st century at which point the question of whiteness was formulated in a clear way.

Certainly, for a little more than ten years, we have witnessed a boom in Latin America in the study of what many call whiteness, but which has other denominations – in singular or plural, according to regional debates: *blanquitudes*, *blanquidad*, *blancura*, *blanqueamiento*, *branquitude*, *branquidade*, referring to the plurality of whitenesses and whiteness as an identity, aesthetic, process, lived experience, and structure, respectively. In this framework, diverse perspectives have arisen on the issue. Some propose the intersectional analysis of the privilege that whiteness entails as a systemic process that operates in everyday life and has affective, cultural, and material roots; others emphasize whiteness as a social practice, an identity, or an ideal promoted discursively as a value that must be preserved by those who possess it and that must be achieved by those who do not have it; while others highlight the understanding of it as race and its relation with the creation of significant material, socioeconomic, cultural, affective, and moral inequalities.

We find ourselves, therefore, in the consolidation of a field of interdisciplinary research that develops situated and intersectional readings with its own theoretical and methodological tools for creating original debates on whiteness in the search of definitions, genealogies, ways of operating, and resistances. In this context, the objective of this issue is to contribute to the consolidation of studies of whiteness and/or whitenesses through relevant and situated debates on historical, sociological, and cultural reflections that offer a comparative vision of the experience of whiteness in Latin America. We seek to privilege methodological issues that can contribute to the understanding of the complex construction of whiteness in our local societies and in the diaspora and to understanding its constant transformation. Thus, this issue strengthens the critical capacity of the scientific community and of antiracist social movements to understand the hierarchical structures of power that are shaped by cultural, ideological, and social structures supported by whiteness and/or whitenesses. We solicit articles that address the following sub-themes:

- **Approaches:** This theme includes articles that consider the historical conditions of possibility of whiteness, as well as differences and approximations among theoretical models that contribute to comparative analysis and to debates within Latin America.
- **Challenges:** This theme is interested in the manifestation and reproduction of whiteness in urban, educational, cultural, media, athletic, aesthetic, religious, and other spaces. We seek analyses of how whiteness structures everyday practices of racial differentiation and its contradictions.
- **Proposals and resistances:** This theme invites reflections on scenarios in which whiteness is interpellated, displaced, or re-signified. It seeks to re-think the relation between critical academia, anti-racist activism, and social transformation. The articles can address the conditions that enable dismantling white privileges or their reproduction under renewed forms. It is expected that

contributions examine symbolic and political disputes regarding the place of whiteness in different contexts.

Articles will be accepted in Spanish, English, or Portuguese; however, selected articles will be published in Spanish. The journal will clarify doubts or contribute to outlining proposals until the beginning of the period of reception of articles.

Articles must respect the editorial policy and publishing norms of the journal (available on www.revistaiconos.ec). A peer-review evaluation system is used for the selection of articles.

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