

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN POST-COLONIALISMS AND CITIZENSHIP

Alternative Globalizations and the Reinvention of Social Emancipation

Teaching Staff

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We will start from the assumption that globalization is not a single and monolithic phenomenon. The concept covers many different and contradictory phenomena. Four main ways of producing globalisation will be identified: globalised localisms, localised globalisms, cosmopolitanism and shared heritage of mankind. The first two ways are hegemonic forms of globalisation and, as such, are at the origin of new forms of global social regulation. The last two ways are counter-hegemonic forms and, as such, point to the possibility of having new forms of social emancipation.

Differentiating hegemonic and counter-hegemonic globalisation will therefore be the main focus of our seminar. In fact, as we enter a post-Washington-Consensus period, neoliberal globalisation faces new alternative forms of globalisation, being the World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre in 2001, 2002 and 2003, and in Mumbai in 2004 a splendid example of it. Throughout the world, socially excluded or vulnerable groups and their allies are developing alternatives to the hegemonic forms of sociability, originating new political cultures and new forms of social and legal activism. Therefore, the exclusion processes are facing new resistance, grassroots initiatives, local organisations, popular movements that join forces to counter social exclusion, opening spaces to democratic participation, to the construction of communities, to the emergence of alternatives to the dominant forms of development and knowledge, in short, to social inclusion.

From these local initiatives and their transnational connections, a new solidary internationalism is emerging, and social emancipation is being reinvented. The seminar will group such initiatives and networks under the following topics: participatory democracy; alternative production systems; emancipatory multiculturalism, human rights and new forms of citizenship; biodiversity, opposing knowledges and intellectual property rights; new labour internationalism.