

LOOKING AT THE COMMONS. METHODOLOGICAL LEARNINGS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE AMERICA-EUROPA.

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Abstract

The literature on the commons is very long and diverse in historiography and social sciences, looking at aspects such as ownership, tenure and distribution. Against the negative judgement expressed by John Locke, Arthur Young or Gaspar-Melchor de Jovellanos, we can find positive opinions from Friedrich Engels, Emile de Laveleye or Joaquín Costa. In some paragraphs of these last authors equity and sustainability seems to appear as compatible. During the second half of the twentieth century, the debate renewed from the Hardin paradigm to the Ostrom paradigm. The last one has made grown a fertile conceptual framework to approach the complexity of the commons. However, new challenges and new perspectives appear from the learnings in the process of bio-cultural construction of the territory. In this context, the commons seems to be an alternative in the taking of decisions about the territory, in the building of peace processes, or in opposing extreme forms of extractive capitalism. Resistance means existence, and the commons could be a lever for social construction at the beginning of the twenty-first century. With this panel proposal, we aim to promote a collaborative reflection on the methodological perspectives that are common to research groups from both sides of the Ocean.

Themes

- Old and new approaches to the commons.
- The commons as idea and as praxis. The historical approach.
- De-colonial perspectives on the community: America.
- Participative research processes on the common territories.