



SAVE THE DATE

IX INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CRITICAL GEOGRAPHIES MÉXICO 2023

Sixteen years ago, Mexico hosted the IV International Conference of Critical Geography (ICCG), organized by Professor Blanca Rebeca Ramírez. This event was a milestone for geographical thought in Latin America, opening and establishing international collaborative networks from perspectives influenced by critical geographies. After Mexico, the ICCG was hosted by Mumbai (2007), Frankfurt (2011), Ramallah (2015), and Athens (2019) (<https://internationalcriticalgeography.org/>), covering several latitudes to reach, find and connect more people with a similar search: conscious and critical openness to a diversity of paths leading to the development of committed geographies. These geographies take part in socio-environmental justice, struggles for recognition and the creation of a pluridiverse and more equal world.

To continue Blanca Ramírez's legacy –a foundational critical geographer both in Mexico and internationally– we emphasize the importance of bringing the ICCG back to Mexico to rehearse our interconnections. This event is firstly organized by GeoBrujas – Community of Geographers, who work in articulation with other colleagues from different locations, mainly Latin America and Spain, to make possible the IX Edition of the International Conference of Critical Geographies.

GeoBrujas is a community of women geographers initiated in 2014 in Mexico, with the purpose of providing a critical perspective on the patriarchal verticalities and academicism predominant in universities. This allowed us to notice that our dreams and politics could not be limited by institutional spaces, seeking other ways to make geographies, question the world in which we live, and reframe our forms of community and social engagement. Our geographical path is defined by walking, feeling and sensing different realities.

We aim to organize the ICCG in Mexico –under particularly adverse conditions for our society's well-being– to approach and understand the complexity of Latin America as a region, in which diverse actors, academics, activists, artists, organizations, professors and researchers have given importance –professionally and otherwise– to critical perspectives on:

- Migration, emigration, forced displacement and (de)construction of Borders/Frontiers.
- Struggles to defend territories and autonomy.
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities with knowledge, languages and territories of their own beyond the configuration of nation-states.

- Femicidal violence (10 femicides per day in Mexico) and responses by feminist movements in Mexico and Latin America, as well as the feminization of Latin American politics.
- State violence under the guise of 'development' through mega-projects (for instance, the Maya Train) and new commercial treaties like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- Enforced disappearance and human rights violations that have generated social movements in search of family members, as well as movements for peace.
- Other territorialities and ways of understanding, representing and inhabiting the body, the territory and the world.
- Given this landscape and from a critical perspective, the organizing committee asked ourselves: What are the challenges posed to social movements by current realities? What are the new mechanisms designed by nation-states to co-opt and neutralize opposition? What are different struggles appealing to, what tools do they have to resist? How can we think about all these issues from a spatial-territorial perspective? What can critical geographies say about these geopolitical realities? Most of these concerns are not new but have become sharper and tense depending on political moments, like the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Lastly, how can we understand different realities in trans- and multi-scalar frameworks, considering the body in its global articulation? What can we find, transform and share from our own territories?

Why this topic?

All the issues mentioned above are inspired by Zapatista voices, the wide range of social movements and the current situation in which most of Latin America is immersed. We believe it is pertinent to focus our debates on *resistances against extractivism*. We understand extractivism as a phenomenon that goes beyond the exploitation of raw materials, which also includes dispossession and urban displacement, internal colonialism and extraction of knowledges (for academia, archives, databases, or even epistemicide). Therefore, and within the ample horizon of extractivism, we want to emphasize the following topics:

- **Dispossessions:** Refers to all the processes in which lands, housing, natural resources, commons, datasets or epistemologies are plundered and extracted.
- **Appropriations:** To resist/exist means to create. In opposing predatory visions of the world, struggle also requires imagining and materializing antagonisms in positive terms. The appropriation of territory to weave emancipatory, horizontal and solidary social relations -human and non-human, as well as with nature- requires multiple ways of resistance against extractive and destructive models.
- **Autonomies:** Understood as all the spaces where social movements have constructed ways to live that go beyond the dominant civilizational model (colonial, capitalist, racist and patriarchal), giving birth to other possible worlds at different scales.

- Disputed territories: Refers to all places where tension, conflict and frictions are present among hegemonic blocks and within geographies woven or defended 'from below and to the left'. For example, communal goods, symbolic spaces, epistemologies, methodologies, body-territories.

From this background, we believe that the following title for the ICCG captures every topic described above:

“Territories resisting extractivism: Geographies from below and to the left”

The dates for our encounter are **24-31 October, 2023 in Mexico City**. We are excited to extend this invitation to every person with a critical perspective on space, and who sincerely believes in the possibility of turning geography into a tool for the transformation of our territories.

We will publish our second announcement with all the specific information on how to participate in the ICCG in August 2022.

We are looking forward to debating and sharing common questions and horizons!

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