



Fifteen Years: Definition Time

Editorial direction

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The journal turns 15, which is an age in which it has to finish defining its role as an adult. There is no room for much more hesitation. So, fulfilling this responsibility, we declare the principles of our decalogue (there are five, but despite this it is still a decalogue because, as the DRAE (Dictionay of the Spanish Royal Academy) points out, “although there are not ten, they are basic”). These are:

- 1) We want to remain a journal, not a mere repository of peer-reviewed work. This means that each issue has an intention, that the guest articles and the classics have been chosen, that an attempt is made to balance the miscellaneous section..., in short, that there is a project, and this is intended to be harmonious.
- 2) We want to be convenient in publishing results of research projects. The monographic sections, with articles proposed and ordered by guest editors, contribute to the first objective and are very useful, both for those who research and for those who read for simple interest, since they are grouped and easy-accessible. So, we are inviting more proposals to come.
- 3) We want to continue showing and deconstructing, as far as possible, our geopolitical memories. If we do not know and understand the past it is evident that we are condemned to repeat it, and this can be tragic as we know.
- 4) We want to continue reporting on what is new that happens in our field of knowledge, on events, on projects, but also on losses, which are irreplaceable.
- 5) We want, finally and above all, not to be neutral. We do not share the idea that we should do “objective” science from an impossible point zero. Our geopolitics is compromised in the face of war, inequalities and misery. Which does not imply that we are not open to contributions of very diverse theoretical, methodological and epistemological origins.

And as in every rite of passage we have a party. In the pre-Columbian cultures of present-day Mexico, the Aztecs and Mayans celebrated rites of passage from puberty to adulthood for young girls when they were fifteen years old. The conquerors

appropriated the rite, like so many other things, and today in Ibero-American countries the *quinceañera* party is very common (in Brazil it is known as the debutante party, and in Spain and Portugal it is spreading hand in hand of Latin American emigration). The fundamental elements of this party are: the entrance of the *quinceañera* on the arm of the father or godfather, the delivery of fifteen roses by family and friends, the waltz with the father, family and friends and ends with the delivery of souvenirs, group photos and farewells. Certainly, this party should be depatriarchalized, but it will serve as a model for ours.

We enter the party with the help of two committed sponsors, who write guest articles on the roots of conflicts that have affected us for a long time and propose geographical-political solutions for them. John Agnew on the Gaza War and Nick Megoran on the Russo-Ukrainian War, join a list of articles that we have been publishing since the second of those conflicts broke out openly (“From contract wars to global war,” by John Saxe-Fernández; “The trauma of territorial rupture: the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its international management – geopolitical strategy and diplomatic therapy,” by Alan K. Henrikson; or “Geographic contributions to understanding and resolving the Russian-Ukrainian conflict,” by Nick Megoran).

Conducted by Rosa de la Fuente, Augusto Barrera and Simón Sánchez, thirty colleagues and friends give us roses, tuberose, lilies, tulips... that deal with “Changes and continuities in the governance of Ibero-American cities. Actors, networks and policies in the context of COVID”, with which we recover the monographic section that we had abandoned since in volume 2, number 1, published in 2011, we included “Debordering and rebordering in the Iberian Peninsula”, coordinated by María Lois and Heriberto Cairo.

The time to remember and deconstruct is for Henry Kissinger, analyzed by Jerónimo Ríos.

And, finally, comes the information about publications of interest in our field, this time including essays by Javier de Pablo, Jimena Nández and Francisco Miguel Ortiz Delgado.

Please, enjoy!

Madrid, June 2024.