

**THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
“SOUTHERN ANTHROPOLOGY”
“Southern Anthropology
Theoretical and practical advances in
Southern Anthropology”
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**University of the Andes, Mérida,
Venezuela**

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FIRST ENCYCLICAL

Motivation: In 1993 upon the occasion of the first International Congress of Ethnology and Anthropology in Mexico the proposition for the formation of a new School of Anthropology to be called “The Southern Peoples” was formalised. Only those countries toward the southern parts of our planet that have been made objects of study by the “anthropologies of the north” , i.e., those of Europe and North America, are included in this heading. The leader of this proposal was Dr. Esteban Krotz, of the University of Yucatan, who invited to the symposium “Southern Anthropology” all the anthropologists from Africa and Latin America who had shown interest in the problems proposed, in order to stimulate interest in the particular anthropology observed and documented in their own countries.

That which interested us was to know if the differentiation that we had made, had also been made by northern anthropologists, and if so to what extent. African anthropologists were invited, but since none were able to attend, we met only on this occasion in Mexico City with just Latin American anthropologists from such countries as Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and Brazil.

The year 2016 will mark the passage of some 20 years during which time we have called ourselves “Southern Anthropologists” and it would be interesting to evaluate by means of further research to what degree the political and social aspects of South America have changed in terms of progress, and in what ways. And if indeed we can encourage our African colleagues to show interest, we would be very grateful for their assistance.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SYMPOSIUMS

I. SOUTHERN POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Work Tables

1. Territory, territoriality, intercultural politics, cultural diversity.
2. Endogenous development and challenges as to sustainability and sustenance.
3. New forms of social organization: establishment of popular power, the commune.

4. Anthropological analyses of attempted power seizures and political coups in America during the 20th and 19th Centuries.
5. Views of center and peripheral dialectic in our societies.
6. Housing from an anthropological view.
7. The indigenous South American and state politics.
8. Afro-American culture.
9. Anthropological views regarding the politics of tourism in our countries.
10. New forms of violence and its treatment in the southern paradigm.
11. War in its 4th generation, ethno-psychical disorders, violent manifestations and their consequences.

II. RE-THINKING DECOLONIZATION IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Work Tables

1. Decolonizing science.
2. The need for teaching anthropology at the various levels of educational development.
3. Science as sacred and decolonized science.
4. Science developed for and by people generally.
5. Interculturality and emergent socio-cultural problems.
6. The importance of ethnography and its sub-disciplines.

III. THE NEW SOUTHERN ARCHEOLOGY

Work tables

1. New theories and practices in Southern American Archeology.
2. Communal empowerment of archeological sites.

3. Archeology and paleontology, new focuses and methodologies in South America.
4. The ancient agriculture of South America. Advances in the study of this field.
5. Rock carving and its sociocultural context, new focuses.

IV. ANTHROPOLOGY, ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION, AND ART

Work tables

1. Cyber culture and anthropological methodology.
2. Anthropology, media and Networks. The digital society.
3. Art and the construction of identity in Latin America.
4. South American cinema and anthropology.
5. Research in ethnomusicology.

V. POLITICS, EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

Work Tables

1. Challenges and perspectives in State education as an anthropological analysis.
2. Proposed reading in history at the primary school level.
3. New terminology in the history of America.
4. Archeology, history, geology, in the country schools (i.e., low population density areas).
5. New identities in formation in South America.
6. Bonding and identity formation processes in Our America.

VI. ANTHROPOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

Work tables:

1. Ethnobiology, ethnicology, and biocultural memory.
2. The human body and a cultural space.
3. New focuses on legal aspects of anthropology in the South.
4. Paleoarcheology, paleontology, paleoflora and their new contexts as theoretical methodologies.

VII. SOUTH-SOUTH AFRICA

Work tables (proposals to be received from researchers on Africa).

VIII. SOUTH-SOUTH LATIN AMERICA

Work tables (proposals to be received from Hispanic researchers)

XI. THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Work tables (proposals to be received from researchers in the Caribbean)

CLOSING TABLE DISCUSSION

What is “anthropology of the South” for us at the present time?