

Editorial

This issue of *Sociologies in Dialogue* deals with subjects that in some way express two different socio-political ambience observed in the Latin-American subcontinent during the last two decades. In the first, between mid-1980s and around mid-2010s there was expansion of rights, mostly social rights but also human and gender rights. Margarites' article shows a facet of such virtuous time when epistemic communities in health and social assistance areas fought for the building up of institutions that, by the beginning of the 1990s, would increase dramatically the right to social assistance in Brazil. Flores' study provides a thorough comparative analysis of conditional cash transfer programmes in Latin America. These iconic programmes became a model of how to offer social assistance benefits to poor family. Their widespread in the subcontinent, illustrates the advances there made to reduce poverty and to promote social protection, by mid 2010s. Miskolci's analysis, however, addresses a characteristic phenomenon of the second recent period verified in Latin America when, since mid-2010s, in some countries, conservative, religious and reactionary social groups – and, to a lesser extension, even governments – 'denounce' the existence of a 'gender ideology', often in reaction to the advances in gender rights. These groups have fought also against some social rights, but gender and human rights are the issues at the centre of their agenda. Therefore, the issue participates in the still incipient effort to understand social processes that took place in the Global South, in this case in Latin America, during the last decades.

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