

Unsettling the Migration and Development Narrative: A Latin American

Critical Perspective

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Departing from the Latin American critical school of thought and focusing on the current capitalist and imperialist context, this paper addresses several key aspects of the dialectical relationship between migration and development against the mainstream narrative: (a) the re-launching of imperialism (policies of global domination) in search of cheap and flexible labor, as well as natural resources from the Global South; (b) the growing asymmetries among and within countries and regions; (c) the increase and intensification of social inequalities; (d) the configuration of a gigantic global reserve army of labor associated with the emergence of severe forms of labor precarization and exploitation; and (e) the predominance of forced migration as the primary mode of human mobility under conditions of extreme vulnerability. The main aim of the paper is to deconstruct the dominant narrative based on a right-wing populist rhetoric fraught with myths that distort reality under a unilateral, decontextualized, reductionist and biased view of human mobility, and offer a diametrically opposite narrative of migration, development and human rights supported by a selected set of demystifying/counter-hegemonic indicators. New research findings regarding the relationship between innovation and South-North highly skilled migration in STEM fields will also be introduced.