

Alternatives for Building Post-Capitalist Society: Reflections on South American Experience

Seminar with **Prof. Dr. David Barkin**

Place: [TC.5.14](#) (Teaching Center, Campus WU)

Day: Thursday, Dec. 1st, 2016

Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Abstract:

In the context of great diversity and profound social inequalities, environmental injustice prevails. Conflicts between institutions promoting economic development (i.e., growth) and ecologists and civil society are rampant. This seminar will discuss alternatives emerging from groups, whose organisations are shaped by different cosmologies, products of their multiple ethnic origins, and by the profound philosophic and epistemological debates among social movements proposing different strategies for achieving progress, improving well-being and conserving ecosystems.

Seminar Discussion

The seminar will cover a range of topics and involve plenty of time for audience engagement and debate. Prof. Barkin is happy to engage in discussion across a range of experiences in South America, for example:

- Argentina ('recuperated' factories by workers' cooperatives)
- Bolivia (difficult construction of a multinational/multicultural country; new development model)
- Brazil (legal coup de etat)
- Chile (popular opposition to privatised education and pension system)
- Colombia (peace agreement with the FARC)
- Cuba (transition to a renewed integration into the world economy with a socialist model)
- Ecuador (a different development model under debate)
- Mexico (an extreme neoliberal model impoverishing a nation in the name of 'development')
- Perú (Mining and water conflicts)
- Uruguay (heritage of an ex-guerrilla as president)
- Venezuela (struggle between Chavez' heritage and right wing opposition)

Prof. Dr. David Barkin has researched (publishing several books) on problems related to Mexican economic development, food systems analysis and sustainable development. Early on he specialised in river basin development and its relationship to regional economies. During recent years he has worked with community groups in many parts of Mexico researching their efforts to consolidate post-capitalist societies. He is Distinguished Professor of Economics at the Xochimilco Campus of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in México City currently (2015-2017) visiting at Humboldt University as a Georg Forster Fellow.

<https://ideas.repec.org/e/pba23.html>

<http://uam-xochimilco.academia.edu/DavidBarkin>

