

**Las caras del trabajo social en el mundo.****Per(e)sistencias bajo el capitalismo tardío,**

Paula Vidal Molina (Coord.), Santiago de Chile, RIL Editores, 2017, pp. 376.

ISBN/ISSN: 978-956-01-0413-7. CLP\$ 21.000 / USD\$ 26,00

Fiorella Cademartori<sup>1</sup>

The book reviewed below is a daring compilation of articles from ten countries on four continents. A journey through histories, trajectories, realities, geographies and processes of a diversity rarely seen in this type of compilation from our profession. The adjectival of diversity not only belongs to the authors and their positions, but to the expression of the "concrete" that they describe, interpret, explain and propose to challenge.

The daring, and therefore the first, virtue of the material is to present to the readers an internationalist view of the discipline / profession. Between pp. 16 to 22, the compiler (also the author) provides a brief reference to the central arguments and the interest placed by each essayist; which is why repeating the task would result in a duplicate contribution. However, highlighting the validity of some questions, the power of reflection and the vitality of open dialogues, shows the meaning of these words.

As the title states, this book gives an account of the persistence of the general law of capitalist accumulation while still showing the engine of contradiction, resistance. We are invited to view the experiences and proposals of resistance to the forms of exploitation, oppression and colonization throughout the world, not only from the exercise of Social Work, but as a society as a whole.

Diving into the premises of the discussions invites an exercise in thinking in "plural" (not to be confused with eclecticism). Readers will require sharpness in the task of elucidating the debates that the essays presuppose (not because they are veiled, but because the bibliography alone refers to very divergent theoretical currents, thought and traditions). As capitalism is international in its content but national in its form, it shows that problems inherent and common to the logic of capital have varying levels of intensity, scope and drama in the countries / regions, which ultimately questions dissimilar efforts and challenges at each juncture.

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Health of the National University of Santiago del Estero (UNSE) and Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National University of Tucumán (UNT), Argentina. E-mail: fiorellacademartori@gmail.com



In the first section entitled "Social Work: context, notions and theories" (pp. 25 to 158) we find the development of categories typical of the foundations of the profession: equality (radical), criticism, human rights and systemic crises of the capital. Intellectual efforts that, far from being pigeonholed into theoretical-conceptual debates, need to be (re) appropriate and translated in the light of the daily presence that they have in our work processes (regardless of the field in which we are employed).

The second section entitled "Social Work in today's world" (pp. 161 to 374), with even more references to particular experiences in each country, also places the foundations of our profession at the center: research as a constitutive aspect; changes in training courses and political projects to which they pay; disputes over accessibility to rights and existing public services; the critique of social protection systems based on merit and the primacy of commercial logic; the labor field and the tense autonomy of educational processes in the face of state mandates; and, the recovery of the category of peace to give way to substantial practices that attack the future of globalization.

Certainly, the analyzes carried out by the referents of the countries represented (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Costa Rica, Canada, China, Botswana, England, Italy and Germany) should not be taken as hegemonic readings or views within those countries or even region but, undoubtedly, as a contribution from a line of thought, sector and / or grouping; since it is pertinent to emphasize that the profession and the professionals of Social Work, far from being fixed in watertight and monolithic places, move under disputes of ethical - political (and theoretical) projects in conflict.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that the twelve chapters become valid inputs both for academic training spaces and for workplaces. To reflect, position and act in the face of an increasingly precarious and unequal reality for the enormous group of the working class, is a constant, continuous and persistent task. As the Peruvian Marxist JC Mariátegui said in the mythical *Amauta Magazine* "The isolated cry is not worth, no matter how long its echo may be; constant, continuous, persistent preaching is worth it. The perfect, absolute, abstract idea, indifferent to the facts, to the changing and mobile reality is not valid; the germinal idea, concrete, dialectical, operative, rich in power and capable of movement is valid". Social Work has won battles regarding its role and contributions to the production of knowledge in the social sciences. We celebrate and invite the reading of this type of publication to continue the fight.

