

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (20962) - LATIN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: BETWEEN UNIFICATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

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Background and objectives

This research focuses on the developments of Environmental Psychology (EP) in Latin America, and its relevance to the consolidation of the area in the Global South. The objective was to analyze the contributions of scientific production, considering its potential in facing impacts of the environmental issue on the periphery of capitalism.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

In a systematic review in open access latin american databases, we found 276 scientific articles related to EP, authored by psychologists with Latin American affiliation. The articles were: published between 1994 and 2019; in Portuguese (N = 149 / 54%), Spanish (N = 115 / 41.7%) or English (N = 12 / 4.3%); and classified according to their thematic focus. 18 articles were classified as "Theoretical-Epistemological", approaching the history of the area, theoretical-methodological bases, the object of study, and interdisciplinary. Despite corresponding to a small fraction of the database, these works are influential in the area, which motivated a qualitative and critical analysis of their content.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The reception of EP in Latin America was marked by the uncritical importation of North American and European knowledge until the 1990s, despite its total disconnection from the realities of the Global South, which are determined by colonization and exploitation processes. Throughout the 2000s, two groups of researchers differed in their analysis of the history of the area in Latin American, its characterization and its objectives. One hegemonic group defended the Unification of the area around a universal EP, and the other demanded the Diversification in local and contextualized environmental psychologies.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

In the first two decades of the 21st century, the hegemonic project of universal EP established a consensus around its methodologies and key concepts. However, the contemporary discussions on decoloniality and the epistemological critique proposed by a new generation of researchers update the debate, changing the course of the area on the continent.

Palavras-chave : Global South, open science, decoloniality, ethical-political commitment