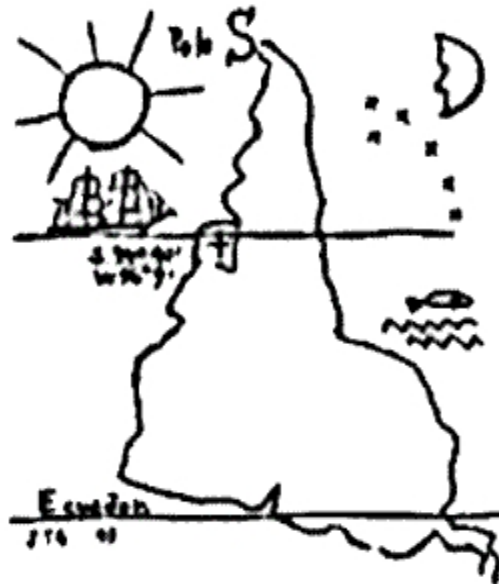


The Production of Knowledge about Co-operatives in Latin America □

Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Cooperativismo (RLIC)

International Co-operative Alliance



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ICA Committee on Co-operative Research in Latin America

Its primary purpose:

- To stimulate analysis about problems of cooperatives in the region
 - To promote a critical debate concerning cooperative endeavor
 - To establish partnerships for research development
 - To encourage relationships with the cooperative movement
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The Latin American Network of Researchers

- It was created in the Regional Assembly "Rio Cooperativo 2000"
 - Its interest is to establish knowledge based on research about cooperatives in Latin America
 - Organization of seven research conferences: 3 in Brazil, 2 in Argentina, 1 in Paraguay and 1 in Chile.
 - In the Conferences, they discuss a work agenda based on methodology and the contents of cooperative studies
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The Network Development

- To articulate initiatives and projects between researchers in the region
 - Committee members perform volunteer work
 - A total of 620 research papers were published in the proceedings of the conference. Argentine and Brazil are the two countries with the highest output of research
 - The reasons that justify an interest in the cooperatives as a field of study are both empirical and theoretical
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Research about Co-operatives

Types of Studies	Themes	Studies N°
Research	Management of resources. Analysis of sectors (agriculture, housing, health, utilities). Cooperative governance; Legislation. Economic aspects. Accounting aspects; Historical Analysis	606
Systematization	Practices of incubators in popular cooperatives. Experience of cooperative networks. Community-based research. Practices of cooperation among cooperatives	9
Evaluation	Production and commercialization of agribusiness cooperatives. Financial transactions in credit unions and cooperative banks. Production of services. Financed programs by the State	5

Source: Own elaboration based on 620 published papers in the Conferences Acts of the RLIC

Usefulness of Research

- To identify and explain relationships between the external environment and organizational culture
 - To help clarify the role of members and nature of the prevailing practices
 - To reveal problems of membership: loyalty in the association, managerial professionalism, generational change in the board of Directors, participation of youth, education and collaborative learning
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Limitations of Research

- Different investigative traditions
 - Diverse criteria of academic rigor according to the disciplines and academic institutions where research is conducted
 - Changing importance of studies about co-ops in the academic institutions and in the cooperative movement
 - Unequal funding of subject research projects
 - Limited possibility of interchangeability of RLIC members with the ICA Committee on Cooperative Research
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What Remains to be Done

- Increased studies about the potential of cooperatives in the context of Latin American societies
 - Development of joint projects with researchers from Latin America and other regions
 - Expanded teaching about the cooperatives within educational institutions and the sector itself
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Thank you for your attention

