

EDITORIAL

Democratisation of Access to Social Science Research in Latin American and Caribbean Studies – Iberoamericana Goes Open

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We are very pleased to present a renewed version of '*Iberoamericana – Nordic Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*'.

Our journal has travelled a long and winding road, but is now ready to enter into a new era. Created in 1960 as an information bulletin about library acquisitions with the title 'Ibero-Americana'. It was transformed into a full academic journal in 1977. At this point in time, it aimed to become a leading Journal of high quality research within Latin American Studies, but also to become a platform for Nordic research on this region. The Nordic aim began already in 1971, when Ibero-Americana was endorsed by the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Latin American Research, and it was strengthened in 1972, when the Journal became the official publication of the Scandinavian Association for Research on Latin America (NOSALF), a connection that lasted until 1994. In 1981, the regional profile of the journal became clearer through the change of name into '*Ibero Americana Nordic Journal of Latin American Studies*'. The academic scope of the Journal was widened in 1998, when the word 'Caribbean' was added to the title and the current name was claimed. Beyond these changes of names and scope, a constant of the journal, since the 1970s, have been its capacity to attract many of the most important Latin American oriented scholars of the Nordic countries and other parts of the world. Another important feature of the journal, since its creation, has been the bi-lingual character as both English and Spanish have been used as publishing languages.

Now, the journal face a new change together with the new publisher Stockholm University Press. We are leaving the paper format to transform the journal into an internet based publication providing open access to all content. The *first aim* of this new era is to provide quality research information within the fields of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, applying a double-blind peer-review process to ensure that only the contributions of the highest academic quality are presented. We would like to continue to provide a platform for collaboration

and communication of scholars from different disciplines within the area of Social Science.

The *second aim* of the journal is to strive for increased internationalization. For this reason, we provide a research without boundaries by means of open access licensing to all material for our readers and users. The costs of opening up the publication for public access are covered the journal, and by the Institute of Latin American Studies at Stockholm University, up to a maximum of 10 articles per volume (and year). In addition to this, the journal also paid for the digitalisation of older volumes, since 2008, in order to ensure that also older articles can be found online. There are ongoing discussions to find funding for retro-digitalisation of older volumes before 2008 as well. Providing open access to scholarly content is a step towards a more transparent research flow, and follow the general global trend where research paid for by governments and tax payers should be made available to them without pay walls. The online format also allows the journal content to be indexed in more databases, at the same time as it will be easier to cite and link to our content to build further knowledge about our areas of research. This is a clear stance in order to provide knowledge without economical boundaries for future and present generations. The technical platform chosen will also ensure that all journal content is prepared for text-and-data mining (TDM), which allows large scale research and better protection against plagiarism when the text becomes machine readable.

The *third aim* is to continue the strive to consolidate the Nordic base of the journal. Although the journal will publish work authored by scholars from all parts of the world, the Advisory Board and the Editorial Team will always include members representing the Nordic countries to put special emphasis on the academic context developed here. The path ahead is paved to further enhance and to continue to broaden and deep the Nordic participation in the journal, together with colleagues from universities in this region.

All the above mentioned aims have, as always, one main objective: to foster the possibilities of receiving interesting and well researched contributions by scholars from all parts of the world. The main goal is still to attract the most advanced and innovative research on Latin American and Caribbean issues, within the field of social sciences.

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Competing Interests

The author declares that they have no competing interests.

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