

**CALL FOR CHAPTERS: ECOTECHNOLOGIES,
GLOBAL DEMOCRACY AND POSTCAPITALISM**

*Fundación Universidad de América's Department of Investigations
in Alliance with
Universidad Externado de Colombia's doctorate on Political Studies*

Terms and conditions

1. Purpose

The purpose of this call is to construct a book through the preparation and compilation of documents written by the contributors; those will be made in the course according to our calendar of activities. We say “course” because the idea is that the book will emerge as a result from workshops between participants. This would provide at least three things: first, the paper conceived during the discussions will turn out to be an academic book chapter; second, the investigator would be enriched from the discussion with other people interested on the subject; finally, this will permit the creation of a directory of researchers, either to generate other academic spaces in the future or to articulate new lines of research.

2. Context and central problem

In the last few years we have seen an accelerated growth of the social and political crisis in aspects that have affected, directly or indirectly, all countries in terms of food shortage, ecosystem's degradation, demographic growth and military conflicts. All these problems have not only questioned western way of life, based on material and economic development, but also human's relationship with nature (exploitation). Indeed, the *sustainability crisis* of our societies is no more than the result of a

huge chain of events caused by our cosified conception of the environment as an unlimited source of resources. Instead of increasing wealth, this view has produced the pauperization of the life conditions of the population. At the end of 20th century, this situation reached its boiling point due to a global unrestricted access to supplies and work networks, and also due to a complex scenario of relationships that went from being international to becoming progressively a matter of a true “worldwide intern politics”.

In 1992, scientists released their first warning addressed to all governments to take all measures in order to face these problems and stop the contamination processes and the detriment of the quality of people’s life, for the conflict between these phenomena and the natural world would then make them irreversible. In 2017, a new warning was released by the scientific community: 15.364 scientists from 184 countries signed a second declaration warning¹ humanity of the ecosystem’s imminent destruction and the disappearance of multiple animal species. However, the alert was not addressed to governors from every nation. This “called to action” was directed to the civil society of every single country to demand politics grounded on the results achieved by the scientific community on this subject². Nevertheless, there is another position in this debate that we must consider: the one that suggests there is not enough evidence to declare a catastrophic environmental crisis.

Meanwhile, philosophers and other social thinkers have talked about this subject and understand that today’s world has reached a change of paradigm regarding state governability, for now we are facing the arrival of social and natural phenomena without precedents. For example, besides the international conflicts and economic instability generated by fluctuations in oil’s price, epidemics have had a

¹ First declaration’s text appears as an annex of the electronic second version, with the 15.364 cosigner’s list. The whole documents, just as their bibliographic information, could be consulted in: <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/12/1026/4605229>.

² Regarding this point, the message of scientists was clear: “We have learned much since 1992, but the advancement of urgently needed changes in environmental policy, human behavior, and global inequities is still far from sufficient. Sustainability transitions come about in diverse ways, and all require civil-society pressure and evidence-based advocacy, political leadership, and a solid understanding of policy instruments, markets, and other drivers.” (William J. Ripple, Christopher Wolf, Thomas M. Newsome, et al., 2017, pp. 1026 and 1028). Cf. n. 1

negative transnational impact which is equal or worse³. This has led the nations affected by this to adopt some sort of “immune regime” in their forms of government in order to declare a permanent emergency state. In fact, with the recent propagation of coronavirus⁴, in a matter of weeks governments have been taking extreme social, political and economic measures without the consent or approval of millions of citizens. The uncertainty about the continuity and recuperation of market economies increases speculations and predictions within certain reasonable margins⁵. In such a context, it is expected to choose a provisional course of action between the following alternatives: either the countries will continue to adopt, indefinitely, a closure policy within their respective territorial limits to exercise sovereignty and protect their interests as a nation against the spread of the virus or any other external threat, or this is the time for the rise of a new democracy, under the figure of a global citizenship, to suggest alternatives to the structures based until now —and exclusively— on growth and hyperconsumption. Both options will force their supporters to leave behind, completely or partially, the model fostered by the current world economic system after a misuse of new information and communication technologies which still guarantee the benefit of a few to the detriment of the common goods, environmental systems and survival of many species, including the human race.

Now, based on all these facts, we will try to address the following questions. From now on, will our governments be more democratic or less in the current global and local historical scenario? Will technological innovations continue to be subordinated to the production of goods and services, or can they be reoriented towards ecological sustainability? And if radical changes of approach in the political and technological fields are necessary in order to face the growing environmental and social crisis, can we assure, then, the emergence of a post-capitalist phase or a reduction of the general interest in economic factors? Finally, which is the model of society in formation for the remaining years of the

³ This became manifest with SRAS between 2002 and 2003, avian flu between 2004 and 2005, A(H1N1) flu between 2009 and 2010 and Ebola virus epidemiological sequels between 2013 and 2016.

⁴ The fast diffusion of coronavirus, or “COVID 19”, obliged World Health Organization (WHO) to declare the spread a pandemic since March 11th 2020 and later release recommendations to all countries who reported confirmed cases of COVID 19 in the face of the sanitary emergency.

⁵ As a collateral effect, Coronavirus’ propagation has generated one of the worst economic recessions in modern history, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

21st century? The virtual lecture which we are opening asks researchers who are working on related concerns to join efforts to try to elucidate these questions.

3. Participants' academic profile:

Contributions from students who are about to finish their master's thesis, working on their doctoral dissertation and, finally, working on postdoctoral projects, will be received. Monographic master's and doctoral documents on specific authors or specialized books will also be accepted. All contributions must be in accordance with the problem and the thematic axes defined and formulated in this call.

We remind those interested that the aim of the proposal is to respond to a growing need in the academic and scientific community, which has become evident from the contemporary crisis; namely, the expansion of basic sciences and engineering through the humanities and, reciprocally, the support of the social sciences in science, technology and innovation.

Those interested in participating may count on the publication of a chapter that will be included in a compilation of several works and validated as a research book. The application of the projects can be on any of the following four thematic axes:

4. Thematic axes of the presented proposals:

- a. Application of ecotechnologies for sustainable production and responsible social (de)growth;
✉ coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co
- b. Global democracy and new political theories. "Qualitative freedom" and "green republicanism" in the construction of an ethics for global citizenship;
✉ coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co
- c. New economic paradigms in post-capitalist societies and the restructuring of government models in the future;
✉ coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co
- d. Global and virtual education. The new dynamic of learning languages.
✉ coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co

5. Formats of contributions

5.1 Project proposal:

At first, abstracts with a length of no more than 500 words will be received, headed by a provisional title. For the inscription, the participants must send their proposals through the email posted on the website of this call (✉ coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co), in accordance with the thematic axes' selection made by the researchers who have made the decision to participate.

5.2 Virtual forums:

The submission of summaries will be a mandatory requirement to make an intervention on the virtual forum opened for each thematic axis, and its duration cannot be more than three minutes. All interventions will be recorded on the platform for the exposition of the theses and points of view adopted by the researchers.

The aim of such forums is to promote a space for dialogue in which the concerns of each researcher are articulated with regard to the thematic axes of the call. Beyond serving as a stage for preparing the final text and building academic ties between researchers, the forum will be a product in itself. That is, a setting for sharing ideas and reflection that can be heard by other academics and individuals interested in the discussion. For this, the itinerary of these spaces will be as follows:

- **Presentation of chapter proposal:** in a maximum time of three minutes, each person should briefly present the context or problem in which their research product is focused, the objective, the thesis or hypothesis to be defended in the text, and also some references of the discussion to which the text appeals and the central arguments that justify the central thesis or hypothesis with which the text commits.
- **Space for questions, concerns and discussion:** after listening to the speaker, the participants will be able to intervene with suggestions and comments on the project being discussed; either

to raise questions related to any of the aspects discussed in it with the purpose of making recommendations for improvement, or in order to link a theoretical or practical reference to the discussion.

- **Closure of the online session:** after listening to every project proposal and having a debate with the other participants, the speaker can settle several commitments regarding the product and the structure of the finished project for publication. In addition, the researchers can suggest the participation of other specialists on the subject who are not present and ask for their opinion.

5.3 Manuscripts:

The researchers will have a deadline of fifteen (15) weeks after the four forums take place to write the first draft of the chapter—according to the discussions and the abstracts. The extension of the document must be between 8.000 and 10.000 words.

6. Selection of proposals:

The selection of proposals of each chapter will depend on its originality and the results presented by the authors. These results must be the product of a culminated investigation. Updated references, rigor and clarity of the exposition of the main ideas will be taken into account –according to the chosen thematic axis.

7. Agenda of doctorate researchers and postdocs

The idea is that this call for chapters could open new lines of investigation through the conformation of a network of professors with PhDs or postdoc working on fields and problems related to the ones proposed in this call.

8. Schedule of activities

| ACTIVITY | DATE |
|---|--|
| Opening date. Call's publication. | April 13, 2020. |
| Clarifications about the terms of the call | From April 14 to 30, 2020. |
| Receipt of summaries of the proposals in the thematic axes indicated in the call. | From May 1 to June 1, 2020. |
| Feedback of the proposed projects. | From June 1 to 15, 2020. |
| Opening of the first virtual forum. | From June 15 to 30, 2020. |
| Feedback of the interventions. | From July 01 to 15, 2020. |
| Opening of the second virtual forum. | From July 15 to 30, 2020. |
| Feedback of the interventions. | From July 31 to August 15, 2020. |
| Opening of the third virtual forum. | From August 15 to 31, 2020. |
| Feedback of interventions. | From August 31 to September 15, 2020. |
| Opening of the fourth virtual forum. | From September 15 to 30, 2020. |
| Feedback of interventions. | From October 1 to 15, 2020 |
| Preparation of book chapter drafts in approximately 15 weeks. | From October 12, 2020, to January 15, 2021. |
| Receipt of documents on the Open Monograph Press (OMP) platform of «Publications University of America» | From January 15 to February 1, 2021. |
| Submission of corrected manuscripts for peer review through the OMP platform. | From February 1 to April 30, 2021. |

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| Submission to authors of the concept issued by the external pairs via OMP platform. | April 30, 2021. |
| Delivery of adjustments by authors according to observations of external peers. | Until May 15, 2021. |
| Publication of the book resulting from research: edition, style revision, layout, printing and electronic version. | From May 15 to August 16, 2021. |

Contacts

For the clarification of doubts about the call terms, please write a message to one of the following emails:

a) Universidad de América's Research Direction:

direccion.investigaciones@uamerica.edu.co; coordinador.editorial@uamerica.edu.co;

b) Universidad Externado de Colombia's doctorate on Political Studies:

doctoradoepolicos@uexternado.edu.co