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Review Your Approaches: How to Do Geopolitics from/about Latin America?

Critical Geopolitics it is an epistemological approach with a lot of advantages for understanding key aspects of contemporary Latin America. This presentation argues that if it is conceived more as a field of interdisciplinary problematization rather than as a discipline with a fixed and static object of study, it is possible to overcome certain analytical inertias that tend to limit the understanding of some complex phenomena, characteristic of the region (such as organized crime, migration, or extractivism, among others). Moreover, the digitalization of the academic activity is opening a range of practical and highly suggestive possibilities. It allows, for instance, the rigorous subversion of the generalist perspectives: by adapting abstract frameworks to specific cases, denationalizing analyses, contextualizing issues, and questioning inherited narratives and categories. The Internet facilitates indeed remote interaction, not only between distant researchers (foreigners and Latin Americans) but also between researchers and local actors. This enables the development of research strategies based on networks without 'centers'. Only in this way is possible to construct comparative, collaborative, and bidirectional frameworks able to overcome inertias that usually hinder more consistent understandings of the region.

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