# The Value of Global South Research

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## Abstract

Knowledge produced from the Global South is useful and transferable. For example, insights from the Latin American literature on Caudillismo and Populism provide lenses through which to analyze the current political climate in the United States. However, I don't believe Global South research should be framed based on its implications for the Global North to be accepted or considered valuable. This is why I am in solidarity with the themes of the Solidarity Across Borders Workshop. I would be delighted to participate.

## Author Keywords

Social Movements; Latin America; Collective Action Framing; Honduras; ICTs; Improvisation, Rearrangements.

## ACM Classification Keywords

Collaborative and Social Computing, Law Social and Behavioral Science Ethnography.

## Position Statement

My research agenda is connected with the workshop's topic on several levels. My goal as a researcher is to learn from and support vulnerable and underrepresented communities' experience with ICTs. I conduct multi-level research to study the interactions between social movements, political environments, and

collective meanings (frames). Focusing on Latin America and Latinx communities in the diaspora, my insights provide comprehensive accounts of the social, political and material contexts in which ICTs are being used by social movements. It sheds light on how shared solidarity-based ideologies are enacted as resourceful rearrangements of sociotechnical structures. Hence, allowing us to understand how ICTs and organizations are appropriated and repurposed under precarious circumstances caused by political unrest in the case of Honduras, natural disaster in the case of Puerto Rico, and structural inequality in the case of immigrants in the United States (Espinoza Vasquez, 2014, 2015, 2019). My next projects will continue to investigate the relation between frames, structures, and ICTs in two ways. First, I will explore how discourses embedded in frames motivate diverse under-represented groups (e.g., LGBTQ activists, feminist organizations, trade unions, alternative media, etc.) to work collaboratively. I want to find out if intersectional frames produce intersectional structures. Second, to explore how regimes incorporate ICTs into their official structures either to defeat or to foster political participation. I will be looking at emerging trends in the use, adoption, and study of electronic political participation.

Theoretically, my research takes a step away from the market logic used in most ICT research, which is detrimental to the values of solidarity encouraged by social movements. My research moves the field towards a much-needed human relations approach while drawing from CSCW, IS, Latin American Studies, and Social Movements research.

I select methodologies that allow me to incorporate knowledge from the Global South into theoretical frameworks of the Global North (Espinoza Vasquez, 2017). I do interpretive embedded case studies using the extended case method (Burrawoy, 1989). Adopting an interpretive approach allows me to capture knowledge situated in Latin America; meanwhile, employing the Extended Case Method allows me to extend or expand theories using that knowledge.

Advancing this research agenda has had several challenges. In addition to academically justifying its relevance, validity, and generalizability, I have had to frame it as having a broader impact from a U.S. centric perspective, which is a disservice to my objectives to support underserved communities. Finding colleagues with intersecting interests has also been difficult. Thus, I have created a multidisciplinary academic community outside of my discipline.

I think this workshop is a sign that things are changing in ICT-related disciplines and that my experience and ideas are not unique. I am in solidarity with the diverse group of people the workshop is targeting, particularly those who research marginalized communities.  I would like to participate in this workshop to:

- Discuss the Incorporation of decolonial approaches in the research and curriculum as a way to de-marginalize the research and the researcher.
- Challenge the assumption that knowledge from the global south is valuable only if it is useful for the Global North.
- Extend my academic community with like-minded people in CSCW

Initiatives like this motivate me and encourage me, I hope to be considered.

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