**Call for papers**

**Dossier: Mexico: “la Cuarta Transformación” in Debate**

Coordination: Ilán Bizberg (El Colegio de México) and Maria Eugenia Cosio Zavala (University of Paris Nanterre and El Colegio de México)

Mexico is going through a very confusing political period. Since the decisive triumph in 2018 of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) as President of Mexico, after his 18-year electoral career, the country has gone from the hope to the reality of having finally seen the first left-wing government come to power, which had promised to get the army out of the street fight against the drug cartels. It would try, like some other countries of Latin America that had succeeded in the past, to lift a large number of Mexicans out of poverty with the application of a post-neoliberal development model and with universal social policies far from clientelism that, in principle, would give them rights. There was also hope that a left-wing government would promote the demands of Indians, women, LGTBQI+ movement, ecologists, as well as to strengthen and deepen democracy.

Instead of that, and despite an aspiration for change called the Cuarta Transformación (4T) (after Independence, Reforma and Revolución), the government of President AMLO and his Morena party has been very similar to those experienced during the PRI presidencies of the ’70s: centralist, clientelist, and defiant against the autonomous organizations, especially the National Electoral Institute (INE), which nevertheless validated its success in the elections, as well as the non-governmental organizations, feminist movements, universities, etc.

On the other hand, the militarization of the country has increased sharply in many areas. Instead of bringing the army back to the barracks, the AMLO government expanded its power by assigning them many other tasks in addition to security: administrative, economic, emblematic projects of the President (e.g. the Felipe Ángeles International Airport and the Mayan train). Moreover, the local elections of 2021 and 2022 demonstrated that mafia groups were active allies of the ruling party. The different regions of Mexico are affected politically, economically and socially by the establishment of these new actors and a climate of great violence is installed against drug traffickers.

The economy in these three years of Morena's government has declined, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INEGI), which calculates that after the sharp fall in 2020, the recovery is very slow. In 2020, the Covid 19 health crisis hit Mexico hard. The country is not expected to return to the 2019 GDP level until late 2022 or early 2023.

Social and territorial inequalities in Mexico are widening, without federal and state policies resolving them. The division between the urban and rural world is decisive from an economic, social and demographic point of view, to which are added regional inequalities. In addition to urban and metropolitan areas, several areas in the north and center of the country concentrate industrial and service economic activities (Bajío, Frontera Norte, Nuevo León); the contrast is very large with geographically isolated and marginalized areas, especially in the south of the country (Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca).

The demographic and social consequences of this division are revealed by strong differences in mortality, higher in rural and peripheries of large metropolitan areas, especially the very high maternal mortality, which has increased during the Covid epidemic.

Given the recent developments in Mexico, these are some of the questions that we would like to address in this issue of the journal Cahiers des Amériques Latines. Keeping these debates and processes in mind, the *dossier* calls for the presentation of original articles that study the current situation in Mexico on the basis of political, economic, social, geographical and demographic analyses. Long- and medium-term perspectives will be appreciated, in order to outline the political change of the AMLO presidency in its disruptive dimensions.

Articles will be subject to double-blind peer review.

**Receipt of articles:** cal.mexique@gmail.com

**Deadline for submissions: February 15, 2023**

**The *Cahiers des Amériques latines* also receives, throughout the year, proposals for the section “Varia”: iheal.cal@gmail.com**