

## Editorial

### Struggles for Redistribution and Recognition

More than a year ago we decided to dedicate this issue to the debates and reflections related to the Struggles for Redistribution and Recognition. It was a fundamental theme in the conceptual argumentation that supported the proposal for the creation of our Department of Social Work at the University of Chile, and it reflected very well the bet we want to make, in terms of understanding the social from those two problematic knots that overlap and reinforce each other. On the one hand, the redistribution axis, which emphasizes issues such as the concentration of wealth and the reinforcement of the structural mechanisms that produce and reproduce inequality and poverty, and which proposes a profound restructuring of the relations of production; on the other hand, the axis of recognition, referring to the production of subjectivities of rejection, discrimination, stigma and humiliation of those who carry differences or dissent from the imposed canon of normality, proposing, in its transformation-oriented version, a profound deconstruction of injustices to address subjective needs in addition to material ones (Fraser, 2011). I say 'on the one hand' and 'on the other hand' only for analytical purposes, since we know very well that redistribution and recognition operate as a mutual tension that in Fraser's proposal for transformation do not make 'zero sum', but rather form a coalition.

In Chile we have experienced this struggle for redistribution and recognition decades ago, from the tireless work of social, student, feminist, native peoples, contaminated territories movements, among many others, reaching a boiling point in October 2019. The 'revolt' put in common - made common sense -, the unfair distribution of wealth and the lack of recognition and respect for anti-neoliberal identities. The clamor for a new constitution seemed to promise us that new Chile where the foundations of a new 'social pact' would be laid. Undoubtedly, much has happened since those epic moments when it seemed certain that 'neoliberalism was born and died in Chile' (Hiner et al., 2021). The rejection of the proposed new Political Constitution, after the vote last September 4, places us once again in a moment of high uncertainty. There is still no clarity on how the political forces will be organized to respond to the challenges of

redistribution and recognition, which underlay the proposal for a new Constitution. The only thing we can be clear about at this moment is that the demands are still there and that we will have to find new ways to make them visible, and at the same time continue to fight for dignified and just living conditions in the times to come.

In this issue, we bring together different papers that provide diverse perspectives to delve into the debates on redistribution and recognition from different angles: aging, incarceration, indebtedness, violence and injustice, and the (in)capacity of States to provide what is necessary for social actors to care for and look after themselves, age with dignity, access health and social security, live in sustainable territories, experience psychosocial reparation or make ends meet with peace of mind. The articles presented in this issue unravel several of these issues by making a detailed analysis of certain spaces where the limitations of States and various actors to address the crisis of redistribution and recognition are strongly evidenced. The perspectives of Esperanza Gómez-Hernández (Colombia), Elefteria Neila (Greece), Lorena Gallardo (Spain), Abel Soto and Luis Vargas (Chile), Guillermo Sanhueza (United States), Fernanda Ponce and Ignacio Godoy (Chile), Tatenda Nhapi (South Africa), Santos Allendes and Lorena Pérez (Chile), Javiera Delgadillo and Fabiola Miranda (Chile), and Lorena Pezoa (Chile) are in dialogue here. As a backdrop to these discussions, we share in this issue an unpublished text with first-person voice by Axel Honneth, written in the context of the interview conducted by the magazine *Soziologiemagazin* and originally published in German. We have translated, in order to make available both in Spanish and English, this text of great relevance for the debates on redistribution and recognition at the present time. In addition, we accompany this edition with two interviews linked to sensitive issues regarding these debates: Mariela Serey and Carlos Andrade (Chile) talk about the crisis of care; and Haydee Chamorro and Natalí Sánchez (Peru) discuss how to build a critical view of aging in our Latin American societies. Finally, we make available the reviews of two unmissable books to enter the discussion on redistribution and recognition from social work: *New Political Agendas for Social Work* (Mel Gray and Stephen Webb, 2020), and *Dissenting Social Work. Critical Theory, Resistance and Pandemic* (Paul Michael Garrett, 2021).



We hope you enjoy these readings and that they are a contribution to continuing to nurture a critical imagination, even in times of setbacks and crisis.

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## References

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