

Presenter: Judit Bokser-Liwerant, National University of Mexico

Title: **“Anti-Semitism (and related expressions of prejudice) in a global world. A view from Latin America”**

Panel: Sociology and Social Sciences

Anti-Semitism has acquired a worldwide presence and complex dynamics. Its recurrences as well as its transformations display differentially along global interconnected realms mediated by shared regional traits and local singular configurations. Thus, the current international scenario, characterized by the unexpected resurgence of old anti-Semitic expressions and the emergence of new ones, calls for an analysis of the specific and the common traits, the constant and the changing modalities and interactions. Whereas we witness a greater conceptual awareness of the complexity of anti-Semitism, we still need more clarity when analyzing related contemporary expressions of prejudice, rejection, exclusion and, specifically, of anti-Zionism (in its heterogeneous composition), critiques of Israel and even anti-Israelism. Anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism are singular yet overlapping phenomena at the meaning-making level. Anti-Semitism historical socio-political expressions and their symbolic representations, and the ways they are produced and reproduced discursively pose conceptual and empirical challenges -to define, to measure, to combat. They refer to attitudes and behavior, as well as to ideological constructs that display around the behavioral and the cognitive axes. Stereotypes, myths, attitudes as well as actions practices and institutional arrangements reflect and shape it. As will be analyzed, similar to other regions, in Latin America, anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, critiques of Israel and anti-Israelism are singular phenomena, and their interaction can be seen at different levels: in the political discourse that has accompanied particular local or international governmental positions, in the press and the social networks, as well as in national and transnational social movements. It is our contention that analyses of contemporary anti-Semitism need to account for multiple connections between particular actors, ideas and symbols through national, regional and global circuits and levels. A multi-dimensional perspective contributes to robust explanations of its structural manifestations, modes of expression and historical and cultural legacies. In Latin America today, mutually reinforcing antisemitic, anti-colonial and anti-imperialist meanings get transferred, and reinforce each other, through a historical—and now trans-regional and trans-national—

cultural substratum. Given the historic pattern of recurrence and change, the non-linearity and complexity of the interactions and mutual influences between anti-Semitism and related prejudices point to the need to develop differentiated strategies of combat.