Inequality and Residential Segregation during the Expansionary Phase in Argentina (2002-2007)

Date & Time: April 23, 2009, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: CILAS Seminar Room 4, Gildred Latin American Studies Bldg., IOA Complex, UCSD Campus

This presentation outlines the main trends in labour market and income distribution in Argentina between 2002 and 2007. During this period the economy grew fast and the labour conditions enhanced markedly. In effect, following the 2001 crisis the unemployment rate decreased and real wages rose noticeably. However the distributive effects towards equity were still modest. Although by 2002-2003 there was a decline in income concentration this reduction later tailed off. This evolution alert about certain difficulties the developing countries must defeat to get more equal societies. The topic is particularly relevant according to the historical problems that Latin American countries face to pursuit sustainable growth strategies. The case of Argentina during these years of economic expansion is pertinent for exploring factors related to inequality persistence. Our results show that residential segregation of poor households is part of the explanation. Effectively, the isolation and social homogeneity of the neighbourhoods in which these households were located appear to have limited the access to the benefits of growth.

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