

## ***Challenges to the Decolonization of Feminist Theory: Reflections from Indigenous Praxis in Latin America***

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In this seminar, I want to share some of the theoretical, methodological and political analysis that I have been developing with a group of women who are academic colleagues and activists that are members of the *Red de Feminismos Descoloniales (Decolonial Feminist Network)*. We took as a point of departure the questioning of the homogenizing, generalizing perspectives of patriarchy and, what are considered to be “women’s interests.” Within this task, research has a great deal to contribute in terms of knowledge and recognition of the cultural and historic specificities of social subjects. In contrast with the action research (Investigación-Acción) that became popular through all Latin America in the 1970s, this feminist proposal is not based on the premise that we have some historic truth to share, but rather, the purpose is to create a space for dialogue with other women –through research and organizational work– to discuss and analyze the different conceptions and experiences of subordination, resistance and social justice.

In this two hours session I will address the experiences of intercultural dialogues that have taught me very important lessons to decolonize my own feminism and re-think my activist research methodologies from a dialogical perspective.

The dialogue that I want to address is my activist research experience with organized indigenous women through the Zapatista Movement and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women, with whom I have learned the need to broaden my conception of gender rights from a non-individualistic understanding of being a woman, and to reconsider the issue of domination by including a more holistic perspective that includes not only the relations between men and women, women and women, and men and men, but also between human beings and nature.

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Born in Ensenada, Baja California, México, she earned her doctorate in anthropology from Stanford University in 1996. She is Professor and Senior Researcher at the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS) in Mexico City. She worked as a journalist since she was 18 years old in a Central American Press Agency. Since she was an undergraduate, she has combined her academic work with media projects in radio, video and journalism. Her academic work has promoted indigenous and women rights in Latin America. She has been a member of the civil society movements that support the Zapatista struggle for justice. She has done field work in indigenous communities in the Mexican states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Morelos, with Guatemalan refugees and with African immigrants in the South of Spain. She has published twenty-two books and her academic work has been translated to English, French, Portuguese, and Japanese. Her more recent book entitled *Multiple InJustices. Indigenous Women Law and Political Struggle in Latin America*, was published by University of Arizona Press. She is recipient of the Martin Diskin Oxfam Award for her activist research and of the Simon Bolivar Chair (2013-2014) granted by Cambridge University for her academic work.

You can download some of her publications in <http://www.rosalvaaidahernandez.com/>