Conference by

Ricardo Cid Fernandes

“Consultation and participation”: experiences among Brazilian indigenous groups after signature of the ILO Convention 169*

Brazil is a signatory of the International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169) which means that since 2004 the State is obliged by law to respect the principles of self-determination and consultation/participation of indigenous groups in relation to projects that affect their ways of life and territories. In Brazil, there are more than 200 different indigenous groups, about one million people, speaking more than 170 different languages and living in all regions of the country (currently, 13% of all national territory is legally demarcated as Indigenous Land). Having to respect the convention, governmental agencies have adopted participatory procedures to carry out environmental assessment studies regarding the licensing of development projects. Under pressure, respecting Brazilian law and also following the ILO 169 Convention, some indigenous groups have since 2014 drawn up their own Consultative Protocols, imposing guidelines for governments and entrepreneurs on how they should be consulted and the terms of their participation in development projects. In order to analyze the meaning and effects of 169 ILO Convention among indigenous groups in Brazil, this paper presents a comparison between two ethnographic contexts: the Juruna (in the Amazon) and the Guarani Mbya (on the South Coast). This comparative analysis reveals that the indigenous ways of dealing with the consultation protocols confers an agency plan, agentivity, in the series of relationships ranging from ‘coping with’ to ‘avoidance of’ developmental projects.

*The conference will be in English

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Lionel-Groulx pavillon (3150, Jean-Brillant St.), University of Montreal

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This conference is organised in collaboration between the University of Montreal’s Anthropology department, the CIÉRA-Montreal and the RÉLAM.