

Buen Vivir as an Economic Alternative in Latin America: A Feminist Perspective

An Abstract of the Thesis By
Halle R. Gerboc

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Global climate change due to overconsumption and production is impacting human and nonhuman life in every country in the world. Few countries are making national reforms to address these issues, which is causing grave consequences, especially for people of the Global South, where extractivism is the driving economic policy. Ecuador and Bolivia have reformed their constitutions, and essentially recreated their nations in an attempt to focus purely on the wellbeing of their peoples. The post-development societies being cultivated in this region is based on ancient, Andean worldviews known as “buen vivir” in Spanish. These worldviews are being implemented through various public policies in Ecuador and Bolivia. Women in these countries have not benefited from the neo-liberal policies adopted by most of South America, and therefore buen vivir may offer a better structure for all citizens of these countries. This will be an analysis of buen vivir, an ally of the European social movement “degrowth”, from an intersectional feminist perspective.