

## **ABSTRACTS**

### **A review of the pensions sub-system.**

*Carlos Eduardo Febres*

This article offers a comparison between the projected law for the pensions sub-system, discussed in detail in the Congress, and the version finally introduced by the Executive on the basis of the Special Powers conceded by the same Congress. It concludes that the government introduced substantial modifications, ignoring the prolonged process of negotiations and the carefully-elaborated technical provisions designed to control and safeguard the System of Administrators of Pension Funds and that, in general, the final version of the law is substantially worse than the version discussed in the Congress.

**Keywords:** Social security, pensions, Pension subsystems law, social security laws.

### **Reform of the Pension system en Venezuela**

*Absalón Méndez Cegarra*

This article is a schematic version of the pensions reform recently introduced in Venezuela on the basis of the System of Integral Social Security Law and the Pensions Subsystem Law. It is a guide designed to facilitate an understanding of one of the most important aspects of the current social security reform in the country.

**Keywords:** Social security, pensions, legislation.

### **Toward a critical view of the Chilean insurance system: the experience of the Administrators of Pension Funds**

*Gabriel Alvarez*

This article offers a synthetic description of the current social security system in Chile and of the influence it has had in other Latin American countries, especially in Venezuela. The Chilean system is based on individual insurance and rejects the solidarity principle. Initially, it appeared very successful and for this reason influenced legislation in the rest of Latin America. Nevertheless, currently 62% of the Chilean population express a lack of confidence in the system. The article concludes underlining the relevance of this negative appreciation for the reforms which are being introduced in Venezuela.

**Keywords:** Social security, insurance system, pension funds, Chile.

**Social protection in the Venezuelan Agenda***Cristina Mateo*

The Venezuelan Agenda, announced in June 1996, included 14 social programs designed to offset the negative social impact of the economic measures. This article examines the way in which these programs were designed and implemented, with a view to discussing their consistency and coherence. It concludes with some critical comments and recommendations designed to improve the situation.

**Keywords:** Venezuelan Agenda, social policy, social programs.

**Poverty: an analysis of inequality from the point of view of human development***Mauricio Phelan*

This article analyzes the information in the latest Census on Population and housing in Venezuela, distinguishing three basic groups, the non-poor, the poor and the extremely poor, and examining their respective weight in the different federal entities. The comparisons are based on the concept of unsatisfied basic needs. The comparison reveals little difference between the non-poor of the respective federal entities but there are significant variations when examining the poor and the extremely poor. These differences are reflected in comparisons between the poor and extremely poor themselves and also in their relation with the non-poor. The article concludes that poverty is more marked in those entities characterized by a low level of human development.

**Key Words:** Indices of human development, basic needs, poverty

**An unexplored aspect of the informal sector: working conditions in micro-firms***Vilma Hernández Z.*

The labour market has undergone important changes, including a growing schism between the formal and informal sectors. This article offers the results of a study of work conditions in small firms, based on a survey of two hundred and forty six firms in the slums of the Caracas metropolitan area. The author concludes recommending a modification of the laws, regulations and decrees which affect labour relations and working conditions in the informal sector, in order to adapt them to the particular conditions of informal labor, particularly in the small firm. At the very least, there is a need for a modification of the regulations related to legal protection.

**Keywords:** Informal sector, micro-firms, working conditions

**The environment in the Venezuelan Agenda***Alexander Luzardo Nava*

The author argues that the absence of ecological considerations in the Venezuelan Agenda is particularly serious given that 15% of the national territory is defined as National Parks and approximately 33% is subject to a special administrative regime. The article examines the ecological, sociocultural and ethnical implications of an economic model which emphasizes oil and other mineral extraction, without considering even the recommendations of the World Bank on the environment, even less the compromises assumed in the 1992 Rio Declaration and the Agenda 21. It is suggested that the policy implies an ecological depuration similar to that of the ex-Soviet Union and does not even observe standards accepted in the international market.

**Keywords:** Venezuelan Agenda, development, environment

**Education and educators in frontier regions***Marleny Bustamante*

This article begins by suggesting that the particular role of education and of educators in frontier regions has generally been neglected both by the State and by the respective regional institutions, in circumstances in which there is a lack of conscience of the role of educators in maintaining and reproducing the values and symbols of the State and of promoting loyalty and a sense of belonging among the population. The article is divided in three parts: the first examines the characteristics of the frontier region and the prevailing State conception of the frontier; the second examines the function of education in the superstructure of the State and the prevailing visions related to the role of education in frontier regions; and the third underlines the role of the educator.

**Keywords:** Education, educator, State, frontier, population, territory.

**Armed Forces and Regional Security in Latin America***Daniel Blanco*

Globalization and the end of the Cold War have affected the traditional concept of strategic security and thus stimulated a redefinition of the role of the armed forces. In the case of Latin America, this process coincides with a notable weakening of the Nation-State, underlining the urgency of redefining future options.

**Keywords:** regional security, strategic defense, armed forces, Latin America

**Women, Culture and psychic disorders***Flor Andreani*

The central concern of this study is to explore the relationship between cultural stereotypes about women and the appearance of psychic disorders, with special reference to depressions, considered the paradigmatic illness of women in modern times. The author offers the results of her field work which registers the testimony of women suffering from depression, and examines its relation to the female gender roles of housewife, wife and mother.

**Keywords:** Disorders, cultural stereotypes, depression, feminine subjectivity, gender roles

**Considerations on the tests for non-nest hypotheses***Rubén A. Ibarra*

This article presents a discussion of the tests for non-nest hypotheses, based primarily on econometric publications. The objective is to put social scientists in contact with this methodology, explain its origins, its statistical principles, their underlying suppositions and the effective possibilities of empirical applications. In addition, the author presents his own results with models whose errors respond to first order mobile media processes.

**Keywords:** non-nest hypotheses, non-nest models.

**Representation of variables for a range of data obtained by multidimensional scaling.***Lucila Blanco & Carlos Malpica*

The authors propose a methodology for presenting data which permits a graphic representation of proximity measures between pairs, with a view to discovering conglomerate structures. On the basis of Multidimensional Scales, variables are introduced in order to compare the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of Latin American countries. The results, obtained with the help of Gower's prediction method, offer a graphic analysis of the data.

**Keywords:** Multidimensional Scales, proximity, main coordinates, J-K biplot.