

Ideas of progress and development in the context of climate crisis in peripheral philosophies in XXI century

Peripheries are areas beyond the center. Contemporary knowledge circulation is dominated by the academic production of Europe and North America. Philosophical debates conducted in other world regions remain on its outskirts. That is why we call them peripheral.

During the project we plan to focus on contemporary philosophical debates on progress and development in four world regions: Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and South-Eastern Asia.

Our main research question is:

What is the impact of climate crisis on the discourse on progress and development in peripheral philosophical debates?

For dozens of years diverse theoreticians have been elaborating critiques of progress and development understood in a Eurocentric manner. Those theoreticians were related to Marxism, Latin American dependency theory or world-system theory. They rejected modernization and development of countries and regions subjected to colonial and neo-colonial domination, in forms imposed by the imperialism of the North. They advocated development of those countries and regions on their own terms.

At the end of the previous century, other voices emerged. A current called anti- or postdevelopmentalism described the very idea of development as an ideological Western product, which was used to reinforce Western domination over other parts of the world.

In the context of climate crisis, debates on progress and development undergo reshaping. On the one hand, numerous theoreticians referring to Marxism or world-system theory have rejected traditional anthropocentrism and made the ecological issue central. On the other hand, the anti- or postdevelopmentalist current and its claims, including *de-growth*, have gained popularity. On the discursive level, its adherents have been also some governments despite conducting intense extractivist policies. It resonates well with the North American and Western-European ecological sensitivity and criticism of consumerism and productivism.

Meanwhile, the issue is that in case of large parts of the world one cannot speak about excessive consumption. Contrary, they, as Michael Löwy states, “must pursue greater classical «development»—railroads, hospitals, sewage systems, and other infrastructure.” This is a general statement. The research on regional debates on progress and development in the context of climate crisis are scarce and comparative studies are missing. The goal of our project is to fill in this gap.

We plan to realize this task by collecting and analyzing scientific papers published in journals with local and regional impact. For this purpose, using the method of integrative literature review, we will conduct systemic search of articles on relevant issues, in regional scholar databases. We will select those articles according to strictly defined criteria, analyze according to strictly defined rules, and then make a synthesis of the results. Thus, we will attempt to evaluate the impact of climate crisis on the way philosophers and theoreticians think about progress and development, and to determine dominating currents and orientations in each region. Then we will conduct a comparative analysis among all four regions. We will present results of our research at conferences and in scientific papers. The last task will be philosophical mapping pro- and antidevelopment orientations and approaches in contemporary peripheral philosophies in the context of climate crisis. It will be published as a monography.