**Practicing the alternative. How women cooperation compensate the impact of the crisis in the “global south”. The case of some countries in Latin America**

Lorenza Perini

**Abstract**

This paper intends to analyze the impacts of the 2008 global economic crisis with a gender perspective, especially focusing on Latin America, considered both as a region and through specific cases in the different countries, in order to highlight the local cooperative initiatives put into place by some groups of women in Guatemala, Bolivia and Honduras. The main target of the research is to evaluate how austerity perpetuates gender inequality in contexts like labor market and migration, and to advocate for sustained investment in gender equality. The idea is to demonstrate, through some practical examples, why there is a need to give attention to women’s movements, invest on women and girls education, knowledge, culture capabilities, competences and skills, in any time but especially during economic crisis, in order to transform the existing market and the existing models of production in society.

Through the study case of Latin America, the paper wants to underline the correlation between the general and classic indicators of the economic crisis (work / development / migration / welfare state) and some of the possible “gender variables”. The analysis of this complex scenario is made through a feminist economic approach, in order to broaden the idea of what the global economy is, by looking at the consequences of the economic model and its crisis in people’s lives, bringing into light that women’s economic and social contributions are invisible under the hegemonic patriarchal model we live in.

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