

ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE ESTUDIOS DE ASIA Y ÁFRICA  
LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN STUDIES



**XIV ALADAA International Conference:  
"Asia and Africa. Connections, interchange and new academic  
approaches from Latin America"**

**Homage to Kazuya Sakai**

**13-17 August 2013**

Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences

National University of La Plata

La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Submission of suggestions for sessions, panels, etc.: until 10 March 2013

Announcement of the accepted sessions and panels: 25 February 2013

Submission of abstracts: until 15 April 2013.

Deadline for final papers: 15 July 2013.

**First Circular**

As we know, diversity is not only a part of the human condition but also a necessary condition for plurality and a political resource, one we must "dessentialize" and understand as an open relational process, connected with power relations and social disparities. In that sense, the different analyses and debates that have taken place within the social sciences in the last few years, in addition to various social processes, provide us with an opportunity to transform the framework through which we "read" these processes and with which we approach them.

Concurrently, we need to add new theoretical perspectives that contribute their own way of looking at Asian and African populations from Latin America, such as the quality of life perspective, popular culture approaches, environmental issues, etc.

Last, we must also take note of the challenge of including in functional articulations – and in a way that is concrete and practical for interchange – all those other social actors who work outside the written academic culture and are involved in areas such as public or private administration, social movements,

cultural industries, etc., which are also important for the understanding/dynamics of our fields of study.

All this raises the challenge of making a critical revision of the connections, interchanges and new approaches to Asia and Africa that we, from Latin America, create, note, develop, and enact, which we communicate and which others communicate to us.

Our intent is for all the papers presented at the conference to contribute to:

-Establishing connections, as García Canclini calls for in his analysis of human and social sciences in our continent, which in his view are still riddled with problems such as selfishness in the treatment of subjects and with the notion that different disciplines are closed off spaces. Without those connections, it will be difficult to advance scholarly work in these areas.

-Fostering a more active intellectual exchange of ideas between us and the leading specialists in each area who will be invited, by providing a space, if only for three days, for us to pursue that exchange intensively.

-Proposing new approaches from a Latin American perspective – for example, as mentioned above, the so-called popular culture approach, the analysis of environmental issues and the challenging of the hegemonic north, the subject of quality of life, etc.

-Fostering a deeper level of dialogue in our academic work with any other social actors who may participate in the event, enriching it, sharing their doubts and concerns, strengthening the dialogue with those who work in administration and other areas, and reinforcing the central position of academic work in that dialogue, without undervaluing other types of knowledge.

### **Relevant Dates**

Submission of suggestions for sessions, panels, etc.: until 10 March 2013 (Please make your submission one page long at most, with 2/3 coordinators for each session).

Announcement of the accepted sessions and panels: 25 February 2013

Submission of abstracts: until 15 April 2013.

Deadline for final papers: 15 July 2013.

(The next circular will contain the guidelines for the submission of abstracts and full papers.)

Please send all submissions to:

aladaaxiv@gmail.com

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## **Tentative General Programme**

Tuesday, 13 August 2013: Inaugural Meeting

Wednesday, 14 August 2013: Simultaneous academic activities (considering countries and geographical areas).

- Korean Studies Conference
- Day of Japanese Studies
- Day of Chinese Studies -Confucio Institute, LPNU.
- Day of Indian Studies
- Day of Asian South East Studies
- Day of África Studies
- Day of Central Asia Studies
- Day of Ancient Eastern Studies
- Day of Middle East and Islam Studies

Thursday and Friday, 15 and 16 August 2013: Open Sessions

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