



Cooperation strategies and research methodologies in a regional climate change impacts study on La Plata Basin (LPB) in South America

Valeria Hernandez (4), Florencia Fossa Riglos (1), Eugenia Muzi (2), and Laura Rey (3)

(4) IRD - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Unité Mixte de Recherche 201 "Développement et Sociétés"
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/IEDES , Nogent-sur-Marne ,France (hernandez.vale@yahoo.com), (1) Facultad de
Filosofía y Letras, UBA, Buenos Aires, argentina (florenciafr@gmail.com), (2) Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, UBA, Buenos
Aires, argentina (eugeniamuzi@gmail.com), (3) Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, UBA, Buenos Aires, argentina
(l_va@hotmail.com)

The European- South American Project CLARIS LPB aims at studying regional climate change on La Plata Basin (LPB) in South America, its potential impacts on hydro-climate and society, and to propose adaptation strategies through a pluridisciplinary and transectorial approach. This means there is an interest to work together with the agriculture sector, hydric sector and public policy makers in order to elaborate adaptation strategies responding to each sector needs and interests.

One of the main challenges of the Project is to foster the valuing of pluridisciplinary approach and to promote the synergy inside the researchers' network, among the different work package groups (WP), as well as the relation with external collaborators and other social actors. These three dimensions (intraWP, interWP, transectorial) structure the network and a set of cooperation strategies and research methodologies have been designed around them according to the consortium's scientific, sociologic and geographical characteristics.

The transectorial dimension is presented as central in order to achieve, in particular, two of CLARIS LPB objectives: on one side, it allows the analysis of climate change impacts on specific sectors of social life (agriculture and hydric sector); on the other side, it leads to the elaboration of adaptation strategies which respond in a realistic way to the social actors needs.

Therefore, in the two sites under study in Argentina that we will present on this occasion: San Justo (North-Centre of Santa Fe Province) and Junín (West-Centre of Buenos Aires Province), the methodology employed was to establish cooperation bonds with the local actors and institutions trough an anthropological fieldwork. With the aim of promoting the interaction between scientists and social actors, we proposed their joint work trough participative workshops in which dialogue and transectorial reflection was privileged.

Through these workshops we have looked forward to generate a space in which both social actors and researchers could exchange the tools and knowledge produced by CLARIS LPB. Another objective of this work environment was to deepen into the climate change perception of the actors involved on the territories under study, and to contribute in their reasoned decision making process. Last, we have contemplated the hypothesis that this collective work would favour reflection and even to elaborate climate change adaptation strategies in a direct relation with the results of the research performed. In this sense, it infers that these strategies will be accord to the expectations of the populations to which they are directed to, since they participated on their elaboration.

Parallel and in relation to the consortium's integration strategy, in a deeper and consistent way, the project counts with an observatory of the CLARIS LPB network, with the objective of accounting and reflecting about this pluridisciplinary, multiregional and transectorial knowledge production process. In order to carry out this observatory and to study scientific communities, we have applied the ethnographic method in combination with social network analysis. Thus, we intend in the first place, to build a social communication field inside the network; and second, to develop a meta reflexive dimension about the main characteristics of this particular way of knowledge production as a "scientific- productive collaboration network" related to the climate change problematic and its social impacts.

On this presentation we propose to present a reflection about these work devices, both in relation to the kind of knowledge they have allowed us to generate about: 1) the scientific problematic studied (climate change and it's social impacts); 2) the kind of relation that we have been able to establish among the involved sectors (scientific community, local actors, policy makers); 3) the interdisciplinary dimension in the context of this kind of international research device.