

# The Swiss School of Latin American Studies

invites you to the Workshop

## “Latin America & Social Innovation”

Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo  
de la Universidad de San Gallen (CLS-HSG)  
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8, CH-9000 St.Gallen

Friday, March 16, 2018 - Room 52-5120 (5th Floor), 14:00-19:00  
Saturday, March 17, 2018 - Room 52-7024 (7th Floor), 09:00-14:15



Social innovations are new strategies, concepts, ideas and organizations that meet social needs and have a social purpose. They focus on the process of how change can take shape and on new forms of cooperation—particularly those that work towards a sustainable society. Social innovation is characterized by the capacity to address social needs that traditional policy seems unable to tackle, the empowerment of groups and individuals, and the willingness to change social relations. It can take place within the private/public and for-profit/non-profit sectors, or in the spaces between them. Some recent social innovations include open source, fair trade, microfinance, and socially responsible investing. Social innovation has influenced fields as far ranging as social services, health, work integration, environmental sustainability, and consumer protection.

Although social innovation is on the rise, is it simply another buzzword? It might not be able to substantially tackle pressing social needs. Rather, some critics claim that it might even disguise a dangerous lack of attention to structural inequalities, especially those that affect the poorest. Hence, we will explore what kind of role social innovation as a process and a strategy could play in fostering human capacities in Latin America.