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Research Group Geopolitics and Mercosur
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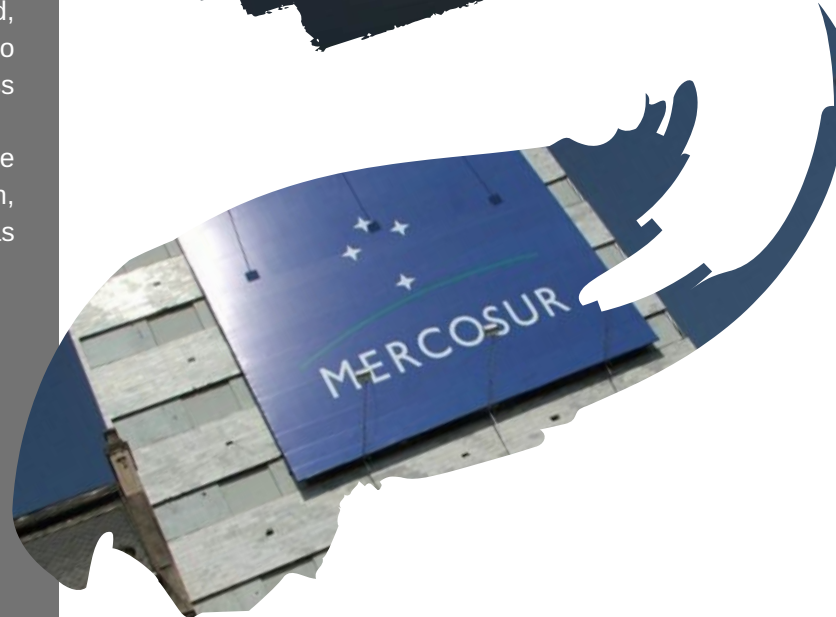


The CNPq Research Group “Geopolitics and Mercosur” aims to analyse from a geopolitical scope the main advancements and dilemmas faced by MERCOSUR in the last twenty five years. At the same time, the group is dedicated to geopolitical themes and its relations with Brazil and Latin America, in special the ones linked to China, BRICS, Russia and the South-South Cooperation.

During its existence, South America’s integration Project is facing numerous challenges to consolidate itself, and MERCOSUR is no exception to the rule. These challenges are related to both internal struggles inherent to the process of integration, and the systemic great powers schemes to maintain their privileges related to trade dynamics, economics and politics favorable to their interests and objectives.

The analysis of the problems faced by MERCOSUR and the geopolitical dynamics involved, the proposal elaboration and alternatives to consolidate the South American integration process are the tasks developed by the research group.

The research diffusion will happen through the production of articles, workshops, book publication, organizing and participating of events such as symposiums and congresses.



Geopolitics of Integration: The Latin-American process of regional integration in the contemporary World-System

In the current times we find in Latin America a series of regional integration proposals, such as the Andean Community of Nations, UNASUR, CELAC, ALBA-TCP, CARICOM etc, which coexist under various subjects (infrastructure, politics and socio-economic), aiming to create a harmonious region to promote its social-economic development. Although some initiatives can have their origins traced back to the last century sixties, like the Andean Community of Nations and the Free Trade Latin American Association (ALALC), the results are still below the expected.

Therefore it is necessary to better comprehend the reasons behind the difficulties existent within these integrationist projects in their various types and also by taking in consideration the global geopolitical dynamic involved. In other words, the economical great powers act to weaken the integration processes that are against their commercial, economical and geopolitical interests.

Besides the geopolitical aspect, it Will be utilized a theoretical frame elaborated by Immanuel Wallerstein (World-System), Giovanni Arrighi (Systemic Cycles of Acumulation), Fernand Braudel (Longue Durée) and Antonio Gramsci (Hegemony), and also by using an antisystemic perspective to identify the forces which act in the direction to weaken the integration project that are against the pro-systemic forces which have no interest in the advancements promoted by the forementioned projects, containing them in the United State’s hegemonical cycle and their geopolitical role.