

## **World's Largest Congress of Americanists to Take Place in Vienna in 2012**

***From 15 to 20 July 2012, the University of Vienna will host the 54 International Congress of Americanists (54 ICA). Around 5000 participants from Latin America and Europe are expected to gather in Austria for interdisciplinary exchange and international networking.***

The International Congress of Americanists returns to Vienna for the third time after 1908 and 1960, under the theme 'Building Dialogues in the Americas'. Prominent scholars from the fields of Humanities and Social Studies will gather here to present their latest research findings and engage in professional exchange with fellow researchers.

The exceedingly high interest in this congress is reflected in the large number of approved symposia, which currently stands at 460. Around 5000 participants are expected to attend the 54 ICA, with an estimated 50% from Latin America. The various thematic fields covered by the congress range from Environment and Resource Politics over Economy to Human Rights. However, the fields of History and Social and Cultural Anthropology are the most widely represented.

As illustrated by the motto of the congress, 'Building Dialogues in the Americas', the organizers' aim is to bridge the regional and disciplinary divides within the research area. Each day there will be various symposia and workshops as well as keynote speeches and roundtable discussions. One such keynote speech will be held by the acclaimed Ecuadorian economist and former Minister of Energy and Mining, Alberto Acosta, also known as one of the advocates of the indigenous concept of 'Buen Vivir'. This concept of 'good life', which has its origins in Latin America, is also starting to attract more and more interest in Europe. 'Buen vivir' places environmental and social norms for coexistence at the core of its philosophy and tries to establish alternatives to capitalism and economic growth. Another programme highlight during 54 ICA will be the homage paid to the Austrian-born historian, Friedrich Katz.

After hosting the EU-Latin America Summit in 2006, Vienna once again welcomes a high-ranking event with a strong focus on Latin America. ICA has an outstandingly long tradition, having first convened in Nancy, France, in 1875. Since the 1970s the congress has been taking place every three years, with locations alternating between the Americas and Europe.

The 54 ICA is being organized jointly by the University of Vienna, the Austrian Latin America Institute and the Austrian Ethnology Museum. The venue for the congress will be the University of Vienna.

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