

SHORT REVIEW OF THE I INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COMPARATIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW „CUBA CON-PARA 2023”¹

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The I International Congress of Comparative and Constitutional Law, "Cuba CON-PARA", was held in Havana between April 4 and 6, 2023. The conclave was sponsored by the Centro di Studi sull'America Latina of the Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Sociali of the Università of Bologna, the Gruppo di ricerca sul diritto pubblico comparato ed Europeo of the Università degli Studi of Siena, Italy; and the additional support of the Academia Interamericana de Derechos Humanos of the Universidad Autónoma of Coahuila and the Instituto Iberoamericano de Derecho Constitucional, both from Mexico, together with those of the Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba and the Faculty of Law of the University of Havana. The latter was formally selected as the venue for the congress, although the sessions were held in other locations inside and outside the university.

Cuba CON-PARA's main objective was to encourage academics, researchers and other legal professionals from different latitudes to exchange knowledge and experiences around current approaches to the method-science of Comparative Law, based on transcendent issues of constitutional law. Other objectives of the conclave were: to promote the study and analysis of comparative law in Cuba; and to reposition the Faculty of Law of the University of Havana as a space for dialogical and critical legal thought, internally and with international impact.

Contributions were distributed in 7 thematic axes in Comparative and Constitutional Law: epistemology, analysis, implementation and challenges of Comparative Law; constitutionalism in critical perspective from the Global South; identities, race, gender, intersectional approach; beyond the Nature-Culture dualism: the protection of the environment, ecosystems and Mother Earth; the "engine room" of the constitution, electoral power and forms of government in Latin America; constitutional reforms, beyond the procedure and constitutional rigidity; human rights and their guarantees in comparative perspective; and, questions on the judicial function in comparative perspective.

The meeting was attended by more than 100 foreign delegates and around 60 Cubans, from more than 30 universities between Cuba and other countries. Other

¹ <https://www.cubaconpara.com/en/>.

legal professionals also participated, including defenders, judges, advisors and representatives of the public ministry. There were 99 interventions distributed in master lectures, central conferences, presentations, communications and posters. Some twenty countries from North America, the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Europe were represented, among which Italy, Mexico and Colombia stood out.

The personalities invited to this first edition were: Lucio Pegoraro, Alma Mater Professor at the University of Bologna (Italy), and since march 2023, holder of the "Lucio Pegoraro" Chair of Comparative Law at the University of Salamanca, the first chair of this type in Spain; Luigi Ferrajoli, Emeritus Professor of Rome III; Tania Groppi and Magdalena Correa Henao, professors at the University of Siena and the Externado de Colombia University, respectively; and Reyes Rodríguez Mondragón, magistrate-president of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of the judiciary of the nation, in the United States of Mexico. Other personalities who attended the congress were Ghazi Gherairi, Tunisian ambassador to UNESCO (2016-2022) and professor of constitutional law at the Université de Cartaghe; Toader Tudorel, rector of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, minister of justice (2017-2019) and judge of the Constitutional Court of Romania (2017-2016); Guillaume Tusseau, professor of Public Law at the Sciences Po Law School in Paris, and member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. For Cuba, Homero Acosta Álvarez, deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power and secretary of this body and its Council of State, and Rubén Remigio Ferro, president of the Supreme People's Court of the Republic of Cuba, who both made special interventions on the first and last day, respectively. It should be noted that, in addition to the participation of high academic and institutional representatives, many young and brilliant researchers from universities in Europe and the Americas participated, an evident sign of the attractiveness of comparative law studies, for those who represent the future of our Academy at an international level.

The congress concluded with the signing by the delegates of the "The Habana Charter about the I International Congress of Comparative and Constitutional Law Cuba CON-PARA". This manifesto patented the idea that Comparative Law is a means for promotion of the interconnection of cultures, juridical traditions and national legal orders through the realization of values as human dignity, fraternity, solidarity, harmony and mutual respect among human beings, communities and nature.

This document also established the study of Comparative Law, as a legal science, should be driven by our universities in order to optimize the processes of teaching and investigation, through the promotion of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches that build an authentic, renewed and plural thinking, to reformulate classical epistemological schemes of juridical knowledge and its necessary projection for social transformation.

A sample of the international impact of the congress is the fact that several Law Journals have shown interest in publishing the scientific results of the contributions

presented, among which are the Revista Derecho del Estado (Colombia), the Revista General de Derecho Público Comparado-Iustel (Spain), the Revista Cuadernos Giménez Abad (Spain) and the Revista de Drept Constitucional (Romania).

A new edition is expected in April 2025, again in Havana.

Congratulations to comparative law and critical thinking!