**Provisoianl title:** Discourse and social inequality: education and employment policies in Latin America. The case of Colombia.

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**Abstract:**
Taking the example of Colombia, this research aims to examine the discourses issued during the debates over the formulation of education and employment policies after the introduction of structural adjustment plans of the 90's. Theses reforms have caused profound changes in the Latin American States and, at the same time, this period has been characterized by an increase in social inequality: in the field of employment, large segments of the population have been pushed to the informal work complicating their access to social security and, on the other hand, a large gap continues to exist between the richest and poorest quantiles as regards access to education.

Furthermore, various local groups have manifested in favor or against the structural adjustment plans and, as a result, the social policies were conducted by neo-liberals (privatization of public services) or universalists principles (egalitarian access to social services). Consequently, to understand how various debates and positioning of divers actors have outlined the reforms in Latin America after the 90's, this research aims to examine public policies as discourses. From this perspective, the studies on the formulation and planning of policies use the language as units of analysis and interpretation as a methodology.

For the case of Latin America, the study of social policy is especially important because the debates around the 90's reform continue and a third wave of ideas about the role of social policies is taking place, marked by a desire of redefinition of public policies and of the state and citizenship's roles.