



“... ‘conceptualismo del sur...’
... ‘conceptualism from the South’...”



Red Conceptualismos Del Sur (South Conceptualisms Network) Institutional Declaration

SINCE ITS formation in 2007, the Conceptualismos del Sur Network (RCDS) has grown informally based on the cooperation, affection, mutual solidarity and trust of its constituents. With an eye toward empowering its internal and external connections, the RCDS declares its intention to endow itself, starting immediately, with more formally articulated organizational, economic, technical and political mechanisms. By means of this institutional declaration, the RCDS declares the following:

- The RCDS is conceived as an international platform for work, thought and the taking of collective positions.
- The RCDS assumes that research, the generation of archives or the production of experiments to reactivate memories of that which has been experienced are political activities, not merely academic or professional tasks.
- The RCDS considers that its policies for the generation, circulation and acquisition of archives should not only coincide with a recognition of the consequences of colonialism, but as well, with the presence of colonialism in contemporary Latin America.
- The name Red Conceptualismos del Sur was adopted based on the following three notions:

One

The tactical use of the terms *conceptualisms* and *conceptual practices*. The RCDS recognizes that such terms have in the last twenty years come to be used to elaborate historiographic, theoretical and critical tasks for the de-hierarchization, impugning and decentralization of canonical writings that take so-called “conceptual art” as their object of inquiry. We understand the terms not as a specific and delimited artistic tendency but rather as an alternative way of producing art and understanding its social role.

Two

The strategic use of the term *sur* (south). Its use is designed to intervene in Latin America’s geopolitical demarcations based on current hemispheric conditions. The geopolitical condition of *sur* is not used metonymically to describe the geography of Latin America but rather as a discursive tool for dismantling “centrality” and undo the epistemic “marginality” based upon which global “conceptualism” has been historicized. Through the strategic and geopolitical use of the term *sur* it is expected that position taking from within Latin America does not suppose the vindication of a regional cultural identity, but rather, allows for the revision of such strict dichotomies as divide between center and periphery; between canonical and non-canonical; between the first and third worlds; or between the Western and non-Western.

Three

A flexible use of such temporal limits as are employed. For the RCDS, the decades of the 1960s and 70s are not definitive chronological markers nor fixed historiographical circumscriptions; rather, they represent the temporal and conceptual nucleus from which the problematics that concern the RCDS’s research are derived.

General Objectives

By means of this foundational document, the RCDS declares the following general objectives to be its priorities:

- To generate research, archiving policies and experience memory re-activation experiments with regard to “conceptual” practices carried out in Latin America during the decade of the sixties and seventies.

- To assemble the needed technical, political, economic and institutional tools to drive and articulate new research and new work foci as a network.
- To collectively devise and drive disruptive policies for the exhibition, institutionalization, realization, and assignment of value, circulation, publicization, acquisition and conservation as cultural heritage of archives related to Latin American “conceptual” practice.
- To collectively promote a body of ethics (differing from those that prevail in market economies) as well as alternative political frameworks that can influence decision making as well as the implementation of public and international cultural policies related to new forms of material, economic, artistic and symbolic exploitation in Latin America.
- To construct spaces for exchange, discussion and political intervention with regard to research undertaken by network members and generate, by means of such spaces, complementary or conflictive synergies with established academic and institutional circuits.

The Network’s Internal Organization

The RCDS is comprised of individual and collective subjects. Network membership is flexibly defined: anyone who regularly participates in any of its meetings, work, deliberations and/or decisions is considered a part of the network. Affinity with the RCDS’s processes or objectives is not indicative of membership; membership is exclusively defined by effective participation in any of its instances for organization, participation, work, deliberation or decision making, as guided by protocols for action for each of those activities. At the same time, the RCDS promotes and establishes different forms of association, collaboration or cooperation with other individual and/or collective subjects and institutions. The organizational and executive composition of the RCDS is made up of the totality of its task forces and its mutual interactions. A task force consists of a collective that undertakes stated and concrete objectives, defined and recognized by those within the network. Task forces can be of two types:

a. Specified task forces. These are made up by subjects who operate with a high degree of autonomy within the network. They have the power to establish their own standards with regard to how open, or flexible they may be, or to what constitutes membership, etc., as a function of the

objectives specified for any given task force. A characteristic task force might be, for instance, one assembled to undertake research with regard to a specific archive or around a specifically stated editorial project.

b. Interdisciplinary task forces. These are composed of subjects who take up questions of general interest—interdisciplinary interests—to the network at large. Their degree of openness must be to the greatest possible extent. Any RCDS member who chooses may always participate in them provided his/her participation is effective and his/her impact is recognized as part of the task force’s internal operating guidelines. Task forces, regardless of their nature, should be based on transparent communication both internally and with regard to the network in general. Even if a network member does not participate in any task force, he/she should be granted free (i.e., complete and well organized) access to the totality of research, information, deliberation and decision making that is produced within the task forces. Task forces are therefore obliged to facilitate a results archive, based on its work efforts, to be found in the network’s “public sphere.”

Task Forces

The totality of members and task forces compose the deliberative wing of the RCDS; the totality of the task forces constitute its executive body. Task forces will interact collaboratively based on interdisciplinary and autonomous principles; that is, based on the totality of the stated group objectives and shared responsibilities. Criteria for decision making therefore emerges from autonomy on the part of taskforces and their interdisciplinary makeup. The task forces to be recognized within the network, regardless of their type, operate separately via specific mailing lists as well as timely work sessions and organizational meetings.

The RCDS’s “sounding board” or “public sphere” operates by means of internal communication tools: mailing lists, online encyclopedias, etc. Periodic work sessions are different from the network’s plenary sessions. Periodic work sessions and organizational meetings will be scheduled according to the ongoing development of the specific projects undertaken by task forces. Plenary meetings will be scheduled at least every three years and will generally be characterized by balance and perspective, i.e., they will be an assessment of the preceding period, and they will seek consensus, and they will identify plans for subsequent objectives. The

RCDS's plenary meetings will record their actions via the taking of minutes that will be published; a specific task force for the production of such internal network minutes will be formed. Periodic work and planning meeting participants are obliged to archive the minutes from their meetings as well as documents pertaining to their objectives, procedures and advances on the network's public sphere.

Specific Work Protocols

Access to the network's public sphere or deliberative area is open and non-hierarchical but does presume the following conditions:

1. that a current member present new potential members;
2. that he or she demonstrate to members his/her desire to join the network; and that
3. he/she ascribe to the terms of this Declaration.

Any network member may propose and justify the inclusion of a specific or adjunct group for membership or propose including one (or more) already existing groups, as long as the circumstances of its affinity are specified and above all, that its commitment to the work at hand is sustained. The inclusion or exclusion criteria for new members to an operating task force should be a function of the group's general objectives as well as the specific objectives it has laid out for itself, and always be conscious of the need to foment horizontal, transversal and collective participation as part of each group's specific organizing principle as well as principles managerial efficiency.

Every task force will autonomously self-govern its operational protocols as well as its procedures for making specific decisions. The length of a task force's existence will depend on the specifics of the tasks it undertakes.

The projects, specific objectives and protocols that every task force devises for itself must always be made available on the network's public sphere. Task forces must therefore promote a multidisciplinary approach with regard to network objectives and deliberative activities. The undersigned subscribe to this document in mutual recognition of the equality of difference.

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To date the Red Conceptualismos del Sur is constituted by Halim Badawi (Bogotá), Joaquín Barriendos (Mexico City/ Barcelona), Assumpta Bassas (Barcelona), Patricia Bentancur (Montevideo), Marcus Betti (São Paulo), Carina Cagnolo (Córdoba), Fernanda Carbajal (Santiago/ Buenos Aires) Graciela Carnevale (Rosario), Jesús Carrillo (Madrid), María Fernanda Cartagena (Quito), Helena Chávez Mac Gregor (Mexico City), Lía Colombino (Asunción), María Clara Cortés (Bogotá), Fernando Davis (La Plata/ Buenos Aires), María de los Ángeles de Rueda (La Plata), Felipe Ehrenberg (São Paulo), Marcelo Expósito (Barcelona/ Buenos Aires), Fernando Fraenza (Córdoba), Cristina Freire (São Paulo), Pilar García (Mexico City) Cristián Gómez Moya (Santiago de Chile), David Gutiérrez (Bogotá), María Iñigo (Madrid), Syd Krochmalny (Buenos Aires), AnaLongoni (Buenos Aires), Miguel López (Lima/ Barcelona), William López (Bogotá), Octavio Mercado (Mexico City), André Mesquita (São Paulo), Fernanda Nogueira (São Paulo/ Barcelona), Soledad Novoa (Santiago de Chile), Luisa Ordóñez (Bogotá), Clemente Padín (Montevideo), Juan Pablo Pérez Rocca (Buenos Aires), Alejandra Perié (Córdoba), Júlia Reboucas (Minas Gerais), Cristina Ribas (Rio de Janeiro), Suely Rolnik (São Paulo), Juan Carlos Romero (Buenos Aires), Sylvia Suárez (Bogotá), Mabel Tapia (Paris/ Buenos Aires), Emilio Tarazona (Lima), Paulina Varas (Valparaíso), Ana Vidal (Bahía Blanca), Jaime Vindel (León/Madrid), Rafael Vital (São Paulo), Isobel Whitelegg (London).