

**Project title: Afrodescendant and Indigenous Transnational Movements in Latin America: Crossroads of territoriality and collective/ethnic memory**

**Summary**

Transnational linkages between afrodescendant and indigenous peoples reshape local ethnic identities in Latin America. Afrodescendant groups and indigenous communities have been building transnational networks throughout the Latin American continent, especially since the end of the 1980s. The interactions among indigenous and afrodescendant movements have led to intense questioning on ethnicity and generated political recognition processes that have transformed place imaginaries and ethnic-political patterns beyond the nation-state. Some of these developments have become established organizations that pursue social mobilization and political involvement, to transnational scales. Although both of those groups have been marginalized, especially, during the colonization, the own colonial history of each ethnical group shows significant differences. While indigenous peoples have already inhabited in the subcontinent, afrodescendant were forcefully brought from Africa as slaves. Assimilation policies have influenced and defined their socio-political achievements and participation within Latin American nations. However, Alternative literatures both written and verbal have preserved the cultural practices and ethnic memories. They have been reproduced within the subcultures and passed on from generation to generation. This ethnic-historic legacy has also contributed to build transnational ethnic mobilisation and has influenced the acknowledgement of plurinational states contemporary context. The formation of ethnic networks through the subcontinent from both afrodescendant and indigenous peoples are shaped by convergences and dissimilarities in regard with scopes, discourses, and thematic focuses. This ethnic interaction at transnational scales influences both local processes and trans-local interaction. This study envisions: (a) comparing and contrasting transnational formation from both afrodescendant and indigenous organization and their interdependencies, (b) to examine the role of narrative/literary practices (written or/and oral), especially concerning collective ethnic memory and territorial governance, in the construction of transnational ethnicity, and (c) to explore to what extent transnational ethnic alliances influences the place-base ethnical practices and movements in the Latin American by illustrating the afrodescendant case in the cross-border Ecuadorian-Colombian area.