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**Exploring the Role of Socioeconomic Discrimination Law in Latin America**

Discrimination on grounds of socioeconomic status or class has a textual presence in constitutions and human rights treaties far more extensive than ordinarily assumed. It remains, however, an underexplored category in constitutional theory, and a largely peripheral one in constitutional courts’ adjudication practices. Yet if one asks people in Latin America about the forms and causes of discrimination most salient in their societies, they immediately place class or poverty-based discrimination at the forefront of their lists.

My paper —which will reflect a research still in an exploratory stage, part of a more extensive project on the subject to be developed these incoming years— will inquire if and in what ways more robust developments around discrimination on socioeconomic grounds could profitably add to contemporary constitutional theory and practice in Latin America. It will start by reviewing the arguments put forward in the literature about the advantages and disadvantages or complexities of turning socioeconomic status a central category within antidiscrimination law, as well as the still scarce examples of adjudication centered on socioeconomic discrimination to be found in the case law of the constitutional courts of the region. Ultimately, the idea is to situate discrimination on grounds of socioeconomic status within a larger set of constitutional tools and sites where class and poverty-related concerns might also find a place, and ascertain the relative role that this part of antidiscrimination law should/might play, given the transformative vocation of Latin American contemporary constitutions and the central role they confer to the fighting of inequality and social, economic, cultural and political exclusion.

The project the paper inaugurates will hopefully contribute to the development of comparative constitutional law by engaging with transnational antidiscrimination law from the Global South, while identifying and exploring the specifics of certain debates within a context —contemporary Latin American constitutionalism— that has clear singularities when viewed from a comparative stance. The amount of equality-reinforcing tools present in Latin American Constitutions offers an unmatched scenario where to assess what class or poverty--based antidiscrimination clauses really add to the constitutional menu —in a context where discrimination unfortunately remains a widespread social concern—.

**Keywords:** antidiscrimination law, socioeconomic status, Latin American constitutionalism, transformative constitutionalism, equality