PRESENTATION

In this issue of Última Década, we embark on a collaborative effort and mutual exchange with the Center for the Study of Youth (CESJ) in Havana, Cuba. This collaboration delves into the contemporary conditions and situations of young people in Chile and Cuba through various theoretical, conceptual, and methodological approaches.

Embracing the premise that certain social processes are more epochal and have had a greater impact—both objective and subjective—on young people and youth, we, as a journal, join forces to bring together the insights that Chilean and Cuban researchers offer from their social analyses of youth. These insights are born from the studies on youth being conducted in each country.

We are aware that these epochal processes can be interpreted in multiple ways, where strong dynamics of globalization coexist, sometimes revealing certain features of homogenization. Simultaneously, they also speak of differentiation and particularism, particularly through the constructions and discourses of young people themselves in their specific contexts.

There is no doubt that Cuban and Chilean societies are building different social, political, and cultural processes. However, we believe that it is possible to identify points of convergence, differentiation, and connections in how youth in both countries experience diverse forms of reaffirming their individual and social identities in the context of the recent history they have lived through.

On these foundations, we present discussions on Cuban and Chilean youth, hoping to advance further in the study and understanding of youth-related topics from a comparative perspective in the future.

Our gratitude goes to the Center for the Study of Youth, particularly to its director NATIVIDAD GUERRERO, and to CESJ researcher ANA ISABEL PEÑATE, for their valuable work in editing this volume.

THE DIRECTOR VALPARAÍSO (CHILE), DECEMBER 2009