

**Caicedo, J. y Angel, S. (ed.). (2016). *Latin American Studies in Comparative Perspective*. Bogotá: Universidad Nacional de Colombia.**

The purpose is to provide formal elements, from Latin American studies, on the comparative method for political analysis.

It addresses comparative methodology, some conceptual discussions, and finally, Latin American studies.

Workabounds on comparisons of political systems, parties, processes and diachronic and synchronic dynamics in the region, but there is no full recognition of what the method provides and its limitations.

The comparative method can be used in the study of a small number of cases, N small, which aims to control or validate generalizations. Unlike statistical studies, N large, cases in comparative politics are addressed intensively. What defines the comparative method is that it works with few cases and considers a large number of variables.

There are divergences within the classical writings on comparative politics and the writings of the Latin American academy. The historical development of both research agendas must be differentiated for historical reasons. The line of comparative politics in Latin America is more circumstantial in historical terms and the preponderance of certain ideologies is clear. In classical studies, there is a quantitative trend and an objective approach to research topics is sought.

In Latin America there are four lines of work: development and populism, studies on democracy, disciplinary studies of political science and studies on political parties. It is possible to identify case and area studies from the 1970s in classical comparative politics and in emerging authors. This trend initiates or enriches new lines of research, trying to generate greater methodological sensitivity towards comparison.

Since the consolidation of comparative politics as a subfield of political science, it is possible to identify a first stage where the formulation of hypotheses was prioritized. Based on the methodological reflection started at the beginning of the seventies, discussion began on the scope and precision of the hypotheses when formulating significant explanations of complex phenomena. From the 1980s onwards, comparative research moved away from general theories and recovered the relevance of context.