MEXICAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ● STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Mexico Solidarity Network and UAM-Xochimilco partnering for a better world

Participant Research Programs in Mexico and Human Subject Review

The Mexico Solidarity Network's participant research programs in Mexico incorporate a version of "human subject review" that is comparable to, or even more stringent than, the US university research requirements of which we are aware.

1. The Mexico Solidarity Network maintains longstanding relationships with various social movements in Mexico. Students who participate in our research programs are assigned to work with one of these social movements, during which time the student both lives and works with active participants in these movements.

2. Students participating in our program must submit an application, including a summary of their research project, to the hosting social movement organizations in Mexico. The host organizations have the option of rejecting, modifying or accepting the research proposal.

3. Students conducting research with the Mexico Solidarity Network commit to a Participant Action Research model in which the students work with and contribute to the social movement to which they are assigned. The first several weeks of the program involves a sort of vetting process in which students and social actors mutually learn about each other, with the goal of developing links of trust. Students may propose a research program before beginning their work with the social movement, but that program will likely be changed in the process of interaction.

4. All reports, papers, videos, recordings or other student academic production that results from the program must be reviewed by the host organization before it can be published or utilized in public forums.

As is evident by the description above, the Mexico Solidarity Network and its social movement partners in Mexico hold researchers to the highest degree of responsibility and accountability. Moreover, instead of being part of a pre-research review, these standards of accountability are built in to every stage of the process of research design, investigation, and publication.