

## Propositions

Attached to the thesis

LAND OF CONTRAST, CONTEXT OF EXCLUSION  
Social Capital in Policy Formulation: Valle Del Cauca - Colombia, 1998-2008

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1. Social policy formulation is a battlefield in which a wide variety of intervening actors gauge their strength. In this arena, the economically, socially and politically powerful impose their agenda (*this thesis*).
2. A condition sine qua non to achieving inclusion - socially, economically, politically, financially, is to understand and expose the circumstances and forms of exclusion (*this thesis*).
3. Any effort to overcome current social exclusion entails the reconfiguration of power relationships. It would lead to more inclusive social, economic and political structures (*this thesis*).
4. The blurred boundaries of the international, the national and the sub-national in the challenges and opportunities for social development and policy formulation impose a genuine and revitalized consideration about the local (*this thesis*).
5. It is at the local level where policies, programs, and projects, find concrete and contextualized forms affecting peoples' lives positively or negatively. It is not to forget that policy formulation is about human beings of flesh and blood (*this thesis*).
6. Social relations matters. Reciprocity, trust, mutual help, transparency, and solidarity can never be overrated in building a better and sustainable world.
7. Poverty is not the problem. The problem is inequality. Inequality in income, education, social services, and opportunities.
8. Use and abuse of fashionable key terms in social policy formulation result in the trivializations of meaning and sense. The social, the excluded, the vulnerable, decontextualized and repeated ad infinitum means everything and nothing at the same time.
9. To overcome all sorts of exclusion, the enhancement, development and use of critical thinking is essential. Critical thinking, however, may become a commonplace devoid of true meaning.
10. Alternatives and solutions to current human predicaments need to consider ethics and moral values.
11. "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge. Neither love without knowledge, nor knowledge without love can produce a good life"  
Bertrand Russell (May 18, 1872-February 2, 1970)