

Mexico and the Permanent International Studies Conference. The Sense of the International, 1928–1939

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This article reconstructs the history of the Permanent International Studies Conference, by relating its origin to the concern of the League of Nations to discuss post-war international problems. Taking into account that the Conference was thought of as an academic space for the exchange of ideas, it remained under the supervision of the Institute for Intellectual Cooperation and over the years it acquired greater autonomy. This study offers a way to consider the general and particular process by which the Conference was incorporating the participation of Mexico. Understanding the participation of Mexico through the creation of the Scientific Committee for the study of International Relations proves the difficulties faced by some countries to join. During the debates, it was stated that the Mexican definition of the International Concept was very different from that of the powers. It is a historical approach that privileges the analysis of practices and actors (individuals and organizations), in order to understand the construction of the "international" concept during the interwar period.

This work reconstructs, broadly speaking, the history of the International Studies Conference (ISC), developed between 1928 and 1939 through twelve annual plenary sessions held in different European cities. The data used to approach this study has been collected from the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mexico, the personal archives of Isidro Fabela, and the Butler Library, Columbia University.

The origin of this Conference responded to the concern of the League of Nations to define the international as a new multilateral space that limited nationalisms. To do this, the Conference summoned specialists from different institutions dedicated to the scientific study of international affairs. Its organization was in hands of International Intellectual Cooperation and despite its short life it is possible to distinguish two periods.