

Presentation

Quality Leadership University presents to the education community the 2019 issue of Latitude: Multidisciplinary Research Journal. In this new issue of Latitude, we present five articles written by faculty members, students of Quality Leadership University and international researchers. In this new presentation of the journal, topics related to social sciences, humanities, and education are discussed.

This issue of the journal begins with the article entitled “*Exploratory Analysis of Investment in R&D and its Impact on the GDP per Capita of Colombian Departments*”, the autor, María Fernanda Serna, demonstrates the positive relationship between investment in Research and Development and GDP per capita in the departments of Colombia. Serna also argues that variations in GDP per capita depend more on the structural policies of the country than on the departmental political and economic structure. Therefore, the article suggests that investment in Research and Development as a state policy can positively reverse the economic growth and GDP per capita of the departments of Colombia.

In the second article entitled, “*Analysis of the Evolution of the Tuition and Graduation Rates of Private Universities in front of Official Universities in Panama*,” the article reports on an exploratory study of the evolution of the higher education system in Panama. The author, Roxana Esquivel, also analyzes the economic value generated by private university institutions through the study of the growth of the private education sector and its direct contribution to the Panamanian economy.

The third article, entitled “*Del Ideático Boricua Contemporáneo: Demystifying the Gamer from the new realities of work*”, analyzes the figure of the gamer in the business institutions of Puerto Rico. The authors, through an analysis of documentary sources, manage to demonstrate that through the use of video games, *gamers* develop skills necessary for the creation, development of strategies, decision making and visual intelligence, all of them fundamental skills in the workplace of the 21st century.

In the essay *“Community Archeology in Modern Times: A Proposal to Reconfigure the Concept of Archaeological Heritage from the Perspective of Social Archeology in the Microbasin of the El Congo / Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Creek”*, the author, Harold David Padilla Sierra aims to demonstrate the importance of linking the original communities and peoples in the archaeological projects developed in their vital spaces. The author proceeds to explore six successful cases in which archaeologists and communities worked together in the excavation processes, interpretation of the material record and subsequent reconfiguration of the concept of heritage. The author demonstrates that the participation of the community in the archaeological exercise is crucial for the strengthening of new ways of doing archeology that are not only limited to the eminently academic field.

This volume of Latitude: multidisciplinary research journal ends with the article entitled *Humor and Optimism within Venezuelan Public Organizations towards a Welfare Management.*" The authors, Ramiro A. Butirago and Carlos D. Enriquez, analyze humor and optimism as fundamental factors to enhance the empowerment, motivation and satisfaction of employees in both private and public companies.