

David Lehmann

Is a sociologist and anthropologist dedicated to ethnography and comparison. His first fieldwork was in Chile in the late 1960s. His research from 1968 to 1984 focused on agricultural development and Land Reform, starting with Chile, and pursuing the theme comparatively in his first edited book *Agrarian Reform and Agrarian Reformism* (1974). He worked at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex and then moved to Cambridge to teach in Development Studies. His paper 'The Death of Land Reform' (1978) cast doubt on the value of pursuing that policy in a period of triumphant capitalism. His next project was to study proto-capitalist farmers ('rich peasants') in Ecuador. From 1986, his research focus shifted to Brazil and to the role of Catholic intellectuals and activists in carrying the torch of popular movements in the name of Liberation Theology, the People's Church and what he termed *basismo* (*Democracy and development in Latin America: economics, politics and religion in the postwar period*, 1990). Subsequently he turned his attention to evangelical Protestantism and wrote *Struggle for the spirit* (1996). In the meantime he was Director of the Centre for Latin American Studies of the University of Cambridge for ten years. Since 1990 he extended the comparative scope of his religion research with a study of ultra-Orthodox Judaism leading to *Remaking Israeli Judaism: the challenge of the Shas* (2006) (written with Batia Siebzehner) and to a recent article on ultra-Orthodox Jewish marriage. In 2006 however, he started a new project on the diffusion of multiculturalism (*interculturalidad*) in Latin America (especially Mexico, Peru and Brazil), and this is the subject of his current writing and research. His aim in this work is to use the Latin American example to cast light on the political and philosophical issues arising from cultural relativism and multiculturalism in Britain and Europe. Lehmann is now starting a new project on multiculturalism in Latin America.