

**Highlight****ERC grantee Boaventura de Sousa Santos calls for cultural diversity at the Tate Modern on 28 April 2012**

27 April 2012

Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos, who is Director of the Centre for Social Studies (CES) at the [University of Coimbra](#) (Portugal), will give a talk at London's Tate Modern gallery on Saturday 28 April from 14:00 to 16:30pm (Starr auditorium).

The panel discussion, entitled "Spaces of Transformation: Epistemologies of the South – Reinventing Social Emancipation", will allow the participants to discuss how new transnational networks, voices and practices – such as the Arab spring, the growing occupation movements and the landless workers movements – act to counter Western hegemonies and reinvent social emancipation. The talk will offer participants an unprecedented insight into the differences between the epistemologies of the North and South.

Three other eminent researchers - Shiv Visvanathan, Suely Rolnik and Sarat Maharaj - will also form part of the panel, chaired by Brenna Bhandar.

Ahead of his lecture at the Tate Modern, Prof Boaventura de Sousa Santos said: "*The understanding of the world exceeds by far the Western understanding of the world. Social and political innovations taking place in different corners of the globe could be interesting initiatives to enrich the European debate. I believe Europe is not likely to survive the current crisis without any kind of institutional transformation, possibly inspired by non-European cultures.*"

With his ERC Advanced Grant 2010, Prof de Sousa Santos aims to study how non-European experiences, ideas and initiatives can be credible alternatives to existing European models: in areas as varied as democracy, social cohesion and human rights. He addresses topics such as the expansion of citizenship to non-nationals and immigrants; the dichotomy between European identity and national identities; governments' responses to environmental issues and the status of the social well-being model, including the human right to healthcare. Prof de Sousa Santos is a prominent intellectual-activist in the [World Social Forum](#) and has published widely in many languages. His latest book, *Epistemologies of the South: Reinventing Social Emancipations*, is forthcoming.

To read more about Prof de Sousa Santos' ERC-funded project

<http://erc.europa.eu/succes-stories/new-vision-europe>

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/4/21/the_world_is_changing_in_a

<http://www.boaventuradesousasantos.pt/pages/en/homepage.php>

For more information on the lecture

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/talks-and-lectures/spaces-transformation-epistemologies-south>