

La soutenance de mémoire de Master, *pilier migration et citoyenneté*, de

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**“(…) era grandísima la Luna, ahorita es una iglesia evangélica.”**

A Qualitative Case Study about the Social Representations of International  
Human Trafficking Discourses in Ecuador

aura lieu – en anglais et par skype - le

**8 septembre 2015 à 16h00**

UniMail, rue Emile-Argand 11, salle GB.24

Directrice de mémoire : Prof. Janine Dahinden  
Experte : Dre Martha Cecilia Ruiz

This thesis discusses the way international human trafficking (HT) discourses are interpreted by local actors, through a qualitative single case study of a Latin American country, Ecuador. I conducted semi-structured interviews with experts from 21 organizations related to HT, predominantly from Quito, the country's capital, in order to better understand the representations actors put forward in relation to HT and the approaches taken by the institutions they work in. On the basis of these interviews, five empirically-justified ideal types (following Max Weber's theory) are defined: “Fundamentalist-Abolitionist-Feminists HTSECentric”; “Moderate Abolitionist Feminists HTLE-Centric”; “Defenders of Sex Worker's Rights”; “Followers of the “Evil Trafficker - Helpless Victim” Discourse; and “International Agenda-Setters“. In the concluding chapter, these ideal types are set into a broader theoretical framework based on Serge Moscovici's theory of social representations and Pierre Bourdieu's theory of social fields.