

## *Edmundo Granda: Health & Life. Volume 2*

*Zaida Betancourt*

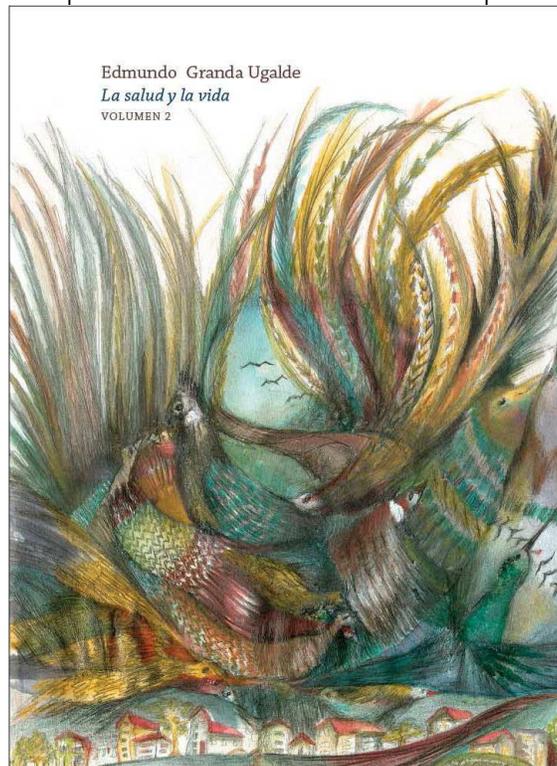
During the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress on Health and Life held in Loja, Ecuador in March 2009 the first volume of the works of Edmundo Granda—composed of those touching on globalization and health—was presented by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Public Health, the Ecuadorean National Board of Health, the National Council of Higher Education, the University of Cuenca (Ecuador), Loja National University (Ecuador) and the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES).

The second volume was presented last November 2009 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of ALAMES held in Bogota, Colombia. This book is composed of 16 articles on health research, human resources, and other health related fields.

Edmundo's articles on

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research allow us to see just why he was such a captivating and inspiring teacher. Initially, the nature of concrete thinking seems to have the certainty of determinism. But, relying on the



work of Maturana, Habermas, and Touraine, Edmundo demonstrates how the very act of observation changes what is observed. Human resources develop-

ment was another of his passions. He was instrumental in the founding and development of several schools of public health and social medicine in Latin America. This work was at the center of his important political activities undertaken from within the Pan American Health Organization.

Not coincidentally, the publication of this volume coincides with another recognition of his legacy; the Latin American Social Medicine collection at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center has been named after him.

His many contributions to the field of social medicine enriched the debate on health sector reform. Although his work was done during the heyday of neoliberalism, it resulted in proposals for the transformation of the health care sector. These ranged from the use of traditional medicine to the development of intercultural tools that would be used in the

elaboration of a new epidemiology. This latter proposal has yet to receive sufficient attention in policy debates.

This volume is also a tribute to Clarita Merchán, his wife. She did not bear living without her soul mate and joined him on October 3, 2009, passing away on the same day as Mercedes Sosa.

There is a feeling of enormous satisfaction for the institutions that made possible the publication of this book that it was presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Latin American Social Medicine Association, now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. ALAMES was enriched by Edmundo's great strength, patience, and unwavering confidence in the force and purpose of collective action.

The task of collecting Edmundo's works has yet to be completed. A third volume is planned which will include commentaries on his work. Readers are invited to contribute to this

volume

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