

26th Annual Conference on the Americas Abstracts

An Inter-disciplinary and Inter-cultural Conference

University of Georgia, Miller Learning Center, Athens, GA
48 Baxter St, Athens, GA 30602

Sponsored by:

The Americas Council, University System of Georgia

University of Georgia

University of North Georgia

Georgia Southern University

Georgia State University Perimeter College

University of West Georgia



Hosted by:

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute (LACSI) &

the Provost's Office, University of Georgia

Augusta University / University of Georgia Medical Partnership

Friday & Saturday

February 17 & 18

2023



Latin American and
Caribbean Studies Institute
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
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26th Annual Conference on the Americas Abstracts

DAY 1

Friday, February 17, 2023

12:30 – 1:30 pm (ET)

Special Workshop

Room: 251

The Ins and Outs of Applying for Funding to the National Science Foundation

Prof. Enrique S. Pumar, Program Director, Division of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation

Objectives: 1) walk participants through the basic steps of preparing a submission and the review process at the NSF and 2) provide an overview of programs in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Division. In particular, ongoing efforts to promote social sciences research among minority serving institutions will be discussed. Finally, the workshop plans to examine different NSF funding opportunities for social scientists.

1:30 – 2:45 pm (ET)

Session 1A

Room: 369

Education and Teaching Paradigms in Latin America and the Caribbean

DEI, a Caring Pedagogy and the Global Pandemic-Why Faculty Inclusion Matters

Dr. Carolyn Walcott & Dr. Melany Chambers, Clayton State University

The increasing awareness of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in pedagogy came when university and college faculty and institutions worldwide were thrown into unprecedented demands of pandemic-related on their time, attention, and resources. Dominant DEI research has highlighted multiple areas of diversity, the pedagogical benefits of including students as co-constructors of equitable learning, and the building of policies that promote learning through the accommodation of student diversity. Fewer studies have focused on the implications of DEI on faculty. In this qualitative in-depth study, we compare the academic and personal effects of the COVID pandemic on faculty from US and Caribbean tertiary institutions. US faculty reported experiencing extreme anxiety, perpetual mental and physical exhaustion, feeling undervalued, and that they were taken for granted, making it difficult for them to prioritize students' needs. Similarly, Caribbean faculty reported increased stress levels, excessive fatigue and a lack of mental health interventions and support for faculty wellbeing. These findings underscore the importance of prioritizing faculty welfare in planning for the unexpected, which may increase the demands made on faculty, thus jeopardizing progress toward diversity, equity, and inclusion in pedagogical practices.

Preservice teachers' previous experiences and goals for working with English language learners in STEM: An Analysis before participation in a science methods course and summer program

Dr. Max Vazquez Dominguez, Mrs. Arcelia Dalton & Dr. Romola Bernard, University of North Georgia

In this presentation, we will analyze and discuss the preservice teachers' previous experiences and goals for working with English language learners (ELLs) before they participated in a STEM summer program focused on culturally and linguistically sustaining practices in the classroom. The Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies in Science for English Language Learners (CUSSELL) project is funded by the National Science Foundation and focuses on providing the necessary pedagogical tools to teach STEM to multilingual students. Preservice teachers, in order to be accepted into the project, have to complete an application survey where they have to describe their experiences, the things they value, and their goals for working with ELLs in the classroom. A total of 15 preservice teachers were accepted for the summer in 2022, from this group, 6 preservice teachers were in the Middle and Secondary program and 9 were in the Elementary/Special education program. Using preestablished and emergent codes, we answer the following guiding questions, what are the preservice teachers' experiences working with ELLs? What are their goals for participating in the CUSSELL project? We conclude with a set of recommendations for teachers, students, and professors taking/designing science methods courses with an emphasis on culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies.

Indigenous Languages of Latin America

Mr. Eric Kendrick, Georgia State University - Perimeter College

While the study of indigenous populations is primarily associated with the fields of Anthropology and Geography, it deserves (more) attention in other disciplines – History, Global Studies, Sociology, and the Humanities, to name a few. For faculty who are primarily generalists and expected to teach a wide range of subjects within their respective disciplines, i.e., those at two-year

colleges, those in non-tenure tracks who focus on core level instruction, and those at smaller institutions, there are many avenues that provide a glimpse into indigenous peoples, such as art, religion, food, and more. But perhaps none is more pertinent than language, the element most intertwined with culture, yet also the most volatile when it comes to indigenous societies. While the content of this session is connected to a lower division Applied Linguistics course called Languages of the World, it will avoid the highly technical linguistic matter in favor of historical, geographical, and sociopolitical insights into indigenous languages of the region that jack of all trades faculty can readily integrate into their courses without specialized knowledge.

Language Attitude Influence: Association of Quechua with English Increases Positive Attitudes Toward Quechua

Ms. Erin Hannahan, University of Georgia, Department of Romance Languages

Despite Quechua's status as the largest indigenous language in South America with an estimated 8 million speakers (Adelaar 2004), almost all varieties of the language are critically or severely endangered today. This decline in Quechua speakers is the result of linguistic stigmatization – inculcated among Quechua-speaking people since the Spanish invasion five hundred years ago – and a preference for Spanish as the language of power in Quechua-speaking countries, driven by the surge in urbanization that began in the mid-twentieth century. Through an online Qualtrics survey, the present study investigated the possibility of ameliorating negative attitudes and enhancing positive attitudes toward Quechua by associating it with the newly arrived language of power in Peru, English, which is now even more desirable for social advancement than Spanish (Niño-Murcia 2003).

1:30 – 2:45 pm (ET)

Session 1B

Room: 372

Regional Economics and the Environment

Financialization, Complexity, and Market Ideology

Dr. Dwight Wilson, Dr. Rana Gautam & Dr. Diogo Pinheiro, University of North Georgia

The influence of financial markets and financial institutions has grown rapidly in Latin America over the past several decades. Despite its importance, the sources and effects of financialization in this developing region remain unclear. To bring greater clarity to this process, we develop a conception of financialization as an outcome of an ideology lying at the foundation of the overlapping processes of neoliberalism and globalization. We call this “market ideology” to denote its affinity for free markets and private property, but we argue that this syndrome of ideas ultimately rests on theoretical assumptions that interpret the market as an independent and self-regulating system that achieves equilibrium and efficiency in the absence of state interference. Referring to an ideology signals the normative commitments of the ideas that travel beyond simple empirical interpretation of the world. The normative dimension of market ideology favors austerity often associated with neoliberal globalization. As ideology, then, we can expect that a commitment to austerity in social spending that travels with financialization is not rooted in simple market incentives but to shared notions about the proper role of the state in promotion of social welfare. The theoretical underpinning of market ideology posits an easily grasped proposition about economies, propositions that, we argue, do not account for the fundamental unpredictability of complex social systems like economies.

Youth Entrepreneurship and Gender in the Caribbean

Prof. Donna Danns, University of North Georgia

The narratives of research on involvement of women in entrepreneurship are replete with notions of the persistence of gender inequalities in this sphere of socioeconomic life. Studies on youth entrepreneurs globally are emerging as a focal concern as youth entrepreneurship is increasingly being promoted as a key strategy to combat high youth unemployment, reduce individual poverty, engender social mobility, and facilitate youth inclusion in the formal economy. These studies largely confirm the pattern of unequal and discriminatory treatment towards female youth.

Informed by data derived from mixed method studies on the factors impacting youth entrepreneurs in two towns in Guyana, this paper examines gender differences in youth entrepreneurs' perceptions of the challenges they face and the availability of institutional support for establishing and running their businesses in the light of those challenges; and, analyzes selected dispositions that may influence entrepreneurial survivability in the society. Further this paper reflects on some of enabling factors for creating gender parity in the support of youth entrepreneurs.

The findings from this study reveal that while gender inequalities in entrepreneurship persist, contrary to patterns in many developing countries and regions, female youth in Guyana are able to access loans and other institutional supports largely similar to their male counterparts. They differ however in the perceptions of challenges faced and, to a lesser extent, in dispositions towards survivability as entrepreneurs. While there are no barriers to female youths starting and managing their own businesses, they nonetheless must accomplish this while balancing family and domestic responsibilities.

A Blockchain Approach to Credit Information Sharing in Emerging Markets

Dr. Kamilah Williams & Dr. Jason Porter, University of North Georgia

Information sharing infrastructure is a critical aspect of a well-functioning financial market. Without information sharing, information asymmetries are likely to develop where a borrower fails to disclose information about his or her real financial state. Many emerging and developing economies still have weak infrastructure to support the resolution of these asymmetries. Blockchain technology, with its decentralized nature and built-in trust, transparency and security features, provides an excellent solution to this problem. In this paper, we explore the use of blockchain technology for the facilitation of information sharing in emerging and developing countries. We first develop an architecture for how the blockchain can be utilized to collect and distribute data from financial institutions and other sources. We then determine what type of data should be collected on the blockchain. This data is used to calculate a credit score using smart contracts which will be stored on the blockchain. This system provides a viable alternative to traditional credit bureaus which should be of particular benefit to emerging economies because of its speed, security and cost-effectiveness. This system could also supplement existing information sharing infrastructure.

3:00 – 4:15 pm (ET)

Session 2A

Room: 368

Panel: LatinX Leads Unidos: Supporting Latino trends in higher education; leadership, arts and culture

A Dialogue Between AI and Latinx

Prof. Maria Jose Maguire, University of North Georgia

This presentation aims to start a dialog about AI and its implications on minority communities, such as LatinX. AI already permeates every aspect of our lives, making it a double-edged sword. This presentation will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of AI in Latinx communities in education and the workforce. Where does AI fit into the classroom? How will the automation of jobs traditionally performed by minorities affect LatinX communities? Is the LatinX generation of students prepared for these changes?

Latin American Immigrant Artists in Metro Atlanta: Melvin Toledo and Pedro Fuentes

Dr. Ana Pozzi Harris, University of North Georgia

This presentation is the first in a series about the Latin American artists' collective "Contrapunto." Based in Metro Atlanta, this group includes artists from Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Venezuela who settled in the area in the early 2000s. Since 2012, "Contrapunto" has functioned as a loose artists' coalition and gained increased access to exhibition spaces, art galleries, and collections through self-propelled strategies. In this first study, I will discuss the most recent and significant paintings by Melvin Toledo, a Nicaraguan artist who paints in a figurative tradition, and Pedro Fuentes, a Peruvian artist working in an abstract style. I will discuss how Toledo and Fuentes explore themes, techniques, and practices that result from their experiences as recent Latin American immigrants. I will also address how, through distinct iconography, styles, and techniques, their paintings subtly express social concerns grounded in firsthand experiences. Immigrant, Latin American, and social themes come to the fore in Toledo's and Fuentes' works upon sustained observation and extended interviews. My goal is to create contextualized interpretations of Toledo's and Fuentes' paintings and to articulate their dialog with contemporary Latin American and Latino art.

LatinX in Education

Dr. Luis Mora, Georgia Gwinnett College

This presentation will highlight possible ways to increase LatinX student recruitment, retention and persistence to graduation with a focus on academic success, leadership and achievement through early intervention at the college level. It will also focus on how to prepare students and parents to understand diversity and global perspectives leading to collaboration in diverse, global contexts, always promoting the Spanish language, Latin Arts and Culture.

Amazónicas (Poems and Aphorisms)

Dr. Juan Carlos Galeano, Amazónicas, Florida State University

My contribution to this conference will be through a reading of selected poems followed by a brief section of aphorisms. My poetry aspires to reflect the belief systems of Amazonians giving credence to the idea that there is a breath, a substance that unites all beings. Cosmopolitics, cosmologies of reciprocity, chthonic forces of nature, and shape-shifting represented in the poems are also influenced by the style of Amazonian storytellers. At times they work like small myths in which the adoption of a humorous tone provides the reader with feelings of optimism and hope for survival. Through their revealing art, the aphorisms highlight the sophisticated symbolic knowledge systems that the Amazonians have developed over millennia to interpret globalization, climate change, and human relationships with forests, rivers, and ecosystems.

Health and Developmental Concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean

Assessment of Summer 2022 Pharmacy Dispensing Log for Mobile Pharmacy Clinic in the Farm Worker Family Health Program in Rural Southwest Georgia

Ms. Dayana Pimentel, PharmD. Candidate, Ms. Valery Cepeda, PharmD. Candidate, Mr. Bryan Alejandro Jimenez, PharmD. Candidate, Dr. Kenneth Mueller, PharmD, BCPS, University of Georgia, College of Pharmacy

The Farm Worker Family Health Program (FWFHP) is an interprofessional service-learning program in rural Southwest Georgia. Students from various medical disciplines travel and set up mobile clinics to provide free healthcare services, including screenings and physicals, to migrant farm workers and their children. In the summer of 2022, the mobile pharmacy experienced shortages in which farmworkers did not have access to medications on the formulary due to inaccurate estimations of stock and limitations with donated over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Assessment of the top drugs dispensed would better assist the mobile pharmacy in a proper stocking for the clinic. A formulary with medications in the mobile pharmacy was developed for nurse practitioner students. The formulary was composed of OTC donations and prescription medications from the Ellington Clinic, a 340B Farmworker Health Clinic. Medications on the formulary labeled as fast movers were ibuprofen, Muscle Rub®, artificial tears, multivitamins, acetaminophen based on past years dispensing rates, and . A pharmacy dispensary log was created to keep track of medications prescribed by nurse practitioner students and dispensed by pharmacy students at each farm visited during the 2022 FWFHP. The farms that received care were labeled as farms A-D. Trends of medications dispensed at each farm and throughout the program were analyzed through summation of total drug products dispensed, relative frequency, and percentages were calculated. Further analysis was completed by comparing the top medications prescribed throughout the program in comparison to each individual farm. Descriptive statistics were gathered using Microsoft Excel. Five medications with highest relative frequencies were included in the top 5 medications list. Muscle rub and Ibuprofen were the highest dispensed medications throughout all the farms within the 2-week program. However, each farm's top 5 drugs dispensed varied amongst one another. Farm A's top medications were mainly analgesics and nasal symptom relief medications. Farm B and D's top medications composed of the fast mover medication list. Farm C's top medications are topical skin products. Data gathered is limited to medications in stock. Assessment of prevalence of diagnosis codes per farm site should be further researched to best predict formulary adjustments of the mobile pharmacy clinic.

Clinical utility of periodic outreach clinics in a small Caribbean Island nation

Dr. Andrew K Sobering, Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

Many of the Caribbean Island nations are classified as low- or middle-income countries (LMIC). Often, these countries lack the population and the resources to provide access to the full spectrum of specialty and tertiary medical services for their communities. There are many reports describing positive outcomes and reduction of treatment gaps from periodic or annual visiting clinics by providing specialty services. Examples of reports describing clinic activities include surgery, epilepsy, and neurocritical care. There is a relative lack of reports describing potential negative outcomes from these types of annual visits. A potential reason for this might be reporting bias possibly because it is more difficult to write about and publish negative experiences. Because of the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases in LMIC, periodic healthcare visits are likely to continue and also increase. Since 2014 I have organized periodic clinics on a small island in the West Indies to offer expert consultation for adult neurological movement disorders and pediatric genetic conditions. With the aim of fostering discussion towards their clinical utility and understanding how to improve this type of healthcare outreach, four case studies will be presented: two adult neurology and two pediatric genetics cases. Both negative and positive aspects of this type of clinical encounter will be highlighted in the chosen cases.

Women's Health Study Away Program in Belize: A timely experience for UGA pre-health students

Dr. Amy Baldwin, Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership, Dr. Hilda Mata & Ms. Amanda Spohn, University of Georgia

Attributes that are valued in healthcare workers include flexibility, sensitivity to other cultures, and effective communication skills. Participation in a study away program provides an opportunity to develop these attributes by getting outside of one's comfort zone to experience both culture and healthcare in a different country. We will report on our 3-week (Pre) Health in Belize Program, which ran for the first time in May 2022 with 18 UGA pre-health students. The program was coordinated through a collaboration of the UGA Office of Global Engagement and Pre-Professional Advising Office. After interviewing and selecting our student cohort, we conducted 4 one-hour orientation sessions, including a session that focused on cultural sensitivity. Students then traveled to Belize to experience their healthcare system through guest lectures, tours of public and private healthcare facilities, and shadowing opportunities with clinicians at a private hospital in the city of San Ignacio and volunteer community healthcare workers in nearby rural areas. Students also participated in tours and sessions that focused on culture, including exploring the traditional practices and food of different groups including Mayan, Mennonite, Mestizo, Creole, and Garifuna. Both 3-credit hour courses had a large reflective writing component and included group presentations and quizzes. Feedback from

the students showed that they gained enriching experiences that strengthened their motivation and passion for healthcare and impacted their educational and career goals. We remain grateful for the Belizean people who shared their experiences of healthcare with our students to assist in their learning.

“We had to take care of ourselves”: Community-based strategies against the Covid-19 pandemic in Latin America

Mr. Apoena Mano, Columbia University, Institute of Latin American Studies

The Covid-19 pandemic has deepened social inequalities that affect the populations of urban peripheries in Latin America. For the social groups that live in territories known as Favelas in Rio de Janeiro and Comunas in Medellín, it wasn't possible to “stay home”. It was necessary to keep moving to ensure economic survival, although it meant greater exposure to the disease. During this period, other local groups self-organized in initiatives to mitigate these risks. Based on sociological perspectives about urban policies and their (i)mobilities, this ethnographic research follows some specific community-based networks developed in these territories during the pandemic disruptions - through a comparative and multissited methodological approach. My research question is to understand the potentialities and limitations of these initiatives. I am sustaining the hypothesis that in cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Medellín, urban resistance networks previously constituted against State violence were reorganized in a repertoire to avoid the virus circulation and ensure the right to life. Among other examples, I turn my attention to a sanitization and disinfection strategy against Covid-19 territorialized in a favela in Rio de Janeiro that is crossed by many scales - it was inspired by ideas reproduced from China and later portrayed on the first page of The New York Times. My intention is to highlight the capacity of political imagination that emerge from these initiatives. My findings are based on elements and situations entailed by the pandemic context, through the operation of concepts such as “mobility justice”, “urban capabilities”, “insurgent planning” and “bio/necropolitics”. The main objective of this presentation is to explore these mobilizations to present social transformations based on modifications of socio-urban conflicts, citizenship, public policies, forms of government, community-based strategies, resistance networks, and the productive creative appropriation of communication technologies.

3:00 – 4:15 pm (ET)

Session 2C

Room: 372

Migration, Culture and Identity

Transcending social abjection to achieve autonomy: An analysis of *Todo sobre de mi madre* and *Princesas*

Ms. Ysa Duenas, Georgetown College

Due to an emerging cultural revolution in Spanish film driven by reduced censorship of the media, films such as *Todo sobre de mi madre* (1999) and *Princesas* (2005) continue to emerge. These films challenge patriarchal ideologies and values by centering around the stories and identities of marginalized women, thus exposing contemporary society to novel and difficult perspectives and realities. This paper considers critical literature of *Todo sobre de mi madre* and *Princesas* to highlight the significance of the films through feminist and queer theory lenses. Moreover, Kristeva Powers' notion of abjection combines with character analyses of four prominent women in these films to argue for the existence of the social abject. Analysis further considers how each of these women fails or succeeds to transcend her status as a social abject based on her achievement of autonomy. Each of the four women represent a different stage in the process to transcend social abjection as a way to achieve autonomy. Manuela and Zule both fail to achieve autonomy as Manual avoids her status as the social abject and Zule ultimately does the same. Caye and Agrado, however, represent successful transcension of the status as a social abject. Caye demonstrates a wholistic view of the process of transcension while Agrado exemplifies the autonomy derived from transcending social abjection. As marginalized stories and identities continue to popularize in contemporary media, the achievement of autonomy via transcension of social abjection requires more research to illustrate its versatility and applicability across a multitude of critical lenses.

Unraveling (Luso)Latinidad: Children of Brazilian immigrants' racial(ized) experiences in the U.S.

Ms. Luisa Bridi Dacroce, University of Florida

As the United States' population becomes increasingly diverse, scholars have debated the implications of such demographic changes for national racial discourses. Debates surrounding Latinidad have been particularly contentious due to disagreements regarding whether it encompasses a racial or ethnic group. Yet, both conceptualizations of Latinidad have historically shared one common feature: the perception of this identity as being inherently Hispanic. Given the growing size of the Brazilian diaspora in this country, it becomes important to understand how members of this non-Hispanic community of Latin American origin navigate (their belongingness to) Latinidad within the U.S. sociocultural context. Centering the narratives of ten children of Brazilian immigrants, the present study sought to: understand whether these Brazilians identify with Latinidad and how they justify this identification; assess whether those who identify with Latinidad conceptualize it in ethnic or racial terms; and investigate whether Latinidad shapes their racial(ized) experiences in the United States. Notably, all participants in this study identified with Latinidad and justified this identification through their Brazilianness. At the same time, they recognized that the

dominant U.S. conceptualization of Latinidad is that this is an exclusively Hispanic identity. Yet, despite being at the margins of U.S. understandings of Latinidad, this identity nonetheless shapes Brazilians' experiences in the United States. To this end, regardless of whether they conceptualized this identity in ethnic or racial terms, Latinidad was reported to impact Brazilians' racial(ized) experiences in this country. Specifically, these Brazilians seem to mirror the experiences that scholars have identified to occur among Hispanic youth, as they report facing a double-layered racialization process in which the perception of their phenotype (and whichever racial group it might be associated with within the U.S. sociocultural context) will be nuanced by their Latinidad (once revealed). Thus, their Latinidad differentiates their experiences from those of non-Latine individuals of the same phenotype. These findings point to the importance of incorporating Brazilianness into conversations surrounding Latinidad and developing efficient intercultural tools to promote panethnic solidarity and political mobilization.

Solo Éramos Niños

Ms. Shelby Lopez, Angel Lopez, and Dr. Jane McPherson, University of Georgia

"The U.S. immigration system is often associated with Latine people and the label ""illegal,"" leading to harmful stigmatization for Latine communities (McCabe et al., 2020). This relationship affects the experiences of many Latine people in the U.S. as immigration policies and enforcement create a climate of disenfranchised grief, anger, and fear for Latine immigrant communities (Held et al., 2022). Immigration actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that result in arrest, detention, and deportation can have long-lasting negative effects (Murguía, 2008). On December 12, 2006 ICE conducted the largest immigration raid in U.S. history targeting six Swift & Co. meat-packing facilities across the country, resulting in the arrest of 1,282 people. Solo Éramos Niños is a new podcast, created and hosted by Angel Lopez, who was personally impacted by the raid and his MSW-student wife, Shelby Lopez. The podcast examines the impact of the raids in one community—Hyrum, Utah—and traces how the raids affected the greater community over time. Through interviews with eyewitnesses, children of employees, teachers, and leaders, the show explores the events of the raid, its impact on individuals and families, and the community resources that have been put in place since. The interviews reveal the fear and trauma experienced by Latine population, including reactions and emotional manifestations common with post-traumatic stress, as well as a racial and ethnic division between white and Latine communities while also speaking to Latine solidarity. Finally, the show identifies gaps in services that could support this population in the event of future immigration enforcement. The long-lasting traumatic impact as shown in Solo Éramos Niños necessitates a call to action for advocates and service providers to prevent and mitigate trauma caused by immigration enforcement, detention, and familial separation. This presentation will highlight these voices from the podcast and call attention to how this podcast can be used by educators and advocates.



26th Annual Conference on the Americas

Opening Plenary

Indigenous Women and Latin American Futures

Friday, February 17, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Miller Learning Center, Room 171 - Open to All

*Note: Panel will be in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into English
Attendees needing interpretation should bring headphones & device with Zoom*

Plenary Panel Moderator:



Dr. Patricia Richards

*Director of the Institute for
Women's Studies*

*Professor of Sociology and
Women's Studies*

*Affiliate faculty member with the
Latin American and Caribbean
Studies Institute and the Institute
of Native American Studies*

Plenary Panel Speakers:



**María de los Ángeles
Aguilar**

*Guatemalan
Maya-K'iche' historian
Postdoctoral Associate
and Lecturer at the
Council on Latin American
and Iberian Studies
(CLAIS) at Yale University*



Alejandra Flores Carlos

*Regional Coordinator of
Health and Indigenous
Peoples for the Ministry
of Health in the Region
of Tarapacá*



Pamela Calla

*Clinical Associate
Professor at the Center
for Latin American and
Caribbean Studies
(CLACS) at New York
University*

Day 2 - Abstracts

Saturday, February 18, 2023

8:30 – 9:45 am (ET)

Session 3A

Room: 368

Language, Literature and Social Displacement

Raza, clase y género en la última novela de Guillermo Arriaga, Salvar el fuego

Dr. Maria Calatayud, University of North Georgia

En este trabajo presento cómo Guillermo Arriaga retrata en *Salvar el fuego* (2022) expone el racismo, clasismo y homofobia que prevalece en México. Esta novela negra tiene cabida perfecta en la literatura del siglo XXI, y es que estos tres temas intersectan con la muerte. El tema de la muerte y la violencia es esencial en todo México. Esta omnipresencia es un rasgo constante en la cotidianidad, la cultura popular y la identidad nacional.

El arco del imaginario nacional de la Revolución Nacional de 1952 . Vuelve Sebastiana (1953) y La Vertiente (1959) en la construcción de la modernidad boliviana

Dr. Jaime Salinas, University of North Georgia

Este trabajo analiza los filmes *Vuelve Sebastiana* (1953) y *La Vertiente* (1959) de Jorge Ruíz centrándose en las dimensiones estéticas e ideológicas de ambas producciones. El propósito de este análisis es poner en diálogo la idea de nación propuesta por el filme en el marco de las transformaciones culturales que vinieron de la mano de las políticas económicas y sociales impulsadas por la Revolución Nacional de 1952. La hipótesis central del artículo establece que los filmes de Ruíz debe ser entendidos no sólo a partir de su relación con la nueva identidad nacional que empieza a articularse bajo el proyecto revolucionario, sino sobre todo como expresión de un nuevo imaginario nacional, que empieza a configurarse, y a definir su relación con las comunidades indígenas del altiplano y las tierras del oriente del país. El artículo sostiene que la representación de la nación, con base en las nuevas cartografías espacio temporales del proyecto modernizador revolucionario, hace visible las tensiones y contradicciones de este proyecto y el lugar que en el nuevo imaginario nacional ocupan las comunidades indígenas del altiplano y de las tierras bajas. En este sentido, *Vuelve Sebastiana* y *La Vertiente* permiten leer desde estos desencuentros la reconfiguración del imaginario que ha redefinido la relación del Estado y las comunidades indígenas del altiplano a lo largo de la segunda mitad del siglo XX.

La influencia de la pobreza multidimensional en la desnutrición y complicaciones de salud de los indígenas panameños

Mr. David Burke, University of North Georgia

From the earliest days of colonization in North America, indigenous peoples have lost control of their land. In Panama, corporations and the government use historically indigenous lands to produce the most profit possible via exportation-focused agriculture and other projects, rather than sustaining the people to whom the land originally belonged. In addition to no longer being the primary beneficiaries of their land, indigenous Panamanians also suffer significantly higher rates of multidimensional poverty than their non-indigenous counterparts. Multidimensional poverty is a highly informative measure of poverty because it considers ten factors that influence quality of life, rather than only measuring income. As a result of unethical land use practices and pervasive poverty, indigenous Panamanians, especially children, have startlingly high rates of chronic malnutrition, which leads to higher rates of preventable chronic diseases and a lower overall quality of life. Advocates for indigenous people have suggested a potential solution to this issue: that indigenous people be permitted to have food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is a system of agriculture that prioritizes local farmers and citizens having control of their land instead of corporations. Under this idea, indigenous Panamanians would be able to grow foods and other products that meet the needs of those living on their land. Such a solution would be highly complicated to reach because it would require systemic changes in the priorities of Panamanian society, but it is a promising idea. For now, however, current gaps in wealth and the rights to land foster a large health disparity between indigenous and non-indigenous Panamanians."

The Arts and Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean

Polvo de Gallina Negra: Performance, Politics, and Motherhood in Mexico

Ms. Alejandra Velazquez, The George Washington University

This article will focus on the art collective "Polvo de Gallina Negra," a feminist art group in Mexico created in 1983. Recognized as the first feminist art group in Mexico, the group is often described as creating or participating in performance artworks that focus on highlighting patriarchal structures and making the lives of female artists better. One such way was through the series of performance works that focused on motherhood. Rather than shying away from the idea of motherhood, a stance other feminist groups often take, artists in the collective sought to improve the working conditions of mothers and even participated while pregnant. Using a theoretical framework, I will analyze how Polvo de Gallina Negra focused their performances on motherhood to highlight the material differences female artists faced as well as approaching feminism through a more culturally understood lens. Comparing Mexico's role for mothers- as seen in religious and in daily life- to the performances of the group, I will analyze their reception and legacy as Mexico's first feminist art collective.

Healers and plants: the vegetal thinking in a pajé's autobiography

Mr. Ivo Cruz, University of Georgia

Native to the indigenous cultures in Brazil, pajelança is a group of shamanistic practices related to the worship of nature and the deities within it. The healer and spiritual leader in that practice is called Pajé. In her autobiography *O Mundo místico dos caruanas e a revolta de sua ave* (1993), Zeneida Lima narrates her mysterious journey until she became a pajé at a really young age in Marajó Island, Northern Brazil. The Amazon region with its rivers, vegetation, and urban landscapes serves as a framework for the history told in the book. This work investigates in what ways the healer allies herself with plants to take refuge from the oppressions imposed by a patriarchal society, to find comfort and even cures for illnesses. The passages that illustrate the symbiotic relationship between humans and plants will be analyzed from the perspective of the theory of Vegetal Thinking by Evando Nascimento (2021), who argues that plants could be the perfect allies of oppressed groups. Finally, some reflections will be made on the importance of reading these exchanges between nonwestern societies and plants for us to adopt a less predatory behavior as homo sapiens, understanding that we are a part of a larger and interdependent biome.

Brazilian Repertoires, (anthropological) places and black feminism in "Cinco mil litros," by Jarid Arraes

Mr. Michel Soares do Carmo, Portuguese Program, Romance Languages Department, UGA

The short story "Cinco mil litros", by Jarid Arraes, as well as all her literary production in general, complexifies the vision we have of certain social places and certain dynamics of socio-family relationships and how we interpret the experiences of women, by placing them as protagonists and diverse. The colonial memories, still constitutive of our society and its values, are in this tale questioned and criticized from an important point of view, but even more so the levels of identification created by the narrative and by the construction of a place in which the readers see themselves represented and identify in various accrued layers: linguistic, cultural, of everyday life. Through these points of analysis, we will weave an argument through the lens of black feminism about how the author in this short story constructs a "place," in the anthropological sense of Augé (1994) and Tuan (1983), both physical and symbolic, in which much of the Brazilian population, and especially (black) women, can easily recognize themselves. Additionally, it is intended to present how the narrative's atmosphere created in the construction of the narrative can be associated with the notion of social, linguistic and geographical repertoires that are essential for the process of (geocultural and political-economic) identification with what is read and the implications of this for what we consider literature and access to this symbolic good by a significant group of the Brazilian population.

Keywords: Anthropological place; black feminism; narrative's atmosphere.

Ballroom as gambiarra: the Latin American anthropophagy of culture

Ms. Elisa Bedê Braga, University of Georgia

In "Contraditório" (2017), Brazilian scholar Moacir dos Anjos proposes the concept of gambiarra as improvised solutions to solve problems of different natures, which may or may not violate the status quo. These solutions are necessarily born from a place of scarcity, proposing an alternate way of making do when one does not have access to the proper means of dealing with these issues. In this work, I propose a connection between the concept of gambiarra and ballroom culture, which emerged in the 1960s from marginalized queer, Latino and Black communities in New York. The analysis of ballroom culture explores its mimetic nature, since it began as a performance that imitated the aesthetic of higher class individuals, which took passability as a wealthy person as an important judging factor. I also explore the concept of carnavalization according to Mikhail Bakhtin (2013), which develops the idea of a syncretic spectacle, as well as the concept of parody. Finally, I conclude by cementing the idea of ballroom as gambiarra, as it is a movement born from a precarious condition, as a way to fill an absence in culture and create a place that has been denied by hegemonic society.

Violence, Crime and Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Gangs Crises in Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

Prof. George K Danns, University of North Georgia

There are alarming crises of marauding gangs invading the social, economic, and political spheres of several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region notably El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in Central America and Haiti in the Caribbean. Gangs are undermining the very social order and governance of these countries. They violate the security of their citizens by use of violence and inhumane force, robberies, rape, kidnappings, and murder. The business and public administrative sectors and communities in general are being subject to bullying and extortion, turning previously ordered societies into gang lands and stymieing the efforts of elected governments to maintain social order and citizens beleaguered by fear to conduct their daily lives. A notable consequence of the siege of these countries by gangs is that their citizens are fleeing their homelands and flocking the borders of the United States as refugees. Based on a review of official reports and existing literature this paper seeks to explain the gang crises in the LAC region, by focusing on the proliferation of gangs, their operations and functional impacts on selected countries, and the forceful yet seemingly controversial responses by regional governments to reclaim the turf of social order and stable governance.

Gangs in Latin America and its National Security Implications to the United States' Homeland

Dr. Jose de Arimateia da Cruz, Georgia Southern University & U.S. Army War College Center for Strategic Leadership Homeland Defense & Security Issues

Gangs in Latin America has become a national pandemic and public health crisis. In attempting to address this new, governments in Latin America have taken a "mano dura" or iron fist approach similar to the "war on drugs" in the United States. However, the militarization of the problem is not solving the problem instead it is creating secondary consequences that will directly impact the national security of the United States and allies in the region. This paper examines the problem with a few specific case studies and provide some solutions.

Corporal Punishment in LAC Countries: Focus on Guyana's Schools, Issues, Controversies, and Problems

Prof. Brenda I Gill, Alabama State University

Violence against children refutes human rights commitments and children's developmental needs (UNESCO, 2017). The UN Convention on the Child's Rights enshrines children's "Rights" and specifically require all State Parties to forbid the use of corporal punishment. Yet, this lingering relic, corporal punishment, considered a severe violation of children's rights persists (UNICEF, 1990). Corporal punishment in schools remains a social issue in the LAC region. While 11 states have complete prohibition against corporal punishment in all settings, and eight countries have prohibition in schools, the remaining 14 states do allow corporal punishment of children in schools. This presentation provides a brief look at the phenomenon of corporal punishment in schools. It provides a brief look at the practice in the LAC region generally and then narrowing its lens to examine the phenomenon in Guyana. It assesses the legality, prevalence, theories, controversies, and social problems encountered due to the legal use of corporal punishment in schools. The importance of teaching, encouraging, and promoting positive discipline measures is emphasized.

Crime rates and court performance: An empirical interrogation of Rational Choice Theory

Mr. Jevon Henry, The University of the West Indies, Mona, & Dr. Denarto Dennis, Supreme Court of Jamaica

The performance of court systems, particularly as it relates to the disposal rate of cases, has been a primary concern for many countries. It is widely believed that potential offenders consider a range of variables, including the probability and intensity of punishment, before offending. If courts are not efficient, then justice is often considered delayed or even denied. The discounting effect suggests that offenders would rather delay punishment or hope that judicial inefficiencies, which compound over time, may lead to a relatively more favourable outcome. In examining the case of Jamaica, where concerns regarding judicial efficiency have become a recent priority, amidst persistent high crime rates, a range of crimes are examined to see how offending rates may respond to court efficiency. This range includes offences such as property crimes for which a calculated cost-benefit decision is anticipated as well as more serious crimes, such as shooting, where emotions may play a greater role in the decision-making process. Using regression analysis to examine data from 2017-2022, it is found that major crimes, using shooting as a proxy, had significant negative relationship with case disposal and clearance rates as well as the average time to disposal. With regards to property crimes, using break-ins as a proxy, it was found that the disposal rate had a significant negative relationship. The overall conclusion is that rational choice seems to play a significant role in the decision-making process of criminals.

Panel: Linguistics analysis of indigenous languages spoken in Latin America

This panel focuses on the linguistics analysis of indigenous languages spoken in Latin America, specifically Quechua and Chuj. The presentations explore questions related to the intersection between culture and language, highlighting the role of diversity in linguistic analysis and the contributions of under-resourced languages. The panelists include: Katie Galyon (Master's Student, Department of Romance Languages), Chad Howe (Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Department of Romance Languages), and Seaira Lett (Doctoral Student, Department of Linguistics).

A Cusco School as a Community of Practice

Katie Galyon, University of Georgia

This project seeks to analyze the use of Andean features in Spanish in a community of practice of a school in Cusco, Peru as well as qualitatively access how the use of Spanish and Quechua are viewed in this community. The participants consisted of three different occupational groups: the school director, teachers, and custodians, and the features analyzed were SOV word order and nonstandard use of gerunds. There are seven participants, and each completed a sociolinguistic interview in Quechua and Spanish. For this study, excerpts of the Spanish portion of the interview were analyzed for these features. The hypothesis was that the custodians would use more Andean features in their speech because they are less directly involved in the joint enterprise of educating students. However, the director of the school exhibited more of these features than any other group. More research is needed in order to better understand how bilingual speakers use Andean features in their speech to positively index Andean identity.

Uncovering indigeneity in a corpus of colonial Quechua

Dr. Chad Howe, University of Georgia

In situations of social and political inequality, particularly stark in colonial situations like that of Latin America, the impacts of long-term subjugation are codified in the texts of minority languages. This project assumes the perspective that textual analysis can be realized through the careful observation of specific patterns of language use and seeks to bring digital humanities-informed methods to the analysis of colonial texts produced in Quechua, an Andean language with nearly 10 million speakers in South America (Coronel-Molina 2015). To test this approach, we are working with three colonial dramas (16th – 19th centuries) written in Quechua: Ollantay, El probre más rico, and Usca Paucar. Translations of Spanish works were performed in Quechua with Peruvian playwrights later producing ostensibly 'original' works in Quechua, the objectives of which were, according to Trucharte (2014:59), complex and could be viewed as representing a contradiction between, on the one hand, the continued expansion of Christian beliefs among indigenous communities and, on the other, the rise in influence of a creole urban-elite who could read and write in Quechua (Itier 1991). Further complicating this issue is the fact that authors of colonial Quechua dramas, and specifically those mentioned above, were very often anonymous, and the origin of the stories themselves were unknown. The primary research questions underlying this project concern the authorship of these texts and the extent to which these works represent legitimately indigenous products, both in terms of the authorship and the narrative content (Brokaw 2006). Our approach seeks to address the issue of authorship in these texts, using a novel approach through the application of Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools to leverage language-specific patterns and comparisons to materials of known linguistic and cultural provenance. This work is based on the first fully annotated corpus of colonial Quechua (Howe, Hale, and Peterson 2022) and leverages NLP tools to discover grammatical patterns that, argue, serve as indices of indigeneity in these documents (e.g. word order). More generally, this research contributes to the development of computational tools in the analysis of under-resourced languages.

Imperatives in Chuj

Seaira Lett, University of Georgia

Knowledge on imperatives in Mayan is incomplete. In this paper, I provide a typological description of the morphosyntactic structure of imperatives in Chuj using my original data. I then look at imperative structure in other Mayan languages. I find that absolutive markers in Chuj and the overall Q'anjob'alan branch do not follow the general pattern in Mayan. This inconsistency is highlighted when examining imperatives. While Mayan languages typically select either a preverbal or postverbal position for set B markers in every context, the position of set B markers in Chuj varies. This is a topic that urges further study.

Panel: How to Better Support Latin X College Students in Georgia Universities

Within the state of Georgia, the Latinx population has grown significantly in the last decade, accounting for the second largest contributor to Georgia's growth, only behind African Americans. This is also reflected within many college institutions as the rate

of Latinx college students attending their universities have grown over the years. However, the rates of Latinx college students graduating college are still significantly low compared to other ethnic groups within the U.S. It is important for institutions to support Latinx college students in order for them to complete their degree and increase the graduation rate. Moderated by a University of North Georgia faculty member, the panel of undergraduate and graduate students from Georgia universities will discuss how institutions can support Latinx college students. The panel of students will share personal experiences and past research they have done, to discuss best practices and way college institutions can better serve Latinx students.

Panelists/Discussants

<i>Undergraduate students at the UNG:</i>	<i>Graduate Students at the UGA:</i>
<i>Mauricio Picazo-Garcia</i>	<i>Ximena Luna</i>
<i>Fatima Santillan</i>	<i>Madison Rodriguez</i>
<i>Evelyn Tello-Mendoza</i>	
<i>Guadalupe Jimenez</i>	

10:00 – 11:00 am (ET)

Session 4C

Room: 372

Politics, Policy and Injustice in Latin America and the Caribbean

Assessing Livelihood Resilience to Climate Variability by Land Tenure Status of Pastoralists in the Chaco Salteño

Mr. Alejandro Collins & Dr. Jesse Abrams, University of Georgia

The Chaco Salteño of Argentina is a global hotspot of land conflict and climate change stressors threatening the livelihoods of rural pastoralists. This study was motivated by an interest in understanding how smallholding agricultural producers in the area, many of whom lack formal title to the lands they utilize, adapt and anticipate to shocks and stressors for more resilient livelihoods. Interviews were conducted with producers and local experts to investigate perceptions of and experiences with gaining formal title and other mechanisms for securing access to key livelihood resources. We assessed the role of adaptive mechanisms in the face of climate, political, and other socio-economic disturbances and both the ecological and institutional contexts within which these pastoralists operate. Formalized land title documents and communal organizations were identified as primary mechanisms for securing resource access and building resilience to varied stressors. We found that mechanisms not only vary greatly in feasibility to attain, but also in efficiency, reliability, and longevity of resource benefits. Findings from this study contribute to the greater sustainable development discourse in contextualizing the importance of certain mechanisms in supporting resilient livelihoods for marginalized populations.

Where to find justice? The limits of the indigenous right to free, prior, and informed consent as a way to challenge gold mining in the Venezuelan Amazon

Ms. Laura Botero, Master of Latin American Studies - University of Florida

Recognition of indigenous rights has been at the forefront of indigenous movements around the world. In the Venezuelan Amazon, a sector of the indigenous movement is fighting for the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) as a way to challenge gold mining development in their ancestral territories. Other sectors of this movement have focused their efforts on access to livelihoods that enable affected communities to cope with the more immediate effects of the social dynamics and environmental impacts associated with gold mining. In a context shaped by structural violence and criminal governances, I question how struggles aimed at the enforcement of indigenous rights can lead to meaningful socio-environmental justice outcomes. I argue that indigenous peoples' agency is essential to that end, as legal-based approaches tend to focus mainly on distributive and procedural justice concerns, often overlooking broader claims, and even unintentionally reproducing other forms of injustice. Combining a case study with observations from field research, I analyze the limitations of the right to FPIC as a means of contention in struggles against gold mining development drawing upon a multidimensional and decolonial environmental justice framework. From this analysis, I concluded that, in the Venezuelan Amazon, agency is quite limited by the power relations that the different actors establish with the local indigenous peoples, undermining the possibilities of constructing and putting into play owned and shared senses of justice.

The Problem of White Supremacy in Latin America

Mr. Sean Martin, Valdosta State University

The history of Latin America is rich and diverse, beginning with the pre-Colombian native peoples and continuing until the present day. However, there has always been a stain on this history, one that is evident from the very beginning and still seen today. That stain is the idea of White Supremacy, or at least, a preference of whiteness, in the peoples of the continents. This paper argues that through an examination of the history and culture of Latin America we can see that this problem is evident at

every stage of historical development. Through a survey of textbooks, biographies, documentaries, and works of popular media that examine the roles of indigenous people in modern day Latin American states, albeit in fiction, we can see that there has always been a socio-cultural preference for “whiteness” among Latinos to the detriment of Black and Indigenous Latinos. This paper argues that even the way that we write our history and the way that we use film to represent modern people reflects the pervasive problem of White supremacy in Latin America.

11:15 – 12:30 pm (ET)

Session 5A

Room: 368

Arts, Language and Literature

The Men Who Killed My Mother

Dr. Gordon McNeer, University of North Georgia

The Men Who Killed My Mother is a collection of poems by the Spanish poet Fernando Valverde that examines the abusive treatment that his mother endured at the hands of family members during the pandemic of 2020 and beyond. The protagonist in the story had been victimized first by her husband who abandoned her and then by a massive stroke that left her entirely dependent on her mother and three sons. Two of the sons conspire to dispossess her of her properties and income, while her mother lends a blind eye to their cruel actions. The Men Who Killed My Mother is not just a story of one family. It transcends the private world of middle-class family values and becomes a universal indictment against the treatment of all women at the hands of cruel and selfish men in a work that the highly respected poet Raquel Lanseros describes as the most significant example of feminist literature of her generation. It has been my privilege to translate this collection of poems into English so that it may reach a more extensive audience.

Depicting Bolivian Garment Workers in Television and Film from Argentina and Brazil

Dr. Dorian Lee Jackson, Kennesaw State University

The relative economic growth in Brazil during the first two decades of the 2000s has prompted an influx of migrant workers to many of the country's largest urban centers. For Bolivians seeking economic opportunities, São Paulo has been the dominant city of choice, as the booming textile industry provides steady employment for workers at most skill levels. During this same period, Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been a parallel epicenter for Bolivian immigrants by providing similar opportunities in textiles. However, many of these workers in both cities face exploitation from employers, as their dubious legal status and limited economic resources make them vulnerable targets. Destino: São Paulo is a 6-part mini-series examining the lives of various immigrant groups living in São Paulo. The show was produced in 2012 for HBO by O2 Filmes. The first episode in the series, “O Dia da Independência,” tracks the experience of a Bolivian family living and working in a sweat shop. The episode explores the many physical, economic, and psychological abuses the family experiences in São Paulo. Argentine director Pablo Stigliani's 2013 film, Bolishopping, documents the life of a recently arrived Bolivian family trying to navigate life in a clandestine textile shop in the suburbs of Buenos Aires. This project will examine the fictitious representation of Bolivian garment workers and informal labor in both media to discuss the absence of the State and other institutions within the immigrant experience of Bolivians living in São Paulo and Buenos Aires, as well as the possible forms of resistance in both urban settings.

Latin America of the last century, women and old age in Violeta by Isabel Allende

Dr. Alvaro Torres Calderon, University of North Georgia

True to the author's style, the protagonist Violeta, the girl who was born during a pandemic (Spanish flu in 1920) and the woman who died during the pandemic that we are still fighting (Covid 2020), lived long enough to love and be loved, to win and lose, both materially and personally. Before she died, she recorded all this in an extensive letter, almost a journal, addressed to her grandson Camilo. Violet will have an intense love life, a product of her personality, and each relationship will bring something different to her life. As a parallel on a greater scale, the history of Latin America in the last century is also very intense. Through the character, we review it, recalling with her the hard strikes of life, losses, exile, dictatorships, and social struggles. The author chronicles the last Latin American century in which the events of its history intertwined with a character's life. Violeta is spiritually reborn and re-evaluates history, whose old age does not impede finding and reaffirming herself as a strong woman. She gives us another perspective on this concept that, in many societies, is taboo or dismissed. Going back to the strength and vitality showed forty years ago with House of the Spirits (1982), Allende presents us with a novel of reflection and denunciation of constant individual and social struggles. At the same time, she is honoring his mother and the very meaning of the name, the color of beauty, generosity, empathy, and the fight for freedom, dignity, and awareness. The presentation will be done in Spanish with the title: Latinoamérica del último siglo, la mujer y la vejez en Violeta de Isabel Allende.

Franz Boas in Puerto Rico (1915): Folk Tales from the Hills of Puerto Rico

Dr. Rafael Ocasio, Agnes Scott College

In the earliest part of the twentieth century, the United States commenced an intense exploration of Puerto Rican folk culture. This interest led to scientific fieldwork that U.S. American academic institutions often performed on the island. Among the first

research trips was the “Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands,” a multi-disciplinary study under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences. Two scholars, reputable anthropologist Franz Boas and his mentee John Alden Mason, gathered hundreds of oral riddles, poetry and folk stories. Published in *The Journal of American Folklore* from 1916 through 1929, this collection is still today among the largest from a Spanish-speaking country or territory. This presentation underscores my books, *Race and Nation in Puerto Rican Folklore: Franz Boas and John Alden Mason in Porto Rico* (Rutgers University Press, August 2020), which offers a critical view of Boas’s historic trip to Puerto Rico in 1915, and *Folk Tales from the Hills of Puerto Rico/Cuentos folklóricos de las montañas de Puerto Rico* (Rutgers University Press, August 2021), an accompanying bilingual anthology that highlights representative stories collected during Boas’s trip. The published folktales favor rural cultural practices of the Puerto Rican peasant, known as the *Jíbaro*, while ignoring similar folk data that Mason and Boas had gathered in Loíza, a traditional fishing village inhabited by African-descendants. Indeed, their choice to highlight only *Jíbaro* oral folklore not only determined the geographical scope of the project (rural and inland culture) but also the types of “native” characters that stand as representatives of a Puerto Rican identity. Finally, I examine the importance of these oral folktales for Puerto Rican writers and Puerto Rican writers in the United States writers today as components of strategies for cultural survival and preservation of local traditions.

11:15 – 12:30 pm (ET)

Session 5B

Room: 369

Migration, Migrants and Identity

Introducing a Model to Explain the Central American Migration to the USA

Dr. Clemente Quinones, Georgia Gwinnett College

The literature on international migration studies presents a theoretical framework that includes about six groups of migration theories: Historical-Structural Theories, Institutional theories of Migration, Nature-change Process Theories of Migration, Functionalist Social Theories of Migration, Theories of the Internal Dynamics of Migration Process, and Migration Systems Theory? The purpose of this paper is to introduce a comprehensive model that includes all these theories to determine which of them explains better the Central American (CA) migration to the US. Despite the conventional wisdom that economic push-pull factors are the main causes of migration, the assumption here is that the Theories of the Internal Dynamics of Migration Process are better than the others, including economic factors, at explaining the CA migration to the US. For the analysis, I will use the 2021 Latin America Public Opinion Project data.

The Hyphenated Black-British Identity: A Dilemma & The Afro-English Solution

Dr. Anique John, California State University Long Beach

"Being a Black person in a country that heralds the cockney rhyming slang, "There Ain't no Black in the Union Jack!" (Gilroy) represents a dilemma for those who live within the 'Veil' (Dubois). As Black British literature highlights, there are indeed Africana people within Britain who identify as British. They are not "foreigners" or immigrants. They are African diasporic English people. However, being accepted in a country which is considered to be ethnically white, is not only a constant challenge, it creates a dilemma for the African diasporic person who is born in England. Born of Caribbean immigrant parents in the United Kingdom, a first generation English born Black woman who is identified as Black British, I was often reminded of my "imported" status and the connotations attached to the marginalized Afro-Caribbean people of the Windrush generation, who are considered to be desperate to find their footing in a society that exploited and despised the 'sons and daughters' of the Empire. Like Baldwin, I am also unable to ignore "the pathology of a country in which [I] was born" (Baldwin), and in response to this, I consider whether the Black British identity which was encouraged by the likes of Stuart Hall for Afro-Caribbean immigrants of the Windrush generation, is no longer accurate. I consider whether we are at a point whereby the Black British identity should make space for an Afro-English identity, and if not, why not?

Inclusive Development: Lessons from the Dominican Republic

Dr. Enrique S. Pumar, Santa Clara University

Despite increased migration and diversity in recent years, one area of development that remains underexplored is how development policies impact ethnic groups. Much research has been published about gender bias, exclusion, and discrimination in national development, as the work of Blumberg, Viterna, and Fallon, among others, demonstrates. When it comes to ethnicity, however, the social embeddedness of ethnic economies seems to dominate the field. This paper examines how key indicators of quality-of-life fare among Haitians and other migrants in the Dominican Republic. The paper analyzes data from the first national immigrant survey of 2012 to discern the social distance among migrant populations. The paper's approach is inspired by Bogardus social distance scale to argue the robustness of social distance to expose the variations of inclusive development among and within ethnic groups.

Creating in a Transnational Artistic Diasporan Consciousness Setting

Dr. Alix Pierre, Spelman College

Miami-based Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) has been at the forefront of developing and maintaining a transnational art consciousness in the Global South for 27 years. The incubator has led transnational art projects since its inception in 1996. DVCAI artists, curators, and scholars have travelled to and engaged artists from the Caribbean, South Asia, Central America, Latin America, and South America including Aruba, Belize, Guadeloupe, India, Jamaica, Panama, and Surinam. Many of the members and affiliates have hyphenated identities and firsthand knowledge of the state of in-betweenness. DVCAI resident scholar, Alix Pierre, Ph.D. who teaches African Diaspora Studies at Spelman College and investigates Diasporan visual arts as an expression of Afro descendants' identity, dialogues with curator Eunice Bélidor, visual artist Angela Bolanos, and Yacine Tilala Fall. Bélidor brings to the table not only her experience as Montreal Museum of Fine Arts first black curator but a cross border curatorial practice including Québec, Anglophone Canada and Germany. Honduras born and South Florida based Bolano contributes her global living experience, as well as teaching art to a multiethnic Miami-Dade population, as well as creating beyond borders. Washington DC resident of Senegalese and Mauritanian descent Fall brings to bear her recent art residency in Surinam and the collaboration with host artists including Miguel Keerveld. The West Indies Federation concept and Edouard Glissant's Poetics of Relation frame the conversation.

11:15 – 12:30 pm (ET)

Session 5C

Room: 372

Religion, Politics and Organization Change in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Role of Religion in Promoting Linguistic and Cultural Connections to the Community

Dr. Kristi Hislope, University of Georgia

In this paper, I will investigate how the language of religion addresses the needs of parishioners in addition to the role religion plays in the maintenance of languages other than English. In particular, the paper will discuss, through linguistic analysis, how the most important Mass in the Catholic Church, the Easter Vigil, is conducted bilingually in Spanish and English at St. Michael Catholic Church in Gainesville, Georgia, located in Hall County which has a Hispanic population of 29.5% (census). Discussion will show how language connects the members of the community it serves.

The Americas and Beyond (Blind Sided or Blind to History)

Mr. Mario E. Delgado, Retired

Popular relativistic and materialistic values, with their obsession with wealth and compulsive consumption, combines with permissiveness in individual and institutional conduct. Such convergence takes place in advanced liberal capitalist economies such as in the US, and in not so liberal and developed such as in Latin America and the Caribbean. This mix inevitably leads to licentious and corrupt individual and institutional behavior both domestically and abroad. They also contribute to the degradation of the quality of life and of the environment. Their damaging impact on both the family and society lead in turn to demands for increasing government regulation of society. Furthermore, individual apathy, cynicism, and exhaustion from the escalating rate of change throughout the culture, provides fertile grounds for the encroachment by government to go unchallenged. Fortunately, or unfortunately, behavior cannot be effectively or even efficiently legislated, and if attempted, the decline feeds on itself. Fortunately, or unfortunately, freedom is not free, but even less so is immoral conduct. Immoral conduct is opportunistic, egotistic, and relativistic, so it engenders internally inconsistent foundations. Freedom without a self-sustaining moral foundation does not bring peace or even stability, instead ferments immoral conduct and therefore ultimate social decay. Until humans become fully aware of their actual conditions, and willing to self-inject moral values and conducts, the history of individual and social subjugation by oppressive regimes of multiple denominations, will continue recycling itself in history. Morality to be sustainable, has to be internalized and preserved by the pure and superior emotional pleasure of living in that state. Moral values and conduct will not prevail if they are instilled by compulsions based on fear or guilt. On the other hand, it will take the lead and permanently so across the world if initiated in the family.

“Stressing Progress: The US Information Agency’s Effort to Explain Segregation and the Civil Rights Movement in the United States to the Cuban Public During the 1950s”

Dr. Hector Montford, College of Coastal Georgia

Examining the public diplomacy messaging of the United States Information Agency's (USIA) field office in Havana, Cuba, this presentation explores how the USIA framed segregation and the turmoil surrounding desegregation in the US during the 1950s to the Cuban public. As scholars have noted, the struggle for African American equality during the period was an important theme in Cold War diplomacy. The push for, and resistance to, desegregation captured international attention at the time, with audiences abroad closely following the story. The struggle also provided the Soviet Union with ready-made examples to use as a propaganda tool to discredit the United States. Within the Eisenhower administration, officials recognized the need for the US government to develop a global messaging strategy to mitigate negative public opinion of the issue abroad. In Cuba, local USIA

field office personnel followed the agency's broader directives and themes pertaining to segregation and the civil rights movement, developing programming that they believed would find a receptive audience in Cuba. Using Cuban news media and interest groups to disseminate their work on the island, USIA staff produced materials they considered appealing to the Cuban public, which emphasized positive messages highlighting individual African American achievements and the gradual – but consistent – progress on racial issues in the US. An examination of the Havana office's strategy and programming provides the opportunity for a granular study of public diplomacy in action during the Cold War, while also offering insight into the Eisenhower administration's assumptions of the relationship between the US and Cuban people.

Sustaining Organizational Change: Applications in the Caribbean Context

Ms. Leslyn Alexis Beckles, University of Georgia College of Education

The ability to implement successful change is a requisite skill for organizational survival in today's volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) environment. External pressures, such as globalization, market competition, natural disasters, and disease, force organizations, and communities to adapt to ensure their long-term survival. The idea that organizations must change and adapt to survive is a central tenet in the field of organizational change. Despite the universally held axiom that change is necessary, organizations and communities struggle to implement change efficaciously. Given the importance of the topic, it is troubling that sustainability of organizational change is an under-researched topic. Given the ever-changing external environment, the idea of sustainment seems unnecessary or counterproductive because sustainment may represent a period of non-responsiveness or a lack of adaptability. However, even in a rapidly changing environment, sustainment is necessary to allow for increments or evolutions of change. This review aims to summarize the scholarly literature on factors impacting the sustainability of organizational change. Additionally, the review will discuss how the finding might relate to a Caribbean context.



26th Annual Conference on the Americas

Closing Plenary

Reproductive Justice in the Americas:
Past, Present, & Future

Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 1:30 PM
Miller Learning Center, Room 171
Open to All – Registration not required to attend



Dr. Cassia Roth is Associate Professor of History and Latin American & Caribbean Studies at the University of Georgia. Prior to that, she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar at the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her book, *A Miscarriage of Justice: Women's Reproductive Lives and the Law in Early Twentieth-Century Brazil* was published in 2020 with Stanford University Press. It won the Murdo J. MacLeod Prize from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association and the Choice Outstanding Academic Title from the American Library Association. She researches on diverse topics from feminist scientists to cesarean sections. She teaches courses on Brazilian history, gender history, slavery, and medicine and is the faculty adviser to UGA's oldest student organization, the Demosthenian Literary Society.