

International Conference

Towards a History of Agrarian Colonization in Latin America

Concepts and Dynamics in the 19th and 20th Centuries

08th-09th July 2024 - Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF, Bielefeld University)

Short Biographies
Speakers



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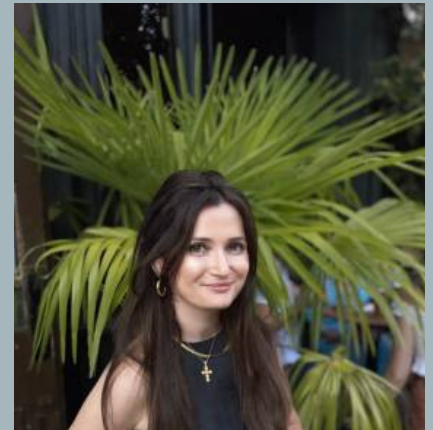
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Arigho-Stiles, Olivia (University of Essex, Colchester)

Olivia Arigho-Stiles is an interdisciplinary researcher of Indigenous histories and the rural world in Bolivia. She completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Essex in July 2022. She holds a BA in History from the University of Oxford and an MA in Latin American Studies from UCL. Her doctoral project addresses the question as to why and how discourses on the other-than-human become so important for Indigenous movements across the highlands in the twentieth century. She is interested in the processes by which radical Indigenous politics in Bolivia repurposed the environment as a sphere of political contention. Her work engages with decolonial theory, environmental history and post-humanism. She is currently working on developing her thesis into a monograph exploring the nexus between Indigenous and environmental politics in Bolivia in the twentieth century.



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Breuer, Martin (Bielefeld University/German Digital Library)

Martin Breuer currently works as team manager at the Berlin University Alliance (Objective 4 – Promoting Talent). From 2019 to May 2022, he formed part of the management team at the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS), where he coordinated the editorial department. He studied history, social sciences, cultural studies and inter-American studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Bielefeld University and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He received his PhD in History from Bielefeld University in 2021. His dissertation from 2021 is titled "Multilateral Development Cooperation and Indigeneity in the Andes: The Andean Indian Program and the International Labor Organization (1949-1970)." His research focuses on the histories of the Andean region, international development cooperation, the United Nations, and Indigenism in Latin America.

Ciro Rodríguez, Estefanía (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá)

Estefanía Ciro Rodríguez is an economist and received her master's degree in history from the Universidad de los Andes. She obtained an honorable mention in her doctorate at the Graduate Program of Political and Social Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She was coordinator of the area of Drug Trafficking, Illegalized Drug Economy and Armed Conflict at the Commission for the Clarification of Truth in Colombia. For her doctoral research, Ciro Rodríguez received the Juan Bosch Award for Social Research in 2018, in which she investigated the question of coca economies in the rural Colombian Amazon, the life trajectories of coca farmers, and the tensions between legal and illegal coca economies. As a result of her research, she published the book "Levantados de la Selva: Vidas y Legitimidades de la Actividad Cocalera en el Caquetá" (2020). She is founder of the Centro de Pensamiento desde la Amazonia Colombiana AlaOrillaDelRío (www.alaorilladelrio.com), from where she also monitored the implementation of points 1 and 4 of the peace agreement and drafted the first report in Colombia on the status of implementation of point 4.



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Fatheuer, Thomas (Forschungs- und Dokumentationszentrum Chile-Lateinamerika e.V. (FDCL) KoBra – Kooperation Brasilien e.V.)

Thomas Fatheuer is a social scientist and philologist as well as freelance author. Fatheuer lived in Brazil from 1992 to 2010 and was director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Rio de Janeiro from 2003. Since 2010, he works at the Research and Documentation Center Chile-Latin America (FDCL) in Berlin and as a freelance author. He is an active member of the Brazilian network KoBra and has written numerous articles and lectures on the subject of "Buen Vivir".



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Fischer, Georg (Aarhus University)

Georg Fischer is Associate Professor for Brazilian Studies at the Department of Global Studies at Aarhus University since 2018. He holds a PhD in History from the Free University of Berlin and a Master of Arts in History from the University of Essex. His research interests include nature-society relations, science and knowledge, and North-South inequalities. Fischer's regional focus is on Latin America and its connections to the wider world with a particular emphasis on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Brazil.

His ongoing research deals with agriculture, migration and environmental change in South American savanna landscapes. Using comparative, transnational and global history approaches, he studies agricultural colonization and modernization projects in Brazil and Bolivia since the Second World War. Before coming to Aarhus, he worked as a teaching and research assistant for Latin American history at the Institute for Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin (2007-2014). He was a Fox International Fellow at Yale University (2010-11) and a senior fellow at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America – Mecila (2021-22). He has been a member of AU's Centre for Environmental Humanities since 2017 and served as its co-director from 2019 to 2021.

Gabbert, Wolfgang (Leibniz University Hannover)

Wolfgang Gabbert received his PhD in Sociology from the Free University Berlin in 1991 (grade: summa cum laude). His dissertation dealt with the topic of "The genesis of an ethnic group - the history of the Creoles (Afro-Americans) of the Nicaraguan lowlands" (written in German). Since 2002, he is Professor for development sociology and cultural anthropology at the Institute for Sociology of the Leibniz University Hanover. In 1986, he conducted field research in Costa Rica and Nicaragua on the history and contemporary situation of Afro-American minorities and their relationship with the nation state. Since 1993, he has conducted extensive ethnological field and archival research in Mexico, including research on the relationship between ethnicity and social inequality, legal pluralism and indigenous insurgency movements. His research and work focuses on Ancient American Studies, Ethnology and Sociology.



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García Veiga, Josué (Bielefeld University)

Josué García Veiga is a PhD student at the Faculty of History at Bielefeld University, a member of the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS) and research member of the Center for InterAmerican Studies in the project Turning Land into Capital funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. He holds a master's degree in Latin-American Studies and a B.A. in Economics with specialization in Environmental Economics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). His main research interests are transnational corporations with intersections of power, land and capital. He has collaborated for several years in the Laboratory of Studies on Transnational Corporations (LET) of the Latin American Geopolitical Observatory (OLAG) at the Institute of Economic Research, UNAM.



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Heberle Viegas, Danielle (Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology, Jena)

Danielle Heberle Viegas is a Brazilian historian of cities and environment whose research scope encompasses Latin America history in the twentieth century and its global connectedness. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the Gerda-Henkel-funded RESILIENT project at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology and a Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil. She holds an master's degree in Ibero-American Studies from Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (2011) and obtained her PhD from the Free University of Berlin and PUCRS (2016), with a focus on Latin-American History. She has conducted her post-doctoral studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität in Munich.

Hormaza, Carolina (Bielefeld University)

Carolina Hormaza is a doctoral student in History at the University of Bielefeld and coordinates the international research project "Turning Land into Capital", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. Her research focuses on concepts of German geography on agrarian colonization in Latin America. Her research interests include the global history of science and its entanglement with the agrarian history of Latin America in the 20th century. Carolina Hormaza is a member of the Center for Inter-American Studies (CIAS) at Bielefeld University and spokesperson of the young researchers' group of the German Association for Latin American Research (ADLAF). She has carried out research stays in the USA and has conducted research on the restoration of the Dignity of Victims in Colombia in institutions of historical memory in the framework of the implementation of the peace agreement.



© Carolina Hormaza

Kaltmeier, Olaf (Bielefeld University)

Olaf Kaltmeier is Professor of Ibero-American History at Bielefeld University. He is the Director and speaker of the BMBF-funded project CALAS (Maria Sybilla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies). Kaltmeier is a co-founder (with Willy Raussert), former Director, and member of the Executive Board of CIAS at Bielefeld University. He is the editor of the publication series *Inter-American Studies/Estudios interamericanos*, Wissenschaftsverlag Trier und New-Orleans-University Press, and *InterAmerican Research: Contact, Communication, Conflict* of Routledge. His research interests include social movements in Latin America, ethnicity in historical change, environmental history and transnational history and postcoloniality.



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Kretschmer, Regine (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba)

Regine Kretschmer is an anthropologist and holds a master's degree in Ancient American Studies and Ethnology from the Institute of Latin American Studies at the Free University of Berlin (FU Berlin). She received her PhD in Agricultural Social Studies from the Centro Avanzado of the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. Kretschmer forms currently part of the Study Program on Agrarian Conflict, Development Criticism and Social Movements at the Center for Research on Culture and Society (CIECS) at the National University of Córdoba - CONICET.

Kretschmer has been working for more than twenty years with peasant organizations on land/territory issues and socio-environmental conflicts, resistance to agribusiness, peasant economy, food systems, food sovereignty and agro-ecology. She has worked with FIAN Paraguay and Germany on the right to food, peasant rights and extra-territorial rights. With BASE-IS of Paraguay, she conducted a series of studies on land occupations, territorial and socio-environmental disputes, as well as on impacts of pesticides. From 2020 to 2023, she served as Misereor's Latin American agrarian development advisor for Latin America.

Luna, Pablo F. (CRH-EHESS-CNRS-Erhimor, Paris)

Pablo F. Luna is a historian specializing in the rural history of the Spanish-American world from the 16th to the 19th centuries. He holds a PhD in History from the Paris Diderot University. He works on the history of the possession and economic valorization of land and natural wealth, on emphyteutic practices and the division of dominion, on both sides of the Atlantic. Luna also conducts research on socio-economic change in rural areas, linking and comparing Europe and Latin America. His interests also include current issues of 'landgrabbing' on a global scale, aiming to examine possible links to the mechanisms and modalities of colonial land grabs in the various cases in question.

His two professional affiliations are the University of Paris Sorbonne (SU, Faculty of Letters) and the Center for Historical Research (CRH-EHESS-CNRS, UMR 8558), within the team for rural history [Equipe d'histoire du monde rural (Erhimor)].



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Maldonado Aranda, Salvador (Colegio de Michoacán, Zamora)

Salvador Maldonado Aranda is Full Professor and researcher at the Center for Anthropological Studies at the Colegio de Michoacán in Mexico. He received his PhD in Anthropology from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana and conducted a postdoctoral stay at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Barcelona, Spain. His area of expertise is the study of security, violence and (i)legalities. Maldonado Aranda has published more than 40 articles in national and international journals, as well as book chapters. Maldonado Aranda has been a member of the National System of Researchers for twenty years and currently belongs to level II. Currently he co-directs an international project entitled 'strategies to improve security between state, civil society and communities in three Mexican states', funded by UKRI, UK/Conacyt.



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Pengue, Walter Alberto

(Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Los Polvorines)

Walter Alberto Pengue is an Agricultural Engineer, with a specialization in Plant Breeding (Phytotechnology) from the University of Buenos Aires. He obtained his master's degree in Environmental and Territorial Policies at the University of Buenos Aires and holds a PhD in Agroecology, Sociology and Sustainable Rural Development from the School of Agricultural and Forestry Engineers of the University of Córdoba (Spain). Pengue conducted postdoctoral stays at the Universities of Tromso (Norway) and at the INBI, University of Canterbury (New Zealand).

He is currently full professor of Ecological Economics and Agroecology at the National University of General Sarmiento (ECOLOGÍA, ICO, UNGS) and Director of the Landscape and Environment Ecology Group (GEPAMA) at the University of Buenos Aires. Pengue is founder and former president of the Argentine and Uruguayan Society for Ecological Economics and was a member of the International Society for Ecological Economics Board (ISEE). For more than 30 years, he has been studying the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of industrial agriculture, transgenic agriculture and food systems at national, regional and global levels and their relationship with natural resources (soil, water, genetic resources).

Picado-Umaña, Wilson (National University of Costa Rica. Heredia)

Wilson Picado-Umaña is a Professor at the School of History at the National University of Costa Rica (Escuela de Historia, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica) and a researcher in the group HISTAGRA of the Departamento de Historia Contemporánea y de América of the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In his doctoral thesis he worked on the prehistory of the Green Revolution in Latin America and its links with US agricultural programs in Latin America since World War II. His research focuses on the history of the Green Revolution, the environmental history of the peasantry, the fire history, and the socio-ecological transition in Latin America during the 20th century.



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Picado-Umaña was Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (2018-2021) and is currently a member of the Board of Editors of the Hispanic American Historical Review (HAHR).



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Relly, Eduardo (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Eduardo Relly is an environmental historian and currently post-doc researcher at Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU Jena) in the project JRT03 „Eigentum an genetischen Ressourcen: Zur Aneignung traditionellen Wissens in der Bioökonomie“. Eduardo Relly received his master's degree in Environment and Development from the University Vale do Taquari in Southern Brazil and completed his PhD Studies in History at Freie Universität Berlin in 2019 with a dissertation on the transfer of environmental knowledge between Germany and Brazil under the background of commons privatization and settler colonialism policies. He has been active mostly in Brazilian and German academia, since he has taken over research as well as teaching positions in Bielefeld (BGHS, Uni Bielefeld), Munich (Rachel Carson Centre, LMU München), São Leopoldo (University Vale do Rio dos Sinos, UNISINOS) and Porto Alegre (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, UFRGS). His research interests include subtropical climate/ecologies, commons, ethnohistory, Guarani archaeology, global agricultural and sylvan knowledge, biological/genetic resources and migration studies, with a focus on German migration to overseas.

Silva, Claiton Marcio da (Universidade Federal do Fronteira Sul)

Claiton Marcio da Silva is a fellow at the Käte Hamburger Research Center Global dis:connect. He was part of the team behind the creation of the "Fronteiras: Laboratório de História Ambiental" and the "Soyacene: Socioenvironmental Observatory of the Soybean" at the Federal University of the Southern Frontier (Brazil). He was a visiting researcher at the University of Guelph (2007/2008), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2017), and a research fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society of the LMU Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) (2017/2018). His work in environmental history and science discusses the impact of technification, experts and the expansion of monocultures in Latin America and countries of the Global South. In 2022 he edited "The Age of the Soybean: An Environmental History of Soy During the Great Acceleration" (White Horse Press) together with Claudio de Majo, and in 2023 he published "The Making of Modern Agriculture: Nelson Rockefeller's American International Association (AIA) in Latin America (1946-1968) (White Horse Press).



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Stokes, Freg J. (Max-Planck-Institut für Geoanthropologie, Jena)



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Over the last eight years, Freg J. Stokes has worked with Guaraní and other local researchers in South America, mapping tropical deforestation and Indigenous resistance to colonisation since 1500. Currently he works as a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, where he is extending this research model, drawing on archival sources to map capitalist expansion, deforestation and political resistance across the world's forests over the last five centuries. Stokes holds a PhD in History and a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Spanish and Visual Art from the University of Melbourne in Australia. His PhD thesis, "The Hummingbird's Atlas: Mapping Guaraní Resistance in the Atlantic Rainforest during the Emergence of Capitalism (1500-1768)", won the 2022 Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia's Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation, along with the 2023 Australian Historical Association's General History Thesis Prize.

Wolfesberger, Philipp (Bielefeld University)

Philipp Wolfesberger is an interdisciplinary social scientist specializing in political sociology and political theory with a transregional focus on Latin America. Since 2021, he has been a research and teaching associate and executive director at the Center for InterAmerican Studies at Bielefeld University, where he is completing his habilitation with a monograph on temporalities of solidarity and violence. He is also an associated postdoctoral researcher in the international research project "Turning Land into Capital", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. He received his PhD in political science with a thesis on mechanisms of violence in the context of the drug war in Mexico (summa cum laude, University of Vienna, 2015). He extensively researched indigenous autonomy and resistance movements with a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Wolfesberger is co-editor of the series "Rethinking the Americas", published by Kipu-Verlag.



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