



CENTRE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER 2023

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Photo credit: Charlotte Pickles

WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

It's a pleasure, as ever, to present a round-up of recent CLACS activities. This short newsletter by no means exhausts the huge range of research projects, partnerships and community engagement that characterises the work done by our network. Nonetheless, looking through the material presented here reminds me that it's a privilege to work with such an enterprising and committed group of colleagues, who have done so much not only to maintain but to strengthen Newcastle's longstanding links with Latin America and the Caribbean, across a broad range of disciplines. A warm welcome to all our new members. We are all also greatly indebted to those friends and colleagues from within the region from whom we continue to learn so much.

*Nick Morgan
CLACS Director*



NEW MEMBERS

NAYARA ALBRECHT

Holds a PhD student in Political Science and has conducted research and teaching activities at several institutions, such as the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Federal University of Sao Carlos, and Aston University. She also served as a research consultant for the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL). As a former civil servant at the Ministry of Culture of Brazil, her research focuses on two strands: 1-bureaucracy and political organisations; and 2-copyright and creative industries. She is currently a research associate at Newcastle University and the chair of IPSA's research committee on Politics and Business.

PILAR MORENA D'ALÒ

A doctoral researcher in political sociology at Newcastle University. After studying International Relations at the National University of Rosario, in Argentina, she obtained her BSc in Political Sciences from the University of Eastern Piedmont in Italy and an MSc in Sociology of Gender and Sexuality from the University of Amsterdam. Pilar's project interrogates the role of enduring colonial legacies of knowledge/power in Argentina by tracing the conditions of possibility for the making of 'spiritual' as political in the Green Tide feminist movement. The project addresses contemporary issues over social movements, decolonisation, and representation.

VIC RIVEROS

A first-year PhD student at the School of Modern Languages, Newcastle University, studying the postmemories of the dictatorships of the Southern Cone and the role of storytelling and creative practices in processes of identity building. Their topics of interest include diasporic identities, human rights education, transitional justice and the history of Latin America and its relationships with other regions.

NEW MEMBERS

BERNARDO CARVALHO DE MELLO

A Brazilian PhD Law Student and a dedicated legal professional with a rich academic background and a passion for human rights and social justice. Bernardo began their legal career as a Senior Partner at the law firm Goodman & Associates. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Law, specialising in International Human Rights Law at Newcastle University. He is a member and a PGR Representative for the Global South Network. His previous academic achievements include a Master's in Constitutional Law and State Theory, a Bachelor's degree in Law in Brazil, a BA in History, an LLB in Philosophy and an LLM in Criminology. He is currently teaching Beginner's Portuguese at the UWLP. PAL (Peer-assisted learning) at the LRC and is a Teaching Associate for Research Methods in the HaSS. He is part of a research group on EDI at the Law School.

YEISIL PEÑA CONTRERAS

A first year PhD student in English at Northumbria University. She has published on African postcolonial literature and African American postmodernism. She has taught English literature, Cultural Studies and Academic Writing in Chile, and Spanish in New Zealand. She is a volunteer at the Lit&Phil Society in Newcastle and has currently been certified as a Mental Health First Aider. Her research interests include histories of activism, postcolonial/subaltern studies and gender in contemporary Anglophone literature. She is fluent in English and Spanish. She is interested in exploring the intersection of contemporary literature written by women with Transnational Feminism in the Global South. Her PhD research project will study the potential for transnational solidarity using an intersectional approach to study women in 21st century literature from Chile, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

GEORGINA HULSTON

A recent graduate of a Master of Letters in Latin American Studies. Her postgraduate research investigated how Environmental change, through land invasion and climate change, affects Indigenous Peoples, knowledges, and languages. Her research used the case study of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, a municipality in the Alto Rio Negro region of the Northwest Brazilian Amazon.

CLACS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE INTERNSHIPS - 2024 APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Applications are now open for both in-person and virtual internships with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC). This is a global network of historic sites and initiatives which connects past struggles to today's human rights movements.

Vic Riveros was an ICSC Intern during the summer of 2023 in Circular de Morelia, Mexico City. "During my internship, I was able to learn a lot about Mexican history. Particularly, I learnt about the human rights violations committed by the State between the 70s and 90s, as that was the focus of Circular de Morelia, which allowed me to learn about the current processes of seeking truth and justice. Thanks to the great people in Circular de Morelia and their openness, I was also able to engage with topics connected with my research about exiles from Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. I learnt about the Chilean exile in Mexico, and I was able to visit the National Archives and learn directly about the persecution to exiles in Mexico. Being in Mexico also meant I was able to attend interesting events that connected with my interests and research, including book releases and musical events. It was an amazing experience, and one that will probably shape my research in the future, as I look forward to returning to Mexico with some new projects."

There are numerous sites around the globe which all provide a unique chance to gain valuable work experience in a truly global manner. In particular, there are numerous sites across Latin America, many of which require students to have background knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese. The internships are both in-person and virtual, they are paid and are open to students of all academic backgrounds. Undergraduate students (stage 2 onwards), Master's and PhD students are eligible to apply. Full details of the application process, application forms and participating host sites are in the ICSC Brochure 2024.

The deadline to apply is **Friday 5th January 2024**.

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity please contact Lucy Bell (Lucy.Bell2@newcastle.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about the ICSC internships or Vic's experience in Mexico You can contact them at c2055941@newcastle.ac.uk

CLACS NEWS

MEMBER REPORT: JENS R HENTSCHEKE (SML)



During his recent sabbatical, Jens R Hentschke worked in Bogotá to carry out fieldwork for a new monograph project, provisionally titled 'Liberty, Order, and Progress: Colombia's Transition from the 1863 Rionegro System to Rafael Nuñez's 1880s Regeneración Revisited'. The book will focus on the political philosophies of the protagonists of this polity transformation but wishes to challenge its representation as a radical rupture and highlight overlooked continuities in change. When working in the Archivo General de la Nación, Academia Colombiana de Historia, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Archivo Central e Histórico de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Biblioteca Nacional, and Instituto Caro y Cuervo in Bogotá, Jens found so far neglected sources on the so-called German Pedagogical Mission (1872-7, all handwritten in Suetterlin (Gothic German).

In 1871, Bogotá's Consul General to Berlin had recruited nine graduates from Prussian Teachers' Seminaries with the aim to run Colombia's normal schools and train future primary school teachers in the pedagogy of Pestalozzi. Attracted by good salaries and the appointment as directors at a young age, these men, most of them Protestants, accepted the invitation. However, they had no idea of the difficult working and living conditions in what was still a "backward" and war-torn country: underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of funding, incompetent officials who changed every two years, ardent battles between Liberals and Conservatives, and conflicts with Rome's Church. Two teachers died young, one leaving his wife and children in poverty; one returned to Germany in distress; another moved into commerce, yet another left for Central America, two were accused of alcoholism. Those who stayed in Colombia repeatedly lost their property in the many nation-wide and regional civil wars and had to fight for compensation over years. The fate of these teachers, often tragic, sheds a new light on late nineteenth-century Colombia.



The unexpected award of a Fellowship by the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin, Europe's biggest specialist library and a major research institute, which is part of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, allowed Jens to continue his fieldwork in Berlin and thereby further trace the career of the members of the Prussian Mission. Given that these teachers were recruited in the turbulent years when the German Reich was founded, sources are scattered in the Federal Archive, Secret State Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage, Political Archive of the German Foreign Office, Leibniz Institute for Research into Education, State Library Prussian Cultural Heritage, and Evangelical Central Archive. State Archive Bremen also sent one important source. The wealth of the material found, has prompted Jens to frontload a small monograph on this understudied Mission, and delay the big monograph.

CLACS NEWS

MEMBER REPORT: MATT BENWELL (GPS)



Along with Prof Catriona Pennell (Exeter), Dr Al Pinkerton (RHUL) and Dr Evie Hill, we took seven young people down to the South Atlantic for the culmination of the Falklands Forty Schools Competition. The prize winners spent 8 days down on the Falkland Islands undertaking a range of different activities that encompassed kayaking with dolphins, observing sea elephants, sea lions and penguins, meeting the MLAs to learn about politics in the islands, sheep shearing and much more!

Andrés Núñez, Enrique Aliste and I received the following award:

The Association of American Geographer's Wrigley-Fairchild Award for the best paper published in Geographical Review.

This was awarded at the AAG 2023 in Denver for the paper: *Interrogating green discourses in Patagonia-Aysén (Chile): green grabbing and eco-extractivism as a new strategy of capitalism?*

Andrés Nuñez and I have prepared a chapter on 'Geopolitics' for the forthcoming volume on Latin American Geographies (Routledge) edited by Sam Halvorsen. This will be coming out in 2024.

I've got a paper forthcoming on my work with Malvinas veterans and families that'll be coming out in Geopolitics in 2024 hopefully. This one is entitled: *Veterans, families and the domestic geopolitics of remembering war.*

More recently, I was involved as academic advisor during the rehearsal stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production Falkland Sound. Falkland Sound tells the story of a small community plunged into the middle of an international crisis in 1982. I was invited down to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch the play and meet the cast back in August.



CLACS NEWS

PROJECT REPORT: SCREENING VIOLENCE



Cecilia Sosa, Eduardo Restrepo and Ramiro Cortés, in conversation in Derry

In July this year we held the final in person meeting for participants in the Screening Violence project, which carried out qualitative work on conflict imaginaries in Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Indonesia and Northern Ireland. The meeting started in Dove Marine in Cullercoats, where we were joined in an exchange of perspectives by Yanique Hulme, one of our colleagues from Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, who proved an able facilitator of the discussions, and was followed by a screening of Alejo Moguillansky's film that was one of the project's first outputs. The group then moved on to Northern Ireland, where we visited a range of sites in Belfast and Derry.

As well as six participants from Indonesia and two from Algeria, we welcomed six participants from Argentina and six from Colombia, a heterogeneous group that included academics and filmmakers as well as victims of conflict and ex combatants. While we would have welcomed more opportunities to engage in in depth conversations with the participants in Northern Ireland the discussion that took place during the visit, many of which were filmed by Alex Elliott and his team, were productive and thought provoking. It has been eight years since we first started the pilot work on this project and we are looking forward to seeing the completed films from all our sites over the coming year.

PROJECT REPORT: CONTESTED TERRITORIES

Newcastle University is an institutional partner of the Contested Territories project financed by the European Commission and led by Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. This is a four-year project running until December 2025 involving more than 20 academic and non-academic institutions to facilitate staff mobility and collaborative research projects between Europe and Latin America focusing on alternative approaches to territorial development. During phase 2 of the project, CLACS colleagues had the opportunity to visit partners and strengthen relations. Dr Gabriel Silvestre (SAPL) visited Universidad de Chile in April where he worked with staff from the Department of Geography on new municipalism experiences in Santiago and Valparaiso while Dr Josep Cru (SML) was hosted by Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali in August to discuss collaborations relating to the revitalisation of indigenous languages. During the 2023-24 academic year it is expected that researchers from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad de Chile, and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali will also be visiting Newcastle.

More information:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cities/research/projects/contested-territories>

<https://www.contested-territories.net>

CLACS NEWS

STUDENT EXPERIENCES: CHARLOTTE PICKLES

¡Ni un paso atrás! Collective memory and protest in Buenos Aires

The week I spent in Buenos Aires was mainly characterised by friendly encounters with strangers, casual strolls through the city and a wide variety of several daily empanadas. But I was also lucky enough to witness the power of community as a means to fight for memory, democracy and justice; more specifically, a community born from the solidarity and strength of women in a time of state terrorism.

I travelled to Argentina's capital city from São Paulo, the most populous city in Brazil, where I was undertaking a placement as part of my year abroad. Even on my first day in the city, after spending hours wandering around the Recoleta Cemetery, I could already tell that I would enjoy my time there. As I passed through the streets, I came across numerous murals dedicated to victims of political violence, which were often accompanied by stickers or graffiti of a white headscarf, the symbol for the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo. Their organisation has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for the victims of political repression, especially those who 'disappeared' during the military dictatorship of 1974-1983. Each Thursday the 'Madres' and their family, friends and supporters walk around the Plaza de Mayo, facing the presidential palace or Casa Rosada, in solidarity and protest for those who were taken or murdered during the dictatorship – a number estimated to be around 30,000, although the majority have still not been found.



It was on that Thursday that I attended the 2351st march of the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, which also happened to be in commemoration of the organisation's 46th anniversary. Among chants of '¡Nunca más!' or 'Never again!', there was an overwhelming sense of community, one inspired by the resilience of those who came before, determined to continue the fight. It was an empowering and emotional experience to say the least. What was more, I was pleased to see people of all ages attending the protest, highlighting the importance of the organisation's work for the younger generations. Following the protest, we gathered to hear the 'Madres' and those closest to them speak. They use this platform not only to campaign for justice for those still missing from the times of the dictatorship, but also to criticise government corruption and current political issues in Argentina. Demetrio Iramain, a staunch activist for the organisation, reminded those present that an anniversary is not a means to an end, but an opportunity to prepare for what is to come. In other words, the fight is far from over.

This discussion served as a stark reminder that there will always be work to be done and that the fight for memory and justice must be a collective effort. I thought of this day recently as the results of the elections in Argentina were announced, which saw the far-right Javier Milei secure a win to be named as the country's next president. This will undoubtedly have catastrophic consequences for women's movements and democracy itself. Organisations such as the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, who have already led protests against Milei since his victory, may have more work ahead of them than ever before.

CLACS NEWS

STUDENT EXPERIENCES: GEORGINA HULSTON

Fieldwork in the Brazilian Amazon



After I was awarded a postgraduate research grant by the Society for Latin American Studies, I conducted fieldwork in the Alto Rio Negro region of the Brazilian Amazon in June 2023 as part of my masters research. The fieldwork was an integral part of my M.Litt. thesis which investigates the ways Environmental change, through climate change and land invasion, affects Indigenous Peoples, knowledges, and languages. For two weeks, I conducted interviews with Indigenous people living in the Indigenous city of São Gabriel da Cachoeira and with local Indigenous researchers in organisations who had been conducting research in the surrounding Indigenous Territories, or Terras Indígenas in Portuguese (TI). I was offered the chance to go on a 3-hour boat trip down the Rio Negro into a TI by a lady who ran a tapioca restaurant in the town.

However, I declined the offer after being advised by NGO workers that the Colombian mafia were present in the surrounding forest, often disguising themselves as military personnel. I was advised that, given my distinctly non-local appearance, I would likely be targeted, risking theft of my phone and cash as a minimum. In light of these safety concerns, I stayed in the town to conduct my research and used the local NGO's archives to investigate the changes in the lands as well as speaking to those who conducted that research. I originally set out to discover what impact destructive land invasion was having on Indigenous Peoples: Was it forcing migration? Was it directly causing language shift to Portuguese or to a more dominant Indigenous language? Is the rapidly changing climate leading to a loss or modification of local knowledges and languages? However, upon arriving in São Gabriel, it became clear that the looming climate crisis and constant risk of land invasion (usually bringing with it disease and violence) and their hypothesised effects on local languages and knowledges were not pressing issues for residents. The conversations I had almost always turned to other socioeconomic issues such as the fact that there was just one doctor serving the 12,000 residents, or that there was too much litter and anti-social behaviour nowadays.

After analysing the primary data that I had collected through interviews and observations, the focus of my thesis shifted slightly and instead looked more closely at the looming impacts of future land invasion and more disruptive climate change. I concluded that land invasion, whilst not currently a major concern in the Alto Rio Negro region, was inevitable within the context of coloniality. Given the abundance of certain valuable resources expected to be vital in the future of electric vehicles, along with a land titling system plagued with coloniality and the irreversible effects of the climate crisis, I resolved that forced urbanisation into cities such as São Gabriel da Cachoeira is inevitable. The urban reality facing Indigenous Peoples in the region is one where intergenerational knowledge transmission is halted and Indigenous language use is displaced by Portuguese or sometimes a dominant, co-officialised, Indigenous language. Overall, the experience of conducting fieldwork in São Gabriel da Cachoeira was challenging but proved to be essential for my thesis.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Albrecht, N. (2023) Bureaucrats, interest groups and policymaking: a comprehensive overview from the turn of the century. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 10, Article number: 565

Albrecht, N. (2023) Disputes over intellectual rights in Brazil: interest organisations and their impacts on copyright law. *SN Social Sciences*. 3, Article number: 82

Benwell MC, Nuñez A, Amigo C. (2023) Nacionalismo cotidiano, alter-geopolítica de las banderas y desplazamiento del tejido nacional durante el estallido social en Chile. *Cardinalis*, 19, 82-115

Borea, Giuliana. 2023. 'Amazonian indigenous artists as agents of interface: artworks, networks and curation strategies in the Covid-19 crisis', Special issue, *Rethinking Latin American Art*, Arts, 12(6).

Chandler D, Pugh J. (2023) *Abyssal Geography*. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 2023, Epub ahead of print. Further details of the broader project can be found here... <https://www.anthropoceneislands.online/>

Gfollner B, Pugh J. (2023) *The Americas: A Relational or Abyssal Geography?*. *Journal of Transnational American Studies* 2023, 14(1), 303-329.

Griffin, A. (2023) *Reading the Walls in Bogotá: Graffiti, Street Art and the Urban Imaginary of Violence*, Pittsburgh: Pitt Press.

Griffin, A., & Young, A. (2023). Violence against a backdrop of colours? Ethnographic insights into tensions between urban transformation and ongoing violence in marginalised neighbourhoods. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 0(0).

Hentschke, J. (2023) School Reforms, Culture Wars, and National Consolidation: Uruguay and Belgium, 1860s-1915, *Historia [Santiago de Chile]*, vol. 56:1, pp. 255-290.

Howard, R. (2023) *Multilingualism in the Andes. Policies, Politics, Power*, New York: Routledge.

Núñez A, Baeza B, Benwell MC. (2023) Cuando la nación queda lejos: Fronteras cotidianas en el paso Lago Verde (Aysén-Chile) - Aldea Las Pampas (Chubut-Argentina). In: Núñez A; Aliste E; Martínez-Wong A, ed. *La reinención de la naturaleza en Patagonia-Aysén: Imágenes, discursos y deseos*. Santiago, Chile: LOM Ediciones, 2023.

Philpott, S. Morgan, N. (2022) *Understanding Conflict Imaginaries: Provocations from Colombia and Indonesia*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan

Pugh J, Chandler D. (2023) *The World as Abyss: the Caribbean and Critical Thought in the Anthropocene*. London: University of Westminster Press.

Urrutia S, Núñez A, Benwell MC. (2023) Geografías posthumanas en Patagonia-Aysén: umbrales, orillas e intersecciones entre animal \cap humano. *Punto Sur* (part of a special edition on *El lenguaje político de las cosas: Geografía, altergeopolítica y materialismo posthumano*. Coming out soon).

GET INVOLVED

In March 2024 CLACS will host the first annual research and networking event showcasing ongoing collaborations between Newcastle University academics and counterparts from Spotlight and other partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean.

If you have or aspire to be involved in research partnerships with Latin American and Caribbean Universities, this event is for you. We aim to provide a platform for current visitors (staff or PGR) to present the research they are doing with Newcastle Academics and connect with staff across faculties.

The ultimate goal of this event is to map existing links between Newcastle University and Latin American and Caribbean partner University Academics as well as explore routes towards interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Please fill in the following form to let us know about any current or upcoming partnerships and collaborations so we can raise the profile of your exciting projects during the day:

<https://forms.office.com/e/YGNCjA6qUn>.




Don't forget to check out our podcast series, including:

Indigenous Languages and Language Politics in the Andes
Professor Emerita Rosaleen Howard discusses a lifetime of work in the Andes with Nick Morgan.

Colombian Street Artist DJLU talks about his work with CLACS director, Nick Morgan.
This discussion took place as part of the conference, La calle es para tod@s, organised by Alba Griffin, Katie Salmon, Laura Pinzón and Alex Young

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/videosandpodcasts/>

Get in touch if you want to feature on the series!



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