The University of Arizona
Center for Latin American Studies

Presents

11th Annual TINKER SYMPOSIUM
Graduate Field Research in Latin America
Student Union
NOVEMBER 5th, 2015
8:30AM - 7:00PM

Photo By: Brittany Nigon, 2015

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Latin American Studies
Graduate College
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
2015 Tinker Symposium
On Graduate Field Research in Latin America
Thursday, November 5, 2015, 8:30 am– 7:00 pm
University of Arizona, Student Union

8:30-8:45: Welcome & Introductions, Dr. Linda Green, Presidio Room

8:45-9:00: Opening Remarks, Dr. Janet Sturman, Presidio Room

9:00-10:30: Public Health, Presidio Room

10:45-12:15: Culture, Power & History, Presidio Room

12:15-1:15: Pizza Lunch, 4th Floor Terrace

1:30-3:00: Food & Water, Presidio Room

3:15-4:45: Science, Language & Education, Tubac Room
   Part A: Lang. & Ed. Emphasis (3:15-4:00)
   Part B: Geosciences Emphasis (4:00-4:45)

5:00-6:00: Keynote: Dr. Deborah Levenson, Ventana Room
Telling Other People’s Stories: The Gangs of Guatemala and the Politics of Death

6:00-7:00: Reception (Open to All), 4th Floor Terraces
1) Anna Steeves-Reece: “A Qualitative Community Assessment of Postpartum Depression and the Role of Community Health Workers in Jinotega, Nicaragua”

In summer 2015 I completed a qualitative assessment of postpartum depression (PPD) in rural Nicaragua. I conducted two focus groups with community health workers (CHWs), 12 interviews with mothers, two interviews with key informants, and spoke with mental health professionals. Topics explored included: perceptions of mental health and PPD; risk and protective factors; and strategies for addressing cases of PPD. Results illuminate numerous risk factors for PPD, especially poverty. Participants also emphasized the importance of intimate social networks following childbirth. My research suggests myriad opportunities for CHWs to play a more prominent role in the mitigation of PPD in Nicaragua.

2) Samuel Packard: "Assessing the Impact of Low-cost Prostheses and Wheelchairs on the Lives of People Living with Disabilities in Sonora, Mexico"

Fieldwork was carried out for an evaluation of ARSOBO, a not-for-profit organization which provides low-cost, high-quality medical devices for people living with disabilities in Northern Mexico. A participatory process was used to design and implement a semi-structured, qualitative survey to elicit narratives about the patients’ experiences living with a disability and the impact of ARSOBO’s services. 35 home-based interviews were carried out by a binational fieldwork team of students from Arizona and Mexico. Qualitative analysis of the interviews will result in critical feedback to ARSOBO staff on the strengths of their programming as well as potential areas of growth.
3) **Brittany Nigon**: “Sexual Health Needs Assessment”

Located between three small rural communities outside of the city of Guanajuato Mexico, the Resplandor Community Center works toward the vision of maximizing human potential and improving quality of life through education. Focusing not only on children, but also families, the Resplandor Community Center seeks to unite and empower community members of all ages through service and education. The ProJoven Sexual Health Education program is one effort to serve community members across the life course. The following report details this program and discusses the activities and results of a sexual health needs assessment which took place in July of 2015.

4) **Erika Nacim**: “The sustainable implementation of a patient navigation program focused on collaborative practices amongst health professionals, administrators and navigators within a hospital setting”

The burden of breast cancer being diagnosed at a later stage is more heavily placed on poor, marginalized, and rural Peruvian women. One step taken to address these disparities is the implementation of a patient navigation program at the public cancer hospitals in Lima and Trujillo, Peru. There were two aims of this study, which focused on the collaborative practices between the patient navigators and other hospital staff. The data gathered from this study allowed for a recommendation to emerge on how to utilize certain indicators to ensure the sustainable institutionalization of a patient navigation model.
5) **Kate Chisholm**: “Families Left Behind: How Family Members Cope With Health Crises When Their Loved Ones Go North in Puebla, Mexico”

This research examined women living near Puebla, Mexico who face the challenge of being separated by family members living in the United States who cannot return to Mexico because of the difficulties of the international border crossing. This project examined how families communicate, as well as how they deal with health problems when they are separated by the border and distance. An emerging theme of the project called attention to the gender-based pressures of migration, looking at the narratives of women struggling to survive while also attempting to maintain the standards required of *marianismo* in Mexican society.
1) **Robert Alvarez**: “The Price of Glory: A Socio-Economic Analysis of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Fortaleza, Brazil”

The steep economic cost of hosting the FIFA World Cup is well-documented, but little attention has been given to the social costs. Fortaleza was one of 12 host cities during the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. In order to analyze the social impact, ethnographic research focused on groups and spaces of high-vulnerability in Fortaleza: poor urban/peripheral communities, street youth, under age sex workers, and people living in extreme poverty. The data suggests that during the process of preparation and implementation of projects associated with the World Cup, that issues facing these groups/spaces were exacerbated while economic benefits were minimal.

2) **Maggie Dwenger**: “Anarchism in Santiago: Theory and Practice of Current Anarchist Movements”

Since the early 20th century anarchists have played a small, but pivotal role in labor and political activism and resistance in Chile. Despite massive political repression that occurred during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, anarchist theory and practice have survived to the modern day. My research explored current anarchist movements in Santiago, Chile. Through interviews and participant observation the study sought to understand how anarchist theory is conceptualized and put into practice, the goals of anarchists, the tactics used to achieve these goals and how this furthers our understanding of the Chilean state.

3) **María Concepción Márquez Sandoval**: “Behind the Men of Power: Women’s role in 20th Century Mexican Army”

The study describes the gradual growth of women in one of the most important institutions in Mexico. It explains the way and the reasons why their numbers have increased in a male predominant organization during the last two decades, going from more traditionally women-related activities such as nurses and secretaries, to combative positions like artillery, engineering, military police as well air and elite forces. It is a project that seeks to alleviate the lack of original studies addressing women in Mexican army a relatively recent phenomenon that has yet to be properly studied.
4) **Renato Serrano**: “Evolution of Guitar Tradition in Chile: Eclecticism in Performance and Compositional Techniques from Central and Southern Chile”

This study observes the evolution of Chilean compositional and performance guitar practices during the last 50 years in central and southern Chile. Through a string of interviews, the testimonies of seven relevant figures of Chilean guitar are analyzed. These insights are useful due to their diversity, for they come from an eclectic tradition that includes folk, popular, and classical styles on the guitar. The study will offer conclusions that will help to understand the symbiotic relationships of styles in Chilean guitar tradition, and how they shape the outcome of new generations of Chilean guitar composers.

Discussant: Linda Green, Center for Latin American Studies
1) **Sophia BORGIA**: “Conflict, Change, and the Challenges of Water Governance in Chile’s Maipo River Basin”

Situated at the confluence of increasing climatic variability, growing urban water demands, and mounting discontent with neoliberal water policy, Chile’s Maipo River basin offers crucial insight into ongoing debates about water governance. Drawing on summer fieldwork, this presentation traces Maipo water conflicts through the interrelated spheres of water law, climate change adaptation, and social mobilization. Preliminary findings will be shared through the telling of three stories: the first about the role of social movements in water governance, the second about contradictory perceptions of water scarcity in times of drought, and the third about the physical and discursive implications of administrative river sectioning. Each story reveals the challenging—and sometime productive—tensions that develop when Chile’s neoliberal model of water management is confronted by conflict, change, and alternative visions of the future.

2) **Fiona GLADSTONE**: “Local Experiences of National Food Policy in Oaxaca, Mexico”

This field research involved collecting perspectives and empirical details on the implementation of national food policy in local farming communities of Oaxaca, Mexico. Through interviews with government officials, program beneficiaries, and participant observation, this research inquired into what programs are reaching communities, how local food production may be affected, and how benefits are perceived by beneficiaries. Results of the research show that funded productive projects focus on income generation, direct food assistance programs benefit large producers outside of the state, and community cafeterias rely on unpaid labor and monetary contributions from women beneficiaries to meet their standards regarding food flavor.
3) **Megan Mills-Novoa**: “Agricultural Adaptation in the Arid Americas”

As farmers adapt to mounting climate change pressures, they negotiate the tension among the market, biophysical realities, and state policies, which shape their decisions relating to cultivar choice, cultivation location, and production techniques. Focusing on the Piura River basin, an arid basin in Northern Peru, my research asks: How is agricultural adaptation shaped by hydro climatic changes, state policies, and agricultural commodity markets? In particular, through remote sensing, GIS crop yield analysis and interviews, I seek to understand how farmers are changing their agricultural land use and what factors do producers perceive as the drivers of these adaptive actions.

4) **Jacobo Xavier Ramirez**: “Criminalization of Paraguayan Campesino Resistance to Agro-industry”

As foreign agro-industrial conglomerates continue to infiltrate increasing amounts of arable land in rural Paraguay, peasant farmers—called *campesinos*—are forced to resist displacement amidst growing threats of state and corporate violence. The current research explores the latent impacts of recent militarization efforts in rural Paraguay to combat apparent domestic terrorist organizations in contributing to larger processes of criminalization of the campesino population who are resisting displacement by foreign agro-industry. The research seeks to engage with growing literature linking the construction of narratives of criminality as a method of displacing campesinos from their land for the expansion of monoculture production.

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**Discussant: Carl Bauer, School of Geography and Development**
1) **Paulina Grino Morales**: “Competing conceptions of knowing in practice: indigenous teachers teaching Western science.”

This project looks at the science teaching practice of indigenous elementary teachers in southern Mexico. Disconnections that exist between Western science and Indigenous ways of understanding the world have been used to explain the underrepresentation of indigenous people in science. In response, building a bridge between cultures would allow students to participate in science. Preliminary findings have shown that science teaching is embedded within cultural practices, allowing teachers to bring into classrooms community knowledge and practices along with science content. Finally, meaningful opportunities for teachers to work within communities are being developed through the implementation of a local educational system.

2) **Rolando Alberto Coto Solano**: “Tonal phonetics, phonology and literacy in the Me'phaa Vátháá community (Guerrero, México)”

Tonal reduction has only been studied for languages in Asia (Mandarin; Thai). Here I examine tonal reduction in Me'phaa Vátháá (Tlapanec), and study how the interactions between reduction, lexical frequency, and ideologies towards writing in Indigenous languages influence the spelling of tonal diacritics. Preliminary results indicate that the perceptual space between high and mid tones is 40% smaller than that between mid and low, which influences spelling deviations. As for ideologies, teachers believe that writing Me'phaa without tonal diacritics leads to breakdowns in communication, despite evidence that they can identify words without diacritics with an accuracy of 80–90%.

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Discussant: Jen Roth-Gordon, School of Anthropology
1) **Dakota Isaacs**: “Using Surface Expression of the Central Andes to Help Determine Subsurface Structure”

The Andes Mountain Range is the longest and second highest mountain range on Earth with a plateau greater than four kilometers and the greatest concentration of active stratovolcanoes anywhere in the world. Geoscientists of all types have become interested in the specifics of the formation of the Andes from many different perspectives. As a global seismologist, I use information recorded by seismometers, after earthquakes, to determine the depth of certain discontinuities within Earth’s structure. The Tinker Summer Field Grant has allowed me to travel to my study area in southern Bolivia and northern Chile to document surface expressions of the rocks I am studying deep below the earth’s surface in order to gain a broader understanding of the Andean Tectonic System.

2) **Clinton Koch**: “Searching for Evidence of Bivergent Mountain Building in the Central Andes”

Recent studies have proposed a bivergent component to mountain building in the Central Andes. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is evidence for bivergence in the upper crust of this region. Reflection seismic data provides the opportunity to examine crustal structure at higher resolutions than other techniques. Acquiring 2-D reflection and refraction seismic profiles requires preliminary field work to ensure traversable terrains in areas of structural interest. Traveling throughout Western Bolivia and Northern Chile provides the opportunity to see, firsthand, the geologic wonders of the Andean Mountains and scout potential sites for seismic profiles.

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**Discussant: Barbara Carrapa, Department of Geosciences**
Keynote Speaker
5:00 – 6:00 PM
Ventana Room (4th floor of the Student Union)
Free and open to the public

~ The Center for Latin American Studies Presents ~

Dr. Deborah Levenson

Telling Other People’s Stories: The Gangs of Guatemala & the Politics of Death


Professor Levenson is a member of the Central American research center, Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales, the Latin American Scholars Association, and the Association of Central American Historians. She is also a recipient of fellowships from Fulbright, the Social Science Council, and the Bunting Institute, as well as of funding from the United Nations Population Fund. She has taught classes on colonial and modern Latin America as well as courses on gender, labor and urban history, religion, modernity, oral history and social movements.
The Center for Latin American Studies and the Latin American Studies community at the University of Arizona sincerely and appreciatively acknowledge the exceptional support we have received from the following:

The Tinker Foundation
The Graduate College
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Thank you to all of the people at the Center for Latin American Studies who worked to ensure the success of this event:

Director of the Center for Latin American Studies
Linda Green

Steering Committee
Linda Green & Colin Deeds

Student Organizers
Claudia Diaz-Combs, Emily Ellis, John Huerta, Andrea Jiménez, Kaitlyn Lantz & Emily McIntosh

Discussants
Carl Bauer, Barbara Carrapa, Linda Green, Jen Roth-Gordon & Jill de Zapien

Thank you to the staff at the Center for Latin American Studies
Linda Green, Director
Colin Deeds, Assistant Director
Robert James, Administrative Assistant
Anna Tso, Business Manager
Mario Aubert-Vasquez, Student Worker
Mia Guimaraes, Student Worker
Ruben Hernandez, Student Worker

Thank you to Mario Aubert-Vasquez for Poster and Program Design