

# **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tinker Symposium**

for Graduate Research in Latin America

Thursday, October 24, 2019 – UA Student Union, Kachina Lounge

9:00-9:30am

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Dean John Paul Jones III and Dr. Marcela Vázquez-León

9:30-10:45am

## **1. Health in Action: Environment, Ecology, and Exploitation**

10:50am-12:20pm

## **2. Policies, Power and Perseverance: Government and Resilience in Latin America**

12:20-1:00pm

## **Lunch**

1:00-2:15pm

## **3. People's Experiences: Themes in Education, Social Sciences, and the Humanities**

2:30-3:50pm

## **4. Moving with the Times: Displacement and Migration in Latin America**

4:00-5:00pm

**Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Irma A. Velázquez Nimatuj**

5:15-6:00pm

## **Reception**

# 1

## Health in Action: Environment, Ecology, and Exploitation

Moderator: Destina Bermejo

### *Perceiving Spaces of Work and Death: A Political Ecology of Occupational Health in Central America*

**Emma Lawlor**  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Geography*

Across lowland Central America, a contested epidemic known as Chronic Kidney Disease of undetermined origin (CKDu) has caused the premature deaths of thousands of farmworkers and rural residents. While researchers debate whether the epidemic's origins rest in heat stress or exposure to environmental elements like agro-chemicals and heavy metals, rural health systems are being stretched thin by demand for advanced dialysis technology and specialized nephrology care. Building off preliminary fieldwork conducted in Costa Rica and Panama, this research will explore the political ecologies of CKDu and how the disease impacts farming communities, rural health systems, and political discourses.

### *Finding Solutions to the Complex Jaguar-Human Conflicts in the Paraguayan Chaco*

**Marianela Velilla Fernandez**  
*Ph.D. Candidate,  
School of Natural Resources and the Environment -CALS*

Human wildlife conflicts are increasing. The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) faces two major threats: habitat loss and retaliatory killing. In the Paraguayan Chaco, the latter is responsible for 50% of the species decline. As more land is projected to be converted, this conflict will be exacerbated. A vital step towards the species conservation is to include private lands. Here, I interviewed 12 producers to understand their economic losses, level of tolerance, perceptions and feelings about the species. 100% of the participants expressed the need to mitigate conflicts by lowering the attacks or receiving some form of benefit for conserving the species.

***Stigma in Paradise: Experiences of Young Haitian Men with Im/migration, Occupational Health, and Global Tourism in the Dominican Republic***

**Keegan Krause**  
*Dual M.A. Student, Public Health  
and Latin American Studies*

The Dominican Republic's economy has exploited Haitian im/migrant labor for decades. However, recent economic shifts represent both new opportunities and vulnerabilities for Haitian im/migrants. This research uses a mixed methods ethnographic approach to offer contextual understanding of young Haitian men's (ages 18-30) experiences with health while working in the informal tourism sector on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. Using participant observation, a cross-sectional occupational health survey (n=60) and semi-structured interviews (n=9) in two adjacent tourist hubs, this research accentuates the lived experiences of young Haitian men who are navigating daily state-sponsored racialized stigma and a neoliberal tourism market.

## **Faculty Discussant: Dr. Stefanie Graeter**

Dr. Graeter is a cultural anthropologist who is currently at the University of California as a postdoctoral fellow. She will be joining the department of Latin American Studies at University of Arizona in Fall 2020. Dr. Graeter's PhD research examined how lead toxicity is operationalized politically within social projects that resist—or support—Peru's large-scale extractive industries. She is interested in ethnographic questions of embodiment, materiality, knowledge, and the political with a geographic focus on Peru and the Americas.



# Policies, Power & Perseverance: Government and Resilience in Latin America

# 2

Moderator: Julia Blumberg

*Women Against Extractivism: The  
Cases of Quintero and Coronel, Chile*

**Marianela Chamorro Belmar**  
*M.A. Student, Latin American Studies*

Extractivism has been a phenomenon that cross the right and left governments in Latin America (Gago and Mezzadra 2017). Therefore, social conflict increases due to the negative consequences of these extractivist activities on the environment, livelihoods and people's health. Resistance to extractivist projects has been led by actors who are different from those related to classical social movements. In this context, the leadership of women in different Chilean cities in this resistance, has been a noticeable and undeniable phenomenon. This research located specifically in the cities of Quintero and Coronel in Chile, project delves into the characteristics of collective action of these women against extractivist projects wherein women have an active role in order to comprehend their meanings about their structural disadvantaged position of women and their role as leaders of resistance.

*Building Resilience: Managed Aquifer  
Recharge in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions of  
Mexico*

**Mary Belle Cruz Ayala**  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Arid Land Resource Sciences*

My research focuses on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) as an option for water resources augmentation in arid and semi-arid regions of México. I am analyzing how local governments, water users, and researchers might participate in designing public policies for MAR. During summer 2019, I interviewed decision-makers of the National Water Commission, CONAGUA, governmental officials of the water management agency in México City, and researchers at the Mexican Institute of Water Technology, IMTA. In addition to the value of the data collected for my dissertation, this trip was an opportunity to influence the conversation about the public policies needed for groundwater.

***Counter-Geographies of Displacement and  
Resettlement in the Era of Neoliberal  
Multiculturalism***

**Nathan Treacy**  
*M.A. Student, Geography*

Guatemala's Communities of Population in Resistance (CPRs) present a compelling case study surrounding negotiations of territoriality, indigenous politics, and transitional justice in a postconflict landscape. Through prolonged military repression, post-conflict resettlement, and ongoing migration both within Guatemala and beyond, the history of the CPR is one of unremitting displacement and resettlement. How have this movement's political objectives been rearticulated through this unending dispersal? This research builds on ideas of neoliberal multiculturalism, drawing on archival research and interviews with CPR community members and leadership to analyze the spatial logic of the post-conflict neoliberal state, as well as indigenous resistance within this framework.

***Street Food, Sanitation, and Health Codes in  
Mid-Century Mexico City, Mexico***

**Reed Battles**  
*M.A. Student, History*

This trip served as my initial research trip for my PhD dissertation topic. Utilizing mainly documents from Mexico's Secretaría de Salubridad y Asistencia located in the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City, my research focused on the intersection between street food and sanitation in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. This research trip allowed me to explore Mexico's relationship with street food of indigenous origin, the gradual acceptance of this food into Mexico's national identity following the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917), and the government's use of health codes and sanitation to control what and where people eat in Mexico City.

# Faculty Discussant: Dr. Luis E. Coronado-Guel

Dr. Coronado-Guel is the director of the University of Arizona Social and Behavior Science Mexico Initiatives and professor in the department of History. Author of *La Alameda Potosina ante la llegada del ferrocarril* (2009, 2015), his research interests include the cultural and intellectual history of nineteenth and twentieth century Mexico, specifically, its nation-state building processes by analyzing patriotic celebrations and public rituals.



# People's Experiences: Themes in Education, Social Sciences and the Humanities

# 3

Moderator: Kristal Natera

*Maestras Rurales: The Exploration of Depictions of Rural School Teachers in Post-Revolutionary Mexico (1920-1940)*

**Hallye Becker**  
*M.A. Student, Art History*

The Centro Escolar Revolucion, constructed in 1936, was a pilot school for a new socialist-themed education in post-revolutionary Mexico. To complement the site's initiation, artists from the League of Writers and Revolutionary Artists were invited to create eleven murals and four stained glass triptychs for the interior. Despite the research value of these works, they have never been documented and published in public domain. This research project consisted of taking high-quality professional photographs of both the school's murals, stained glass works, and archives, with intent of utilizing the images for a master's thesis in Art History, as well as publishing the images to public domain so that other researchers may access them.

*Writing the Quotidian: A Service-Learning Poetry Project in Guanajuato, Mexico*

**Nicole Crevar**  
*Ph.D. Candidate, English*

My research and study abroad in Guanajuato, México entailed conducting a 7-week long service-learning poetry project with rural middle school students on writing poetry in English. The ultimate goal was for students to compose a poem regarding an everyday cultural object of their choosing. Consistent with prior research, I found a lack of rural schoolteachers being communicatively proficient in English; these teachers were not able to meet the required 3-hours of English instruction per week for their students. Therefore, my lessons began with the foundations of English and I decided to encourage a bilingual approach toward writing their poems.

***A Miskitu English Teacher Story: A Look at  
an Indigenous EFL Teacher Experience***

**Jaime Mejia Mayorga**

*Ph.D. Candidate,  
Second Language Acquisition*

The report narrates the preliminary work I engaged with as a first step towards conducting a study with the Miskitu people, an Indigenous community of Honduras, which investigates how English language teaching and learning interacts with an Indigenous person's Indigeneity. Due to internal complexities, I did not carry out all of my planned activities. Moreover, I share how such work already started contributing to my plans as a researcher as we created a network of Miskitu people who are learning and teaching languages. I also discuss how this experience has contributed to my professional development and degree goals by giving me hands-on experience conducting research in the field as well as making me see a potential dissertation topic.

## **Faculty Discussant: Dr. Alberto Arenas**

Dr. Arenas is Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Environmental Education and a professor in the College of Education. He specializes in the connections between pedagogy and environmental sustainability; experiential education, with an emphasis on vocational education; and the decolonization of education with a focus on restoring culturally-rich, non-commodified knowledge and skills.





# Moving with the Times: Displacement and Migration in Latin America

4

Moderator: Eli Wilson

## *Encountering the Early Modern Irish Diaspora in Colonial Mexico*

Hannah McClain  
*M.A. Student, History*

With the assistance of the Tinker Summer Field Grant, I spent three weeks conducting archival research in the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City. This research provided the documentary basis for my master's thesis, which will analyze the experience of an Irish Jesuit in colonial Mexico through the use of microhistorical methods. As a student of early modern transatlantic history, I sought evidence of cross-cultural interaction and identity construction among the Jesuits of New Spain in a wide variety of archival documents. I plan to further draw upon this source base at the doctoral level, when I will develop a larger project investigating missionary activity, Irish clerical migration, and global Catholicism in the seventeenth century.

## *"Finding Our Way Back Home": Return Migration and Tightening of the Mexico-United States Border*

Mario Macias Ayala  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology*

The year 2007 coincided with the beginning of the "Great Recession" in the United States and the war unleashed against drug trafficking by the Mexican government. As a precaution, the US government reinforced its border with Mexico and implemented laws that facilitated the deportation of undocumented migrants. Meanwhile, in Mexico organized crime took control of the northern frontier making the border crossing an expensive, dangerous and not always successful action. The result was a significant, if not massive, increase in Mexicans returning to their homeland and the decrease in the number of Mexicans trying to cross to the north. This research took place in the community of Zapotitlán Salinas, Puebla, Mexico and aims to understand how the reduction of circular migration between Mexico and the United States has affected the subsistence strategies in the households with returned migrants?

***Human Rights Abuses in Detention: Health Implications for Asylum Seekers on the Southwest Border***

**Alyssa Dormer**  
*M.A. Student,  
Latin American Studies*

Prior to November 2018, migrant shelters such as Casa Alitas in Tucson, Arizona served a few migrant families per day, a far cry from the 300+ asylum seekers they now welcome weekly. U.S. asylum policy continues to transform into a more strict and violent system, unpredictably processing and releasing families. Through this research it becomes apparent that CBP and ICE asylum processes are arbitrarily determined. Drawing on 19 interviews with primarily Central American asylum seekers and data collected from Casa Alitas, this presentation reveals the inconsistencies and exacerbation of human rights abuses throughout the immigration process and within DHS agencies.

***Indigenous Labor Relations and Migration in Ecuador***

**Angela Corsa**  
*Ph.D. Candidate, History*

In this project, I explore relationships between indigenous business owners in and around the urban center of Otavalo, Ecuador. Communities outside of the urban center in Otavalo have become a center for labor recruitment in the recent past, creating new relationships between those communities in the surrounding area and those indigenous-owned businesses sourcing them for labor. I consider the gendered dimensions of labor recruitment and examine practices in which women play a central role in the process of locating, recruiting, and placing a labor force across regional and national boundaries.

## **Faculty Discussant: Dr. Javier Duran**

Dr. Duran is a specialist in cultural and interdisciplinary studies along the U.S.-Mexico border. Dr. Duran's areas of teaching and research include U.S.-Mexican border studies, Latin American Cultural Studies, Mexican women's literature and culture, and Chicana/Chicano-Latina/Latino narrative. He has also investigated and taught about the connections between globalization, transnational identities and the Mexican and Latin American Diasporas.

