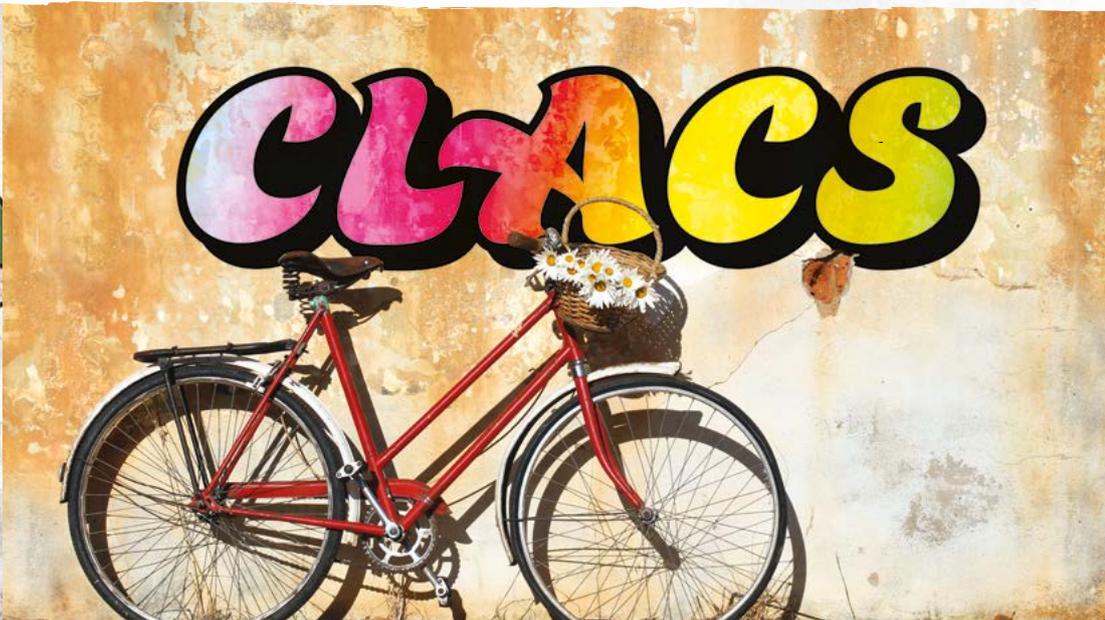


Newsletter 2016-17



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Welcome



Welcome to the second edition of the CLACS Newsletter, at the start of the 2016–17 academic year. The Centre was set up in 2014 to support and promote research focused on Latin America and the Caribbean throughout the University.

01

This year we say goodbye to Diana Paton, our outgoing Director, who has moved to a Chair in History at Edinburgh. We wish her congratulations and success in her new position. It has been important for us this year that Jens Hentschke has taken on the role of President of the Society of Latin American Studies (SLAS).

CLACS had a very active 2015–16 under Di's leadership, and you will find reports on many of those activities in this Newsletter. Professor David Treece of King's College London and specialist on Brazilian music and culture, delivered the first of our Vanessa Knights Memorial Lectures. Another highlight was the CLACS conference – 'New Perspectives on Hispaniola' – held in honour of Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz, which attracted speakers and audience from around the UK. Junot gave a public lecture in association with the Conference and as part of the 2016 ¡Vamos! Festival. We have also been delighted to host two national conferences at Newcastle: the Postgraduates in Latin American Studies (PILAS) Conference in June, and the Society of Caribbean Studies (SCS) Conference in July. A 'Cuba is my brand' event on tour in the UK, came to Newcastle in September.

The newsletter contains updates on postgraduate students' research; and on activities generated by externally funded CLACS projects. The British Council Newton Institutional Links programme supported rural development research in Chile led by staff at Newcastle's CRE; the EU Horizon 2020 'Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal' (CRIC) Project reports a range of academic and public engagement events in Spain, Argentina, Peru and Chile over the last few months; the AHRC 'Translating Cultures Peru' Project welcomed Peruvian speakers at academic events in England and Scotland in April. The support of the Santander Mobility Fund in 2015–16 made possible a diverse range of research activities by staff and students from across the University. These reports reflect the interdisciplinary and cross-faculty nature of CLACS, and make really informative reading. Thank you to all contributors.



Junot Díaz with CLACS and Modern Languages staff.

We look forward to an exciting programme of events with high profile speakers this coming session. A series of seminars on Cuba ('After the thaw') is being supported by a grant from the Institute of Latin American Studies and CLACS. Gina Ulysse of the Wesleyan University will join us for the Vanessa Knights Lecture, and the CLACS Conference will host well-known anthropologists of the Andean and Caribbean regions. Be sure to get the dates in your diary, and watch out for more to follow!

There have been changes in our profile over the last twelve months, as two other long-standing colleagues have moved on to new positions: Nina Laurie to a Chair of Geography at St Andrews and Esteban Castro to his native Argentina where he has taken up a position at the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET). We wish them all the best for the future.

I am pleased and excited to be taking over as CLACS Director; we offer a warm welcome to all new and returning colleagues and students.

Rosaleen Howard
Director, CLACS



02

1 2

New Perspectives on Hispaniola, Past and Present

A Conference in Honour of Junot Díaz June 2016

Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz returned to Newcastle University in June to give a public lecture as part of the 11th annual ¡Vamos! Festival. The lecture – ‘I will build a great wall: Immigration and Xenophobia in the Age of Disruption’ – was part of a wider CLACS organised conference in his honour, entitled *New Perspectives on Hispaniola Past and Present*.

Junot Díaz won the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for his first novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which tells of one family’s epic search for love in the aftermath of the murderous dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. In 2015 a BBC poll of American critics declared *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* the best novel of the 21st century to date. His latest book, *This Is How You Lose Her*, was a New York Times bestseller and a finalist for the National Book Award.

CLACS Director (2014–2016) Professor Diana Paton, said: “We’re really excited that Junot Díaz is coming to Newcastle at a time when questions about migration and border crossings are so important.

“He has been a powerful voice criticising the policies of the Dominican Republic towards people of Haitian descent, after a 2013 court decision ruled that people born there as long ago as 1929 were not citizens if their parents were undocumented. His words on that question resonate a great deal with the European refugee crisis as well as similar concerns across the Americas. And he’s a wonderful novelist too.”

This was the second time Díaz has visited the North East. He was first invited to read extracts of his then unpublished novel to a sell-out audience at Morden Tower during the inaugural edition of the ¡Vamos! Festival in 2006. “I am so honoured to have been invited back to Newcastle,” Díaz said. “¡Vamos! is one the festivals I’ve never forgotten; it was a magnificent gathering. The writers, the readers, the artists and Newcastle itself—all were irresistible.”

Díaz has been active in a number of community organisations. He co-founded the ‘Voices of Our Nation’ Workshop, a multi-genre writing community for writers of colour and collaborates with a number of immigrants’ rights organisations.

The day conference *New Perspectives on Hispaniola Past and Present* took place on 8th June and to the surprise and great pleasure of CLACS and the delegates, Junot Díaz stayed for the whole day and joined in the discussions of the papers that were presented. Speakers included: Charles Forsdick, Liverpool University; Antony Stewart, Newcastle University; Eve Hayes de Kalaf, University of Aberdeen; David Howard, Oxford University; Kerstin Oloff, Durham University; and Maria Lauret, University of Sussex. The papers ranged from ‘*Beyond the Mountains: Dominican Culture (and its Disappearance) in accounts of Haitian life, 1928–1940*’ by Antony Stewart to ‘*From the Novela de la Caña to the “Cake-Eater”: Junot Díaz, World-Literature and the World Food System*’ by Kerstin Oloff.

Lyndsay Short
Press Team

Carolyn Taylor
CLACS

Informing State Formation and Nation Building

Exploring the Normative Ideas

This summer I have been able to complete two books that mark different research cycles.

The first, *Positivismo ao estilo gaúcho*, has been published by Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul Press and is a translation from the English original published in 2004. In this revisionist study, I argue that Auguste Comte's French positivism, which had played a major role in Brazil's transition from monarchy to republic, did not disappear at the turn of the 20th century. It survived at the country's southern frontier, in Rio Grande do Sul, where governor Júlio de Castilhos had installed a developmental and educational dictatorship and inspired a whole generation of politicians, among them Getúlio Vargas. When, in 1930, Vargas and his fellow gaúchos took over central government, positivism, in its specific interpretation by Castilhos, re-entered the national stage, though it increasingly fused with other ideological currents. The gaúchos had an almost unlimited confidence in the healing powers of good institutions. They did not only want to govern their country but rebuild state and nation. Positivism became a driving force behind what Fernando Henrique Cardoso has called an 'authoritarian national-developmentalism'. Some of its long-term effects, such as a frenzy for regulation (John Stuart Mill's criticism of Comte), political engineering of constitutional law, regulated citizenship, and (neo) populism, can still be felt today.

While carrying out field work for a subsequent monograph, *Reconstructing the Brazilian Nation: Public Schooling in the Vargas Era, 1930–64* (Nomos, 2006), I found primary sources that show continuous interaction between staff and students of Porto Alegre and Montevideo's normal schools. Though the polities of Rio Grande do Sul and Uruguay, the former a Comtean *sociocratie* and the latter Latin America's first welfare state democracy, could not have been more different, both placed emphasis on education. The architect of the River Plate county's almost miraculous transformation from a notorious nineteenth-century trouble spot into a showcase of guaranteed citizenship rights, President José Batlle y Ordóñez (1903–7 and 1911–15), had declared his allegiance to the organic state theory of German Idealist Karl Krause's disciple Heinrich Ahrens. Yet, could it be, I asked myself, that Batlle was actually also influenced by positivism, but its more liberal, English strand that had gained much influence in post-Rosas Argentina and, as Chilean José Victorino Lastarria had shown as early as the late 1860s, could be merged with Krausism? Moreover, did 1903 really represent a sharp rupture in Uruguayan history?

These questions gave birth to a new research cycle which has led to the monograph, *Philosophical Polemics, School Reform, and Nation-Building in Uruguay, 1868–1915: Reforma Vareliana and Batllismo from a Transnational Perspective*. It is to be published by Nomos in September.

My hypotheses have been confirmed. More even than in Rio Grande, the reform of public schools, destined to erase frontier backwardness, was central to Uruguay's belated polity formation and nation-building. It started with the foundation of the Society of the Friends of Popular Education in 1868, culminated in José Pedro and Jacobo Varela's transformation of primary and normal schooling in the 1870s and 1880s, and was driven by US liberal pedagogy (Horace Mann, Oswego movement) and Spencerian positivism. While Domingo Faustino Sarmiento always supported *varelistas*, *batllistas* distanced themselves from the Varelas since they had lent their services to (reform-minded) military dictators. Yet, as I argue, continuity in change prevailed over the alleged rupture of 1903, with positivism (Spencer, Bain, Siciliani) and neo-Idealism (Ahrens, Tiberghien, Bergson) interacting in *batllistas'* continuation of the education reform in rural areas and in the secondary and tertiary sectors. By placing Uruguay into the broader context of what scholars have called South America's 'Corridor of Ideas' from Santiago de Chile through Buenos Aires/Paraná and Montevideo to Porto Alegre, I could demonstrate that the country acted as a crossroads of intellectuals and a laboratory for the contestation, assimilation, and merger of global and autochthonous political and pedagogical philosophies.

Jens Hentschke
School of Modern Languages



1 *Positivismo ao estilo gaúcho* book.

2 *Philosophical Polemics, School Reform, and Nation-Building in Uruguay, 1868–1915* book.

Translating Cultures and the Legislation of Language Rights in Peru: CLACS Event

04



CLACS hosted an international event on language rights for indigenous peoples in Peru on 14 April 2016. The event was an outcome of Rosaleen Howard's AHRC-funded project *Translating Cultures Peru/Traduciendo Culturas Perú*. Our speakers were Agustín Panizo, leader of the *Dirección de Lenguas Indígenas* of Perú's Ministry of Culture (a Project Partner), together with Project Co-Investigators Luis Andrade (*Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*) and Raquel de Pedro (Heriot-Watt University). The event was well attended by members of CLACS as well as staff and students from the School of Modern Languages. We held a second meeting, on community interpreting in prior consultation settings, at Heriot-Watt University on 12 April.

Rosaleen received an award from Newcastle's HaSS Faculty Impact Fund, to enable her to host activities in Peru in August 2016, to disseminate results of the *Translating Cultures* project and assure its societal impact moving into the future. We held events and meetings with a range of stakeholders concerned with indigenous language rights, in Lima and the highland regions.

For full information visit our website at <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/translatingculturesperu>

Rosaleen Howard
Director of CLACS, School of Modern Languages

PhD Student Research Reports (reports continue on page 10)



3 Stefan Rzedzian
School of Geography,
Politics and Sociology

I am a final year PhD student based in Geography, supervised by Dr. Raksha Pande, Prof. Rosaleen

Howard and Prof. Nina Laurie. I have an active interest in alternative forms of development, the politics of resistance, and environmentalism. My ESRC funded research project is entitled "Promoting and Defending the Rights of Nature in Ecuador: Environmental activist NGOs and their resistance to extractivism." My work focuses on environmentalism in Ecuador, specifically within the context of the rights of nature (written into the country's constitution during the document's redrafting in 2008). I spent a period of 18 months in Ecuador, primarily based in Quito; this included 6 months of language training in Spanish and 12 months of ethnographic fieldwork.

The rights of nature movement is one that operates transnationally and encompasses NGOs, academics, local communities, and activist groups. Within this movement the case of Ecuador is highly significant due to it marking one of the first examples of the rights of nature being realised at the constitutional level. However, the case of Ecuador is also problematic due to these rights increasingly needing to be defended from the very government that gave them such high legal status originally. These issues are grounded in the country's reliance on natural resources to fuel its extractive model of development. My research explores how members of environmental activist NGOs in Ecuador seek to promote and defend the rights of nature in this contradictory eco-political context, and how these rights are conceptualised and operationalised across geographical scale.

1 Agustín Panizo with Antonia Manresa.

2 Raquel de Pedro, Peter Baker, Francis Jones, and Luis Andrade.

3 Stefan Rzedzian.

Rural Development and Landscape Assessment in Chile

With funding from the British Council's Newton Institutional Links programme, we aim to develop a participatory methodology for the assessment of rural landscapes in the Valparaíso region of Chile. The project draws on the collaboration between our respective research institutes: the *Centro Regional de Innovación Hortofrutícola (CERES)* at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso*, and the Centre for Rural Economy (CRE) at Newcastle University, where I am based.



The ultimate goal of the project is to create a wider landscape assessment methodology that incorporates rural communities in valuing their landscape assets, in an effort to shift the governance discourse in Chile towards more community-led perspectives. As rural communities in Chile are particularly disadvantaged compared to those in urban areas (in economic, social and institutional capacity terms), the research project supports the participation of rural communities in local and regional development policies.

We started with a visit from three of our Chilean partners at Newcastle University, led by CERES geographer Roxana Lebuy. The visit laid the foundations for the institutional link to be developed, through methodology workshops by CRE researchers on participatory approaches (i.e. action research, oral histories) and the experience of neo-endogenous rural development in Europe. We also organised a tour to introduce our visitors to rural development issues in England. As part of a Northumberland fieldtrip, CERES researchers met with Community Officers at the Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Scheme; met the manager and artists at Forge Studios in Allendale, a hub for creative arts in the Allen Valley; engaged in an industrial archaeology project at the rural community of Allheads; and visited a heather moorland to discuss conservation strategies.

The second exchange took CRE's Liz Oughton and Marian Raley to Chile, and while in CERES they focused on interdisciplinary working, as the project at this stage was involving a group of scientists and social scientists talking very different professional languages.

As the project's principal investigator, I visited along with CRE's Director, Guy Garrod, and took part in data collection, through community workshops on landscape evaluation organised by CERES. We also met with policy makers to ensure the impact and visibility of CERES in regional development projects. For example, we met with the Mayor of Quillota, a small agricultural town where CERES is based, and also with policy officers from INDEP (Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario – a division of the Ministry of Agriculture). In both cases we discussed the novel aspects of this project (community participation) and opportunities resulting from the project for a wider national awareness for restructuring rural development policy in Chile. For this purpose we are currently organising a manifesto to be published by CERES calling for rural policy change in Chile.



The landscape evaluation methodology, drawing on the case studies of Quebrada Alvarado and Melosillas, is now final. It involves a large amount of indicators covering agricultural, ecological, socio-cultural, architectural and geographical dimensions with input from both local community and experts, and it can be accessed here, in both English and Spanish: <http://centroceres.cl/ukproject>. The methodology was also critically reviewed by a panel of development and landscape assessment experts at a Newcastle University workshop, which included many CLACS participants. Most importantly perhaps, the work of CERES in Chile brought together diverse community groups in rural areas beyond the usual suspects, including older people, young students and women farmers. While the project is not finished yet, I can't help stressing how lucky we have been at CRE to experience working in a truly international and multi-disciplinary project, challenging our own perceptions of rural development. With my poor Spanish, I met Chilean farmers, interviewed (well, almost) residents on vernacular structures, and discussed with senior policy makers opportunities for bringing more engaged practices in rural development strategies. My colleagues and I got a glimpse of an extraordinary country and its rich rural heritage; and, for the first time ever, I saw an avocado tree.

Menelaos Gkartzios

School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

1 CRE Staff with CERES Project Director and Researchers.

2 Newcastle's CRE at CERES in Quillota, Chile.

Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal Project

Jorge Catalá Carrasco and Patricia Oliart
School of Modern Languages

The CRIC project – now running for 18 months – has continued its fruitful staff exchanges and vibrant events in Spain, the UK, the Netherlands, Argentina, Chile and Peru, strengthening and expanding research networks for further collaborations. Activities have engaged wider audiences and organised collectives with academic institutions. August and September were particularly exciting with the convergence of 5 European CRIC researchers in Lima to take part in and discuss two important public events: the celebration of the 13th anniversary of the Peruvian Truth Commission Report, and an unprecedented mass march against gender violence in Lima, part of the Latin American campaign #NiUnaMenos. Also in Lima, Carles Feixa and Patricia Oliart launched their edited book *Juvenopedia: Mapeo de las Juventudes Iberoamericanas* (NED Ediciones, Barcelona, 2016), with LASA Vice-president, Aldo Panfichi. Before the launch there was a rich seminar discussion on research on youth in Latin America with *Juvenopedia* authors Yanko Gonzalez (CRIC-Universidad Austral de Chile), Marizta Urteaga (Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia-Mexico) and Chandra Morrison (London School of Economics).

Over the summer we have also held research seminars, workshops and published work relevant to our three research areas, in:

Diachrony of Crisis

- Newcastle, June 2015. Graphic novel artist Javier de Isusi stayed in Newcastle for a few days. *Sketching Newcastle. A journey through crisis and renewal* (Jorge Catalá Carrasco, Angela Uribe de Kellet and Montse Ferrer, eds.) was published by Astiberri and delivered to participating NGOs in July 2016. Spanish students from the SML-run Real Translation Project participated in this Spanish-English edition.
- Lima, 25 August 2016. The documentary *José Ricardo Morales. Escrito en el agua* (2015) by Jorge Catalá Carrasco and Pablo Valdivia and the documentary *Els altres papers del PSUC* produced by the CRIC team at the University of Lleida, were screened at the MA in Visual Anthropology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP).
- Lima, 14 August 2016. The exhibition *BUMM! Historieta y Humor Gráfico en el Perú 1978–1992* opened on 14 August at the Callao Monumental, a new renovated space for art galleries and exhibitions in Lima (see cartoon on our cover). A book with Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP) on this exhibition is in preparation.

Crisis, Media and Cultural Production

Awatef Ketiti (University of Valencia) is leading a research network on media and constructions of gender violence in Chile, Argentina, Peru and Spain. Communications and Gender Studies students from those countries are involved in joint documentary productions, and exchanging teaching and research interests via video conferences.

Collectives and Alternative Practices in Cultural Production

- Buenos Aires, 14 and 15 July. The CRIC team at Universidad Tres de Febrero – members of both the Programa de Estudios Latinoamericanos Contemporáneos y Comparados and the Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios y Políticas de Género – held the highly successful *International Colloquium Los mil pequeños sexos*, with around 40 researchers, activists and performers presenting their work on queer theories and gender diversity rights.
- Lima, 19–21 August. Carles Feixa, Montserrat Iniesta (CRIC-UdL) Awatef Ketiti (CRIC-UVEG) and Patricia Oliart (CRIC-Newcastle) participated in the *Tercer Encuentro de Nucleos Regionales de Cultura y Derechos Humanos*, a workshop of learning and reflection on arts and politics with close to 45 young artists from Ayacucho, Apurímac, Cajamarca and Lima, at the Casa Yuyachkani.
- Valdivia, 31 August and 1–2 September. The *Encuentro: Extractivismo, Crisis y Soberanías Locales. Diálogos desde el Walmapu*, took place at the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia, with grassroots leaders, environmentalist organisations and artists from the Chilean regions of Bio Bio, Los Rios, Los Lagos, Araucanía and Chiloé in Chile and Patagonia in Argentina, with great media coverage and public attendance.

More information on our activities:

www.culturalnarratives.co.uk

www.facebook.com/Cultural-Narratives-of-Crisis-and-Renewal-963066027133549/

1 Bolivian activist and performer David Aruquipa delivering his talk on travestis in Bolivian dances and popular culture, Buenos Aires

2 Workshop with young artists from Ayacucho, Apurímac, Cajamarca and Lima, at the Casa Yuyachkani

3 Patricia Oliart and Carlos Feixa with colleagues at the *Juvenopedia* book launch

4 Jorge Catalá Carrasco, Patricia Oliart and artist Juan Acevedo at the graphic humour exhibition in Lima

5 Valdivia. Panel on Women's organisations and participation in environmental conflicts in Chile and Argentina.



PILAS Conference

Diana Morales

Vice-President, PILAS Committee 2015/2016

This year saw the PILAS (Postgraduates in Latin American Studies) Conference come to Newcastle University. Convened by the 2015–2016 PILAS committee, the conference took place from June 29–30, 2016, with Newcastle postgraduates and staff taking part. PILAS is the postgraduate arm of the Society of Latin American Studies (SLAS) and this academic year the committee was made up of Newcastle University PhD students. With the support of CLACS, the committee successfully completed one year of exciting and fulfilling activities, particularly, the PILAS Conference.

This year's conference "Latin America in Transformation: Bridging disciplinary boundaries" aimed to highlight the value of multi-disciplinary research by incentivising dialogue amongst a fair variety of disciplines, and by hosting key note speeches that spotted the benefits and importance of keeping an "open approach" to academic work. Around 100 participants, including presenters, attendees, and chairs came from over 25 different Universities in the UK and beyond, to present and participate in 16 themed panels, 4 workshops, 2 keynote sessions, a discussion session, and a photography display with pictures provided by PILAS members. The panels covered a wide selection of subjects, ranging from literature, art, music performance, dance, to politics, geography, economy, education and gender; all of them within a friendly and supportive environment, counting on the expertise of CLACS members who contributed as chairs and spectators.

As it was a postgraduate conference – beneficial for students and soon-to-be early career researchers – the conference held four workshops designed in accordance with the different needs of participants. Therefore, topics such as PhD and beyond funding opportunities, publishing, tips for pursuing an academic career, and doing fieldwork in Latin America were all discussed in parallel sessions, from which each participant could choose the one that best fitted their needs. The conference also included a stimulating discussion session where the main issues regarding disseminating research, especially when using a different language from the one where your research might have impact, were part of the debate.

In addition to all of the above, and perhaps most satisfactorily, the conference provided an encouraging and friendly environment to debate, enhance and establish networks, and to prove that Latin American and Caribbean studies are a strong and exciting research area in the UK. The 2016/2017 PILAS committee – elected during the conference – is based in Leeds and Sheffield. We are looking forward to the next conference and other activities they are preparing for us all, and we hope to see the rest of the CLACS community joining them.

"Mil gracias to PILAS members, SLAS, CLACS, Newcastle University, Jens Hentschke, Diana Paton, Sarah Radcliffe, Nina Laurie, Elizabeth Oughton, Menelaos Gkartzios, Elisa Lawson, Deirdre Dodd, Lorna Wilson, Jasmine Gideon, Stefan Rzedzian, Nick Morgan, Carolyn Taylor and all the chairs, all the sponsors, my fellow colleagues in Geography, and everyone else who joined the conference and offered their invaluable support. But specially, thanks to my fellow committee members – Jorge Altamirano, Hector Bezares, Ivone Campos-Luna, and Laura Sariego –, and support members – Ursula Balderson, Alix Ferrer, and Antonia Manresa."

1 & 2 PILAS Committee and conference delegates.



Society of Caribbean Studies Conference

Pat Noxolo

Outgoing SCS Chair (Fabienne Viala is the incoming chair)

It was our great pleasure to hold this year's Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS) Annual Conference at Newcastle University, as guests of the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. This was a very special conference for us, as it was our 40th! The first SCS conference was held back in 1977, and our founder members – including Professors David Lowenthal, the late Richard Hart, Colin Clarke, Jean Besson, Gad Heuman, and Gertrud Aub-Buscher – have been recognized as Honorary Life Members. The conference has continued to benefit over the years from the steady and supportive presence of these experienced academics.

This year's conference was seasoned with memories of conferences past, as well as our hopes and expectations for conferences to come. We were particularly happy to be able to launch Professor Jean Besson's new book 'Transformations of Freedom in the Land of the Maroons' (Ian Randle Press) at our rum punch reception and conference dinner, at the Biscuit Factory. Professor Besson gave a fascinating presentation about the book's contents and the detailed research behind it.

A wide range of papers were given by over 70 scholars, from the UK, the Caribbean, continental Europe and Japan. Panels ranged from 'A Caribbean Spin on Shakespeare', through to 'Africa's Sons UnderArms: Race, Military Bodies and the British West India Regiments in the Atlantic world, 1795–1914', and 'Gender and Sexualities in the Caribbean'. Professor Catherine Hall kicked the conference off with an excellent keynote presentation, entitled 'Black slavery and white freedom revisited: Jamaica and England in the late C18'. Our Bridget Jones Travel Award winner this year was Wayne 'Poonka' Willock, a percussionist from Barbados. His presentation was informative and entertaining: he gave us a history of tuk music on the island, and ended with a live demonstration with audience participation. A great time was had by all!

The conference ended with a politically engaged and enthusiastic plenary panel, in which four papers were given on the subject 'Politics and Philosophies of Reparation', followed by a lively debate. For the first time this plenary was organised in commemoration of the contributions to Caribbean Studies of Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis.

SCS would very much like to thank CLACS for their support, particularly Diana Paton (who has a longstanding relationship with SCS), and Carolyn Taylor.

Keep your eyes open for news of next year's conference, which will be held at the University of Essex!



1 Professor Catherine Hall.

2 SCS Conference poster 'I'll Fly Away' by Kishan Munro.

3 Wayne 'Poonka' Willock and audience participation.



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1 2

PhD Student Research Reports

Jorge Altamirano

School of Agriculture and Rural Development

Fieldwork in Ecuador

I am about to complete my second year as a PhD student at the Centre for Rural Economy. My project explores the Social and Solidarity Economy in the Andean highlands of Ecuador; specifically, I use data collected during fieldwork in Tungurahua and Chimborazo provinces. The indigenous population in those areas is very high, which is relevant for the study since it also involves the exploration of the concepts of Sumak Kawsay and Buen Vivir as alternatives to traditional development approaches.

Ecuador is moving toward the principles of Buen Vivir, as part of a governmental plan to shift away from neoliberalism, in a country where inequality, poverty and concentration of land in the hands of the few has persisted. The study aims to determine to what extent the Social and Solidarity Economy is contributing to this change in the Andean rural area where indigenous people have been neglected and discriminated since the Spaniards arrived and conquered Latin America.

The study used survey data, focus groups and face-to-face interviews to investigate the dynamics of these changes, which it has been argued started during the 1990s when the CONAIE indigenous movement was consolidated due to a very successful uprising and street demonstrations against the neoliberal model. This uprising provoked a lot of support across Latin America and led to the discussion about the development model to be used to replace neoliberalism.

Luis Fallas

School of Modern Languages

Central American Cinema: representations of its political economy relations

I am completing my first year as a PhD student in Latin American Film Studies, with a project on Central American Cinema. Central America is an imagined region and cinema is an ecosystem visible through the montage of images and sounds that also represent imaginaries. By applying to them an actor-network theory (ANT) approach we seek to bring out the interactions and translations among stakeholders that contest hegemonic belongings to delimited regions or fields.

By analysing the twenty-four most recent prize-winning films from the Ícaro Film Festival as the best of Central America Cinema, the research goes after the performativity of the category. It delves into the contradictions of a tentative region that does not match any geographical, historical or economic homogeneity. It follows a heterogeneity of conditions, that García names as disconnectedness and that Butler and Athanasiou consider as precariousness in their implications within specific exchanges.

Film as an art that is also an industry combines factors none of which are without conflict. The film text, the production processes and distribution schemes are the result of that exchange and may therefore be considered as capable of agency. Bourdieu proposed the heteronomy of the field of economy upon art; through ANT they are in a mutual relation of determination. Thus the translations between symbolic object and commodity are not a final step but a constant elaboration.

These struggles for reproduction and consecration are represented in the aesthetic/narrative dimension of the film. How it correlates with the grid of interactions allows us to challenge its representations as striving toward a unified cohesive narrative, be it Central America or cinema.



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Felix Lossio

School of Modern Languages

Nation by design. The building of Latin American nations as brands

I am a third year PhD student in Latin American Studies. My project, in general terms, examines the social significance of building the nation as a brand. Specifically, I analyse the “nation branding” strategies recently developed in Peru and Cuba, Peru being my central case. Nation branding is a worldwide contemporary phenomenon carried out by governments in association with private advertising companies.

Through videos, slogans, logos and other promotional activities, nation branding produces a renovated narrative of the nation and the ideal citizen, which is offered to the local and global markets. This is in order to stimulate a new national sense of belonging and promote investment and tourism. I have carried out fieldwork both in Lima and La Habana and have gathered secondary material in these and other countries in Latin America. I have also carried out interviews with public officers, local advertisers and marketing operators in different countries and include discourse analysis of visual and textual interactions in social networks referred to the campaigns.

Theoretically, I put my case studies in dialogue with sociology of consumption studies and postcolonial theory. Particularly, concepts such as the nation, brands and neoliberalism are central for my research. I believe that the cases chosen will allow me to understand the complexities of this phenomenon: Peru and Cuba share a postcolonial scenario but are currently governed by dissimilar economic and political models. Nonetheless, my major aim is to expand my research to other cases as a way to understand the contemporary building of the nation as a brand in the post-colonial “global south”.

1 Jorge Altamirano, Fieldwork in Ecuador.

2 Luis Fallas.

3 Felix Lossio.

4 Peru nation brand official logo.

5 Antonia Manrea arriving at field site.

Antonia Manresa

School of Modern Languages

Bilingual Intercultural Education in Ecuador as a site of negotiation and struggle over difference: Case study of an Amazonian Kichwa school system

The aim of my research is to study the process and implications of Bilingual Intercultural Education (BIE) in Ecuador as a means of formulation, representation and incorporation of ‘indigenous knowledge’ into formal schooling.

At a national level from 2009 onwards Ecuador’s education system has seen a significant increase in public investment. However this is underpinned by an ideological imperative of providing equal access to a national highly standardized and centrally controlled education system. At a national level this raises questions as to what extent current education policies are shifting relations of power between political actors and what the implications of this are at the local level.

Based on an ethnographic and historiographical analysis of schooling as it develops in a particular Amazonian territory, I reflect on the historical role the school plays as a space to access but also expand the categories of citizenship for recognition and incorporation of difference as part of the state project. Through analysing local discourse and interactions in the classroom, I also explore the notion of struggle for interpretive power’ (Pratt, 1996) over the concept of ‘education’. I suggest the concept of ‘education’ is acted upon as a process of ‘domestication’ (Greene, 2012), making it tolerable and functional within local discourse practices. However, I propose this should not be understood as equivalent to a critical perspective on school’s function as a mechanism for legitimization of authorized knowledge and reproduction of social structures (Bourdieu & Passeron, Giroux, McLaren, Freire).

Instead, I suggest that what is at stake is not a lack of recognition of the other but the recognition of the limits of knowing the other (Cadena, Viveiros de Castro) whereby difference exists as possibilities of ‘worlding’ (Latour, Blazer).

Santander and CLACS Mobility Fund Reports

Yujiang Wang

School of Computing Science

Elucidating the neurobiological mechanisms of cortical folding in health and disease, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

During my research visit to Prof. Bruno Mota (UFRJ), in April 2016, we successfully collaborated on our proposed project. During this fruitful time, we not only completed our proposed objectives, but we finished a first draft of a manuscript by the end of my stay. This manuscript is currently under peer review in an internationally journal of very high esteem.

Furthermore, we also had an intense exchange of ideas and many new project ideas were formed based on our results. We decided that pursuing these ideas was so important, that I arranged for a research visit by Prof. Mota in July 2016 to Newcastle, where we developed one of the ideas further.

Our research is concerned with the question of why mammalian brains (particularly human brains) are folded. Despite the enormous diversity in size and function of the mammalian cerebral cortex, Prof. Mota has previously shown that the cortex of different species fold according to a simple universal law. In our project, we investigated if this law also applies to variation within a single species, our own. Specifically, we examine how the law is affected by gender, age or the presence of Alzheimer's disease. By investigating and quantifying what remains invariant and what changes in each case, we shed some light on the underlying mechanisms through which the cortex changes in health and disease, and show how morphological complexity could emerge from a few simple rules.



The Santander Mobility award was pivotal to kick-start our now extremely fruitful collaboration. It enabled us to test our first idea, realise its potential, and develop it into a full publication. At the same time, it also enabled us to develop further ideas for the future. Essentially, it consolidated our collaboration into a solid and long-term relationship. This means that we can now think bigger for our next steps, and indeed we are currently planning our next grant applications to fund our collaboration in the long-term. For me personally, the award helped me in making the step towards becoming an independent researcher. This collaboration is the first step in building a network of collaborators for myself, and I am very grateful for it.



Tracey Thornborrow

Institute of Neuroscience

Male body image in rural Nicaragua

Previous studies have found that men who experienced pressure from the media to conform to a 'muscular ideal' male body type were more likely to be unhappy with their bodies and engage in body modifying behaviours such as excessive exercising or dieting (Barlett, Vowels, & Saucier, 2008). While in rural Nicaragua carrying out research on female body ideals, we noticed that some men in the Miskitu village of Kahkabila were interested in body shaping techniques such as body building and dieting. In this community, people have a relatively high level of access to media via satellite television, which raises the possibility that exposure to the 'muscular ideal' may also be influencing their body image. To ascertain if it is media exposure, and not some other unidentified cultural factor, that is implicated in the men's desire for a muscular body, the current study compares the body ideals of two groups of men who live in a comparable sociocultural environment but differ considerably in levels of media exposure. A total of 40 male participants will be recruited in Kahkabila, the village where we first identified male concern with appearance, and in Esperanza, a comparable Miskitu village with no electricity and thus no access to visual media. We are employing a 3D figure-modelling software package that allows participants to be presented with a 3-dimensional, photo-realistic figure that can be adjusted to create a 'bespoke' ideal body. We hypothesise that those with greater access to television will produce significantly more muscular and more 'V' shaped bodies as their 'ideal' and will report greater interest in attaining that ideal. Existing psychometric questionnaires that measure Drive for Muscularity, appearance concerns, and sociocultural influences and attitudes are also being employed to assess the wider psychological context around their body ideals, adapting them where necessary to be suitable for this particular population.

The data for this pilot study will be collected in November 2016, after the rainy season has abated and access to these remote villages by local water transport becomes easier (there are no roads). A report on the findings will be presented before the end of December 2016.



Diana Morales

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

Regional cooperation for a sustainable and local agenda

With the support of the Santander Mobility Fund, I was able to complete the second part of my fieldwork in Chile in March 2016. My research, based in the study of cooperative agreements between local actors embedded in regions inside countries, argues that under certain circumstances, regional cooperation is an effective tool to achieve local and regional development. Indeed, regions can use this kind of cooperative agreement to overcome a shared problem, to cover unsatisfied needs, or to catch up with more successful regions when the use of neoliberal economic policies have left them behind.

The chosen methodology is based on case studies, understanding the case as the region itself and exploring the strongest cooperation agreement in depth, while taking into account smaller attempts to cooperate as a way to offer a wider understanding of the phenomenon. The research especially benefited from being able to include and compare two regions in Latin American countries, as I can now compare different kinds of cooperative agreements occurring in two different contexts. The data collection for the first case study, located in the Colombian Coffee Region, was completed last summer. The data collection for the second case, located in the O'Higgins region in central Chile, was completed during March and April this year.

The work done in Chile includes:

- Identification of the main regional cooperation agreement, “*Coopeumo cooperativa campesina*”, and two subsidiary agreements, “*Asociación de Frutas AFRUPAL*” and “*Colchagua Valley*” wine and tourism industry.
- Eighteen interviews with different kinds of local actors involved in the different cooperation agreements: public sector professionals at the local level, one civic leader, actors directly involved in the cooperative strategies, actors from the private sector included or not in the cooperation strategies, and national government professionals.

In order to complete the interviews, I spent most of the time in a small town called Peumo, where Coopeumo has its main offices. However, most of the interviewees were located in surrounding towns and cities, whether rural or urban areas. This implies that the fieldwork was done in different places including Santiago de Chile and Rancagua (biggest cities visited), and smaller towns such as San Vicente and Santa Cruz.

1 Yujiang Wang and Research Collaborator Bruno Mota.

2 Young Miskitu men in Kahkabila styling each other's hair (Dr Jean-Luc Jucker).

3 Murals in Peumo.

4 Participants at workshop in Buenos Aires.

Natalia Yakovleva

Newcastle University London

Social resistance to gold mining in Argentina

In April 2016, Dr Natalia Yakovleva visited the University of Buenos Aires for 4 weeks funded by the Santander Mobility Grant. She participated in the organisation of a workshop on the 8th of April 2016 on “Objectives of the mining industry in Argentina in the new millennium” at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. The workshop was dedicated to the discussion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals with specific reference to the mining industry. The workshop was attended by twenty participants from universities, mining, energy, utilities sectors and geology professionals, representatives from federal state mining, energy and environmental authorities.

Dr Natalia Yakovleva from Newcastle University London addressed the audience with her talk on Resourcing Future Generations initiative, discussing the experience of a workshop held in Namibia in 2015 and a follow-up report published in October 2015 (Nickless et al, 2015). The afternoon session was organised around an in-depth discussion of UN Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the mining industry in Argentina. From the 17 Goals, 2 were selected by the participants to be examined further in groups: “SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy” and “SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production”.



UN Sustainable Development Goals and their detailed targets were discussed with relevance to Argentina and recommendations were drawn for further in-depth analysis of the sector's contribution to sustainable development. Following the workshop, Professor Diana Mutti, from the Department of Geology, submitted comments under the online consultation on a draft report produced by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP, 2016) on Mapping Mining to Sustainable Development Goals.

On 22 July 2016, Dr Natalia Yakovleva submitted an outline proposal as a Principal Investigator to the British Academy under a Sustainable Development Call, part of the Global Challenges Research Fund, with co-investigators Professor Diana Mutti from the University of Buenos Aires and Dr Diego Vazquez-Brust from Royal Holloway University of London to the amount of £356K on the topic of “Sustainable Development Goals and Mineral Production in Latin America”. In addition, Dr Diego Vazquez-Brust and Dr Natalia Yakovleva have submitted a paper on the case study of mining in Argentina to the *Journal of World Business*, which is currently under review.

In the meanwhile, the team of researchers – Dr Natalia Yakovleva, Professor Diana Mutti, Dr Diego Vazquez-Brust and Martin Di Marco – are drafting a report on “Mining in the New Millennium: Report on the Workshop in Argentina”.

Santander and CLACS Mobility Fund Reports (continued)

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Katie Salmon
School of Modern Languages

Sanhattan's Generation X

The Santander mobility funding gave me the invaluable opportunity to bring my MLitt research to life through two weeks of fieldwork in Santiago de Chile. It has also helped to lay the groundwork for my future research, which examines the way in which the inevitable physical waste of modernity translates into human waste, and in turn, how this results in 'lost' generations. The trip allowed me to build on my first MLitt assignment, which focused on representations of waste in post-dictatorial Chilean literature and film; primarily in relation to the author and film maker, Alberto Fuguet. Having never before had the opportunity to visit Chile, I found myself struggling to visualise and contextualise the works of Fuguet, whose works are mainly situated in Santiago's upper-class *barrio alto*. As a result, I felt that my writing was abstract and lacked authenticity. Following in the footsteps of Fuguet's characters through the streets of Santiago, allowed me to relate to their experiences more vividly. Moreover, experiencing the privileged, yet anonymous streets of middle-class areas of Santiago such as *Las Condes* or *El Golf* first-hand, and contrasting them with less wealthy neighbourhoods, made it easier to understand why Fuguet portrays the upper classes as far removed from the horrors of Pinochet's dictatorship. I also witnessed the significant US-influence in the *barrio alto*, which is prevalent in Fuguet's writing and filmmaking. The huge presence of cleaners, both on the streets, and in museums and malls, as well as the constant efforts to maintain cleanliness, helped to consolidate assertions I had made in my writing about the connection between sanitation and spaces of modernity. But although my research focused on sanitation, a clean-up operation that I was not expecting to see was after a flood! Halfway through my stay, the Mapocho River burst its banks for the first time in 30 years, making it challenging to get around the city and leaving 4 million people without power or drinking water.

Another purpose of my trip was to deepen my understanding regarding the moral struggle of reconciliation with the human rights abuses which took place during the dictatorship. I considered how these abuses served as economic 'shock therapy', and facilitated the implementation of neoliberal policies.

In turn, this climate of fear was what endowed the upper classes with their privileged economic position, and allowed for the creation of their sanitised, globalised spaces of modernity, which are reflected by Fuguet. I therefore took the opportunity to visit many sites of historical memory, and was impressed to see how openly and frankly contemporary Chile engages with its traumatic past. I saw how the trajectory of the dictatorship was documented at the *Museo de la memoria y los derechos humanos*: starting with videos of witnesses who were inside *La Moneda* palace with President Salvador Allende, during the *coup d'état*, to media images depicting the victory of the 'No' campaign in the 1988 referendum. As a key interest of my MLitt research is the impact of dictatorship on adolescents and young adults, not only in Chile, but also in Spain and Argentina, I was particularly moved by the story of the youngest victim of the regime, a 12 year-old boy, whose body was only discovered under a Santiago street in the year 2000, when it was dug up for building work. Having read a heart-breaking letter in the museum from the child's mother to the authorities enquiring about her son's whereabouts, I found it emotive to later come across his memorial and photograph at the Cemetery of Santiago. During my trip, I also visited several of the dictatorship's former detention centres. First, *Villa Grimaldi* located on the outskirts of Santiago, where an estimated 4,500 people were detained. Here, I toured the sites of the former prison cells, water tower and swimming pool where horrific torture was carried out. I also had the opportunity to attend a presentation and discussion about how the site was transformed into a peace park and a memorial site. From *Villa Grimaldi*, I walked to the nearby *Estadio Nacional* and velodrome, where prisoners were also detained during the dictatorship. The velodrome visit also had significance in terms of my work on Fuguet's 2010 film *Velódromo*. I then ventured back into central Santiago to visit the inner-city clandestine detention centre, *Londres 38*. By chance, my visit to Santiago also coincided with the death and state funeral of the controversial first president of the democracy, Patricio Aylwin. It was revealing to witness the still-divided opinions regarding his presidency, and to experience how the bustling streets of the capital transformed and became significantly hushed and still for the duration of his funeral procession.

As part of my fieldwork, I was also keen to examine how waste material in Santiago has been repurposed or reappropriated for cultural or artistic purposes. I found impressive sculptures and paintings made from recycled objects at the Visual Arts museum, *Centro Cultural La Moneda* and even in the more traditional *Museo Nacional Bellas Artes*. I also walked the streets of downtown Santiago and *Bellavista*, photographing street art, as well as visiting a number of cultural centres such as *Matucana 100*, *Estación Mapocho* and *Gabriela Mistral*, which were created from disused, but historically significant buildings. I also visited the non-profit cultural foundation set up in honour of celebrated Chilean artist and folk singer, Violeta Parra, and *La Chascona*, the Santiago home of poet Pablo Neruda.

Thanks very much to the Santander funding for providing me with the opportunity to add value to my research, and for such an unforgettable experience.

Agustín Fernández

School of Arts and Cultures

Reactivation of Bolivian connections, in particular a partnership with Trío Apolo, Bolivia; Translation and adaptation for a Bolivian audience of Agustín's opera *Teoponte*

Before undertaking my Santander-funded trip to Bolivia, I completed the composition of my piece 'Río Bravo', for a large chamber ensemble, and attended its première at the Lincoln Center, New York, on 21 April 2016. Here is a selection of the Santander-supported activities in which I engaged:

- Meetings with key personalities in Cochabamba and La Paz: Trío Apolo, Instituto Laredo, Casataller, Ministry of Culture, Teatro Municipal and others.

Trío Apolo confirmed their intention to proceed with a new composition for trio – my second for them – and a series of folk arrangements. They committed to fundraising for this project.

I visited **Instituto Laredo** – a specialist music school that over the last five decades has been producing some of the best musicians in the country – where I held discussions with their director on how to take their project for a degree-level music programme forward. My involvement is expected, and international validation of the eventual programme will be sought from Newcastle University and Vienna's JS Bach Musikschule. I helped them with advice and also as an intermediary in conversations with the Hilti Foundation of Liechtenstein, a possible partner in this development.



Casataller is a composers' collective, currently filling the gap of provision in advanced composition tuition in Bolivia. It runs regular workshops with guest composers, and in March I stepped into that role. I taught a group of twelve students, in addition to the four permanent tutors and a variable number of sit-in attendees. The audience was eager and committed. I saw every sign that the workshops were useful to them.

At the **Ministry of Culture** I met Max Eguívar, Director of Cultural Promotion. I explained to him my idea of an ambitious event showcasing the use of the charango – a string instrument of the Andean region – in contemporary music. He responded enthusiastically and urged me to submit a written proposal – which I did without delay – and now await a reply. Max also expressed an interest in my opera *Teoponte* and suggested that I contact him when the work is ready for production. He outlined roughly the terms on which a production could be part of the Ministry's programme.

At the **Ministry** we also discussed the *Premio Eduardo Abaroa*, the country's most prestigious recognition for achievement in the arts. It had come to my attention that the call for submissions for the prize did not include the contemporary classical category of music, even though there is a small but committed community of classical composers in the country. This is a reflection of a wider cultural climate where the state is promoting an 'othered' view of high art, dismissing it as alienating and European. I took it upon myself to agitate against this exclusion; I initiated a little campaign, involving prominent figures from La Paz and Cochabamba, and after a strong letter, some press coverage and many conversations at the Ministry, we achieved the inclusion of contemporary classical music in the call for 2016 (press link below).

- I began to work towards the updating and translation of the opera *Teoponte*, which will involve seeking the support and advice of anthropologist Gustavo Rodríguez Ostría, author of *Sin tiempo para las palabras: Teoponte, la otra guerrilla guevarista en Bolivia*. I moved the project forward by conversations with various relevant individuals, taking soundings on current thinking and communal feeling on the sensitive topic of the opera, and was able to assess the practicalities of producing the work in Bolivia.
- I gave occasional classes at Casataller, an innovative centre for contemporary music in La Paz. See www.indiegogo.com/projects/escuela-de-composicion-composition-school-bolivia#).
- I engaged with staff and students at the long-established **Universidad Mayor de San Simón** in Cochabamba. I met the music students for a couple of workshops and discussed with staff possible developments for the future. A visit in 2017 is on the cards.

Public and media interest

Instituto Laredo gave me a recognition plaque naming me a distinguished alumnus at the opening of a music festival, and on the same occasion the local government of Cochabamba awarded me the title of Meritorious Citizen. Media interest was shown as follows:

The première of *Río Bravo* in New York was covered by national newspaper *La Razón* (www.larazon.com/la_revista/Musica-composicion-Agustin_Fernandez-estreno-Nueva_York_0_2480151984.html).

La Razón covered my campaign for the inclusion of classical music in the call for the Abaroa Prize (http://m.la-razon.com/la_revista/Premios-musicos-clasicos-piden-inclusion-Abaroa_0_2475352467.html).

National broadsheet *Los Tiempos* published a feature on my work over two pages (online version www.lostiempos.com/click/musica/20160417/agustin-fernandez-mas-fuerte-que-rio), particularly the then forthcoming première of *Río Bravo*.

I am very grateful to CLACS and to the Santander Mobility Fund for helping to make this trip possible.

1 Street Art outside Centro Gabriela Mistral, Santiago.

2 Agustín with staff and students of Casataller in La Paz.

Santander and CLACS Mobility Fund Reports (continued)

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Olivia Petie

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

Understanding Experiences of Trafficked Girls in Ecuador: Participatory Research Project

This academic year I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Santander Mobility Award to fund a fieldtrip to Ecuador as part of my studies for an MA in Human Geography Research. As part of the fieldtrip I spent time working at the charitable foundation Casa Dunamis in Quito. Dunamis work with underage girls who were trafficked into the sex trade and are now seeking to rebuild their lives. The girls live in a government funded group home which then partners with Dunamis where girls attend classes on topics such as jewellery making, and sewing as well book club and bible study. Through these workshops the girls learn new skills which they can use once they leave the refuge and seek to build a new livelihood or return to school.

The focus of my research was to look at the everyday geographies of the girls living in this post-trafficking context, and how these are influenced by the transformations taking place at different scales within the post-trafficking environment here. Part of my research was done through a participatory research approach, which meant that I worked with the directors of the foundation to understand some of the key issues, establish the research questions, and plan appropriate methods to use. The findings from the research were then discussed and fed back to the staff at the end of my time at the foundation. The foundation is currently seeking to grow as it has purchased a new property where it hopes to build a larger campus for the girls to live in full time. My research was able to look at what the strengths and weaknesses are of the current context, to offer an insight into what they should consider as they make plans moving forward.

Whilst working at the foundation I undertook various research methods such as interviews, observations, and visual methods. I interviewed volunteers and staff to learn more about the organisation, how it worked and what the challenges were facing the girls living in the refuge. I then undertook creative drawing activities with the girls, to understand their experiences at this point in their lives. This was really insightful as it showed me what was most pertinent in their lives at this point in time, and allowed them to have a voice in my research project. Whilst there I also attended all the workshops with the girls and observed the daily routine of the organisation Dunamis. This also included a day spent at the refuge where the girls live.

Spending a day at the refuge was perhaps one of the most interesting days for me, as it was the day the girls were throwing a baby shower for a young pregnant girl living in the refuge. The rest of the group went to a lot of effort to produce gifts, party decorations and games to make the baby shower a really enjoyable event for them all and to wish the young mother luck in the future. They had a lot of fun arranging it, as well as playing games and eating lots of cake! This day in particular I'll remember because it really heart-warming for me to see the girls come together for one another and then relax and enjoy themselves at the party.

The trip was an excellent opportunity for me to build my skills as a young researcher, identify potential areas for future study, and have a trip of a lifetime to a place I had never visited before. I look forward to returning to Ecuador one day soon!



1 Olivia Petie in Quito.

2 Baby shower at Casa Dunamis in Quito.

Events 2016-17

- 15 September** **Cuba is my brand: Contemporary Cuba and the arts**
Fernando Leon Jacomino, Sonia Almaguer and Diego Gutiérrez.
Percy Building G.13. Co-sponsored by CLACS.
- 12 October** **Welcome event with music and refreshments**
Courtyard Old Library Building, 4:30pm.
- 20 October** **Tropic of Baseball: youth and sport in the Caribbean**
Rob Ruck, University of Pittsburgh.
- 11 November** **After the thaw: cultural approaches to research on Cuba**
Economics, Tourism and well-being – The second seminar in our Cuba Series welcomes Rosi Smith, University of Nottingham (education), Par Kumaraswami, Reading University (Culture, nation and Granma) and Tom Astley (digital media, music) Research Beehive. Funded by ILAS grant co-sponsored by CLACS.
- 20 January** **Language revitalisation and young Quechua speakers in Peru**
Virginia Zavala, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú – Funded by the CRIC Project.
- 16 February** **CLACS New Research(ers) Forum**
Research Beehive, 3-5pm.
- 10 March** **After the thaw: cultural approaches to research on Cuba**
Economics and Solidarity – The final seminar welcomes Emily Morris, UCL (Economic Policy) and Kepa Artaraz, University of Brighton, Research Beehive. Funded by ILAS grant co-sponsored by CLACS.
- 16 March** **Vanessa Knights Memorial lecture**
Withering Pasts Or a Rasanblaj of Peculiarities – Gina Ulysse, Wesleyan University, 5pm.
- 30-31 March** **CLACS Conference. Rethinking difference: beyond language, culture, and indigeneity (programme to follow)**
Key note speaker: Marisol de la Cadena, University of California at Davis. Lead panellists: Andrew Canessa, Essex University; Catherine Allen, George Washington University; Martin Holbraad, University College London.
- 28 April** **CLACS Post-Graduate Conference**

Events start at **4pm** unless otherwise stated

Further events and more details, including locations, will be announced in due course.

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Follow us on Twitter
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Contact us

Email: clac.studies@ncl.ac.uk

Telephone: 0191 2083432

CLACS Administrator:

Carolyn Taylor
School of Modern Languages
Old Library Building
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU

Cover photography: Jorge Catalá Carrasco, Jean-Luc Jucker, Katie Salmon, Carolyn Taylor.

Newsletter edited by Rosaleen Howard and Carolyn Taylor.

Designed by The Roundhouse Design Consultants, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Printed by Potts Print (UK).

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