

Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Newsletter 2017-18

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Welcome

Welcome to all new and returning colleagues, students and friends of CLACS, and to the third edition of our Newsletter for the 2017-18 academic year. This time, we have gone electronic for budgetary reasons, so please circulate the e-Newsletter to your colleagues, students, and all who may be interested, as widely as possible. Thanks for spreading the word!

CLACS is a University Research Centre, set up in 2014 to support and promote research that focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean, across all our Faculties. As with all Research Centres, we are required to bid for renewal every three years. We are delighted that our bid, submitted in Spring 2017, was successful. Within CLACS, we are on track to build further on our growing national and



international reputation as a dynamic and forward-looking research environment for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

A quick look back at 2016-2017 reminds us of many high level and significant events. These have enjoyed support not only from our CLACS budget, endorsed by the University Research Committee, but also from the UK Society of Latin American Studies, Newcastle University's Postcolonial Research Group, and Newcastle University's International Partnership Fund. Our thanks to them all for their backing.

Here is a recap on just a few of those events: Gina Ulysse from the Wesleyan University gave us a moving performance-lecture that evoked the history of Haiti; the CLACS Conference 'Rethinking Difference' welcomed a number of internationally renowned anthropologists to Newcastle to debate approaches to researching cultural difference; and the Symposium '*¿La paz es ahora?*' examined the realities of the aftermath of the Colombian Peace Agreement, with speakers from widely around the UK. Full reports on these and many other events are in the Newsletter.

The CLACS Mobility Fund and the Santander Mobility Fund were put to good use again in 2016-17 with 6 awards being made; congratulations to all the recipients. Their reports, on a diverse range of projects, are included here.

This year we look forward to an exciting calendar, and a full list of forthcoming events is given below. I would like to flag up the meeting of the Standing Conference of Directors of Centres of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, which will take place outside of London, at Newcastle University, for the first time in its history. The Standing Conference serves as a space to exchange information and discuss the concerns of our discipline at a national level, and to agree strategies for protecting and promoting our interests in the wider arena. Jens Hentschke, as outgoing President of the Society of Latin American Studies (SLAS), will be chairing the meeting.

Professor Matthew Restall will give our annual **Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture** on 15 March 2018. Matthew is Director of Latin American Studies at Penn State College of the Liberal Arts and a colonial historian of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. Matthew looks at Maya history, the Spanish Conquest, and Africans in Spanish America. He is an excellent speaker, and his talk promises to be a very inspiring occasion.

Dr. Yanko González Cangas of Universidad Austral de Chile will be **CLACS Visiting Research Fellow** from 2017-2019, funded by CONICYT. Yanko's research is on 'Youths of State hegemonic Youth Cultures: Dictatorship, Fascisation and Generational Connections (Spain and Chile 1973-1981)'.

Lastly a word about external funding! As an interdisciplinary Research Centre, we are well positioned in CLACS to benefit from the funding opportunities that exist within the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), administered by the UK Research Councils, and the Newton Fund. In January 2017, some CLACS members submitted an Expression of Interest to AHRC for a GCRF award, which was unsuccessful, but the process of preparing the bid showed us what the possibilities are. We will keep you informed about these opportunities, and please let us know if you are involved in bids for these or any other schemes. Thanks!

We look forward to seeing you at our events and an excellent year for CLACS.

Rosaleen Howard, Director

PAST EVENTS REPORTS 2016-17

Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture. 'Withering Pasts. Or a Rasanblaj of Peculiarities'

16th March 2017. Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture. This year our speaker was Gina Athena Ulysse, Professor of Anthropology at the Wesleyan University, with the title 'Withering Pasts. Or a Rasanblaj of Peculiarities'. Gina told us the tragic, violent and painful story of Haiti in a way academic audiences at Newcastle are rarely exposed to: through a performance of her subject matter in text infused with the accents of her native creole, chants, poetry, and photography. Through this mixed media assemblage ('rasanblaj'), Gina Athena Ulysse shows how Haiti's past still looms large in the present. In her words, she 'meditates on historical silences, rebellious rage, and the sacred, to affirm ancestral and political imperatives necessary for Black self-determination and self-repossession'. Gina's performance left everyone moved, and opened up an instructive space for us to discuss with her the ways that performance can be used as a teaching tool and as a medium for engaging with academic audiences, communicating messages otherwise hard to put into words.



[Above: Gina Athena Ulysse]

[Below: Gina Athena Ulysse and CLACS members following the lecture]

CLACS International Conference. 'Rethinking difference: beyond language, culture, and indigeneity'

Convened by PGR Students Antonia Manresa and Sarah Bennison (SML)

30-31 March 2017. This was a high profile event with an innovative format that promoted an optimum amount of high quality debate around a crucial topic within the field of anthropology and adjacent disciplines. Our aim was to explore the range of scholarly approaches



to the analysis of cultural difference, seeking to get beyond the pitfalls of relativism and binary thinking that this may entail.

Lead panel. We began the day with a panel led by three leading international scholars, who have developed contrasting and complementary perspectives in their work.

Professor Andrew Canessa (University of Essex) spoke of his experience of studying indigeneity in an Aymara speaking region of Bolivia from the point of view of everyday existence, looking, in his words, 'at the subtleties along the edges in an unequal and highly racist world'. The relationship between the mountains and the Aymara, which sustains quotidian human life in material and spiritual ways, is a central strand in his thinking.

Professor Catherine Allen (George Washington University) reflected on her long professional engagement with Quechua highlanders of southern Peru. Her ethnographic study of community ritual chewing of coca leaves, enlightened by a dramaturgical approach in which she acknowledges Goffman, opened up understandings of Quechua ways of relating to the natural world, in particular the mountain beings with whom they share their lives.

Professor Martin Holbraad (University College London) proposed a conceptual framework that links to the debate on the ontological turn (Stengers; Viveiros de Castro). Holbraad's reflection interweaves his experience both as a philosopher and as an ethnographer of Cuba. He asks what conceptualisations we need in order to talk about the alterities we perceive, arguing the need for the analyst to develop a corresponding 'alterity of thought'.

Professor Marisol de la Cadena (University of California, Davis) gave an inspiring and thought-provoking **Keynote Address** entitled 'Uncommoning Nature'. Her talk threw a spotlight on the part played by mountains as/and humans, in the political challenges laid down by Quechua peasant leaders from the southern highlands, to the central Peruvian state, in the context of its mineral extractivist economic policy.

Panels. After lively debate the programme of panels followed with papers ranged on a range of themes, from human non-human relations in Bolivian, Peruvian, and Ecuadorian societies, to politics and indigeneity, and the discourses of language and identity. Speakers included doctoral, early career, and established researchers from across the UK. Some 50 people took part in the Conference, as speakers and participants in the discussions.

[Right 'The Ayshipa canal ritual in San Damián, Lima, left: Ritual observances to the mountain deity (*apu*) in Bolivia]



PGR Conference. 'Bregando: Navigating the Everyday'

Convened by Anne Carruthers (School of Modern Languages), Luis Fallas (School of Modern Languages) and Alix Ferrer-Yulfo (School of Arts and Cultures)

28th April 2017. 'Bregando: Navigating the Everyday' was the title of our Newcastle University Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Post Graduate Conference. International and UK Postgraduate Researchers attended the day with 19 speakers discussing issues such as post truth, deterritorialized testimonies, precarious films, indigenous education, pregnancy, the Caribbean diaspora, the Argentine chaco and intangible cultural heritage management. Our theme was the 'art of *bregar*', a term coined by Arcadio Díaz Quiñones (2000) to describe the constant sheer hard work involved in navigating the positive and negative processes of everyday life. The art of *bregar* across the Caribbean and Latin America describes not only historical and cultural heritage, but also the unpretentious mechanisms of coping that constantly create new



concepts and new intricacies of heritage and imaginaries in the present day. Our Keynote Lecture was given by Dr Kerstin Oloff, Assistant Professor in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University, with a talk entitled 'Monsters of Neoliberalism: The Human-as-Waste in the Sacrifice Zone'. She talked about the zombie in film and literature as a figure that reflects capitalist relations and the tendency towards ecological and political degradation. We also screened a Costa Rican documentary 'House on a Foreign Land/Casa en tierra ajena' followed by a Skype Q&A with



the director, Ivannia Villalobos and her team. The screening of this film, and reception afterwards was co-sponsored by the Migrations group at Newcastle University. Many thanks to Emma Coffield and Ian Biddle. Thanks also go to Alix Ferrer-Yulfo from Media, Culture, Heritage, Anne Carruthers and Luis Fallas-Fallas from Modern Languages, and Carolyn Taylor from CLACS, who organised the conference.

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[Left: Panel Three: Alix Ferrer-Yulfo, Erika Treichert, David Spain. Bottom right: Q and A with Ivannia Villalobos, Luis Fallas Fallas and Ian Biddle. Top right: Bregando original artwork Colibri by Cindy Solano]

CLACS/School of HCA Symposium. 'Slavery: dialogues across time and place'

Convened by Vanessa Mongey (School of History, Classics and Archaeology)

12th May 2017 'Slavery: dialogues across time and place' took place in with the generous support of the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology and the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The event brought together scholars working on human trafficking and enslavement in a

wide variety of chronological periods and geographical locations, from 6th century Egypt to Britain today. The event showed the strengths of international slavery studies in the Northeast and at Newcastle in particular. The opening panel included Brycchan Carey (English, Northumbria) talking on the circulation of information on the Caribbean and slavery through natural histories. Siobhán McGrath (Geography, Durham) provided a critical analysis of the discourse around modern abolitionism and the language of “development.” Micaela Langellotti (Classics, Newcastle) took us to early Roman Egypt to give a deeper insight into the role of slavery in a newly created Roman province. Ulrike Roth (Classics, Edinburgh University) complicated our understanding of the transition from Roman slavery to Medieval serfdom by emphasizing the study of enslaved women, children and families. Jane Webster (Archaeology, Newcastle) took us on a journey following the millions of beads that were produced in Europe and shipped to Africa during the Atlantic slave trade. The afternoon opened with Louise Waite (Geography, Leeds) who explained how the UK government is increasingly creating a “hostile environment” for illegal migrants, creating the context for labour exploitation to flourish. Vanessa Mongey (History, Newcastle) traced how the slave trade was able to continue to be a lucrative activity in the Caribbean even after it was outlawed. We stayed in the Americas –and in the 19th century– with Hannah Durkin (English, Newcastle) who presented her latest research on Sallie “Redoshi” Smith, a rare female narrative of the traumas of the Middle Passage. Simon Corcoran (Classics, Newcastle) reflected on Roman historical legal sources and how these sources can provide insights into the ideology but also the social realities of slavery. The symposium closed with a lively discussion on the definitions, experiences, and legacies of slavery and the value of interdisciplinary and diachronic exchanges.

Exhibition. ‘ Interdisciplinary exchange in technical processes of photolithography (a.k.a Micro-macro photo-litho)’

29th June-7th July. This exhibition of macro/micro photolithography (generously funded by the Institute for Creative Arts Practice at Newcastle) emerged as ‘an unlikely collaboration’ between **Erika Servin** and **Enrique Escobedo-Cousin**. Perhaps its most unlikely aspect is not that Erika is an artist while Enrique is an engineer and therefore have no common professional links, but the fact that, against all odds, it actually happened despite the fact that we are both Mexican and the idea of ever working together first came up during a conversation a couple of years ago: “Hey, we should definitely do some kind of collaboration some time”.

Erika’s work is related to cultures and subcultures of contemporary Mexico, aiming to create visual and symbolic references to them. As a printmaking technician at the **School of Arts and Cultures**, she routinely uses printing techniques such as etching, relief printing, mono prints, lithography, screenprinting, among others. Enrique is a biomedical engineer working with the Emerging Technology and Materials group at the **School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering** and the Institute of Neuroscience. He designs and fabricates micro-devices for medical applications. We realised that photolithography and etching are techniques that we both use routinely, albeit for very different purposes and results. This is exactly where the idea for a collaboration came about: to explore the unlikely relationship of two entirely different disciplines -



fine art printmaking as a means of social communication, and semiconductor micro-fabrication applied to biomedical engineering. The objective of this collaboration was to produce a collection of macro- and micro-scale prints to be exhibited, to share conceptual approaches and to exchange technical processes.

Erika produced what we call macro-prints: images of medical electrodes which were designed and fabricated by Enrique as a part of a project aiming to develop a medical device to be used in the clinic to diagnose skeletal muscle disorders (“micro-electrode myography”). These images were captured in the lab using a microscope (since the devices are tiny!) and the prints were produced using the methods and materials that are common in art printmaking. To contrast with the first collection of images, Erika provided Enrique with some of her artwork focusing on societal themes of Mexican popular culture. Enrique digitised these images to produce micro-masks of them to finally print them at the micro-scale using semiconductor fabrication techniques. The result was a series of images the size of fractions of a millimetre, printed in titanium and gold on glass slides to view under a microscope using a HD digital camera.

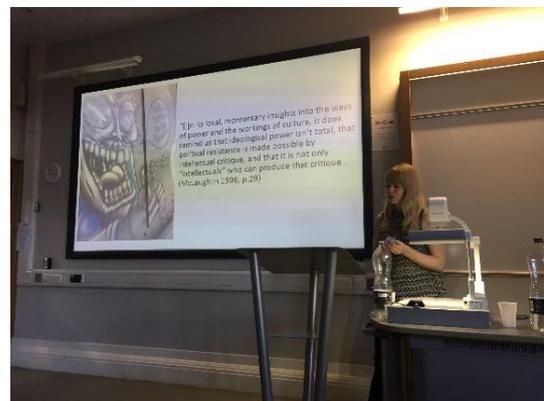
The exhibition ran from 29th June to 7th July at the Fine Art Atrium, King Edward VII building, Newcastle University.

CLACS Conference: ‘¿La paz es ahora? Examining the question of peace and violence’

Convened by PGR students Alba Griffin (School of Modern Languages) and Diana Morales (School of Geography, Politics and Sociology)

29 September 2017. The aim of the CLACS Conference ‘¿La paz es ahora? Examining the question of peace and violence’ was to bring together scholars from different disciplines and backgrounds to discuss what we really mean when we talk about peace, and about violence, in the Colombian context. And this was what we achieved. Dr Rory O’Byrne from Cambridge University opened the conference with a consideration of some of the narratives, rituals, discourses and sites that have been mobilised and appropriated not only to frame questions of violence and peace, but also to problematize the effects of such frameworks.

Discussions throughout the day ranged from meditations on the applicability of our theoretical concepts (what is the state and according to who?) to analyses of case studies where in some cases everyday peacebuilding has been put into practice (how do the Indigenous Guard in Northern Cauca do it?) and in other cases grand corruption continues unimpeded by grand gestures of peace. The practices of various state institutions, from lawmakers to educators, were compared and contrasted to those of activists, artists and filmmakers, with special attention paid to how different groups in different situations perceive and respond to questions of memory, human rights and media narratives.



The significance of the papers related not only to the attention paid to different contexts of peace and violence in Colombia, nor just to the forms that mediate these discourses, but in particular to the consideration of the people who find themselves implicated: disenchanting schoolchildren aware of being instrumentalised to sell a particular vision of peace, young people involved in the illegal extraction of gold whose narratives contradict standard approaches childhood and war, academics politicised by their appointment as mediators of historical narratives.

Speaking to those who attended the conference it was also clear that these were questions and discussions that were not limited to the Colombian context. These are questions that need to be addressed on a broader scale, in Latin America and elsewhere. People spoke about comparisons with peace processes in Central America, years ahead in terms of the signing of peace agreements but still plagued by continuing violence. This is perhaps unsurprising given the difficulties of recognising multiple violence and the reticence of the state in many countries to come to terms with their own role in reproducing violence. Indeed, another participant was reminded of the French context and the silence of the state over the crimes committed by them during the Algerian War. Thus, while peace is a powerful aim and ideal to hold on to, the conference reminded us of the vigilance required to continue to point to continuing violence, to see through the discourses that are politicised for ideological purposes, to question everything and to take seriously what peace means, taking inspiration from both the large and small scale interventions that are at least trying to move towards a situation not just of peace as a performance, but of non-violence as a reality.

[Above: Alba Griffin, Conference Organiser]

Researching everyday geopolitics in Latin America

Convened by Matt Benwell (School of Geography, Politics and Sociology)

8 September 2017. The 'Researching everyday geopolitics in Latin America' seminar (funded by the University's International Partnership Fund) organised by the School of GPS and CLACS brought together ten international scholars working on geopolitical issues in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Falklands/Malvinas, Mexico and Peru. The presenters reflected on a diverse set of topics including youth (counter) cultures in Lima and Bogota, the 'war on drugs' in Mexico, popular geopolitics and memory in Argentina, border contestations in Chile-Peru and the 'geopolitics of the periphery' in Chilean Patagonia. The day offered an opportunity for extended discussion, networking and future collective publications are planned.



The event was funded by Newcastle University's International Partnership Fund and has led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Newcastle University and *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*, which will lead to further research collaboration opportunities between members of staff from the two institutions and between the UK and Chile.

[Above: Matt Benwell, Below: PUC Chile Logo]



Spotlight on Brazil

14 June 2017. CLACS and the Institute for Sustainability co-hosted a fun and dynamic 'Spotlight on Brazil' networking event.

The aim of the Spotlight event was to bring researchers together from different disciplines and faculties, creating a fun and friendly space to share research interests and stimulate new interdisciplinary research connections.

The Spotlight event uses a 'Pecha Kucha' style of presentation, where speakers give dynamic presentations, lasting just 3 minutes, with slides moving automatically, to give a speedy overview of their research and the people they are working with in Brazil.

We were delighted to hear from 14 speakers, covering a very wide range of research areas and collaborations, sharing their work in an accessible and memorable way. The presentations were followed by networking over refreshments. There was quite a buzz in the room, with all the speakers and audience members finding plenty to talk about, sharing their passion for research in Brazil and making plans to continue the conversations. We were delighted to receive very positive feedback from participants, including visitors from Brazil.

5th July 2017. The spotlight event inspired a follow-up CLACS roundtable event titled '**The Right to the City – And the Wrongs of Urbanisation**'. Our speakers were:

Matt Davies, Geography, Politics and Sociology. Matt is investigating the urban regeneration policies in Rio de Janeiro that were implemented around the bid for the Olympics. **Rudolfo Sertori**, PhD student at the Institute of Architecture and Urbanism, linked to the University of Sao Paulo - Brazil and a researcher from the Housing and Sustainability Group who will be talking about Land, Housing, Labour: rural settlements under land reform in the state of Sao Paulo during the period 2003 – 2016. **Priscila Susin**, Post Graduate researcher currently working in Newcastle on an exchange programme. Priscilla's research focuses on women and the struggle for housing in Brazil.

CLACS MOBILITY FUND REPORTS

Claire Brewster (School of History, Classics and Archaeology)

'Initiatives of national government, interested groups, and individuals in promoting and sustaining women's participation in sports in Mexico (1890s-1980s)'

A CLACS Mobility Grant (January 2017) enabled me to conduct three weeks of fieldwork in Mexico City related to my current research project.

In a country with a reputation for a strong "macho" culture, Mexican women have traditionally been pushed to the side-lines in sport, being known more for their roles as prize-givers and cheer-leaders rather than participants. At the end of the nineteenth century the emphasis of sport and healthy pursuits coincided with a broader determination among the elite classes to embrace modernity. Sporting activities for elite women were strictly confined by social niceties to acceptable physical activities such as tennis. My objective was to identify how women exploited the spaces available to them in order to breach such restrictions. In 1897, for example, a feature in the high-brow cultural magazine, *El Mundo*, entitled "Amazons and Cycling" observed how cycling had rapidly grown

among the younger generation, and lamented that young women might abandon riding thoroughbred horses in favour of these machines.

Following the Revolution (1910-17), women of all social classes were primarily seen by politicians and social reformers as the guardians of Mexico's future, who would produce the next generation. Hence, while their health and well-being were inextricably linked to Mexico's future development



and prosperity, it was equally important that women's participation in sport should be promoted in such a way that neither renounced their femininity nor lessened their appeal as future wives and mothers. Yet within this atmosphere, women created spaces to follow their own ambitions. Government documents and, increasingly, the printed media, chart the progression of women's participation in basketball, softball, athletics, gymnastics and football at local, national and international levels.

Football presents a special case. Mexican women managed to take the "beautiful game" to a new level in the 1970s. Their third place in the first unofficial World Cup in 1970 (Italy) forced a sceptical public to reappraise their attitudes. The following year Mexico hosted the still-unofficial competition and did even better as runners-up. These results far exceeded anything achieved by the men's national squad. I was particularly interested to see how the press reacted to these events.

Mexican newspapers gave tremendous coverage to Mexico's victories in 1970 and all the matches in the 1971 tournament. Interestingly, reports changed from initial comments about the physical attributes of the "fair sex" to matter-of-fact praise for their footballing skill and intelligent play. One of the players, Alicia Vargas, was given the nickname "the Mexican Pelé", underlining Mexican pride in her achievements. The games were played in Mexico's main stadia and attracted large crowds. The final, in which Mexico took on the reigning champions Denmark, was a sell-out, with 100,000 supporters filling the Aztec Stadium. Moreover, all matches were shown live on television.

This cartoon, which appeared in a respected daily newspaper, refers to demands made by the amateur women players to be given some kind of remuneration for their efforts at a time when male footballers were commanding high salaries. The woman is told, "Satisfaction is worth more than all the gold in the world sweetheart"; while her "born to lose" male counterpart gloats "I always win ... a good salary".



Somewhat incongruously, on the day following the 1971

World Cup final, one of the more traditional Mexican national dailies, *Ovaciones*, included a feature on another of the players, Marta Coronado, with photographs of her shopping for food in a supermarket. Evidently this paper was at pains to underline that she had not renounced her femininity and that she still recognised her domestic role. But there could be no doubt that women had achieved an important milestone in this formerly male arena.

I am extremely grateful to the CLACS Mobility Fund for supporting this project.

[Above :Querino Ordaz, "Amazonas y bicicletas", *El Mundo*, 11 noviembre 1897, p.341. Biblioteca Iberoamericana, Mexico City. Below: 'Marino', "Damas y machotes", *Excélsior* 19 agosto 1971, Sec D, p.1. Biblioteca Lerdo de Tejada, Mexico City.]

Lisa Logan (PGT student, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology)

'Gendering the Colombian Peace Process'

In October 2016, the Colombian electorate rejected a peace agreement – negotiated between the Colombian State and the FARC guerrilla army – which was to end the civil war that had ravaged the country for over 50 years. The 'No' vote came as a shock to Colombia, and the world, as it was generally assumed that people would vote for peace, rather than against it. My research for my International Politics MA dissertation therefore investigated one of the narratives that fuelled the 'No' vote, that of a 'gender ideology'. Far-right politicians claimed that the gender focus in the peace agreement, which ensures that the rights of minority communities such as LGBTI and women are prioritised and protected, promoted a hidden gender ideology thus advancing the supposed 'homosexual colonization' of the Colombian population and contradicting traditional family values.



I received CLACS mobility funding to take a fieldtrip to Bogotá in April 2017 to investigate the gender ideology narrative more closely. I spent just over two weeks doing qualitative research which mainly consisted of conducting semi-structured interviews with directors of human rights organisations, religious leaders of the Catholic and Evangelical Church, political analysts, and with both left-wing and right-wing politicians. I also managed to conduct some focus groups with the public to understand the more mainstream gender perspectives that are present in popular culture. My main questions concentrated on deepening my understanding of the roles of women, men and the family in Colombian society, as well as questioning how the gender ideology narrative affects human rights, and how religion plays its part in Colombian politics.

My trip also coincided with a special week-long conference hosted by the School of Gender Studies at *Universidad Nacional*, where renowned scholar Joan Scott presented her paper 'Gender constructs politics and politics constructs gender', fitting in nicely with my own research. Professor Mara Viveros also presented her interpretation of how the current gender ideology narrative links in with Joan Scott's feminist theory.



Overall, my fieldtrip to Bogotá was hugely beneficial as I gained insights into this particular political situation by speaking directly to key players involved in the peace process – insights which I could not have gained remotely. By carrying out this research I have also discovered new avenues for study, which I had not considered before, and which offer more analytical depth hopefully resulting in a stronger dissertation.

[Above: The sprawling city of Bogotá taken from the cerro de Monserrate. Below La Candelaria's colourful buildings are flanked by Bogotá's eastern cerros]

Jon Pugh (School of Geography, Politics and Sociology)

'Participatory mapping for disaster management in the Caribbean'

This was a particularly useful project for two main reasons: (i) It ended up emphasising the need for more social and nuanced approaches to participatory development in the Caribbean; (ii) It emphasised the concerns of Caribbean civil servants, leading nongovernmental organisations, and others with broader contemporary international development regimes.

The firm conclusion of the research was that whilst digital mapping processes can be useful, there is strong concern that they may

- (1) Extend the dominance of certain groups and sectors over development in the Caribbean (Western academics, international development consultants and agencies). Thus, a largely unexpected consequence of the research was a critique of the contemporary nature of the international development industry itself, even as this increasingly manifests through digital approaches to participatory development. The strong concern of most civil servants and local nongovernmental organisations interviewed was that digital approaches to participatory mapping need to emerge more organically from within local communities and cannot be imposed and managed from outside.
- (2) Moreover, in small communities like Barbados and St Lucia there was strong concern that digital mapping may work against already well-established community and participatory approaches to disaster management, in particular call-in radio shows. The concern was that if digital mapping emerges 'real-time' via tweets and texts, then the social aspects of debate (strong on community radio) would be subverted, downplayed and eventually become less important. This was something that interviewees were extremely keen should not happen.
- (3) The result of this is that research is now being re-directed by Pugh towards the broader nature of the contemporary development industry in the Caribbean and the need to engage more deeply in the nuances of what is imposed, negotiated and rejected when it comes to contemporary development regimes of disaster management and resilience. For example, through a recent PhD proposal being developed on this topic post - the 2017 hurricanes which badly damaged the region.

The research was recently presented at Rutgers University, New York, 2017; and the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, 2017. It will be further presented in a forthcoming Keynote invitation at International Island Studies Conference, 2018, Grenoble; and at the Annual Conference of the International Small Island Studies Association (along with a session involving the Chair of that Association, who has picked up the tone of the research and similarly shares concerns).

It was a fascinating piece of research, turning up unexpected results for someone who has worked in the Caribbean for 20 years, and we thank Santander and CLACS for supporting it.

Matt Davies (School of Geography, Politics and Sociology)

'Aesthetic Cities'

The CLACS Mobility Award that I was generously granted allowed me to extend my visit to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August and September 2017. This enabled me to begin some networking and scoping research for a new project on 'Aesthetic Cities'. The core ideas behind the research are: (1)

that urbanisation creates cities that both mediate global and local processes and events and produce the space where everyday life encounters and is confronted by international relations; and (2) that artists working in urban contexts and who take up the city as a space or medium for their work develop methods that could help illuminate the politics of these encounters, politics that would be obscured by taking the city as an object on which international relations operate. During the fieldwork in Rio I began to identify researchers and artists working in similar areas or on similar themes, with a view to establishing international research networks and possibly to organise a future workshop on the topic.

With the generous support of colleagues, students, and of the *Instituto de Relações Internacionais* at PUC-Rio, as well as on my own initiatives, I was able to contact several helpful people, all of whom yielded possible further contacts and are keen to pursue further collaboration:

Professor Sarah Silva Telles, Social Sciences Department at PUC-Rio. Sarah also work with colleagues from the **University of Bath (UK)** on a network of scholars and artists working in peripheral areas of cities. Professor Telles arranged a meeting between her, myself, and two colleagues from Bath: **Dr Christina Horvath, Department of Politics, Languages, and International Studies** and **Dr Bryan Clift from the Department of Health.**

Professor Paulo Fonseca, Architecture Faculty at the Universidade de São Paulo, where I also gave a lecture on “Aesthetic Cities”.

Ana Clara Telles, PhD student at PUC-Rio researching the militarisation of favelas, who works with NGOs in Rio supporting artists, photographers, and actors in favelas.

Jhessica Reia, Fundação Getulio Vargas, with a background in social media and communication and how these are utilised in favelas in Rio.

Marina Sirtã, MA student at PUC-Rio, involved in the Museu de Memórias das Remoções in Vila Autodromo and also with poetry slams in Maré.

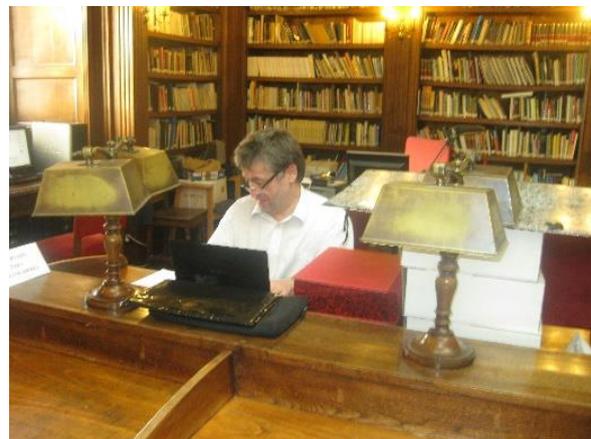
Staff at Audio Rebel, an independent music-recording studio and performance venue in Rio. I submitted, along with **Dr Delacey Tedesco** of the **University of Exeter,** a proposal on this theme for a workshop as part of the next annual conference of the International Studies Association, but our application was not successful. We will be submitting the project to the next European Workshops in International Studies, to be held in Groningen in June 2018. I am also consulting with the HaSS Faculty support team, with a view to working the proposal up for a networking or workshop grant from a Research Council or other funding agency.

Jens Hentschke (School of Modern Languages)

'Adolfo González Posada: The Impact of a Pan-Hispanoamerican, Krauso-Positivist *regeneracionista* on Modernization in the River Plate Region at the Turn of the 20th Century'

I would like to thank CLACS for a mobility award that allowed me to undertake archival work in Spain. The new project I am working on is provisionally titled 'Adolfo González Posada: The Impact of a Pan-Hispanoamerican, Krauso-positivist *regeneracionista* on Modernization in the River Plate at the Turn of the Twentieth Century'. I spent two weeks in Oviedo and Madrid, where I found very supportive librarians and archivists, managed to work from the early morning to the evening, and brought home about 50 pp of notes, about 800 digital copies, and a dozen books.

The planned article from this research is a spin-off from my monograph 'Philosophical Polemics, School Reform, and Nation-Building in Uruguay, 1868-1915: Reforma Vareliana and Batllismo from a Transnational Perspective'. This book revisits Uruguay's astonishing transformation from the most volatile product of 'balkanization' in South America into the region's first welfare state democracy under president José Batlle y Ordoñez (1903-5, 1911-15). Central to the country's belated polity formation and cultural nation-building was its school reform, which started in



1868 and was destined to erase frontier backwardness. My monograph explores the normative ideas that guided this process and argues that continuities in change prevailed over the alleged positivist--neo-Idealist rupture of 1903, stressing Krauso-Spencerian allegiances of batllistas. By placing Uruguay into the broader context of what scholars have called the 'Corridor of Ideas' from Santiago de Chile through Buenos Aires and Montevideo to Porto Alegre, Brazil, this study shows for the first time how 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. It led me to discover the significant influence of Posada.

The Political Law scholar from Oviedo, who had been trained in the Krausist *Institución Libre de Enseñanza (ILE)* in Madrid, merged the ethical natural law theories of Francisco Giner del Rió and Heinrich Ahrens with concepts of sociological and historical positivism borrowed from Spencer, Taine, and Savigny. Posada belonged to those fin-de-siècle Spanish intellectuals who searched for an organicist politico-legal framework and educational methods that would allow them to overcome class conflict. This led to his engagement, in 1898, with Oviedo's 'extensión universitaria', a unique experiment in teaching the Law to the public and disseminating culture among workers, and, in 1904, Posada moved to Madrid to play a leading role in the newly-founded *Instituto de Reformas Sociales*. Yet, tackling 'lo social' to regenerate the country seemed to be inseparable from the national question, i.e., the establishment of new relations to Spain's former colonies in Latin America based on tradition and spiritual and cultural unity. This Pan-Hispanoamericanism, which, its adherents declared, found its counterpart in Uruguayan José Enrique Rodó's 'Ariel' (1900), was supported by the Oviedo Group, ILE's *Junta para la Ampliación de Estudios e Investigaciones Científicas*, and Madrid's new *Instituto*.

After historian Rafael Altamira y Creves's 1909-10 journey, Posada became the second Spanish guest scholar at the *Universidad Nacional de La Plata*, at this time Argentina's most modern alma mater, where, in 1910, he received a doctorate *honoris causa* and defended the ideal of an autonomous, scientific, and socially engaged university. While La Plata's rector, Joaquín González, another convert to Krauso-positivism and proponent of an 'Argentinean philosophy', shared such an orientation, Córdoba's, then still scholastic, university authorities shunned the Spaniard. Posada also visited Uruguay, where he lectured on social reforms and the crisis of political science. The marrying of Krause with Spencer in his academic writings had long before provided bridges in the inter-generational debates between positivists and spiritualists on both sides of the River Plate, especially the legal profession, and Posada's definition of the State as a superior collective entity that emerged from the 'ethical fluid' of society and guaranteed political and social rights, found fertile soil at a time when Argentina's middle- and working-class UCR gained influence and Uruguay's batllistas began to build their alleged 'model country'. In many ways, Posada's stay in the River Plate prepared the first visit of José Ortega y Gasset to La Plata in 1916, the year of Hipólito Yrigoyen's rise to the presidency, and the significant impact of Ortega's vitalist-circumstantialist philosophy in the region.

The article I am working on, will explore in what way the third-generation Krausist, or Krauso-positivist, Posada propagated his pioneering liberal and scientific sociology as part of the regeneracionistas' Pan-Hispanoamericanist mission in the River Plate area. It asks how Posada merged ILA's Krausist ideas with English positivism; to what extent the trauma of '1898' acted as a catalyst for the broader acceptance of Posada's pioneering legal and sociological approaches to tackle 'lo social' in its intrinsic relationship with the national question; and how we can explain in more depth the significant impact of Posada in early twentieth-century Argentina and Uruguay. Answering these questions is not easy. While recently Altamira has found increasing attention, this cannot be said about Posada. The fact that his personal archive was destroyed in 1934 does not help. Scholars have to trace his correspondence in other surviving estates and, of course, closely read his numerous publications, including the less well-known.



[Above: Jens working at University of Oviedo. Below: Royal Academy of History in Madrid]

PG STUDENT REPORTS

Hanna Sliashynskaya (PGR Student, School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences)

'Multilingualism in Chile: representations of languages in online media discourse'

Having a degree and working experience in teaching English in Chile, I have often come across the idea of languages having a 'value' for learners, speakers and, ultimately, nation-states. This idea that underpins a lot of foreign language instruction sparked my interest in beliefs and opinions about multilingualism and languages that circulate in the society, and, importantly, why these are in place.

Although Chile is often regarded as linguistically homogeneous compared to other Latin American countries, issues of multilingualism, status of indigenous languages and acquisition of English as the world's lingua franca are central to national debates on politics, education and identity.

For this reason, in my PhD research I investigate representations of languages and multilingualism in news media. I am particularly interested to see how the value of dominant and minoritised languages is constructed in media reporting. Specifically, I focus on articles collected from the most popular news websites in Chile, as digital media can facilitate the expansion of smaller languages (Kelly-Holmes and Pietikäinen, 2013) and be the source of alternative opinion to mainstream newspapers and television. The data for this research project is a large corpus (3 717 129 words) of news articles that focus on languages and language issues, published between 2010 and 2016, which I analyse using corpus linguistic methods and software that allow me to systematically approach the data (Sinclair, 1991). However, as my goal is to critically examine representations of languages, Critical Discourse Analysis is the main methodological approach to the data as it takes wider socio-political and historical context into account when interpreting the representations. This procedure is extremely useful for covering large amounts of data without losing the critical focus. This is crucial to my study as a significant research gap exists in the field of language ideologies in Chile.

I hope that my research will demonstrate the media's affordances to transmit and reinforce linguistic ideologies, which often come about in very subtle ways. In view of scarce language policies in Chilean context, the possible effect of media coverage of language matters on the public opinion and perceptions of them cannot be underestimated and the media's representations of dominant and minoritised varieties can contribute to maintaining the linguistic status quo.

[Above: Hanna Sliashynskaya]



Alix N. Ferrer-Yulfo (PGR Student, School of Arts and Cultures)

'Music and dance museums: an alternative approach to intangible cultural heritage?'

My research focuses on understanding how museums can safeguard intangible cultural heritage expressions categorised as 'performing arts'. Few museums are dedicated to the preservation, study, and presentation of music and dance as intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and there is even less research concerning these museums and their focus. I suggest that examining the work of museums dedicated to music and dance, will show the approaches taken by these towards safeguarding their ICH content and consider if museums are prepared, or not, to become active agents in this process.



To answer this question, I am examining two museum case studies in the Iberian Peninsula: the Museo de Baile Flamenco in Seville and the Museu do Fado in Lisbon. I am grateful to have received the Santander Mobility Award this year, as it allowed me to complete the first phase of my fieldwork in Seville.

During March and April, I spent four and a half weeks in Spain conducting research in the Museo del Baile Flamenco. I also visited government institutions like the Instituto Andaluz del Flamenco and Centro Andaluz de Documentación del Flamenco in Jerez, and private initiatives like the Centro Cultural Flamenco Casa de la Memoria and the Museo Casa de la Guitarra. These visits enabled me to obtain an overall idea of how Flamenco is understood and practised, and how it develops within its environments. Research during this period included a diverse range of methods: from interviews with museum staff and key personnel from the above-mentioned institutions, questionnaires for students from the Flamenco Dance School and collaborating artists, to exhibition display analysis and observations.

Research within the Museum involved several activities, including evaluating the Museum's performance and examining its relationship with the Flamenco community and related organisations. I was able to meet the museum's founder, renowned Flamenco dancer Cristina Hoyos, and the team behind the conceptualisation of the Museum. Initial research findings suggest the museum constitutes what can be considered as a new type of museum: a "*protomuseum*". In this



museological model, high-tech installations and new digital media technology play a key role in the display of Intangible Cultural Heritage content. It also consists of multiple components that support the museum's objectives of presenting, promoting and dignifying a musical heritage expression; i.e. a school, a learning lab, and a performance stage. It remains to be seen if the Museu do Fado follows a similar formula for safeguarding their Intangible Cultural Heritage content.

[Photos by Alix N. Ferrer-Yulfo. Above: Museum entrance, 18th Century Building, Seville. Below: Interior courtyard with performance stage and Flamenco School seen in the background.]

2017-18 EVENTS

Semester 1

Date and Time	Venue	Event type	Speaker	Title/ Field of interest
Thursday 19 th October 4:30-6:00pm	Courtyard Lounge	CLACS Welcome event and Research Round-up	We invite you to join us for drinks, nibbles and music to welcome all new staff, students and friends of CLACS to the new term. We will also be highlighting some of our work with a Research Round up.	
Thursday 26 th October 4:00-5:00pm	Armstrong 2.49	Research Seminar	Marieke Riethof, University of Liverpool	<i>Labour politics and the left in power in Brazil: From Lula to Dilma</i>
Thursday 9 th November 4:00- 5:00pm	Armstrong Building 2.16	Research Seminar joint with HCA	Professor Norman Hammond, Boston University	<i>Maya Art and Maya Kingship: the Aesthetic of a Pre- Columbian Élite</i>
Friday 10 th November 13:00-16:00	Research Beehive 2.21	Standing Conference of Latin American Studies in the UK	Convened by the outgoing SLAS President (Jens Hentschke) this meeting is a chance for Directors of Latin American Research Centres to update each other on their activities	
Thursday 23 rd November 4:00- 5:00pm	BTSC 1.46	Research Seminar	Karolina Grzech, SOAS, University of London	<i>Standardisation: friend or foe of minority language survival? Experience of Amazonian Kichwa in a comparative perspective</i>
Thursday 30 th November 4:00- 5:00pm	Research Beehive 2.22	Research Seminar	Julie Cupples, University of Edinburgh	Cultural geography in Latin America

Semester 2

Thursday 8 th February 4:00-5:00pm	Research Beehive 2.22	Research Seminar joint with HCA	Fabienne Viala, University of Warwick	Slave reparations, collective memory, cultural performance in the Caribbean
Wednesday 21st February 4:00-5:00pm	Armstrong 1.05	Research Seminar joint with HCA	Zeb Tortorici, New York University	Gender and sexuality in colonial Latin America
Wednesday 28 th February 4:00-5:00pm	Research Beehive 2.22	Research Seminar	James Scorer, University of Manchester	<i>Zombies and the City in Latin American Comics</i>
Wednesday 7th March 4:00-5:00pm	BSTC B.32	Research Seminar	Nadia Lie, KU Leuven, Belgium	Latin American road movies
Thursday 15th March, 5:00-6:00 followed by drinks reception	BSTC B.32	Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture	Matthew Restall, Penn State University	Maya history, the Spanish Conquest, and Africans in Spanish America
Tuesday 24 th April, 1:00-6:00pm	Research Beehive 2.21	CLACS Conference	José Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Antonio Jara Vargas and Sharon López	Abolition of the army in Costa Rica, 70 years on: Issues of institutional violence, power, and political economy
Thursday 3rd May 4:00- 5:00pm	BTSC 1.46	Research Seminar joint with SML	Patricia Oliart, Newcastle University	<i>Art collectives and the pedagogies of dissent in Peru</i>
Thursday 17 th May 4:00-5:00pm	BTSC 1.46	Research Seminar	Catherine Whittaker, University of Edinburgh	<i>Haunted Cosmopolitics: Gender, Violence and Indigeneity in Central Mexico</i>

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