

# Newsletter 2015-16



# Contents

- 01..... **Welcome**
- 02..... **Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal**
- 03..... **Participatory Planning in the Caribbean**
- 03..... **UK–Mexico Print Exchange**
- 04..... **Constructing Informality**
- 05..... **Translating Cultures and the Mediation of Indigenous Rights in Peru**
- 06..... **Everyday Geopolitics in the Southern Cone**
- 07..... **Resource Efficiency in Jamaican Maroon Communities**
- 08..... **DESAFIO Project**
- 09..... **Mothering Slaves Research Network**
- 09..... **Addressing Forced Labour in Supply Chains**
- 10..... **Research Report**
- 11..... **PhD Student Research Reports**
- 14..... **Visiting Fellows and Professors 2015–2016**
- 16..... **Latin American Artists in the North East**
- 17..... **Events 2015–2016**



# Welcome



Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter of **Newcastle University's Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies**. The Centre was established last year to support and promote research focused on Latin American and the Caribbean throughout the University.

01

During our first semester (September 2014 to January 2015) Professor Nina Laurie directed the Centre, establishing a sound foundation on which I could build when I took over at the start of 2015. The Centre is based in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, but has members in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and in the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering as well, and is keen to develop connections with colleagues in all areas. In this newsletter you can read reports on some of our members' ongoing research projects in many parts of the region, from Barbados to Argentina and Chile.

Latin America and the Caribbean have long been studied at Newcastle, since the period when we were still Armstrong College and then King's College of Durham University. Spanish has been taught within modern languages since 1923, and Portuguese since 1965. A degree in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies has been taught at the University since the 1960s, and before the School of Modern Languages existed, the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies was the first Department in Britain with 'Latin American Studies' in its name. In my own discipline, history, William Laurence Burn was a Professor between 1944 and 1966. He was a very traditional historian of Britain and the British Empire and would hardly have considered himself a Caribbeanist. Nevertheless when I began my PhD research on the end of slavery in Jamaica, I still turned to his book *Emancipation and Apprenticeship in the British West Indies*, published in 1937. We have a strong tradition of interest in Latin America and the Caribbean here.

In the more recent past the Centre grows out of the Americas Research Group. The Research Group was founded in 2003 by several colleagues, in what was then the newly established Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. The group provided a space for people across the faculty working on all parts of the region to get to know each other and work together. It hosted a seminar series, many workshops and conferences, and an annual postgraduate conference. In fact, we were doing so much as a 'Research Group' that it was time to become a Centre.



Jean Franco in discussion after her lecture.

At an away day in January attended by many staff and postgraduate CLACS members, the Centre established four research themes on which we intend to focus our attention. They are the reproduction and contestation of power; cultural production, language, heritage and identity; mobility, livelihood, and everyday life; and resources, sustainability and health. Further information about how we define these themes can be found on our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/research](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/research) The first theme in particular was taken up at one of the highlights of the year, our launch in June, at which Professor Jean Franco of Columbia University delivered a lecture on 'Gore Capitalism and the Undoing of the Mexican Post-Revolutionary State and its Culture'. The lecture also served as the keynote address at the conference on Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal, organized by Patricia Oliart and Jorge Catalá-Carrasco and other colleagues involved in the project of the same name.

This year sees some new initiatives from CLACS, including the establishment of the Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture. The first lecture in what we intend to become an annual event, will be delivered by Professor David Treece of Kings College London in November. For further information on this and other events this year, see pages 16–17. We look forward with excitement to the new academic year and welcome both new and returning colleagues and students.

**Diana Paton, Director, CLACS**

# Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal



By Patricia Oliart and Jorge Catalá-Carrasco

02 Dr Patricia Oliart and Dr. Jorge Catalá-Carrasco are the coordinators of the project 'Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal', funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie RISE scheme of the European Commission. This project involves 8 institutions in the EU and Latin America, and will run over 48 months with an overall budget of around 1 Million Euros.

The objective of the Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal (CRIC) project is to examine cultural production and cultural practices in periods of societal crisis at the turn-of the 20th Century on both sides of the Atlantic. The overarching aim of the project is to investigate the role of cultural production, not just as a vehicle to elaborate cohesive narratives in moments of crisis, but as a space to create alternative imaginaries for social renewal. It is needed to explore the changing nature of our societies and the reconfiguration of regional and/or national cultural landscapes into globalized real (and virtual) spaces that erode the cultural frontiers of the nation-state. The project aims to address the scarcity of scientific research on cultural narratives elaborated around conjunctures of crisis and renewal, from the 1970s transition to neoliberalism in Latin America, to the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis in Spain. The programme will bring together researchers specialized in Hispanic and Latin American culture from 4 universities in Europe (Newcastle University (UNEV), Amsterdam University (UVA), Universitat de Valncia (UV) and Universitat de Lleida (UDL)) and 4 universities in Latin America (Universidad Austral de Chile (UACH), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Per (PUCP), Universidad Católica del Peru de Cordoba (UNC: Argentina), and Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero (UNTREF: Argentina).

The first milestone of the CRIC project took place on 24-26th June, coinciding with the launching event for the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Newcastle University. The International Conference 'Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal' attracted more than 20 speakers in 7 different panels. But most importantly, we were honoured to host and discuss crises in Latin America and Europe with Emeritus Prof. Jean Franco (Columbia University) who is also a member of the External Advisory Group for the CRIC project. As part of the conference, the documentary José Ricardo Morales: Escrito en el agua (2015) based on the life of the Republican Spanish-Chilean intellectual José Ricardo Morales was screened at the Tyneside Cinema. Morales was forced into exile in 1939 when general Francisco Franco won the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Morales was among 2,000 refugees who were welcomed by Chile. Jorge Catalá-Carrasco is the co-script writer (with Pablo Valdivia and María del Puy) for this documentary, produced by Malvalanda and directed by Álvaro Giménez.

- 1 José Ricardo Morales. Escrito en el agua
- 2 "El presente como instante de peligro", Buenos Aires 20 August 2015
- 3 Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal project team members



# Participatory Planning in the Caribbean

By Jonathan Pugh

Participatory approaches to environmental management are growing in importance in Latin America and the Caribbean. The small islands of the Eastern Caribbean have in recent years been held up as illustrations of the intensification of this 'participatory turn' in small island development in the region and beyond. The oppressive and top-down legacies of the Caribbean make participatory planning a challenge; but gradually donor agencies, Caribbean governments and local organisations are changing how development takes place so that it includes a greater range of stakeholders and community members. Over the past twenty years Jonathan Pugh has worked with fisherpeople in the eastern Caribbean to highlight how they can and should lead their own participatory development projects. Funded by organisations including the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Caribbean community organisations and local businesses, this work has resulted in the employment of 128 fisherpeople across the eastern Caribbean. The various projects have sought to challenge top-down legacies of development, so that fisherpeople have travelled between islands and produced new strategies for development themselves. This has resulted in, for example, seven country reports for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and an overall eastern Caribbean report documenting the challenges and opportunities for future participatory development of fishing communities in the region.

---

## UK-Mexico Print Exchange

By Erika Servin

The UK-Mexico Print Exchange took place in the Ouseburn valley this summer. It grew out of my trip to Mexico in 2014, funded by a Santander mobility fund grant, during which I visited a number of important independent print workshops and studios. One of the workshops that grabbed my attention was the Taller Imagen del Rinoceronte, in Tlalpan, in the south of Mexico City. It is a place where magical and creative dialogues are born. One can see diverse techniques such as drawing, printmaking and street painting interventions.

In summer 2015, with the help of Arts Council funding and in collaboration with the Vamos Festival, CLACS, and Northern Print, we brought two members of TIR, Orietta Aguilar and Eduardo Martinez, to Newcastle. The project included a solo exhibition of the work of Humberto Valdez, a group exhibition of prints by Mexican women artists, workshops and even the construction of a mobile press tricycle!

**4** Fisherman in Bridgetown

**5+7** At the Vamos Boiler Shop event with the trike bike "La Tamalera". (in Part of the UK- Mexico Cultural Print Exchange).

**6** Humberto Valdez linocuts at Northern Print. (Part of the UK- Mexico Cultural Print Exchange).





# Constructing Informality:

## a Longitudinal Ethnographic Study in Colombia

By Peter Kellett

Since 1985 I have been carrying out long-term ethnographic research into the growth and development of informal settlements in the city of Santa Marta in northern Colombia. Over the years I have returned on a further 8 occasions to collect field data, most recently during August this year. This latest visit was supported by a Santander Mobility award and effectively lengthens the total study period to 30 years (1986-2015). The cumulative data set makes it possible to follow the housing trajectories of communities, households and individuals through changing economic and social circumstances and to relate these to broader social trends and developments in theory.

The study is focusing on two adjacent settlements which began as violent, illegal occupations of land in 1979 and 1984 respectively. The settlers have been gradually transforming the initial improvised huts into solid, multi-roomed houses of concrete blocks arranged in a neat grid-iron layout of streets. Both settlements now have full infrastructure services, numerous shops, schools, churches and a health centre. In short, fully functioning well organised neighbourhoods. Less visible is the continuing illegal status of the settlements and the rising aspirations and ambitions of subsequent generations as individuals and communities challenge deeply entrenched understandings of their position within society. However on close observation, the ongoing consolidation of the settlements makes manifest the agency of such informal communities, and helps explain how built form and social formations are mutually and dynamically constituted.

The two key precedents for such a study are Moser's research in Guayaquil (2009) and Perlman's (2010) study in Rio de Janeiro. Both are outstanding examples of the power and potential of longitudinal research into informal communities and provide helpful models for my own study. Although both engage with the physical and spatial context of housing, their focus is more towards issues of poverty alleviation, marginality and social justice in Latin America. My own study is unique as in addition to this fine-grained social-economic data, I draw on my qualifications in both architecture and social anthropology to explore the interrelationship between processes of housing construction, furnishing and habitation, and fundamental issues of identity (re)construction and the role of the dwelling in people's lives.

Each time I have stayed with the Osorio family, who provide a perfect location from which to carry out intensive ethnographic data collection. Despite the challenges, it is particularly rewarding both personally and professionally to live in the informal settlements, and to be able to observe and experience everyday life in such communities. I have spent long periods with households in their dwellings and alongside them in community activities to record their reflections, achievements and disappointments, and to document their changing dwellings graphically and photographically. Some of the families I first met in 1986 struggling to cope in simple wooden shacks are still experiencing difficulties, but 30 years later the majority are proud 'owners' of modern looking houses with shiny tiled floors and brightly painted facades; young couples with small children are now grandparents (and even great-grandparents); and some with only primary education now have grown up children with university degrees. Such intergenerational personal stories can offer rich insights into the changing nature of twenty first century urbanisation.

- 1 Lucy and Jose with the youngest of their 4 children. Currently they live with Lucy's parents but are building their own house. They hope to move in by Christmas.
- 2 This 3 generation family still live in a basic dwelling and are struggling to cope after a series of deaths and illnesses.
- 3 The density of the barrios is increasing. This house has been divided into 3 separate dwellings, 2 of which provide rental income.



# Translating Cultures

## and the Mediation of Indigenous Rights in Peru

---

By Rosaleen Howard

Rosaleen Howard of the School of Modern Languages has been in Peru over the summer working on an AHRC-funded project to examine new indigenous rights legislation in Peru, aimed at supporting indigenous peoples in their efforts to protect their languages and cultural identities.

The project will research new state sponsored initiatives to facilitate better communication between the Spanish speaking majority, and speakers of the many Amerindian languages of the Andean highlands and the Amazon basin. In August she spent two weeks in the high jungle town of Quillabamba (near Cusco) where the Ministry of Culture was running a training course for speakers of indigenous languages to become formally skilled as translators and interpreters between their mother tongues and Spanish. She observed the training sessions, contributed to a panel on language rights, and ran a workshop with the participants on the experience of translation, together with her Co-Investigators from Heriot-Watt University and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. The trainees were speakers of Matsigenka (an Arawak language), Harakbut (a highly endangered language spoken by just 2800 people in Madre de Dios department) and five different varieties of the Andean language, Quechua. Rosaleen is currently working on an article about the indigenous experience of translating indigenous rights law, involving translators in the difficult task of expressing western concepts such as 'rights' and 'law' in their own Amazonian and Andean tongues.

Peru has faced increasing levels of social conflict in areas where mining, logging, and oil companies have been allowed to set up extractive plants on land inhabited by the country's many indigenous peoples. Recently, new legislation has been passed to try and control the process, and to promote better understanding across linguistic boundaries in formal settings, when representatives of the state or industry interact with community authorities.

Rosaleen is working with Dr Raquel de Pedro Ricoy of Heriot-Watt's School of Management and Languages, and Dr Luis Andrade of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, in partnership with the Indigenous Languages Office of the Ministry of Culture and the rural development agency SER.

The project addresses issues of indigenous rights in Peru from the perspective of language rights. Ever since the Spanish conquest, the indigenous languages have lost ground to the European language, which dominates all fields of formal communication and is seen as having greater prestige than the Amerindian tongues. Indigenous people often feel ashamed of their origins, and suffer discrimination on linguistic as well as other grounds. This situation is gradually being reversed, with languages like Quechua and Aymara in the highlands and Asháninka and Shipibo in the rainforest, being spoken in schools and health centres, and bilingual indigenous people becoming trained professionals in different fields. Laws passed in 2011 make translation and interpretation a right, and the government is responding by translating the laws into the native languages, and training bilingual indigenous people to be interpreters, eventually to mediate in face-to-face negotiations over natural resource extraction, and in other settings.



# Everyday Geopolitics in the Southern Cone

By Matthew Benwell

This first year at Newcastle University has been a busy one as I continue my Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship focusing on the sovereignty dispute over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. In short, my research is interested in citizens' everyday engagements with and understandings of the geopolitics of territorial conflict in the South Atlantic.

From January to April I undertook an extended period of fieldwork in the Islands and various parts of Argentina. In the Islands, my research focused on how Falkland Islanders have participated directly in geopolitics and the extent to which they might be considered active agents in the doing of international diplomacy. In recent years young citizens of the islands have been enrolled by the Falkland Islands Government as members of diplomatic visits to countries in Central and South America, as well as the UN. On this occasion, I was interested in examining the historical precedents to this involvement in geopolitics by interviewing islanders who participated in several key events in the 1960s, during which citizens unequivocally expressed their wish to remain British. These public demonstrations of loyalty to Britain were carefully planned to coincide with the visits of British MPs and the foreign press, and took place within the wider context of Anglo-Argentine sovereignty negotiations.

After this I flew to Santa Fe in Argentina via Punta Arenas (Chile), Ushuaia and Río Gallegos to continue with my school-based research investigating young people's perspectives on the Malvinas question. This involved carrying out interviews and focus groups with young people, teachers, education officials and veterans of the 1982 Malvinas War who play an influential role in how memories related to the Malvinas are reproduced within Argentine society. The research looks to reflect on how young people learn about and engage the issue of the Malvinas in different regions of Argentina, each with diverse histories and geographies of connection with the archipelago.

This year I have been editing a forthcoming collection (with Professor Peter Hopkins) entitled, *Children, young people and critical geopolitics* (published by Ashgate in January 2016) that features a chapter on Falkland islander youth. My research on memories of the Malvinas War will also appear in a forthcoming volume of the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. The final months of the fellowship promise to be exciting as Dr Alejandro Gasel (Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral and CONICET) will be coming to Newcastle University as a visiting fellow from November 2015 to January 2016. We will be collaborating in order to write some publications and a grant application related to our shared interests in the Malvinas and Dr Gasel also plans to deliver a CLACS seminar.

06

1



2

3



- 
- 1 Matt Benwell with King penguins at Volunteer Point, Falkland Islands.
  - 2 Monument dedicated to the fallen in the Malvinas War, Ushuaia, Argentina.
  - 3 Reaffirming belonging and Britishness in the 'everyday' landscape of the Falkland Islands.
  - 4 Helen McKee with Colonel Noel Prehay and a Captain of the Scotts Hall Maroons
  - 5 A farmer preparing the pineapples he gifted to Helen and Barbara for packaging

# Resource Efficiency in Jamaican Maroon Communities:

## A Historical and Scientific Inquiry

By Barbara Sturm and Helen McKee

Maroon communities in Jamaica occupy a precarious position due to their geographic and political location in Jamaican society. Their food security is under threat due to high post-harvest losses of their crops and the potential food safety of their preserved food stuffs, a situation shared by many communities in the tropics and sub-tropics. The aim of this pilot project was to investigate the Maroons' agricultural methods to assess where improvements could be made and to identify natural methods of disease treatment. The project aimed to reduce crop losses (through preservation) caused by environmental burdens, such as heavy rains and hurricanes, in particular because climate change will exacerbate the situation. These problems are intensified because Accompong Town, for example, does not pay taxes on its land as a result of its 1730s treaty with the English; therefore, the Jamaican government do not provide them with any support if crops are wasted due to adverse weather, and does not maintain roads into the communities. Preservation methods would enable the Maroons to protect against environmental burdens without having to sacrifice their communal landholdings and, therefore, their unique historical identity.

Funded by a grant from the Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability (NIRES) Helen McKee and Barbara Sturm travelled to four Maroon communities in Jamaica, Charles Town, Accompong, Moore Town and Scotts Hall and conducted interviews related to the historical development of the agricultural methods and the current methods for post-harvest treatment of crops. Barbara conducted audits, where possible, on energy sources used and specific energy demand in drying, to assess resource use and efficiency, and potential for integration of renewable energy sources (RES), such as solar thermal and PV. She also investigated current specific losses and storage methods, average shelf life of produce, and conducted a visual examination of product quality. Helen investigated historical development of agricultural methods in the rest of Jamaica to aid development of post-harvest strategies that are relevant to specific Maroon needs. Helen also analysed the historical development of the Maroons' unique social and cultural position in Jamaica.

During their time staying with local farmers, Helen and Barbara spoke with a large range of people about the topics of the project. They also had the opportunity to visit the farmers' fields with them to see the crops grown, the methods used and the problems facing the farmers regarding transportation of crops etc. They were taken to culturally significant sites by the Maroon elders such as Cudjoe's peace cave, the Maroon burial ground and several of the caves used by the historical Maroons in their fight against the English.

The project highlighted the possibilities for community based activities for the improvement of the economic situation of Maroon communities, such as co-operative efforts in production of processed/preserved food stuff to secure the communities' access to food and generate additional income. Regarding the use of RES only limited opportunities for the integration of solar thermal and solar PV systems could be identified. This is due to a combination of the unique geographic location of Accompong and Scotts Hall in particular, as well as the financial implications related to the technologies under consideration. The unique geographic location of the communities is directly related to the resistance of the Maroons to slavery in the eighteenth century.

This research represents the first step in new collaborations across a wide spectrum of disciplines. The research will enable a future project which will have significant impacts for Jamaican Maroon and rural communities. The project has allowed us to get an in depth insight of the current situation of the communities under question and the internal and external influencing factors. Building on this, it will be possible to conduct targeted follow up research and development work in the related fields, directly benefitting these communities.

Barbara Sturm is Senior Research Associate, School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Newcastle University and Head of Postharvest Technologies and Processing, University of Kassel, Germany [www.ncl.ac.uk/afrd/staff/profile/barbara.sturm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/afrd/staff/profile/barbara.sturm). Helen McKee is Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Max-Planck Institute for European Legal History, Germany and a former PhD student in History at Newcastle.



4



5

# Democratisation of Water and Sanitation Governance

by Means of Socio-Technical Innovation (DESAFIO)

By José Esteban Castro

08

DESAFIO is an international, social science, research project funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme, which ended on 31 July 2015.

The project focused mainly on Brazil, but also involved Argentina and Colombia. DESAFIO studies the challenges facing the democratization process in Latin American countries, looking at a number of innovative policies implemented in urban and rural areas to reduce inequality and injustice in the access to essential water and sanitation services. Latin America is one of the world's regions with abundance of water resources. Yet, according to official statistics, 4.5 percent of the global population still lacking access to water resides in the region (around 7% of the region's population).

However, around 60% of the population that has access to water is affected by poor quality services (e.g. intermittence, low pressure, high water wastage, etc.). Moreover, 20% of the population in the region lacks access to improved sanitation, a proportion that is almost double in rural areas. In general, rural areas and the urban poor, unsurprisingly, take the brunt of the unacceptable inequality and injustice reflected in these figures. DESAFIO focused on ten case studies that covered a range of situations and characteristics, from informal settlements in the urban periphery of world megacities (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and in peri-urban areas of provincial capitals (Cali, Colombia), favelas located in the heart of booming mid-range urban centres (Recife, Brazil), to small rural villages (Mondomo, Colombia) and communities in semi-arid areas (Ceará and Minas Gerais, Brazil and Santa Fe, Argentina).

1-2 Private water vending in Recife, Brazil. Most people in Recife rely on bottled water for their drinking and cooking needs, as tap water is deemed to be unsafe for human consumption.

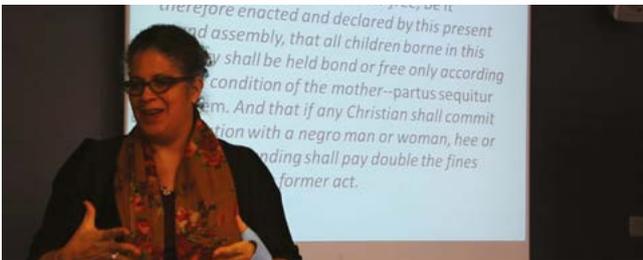
For further information, visit the project's website: [www.desafioglobal.org](http://www.desafioglobal.org).



# Mothering Slaves Research Network

By Diana Paton

Mothering Slaves: Comparative Perspectives on Motherhood, Childlessness and the Care of Children in Atlantic Slave Societies is a research network funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, running from January 2015 to May 2016. It draws together scholars who are investigating the lives of enslaved women in Brazil, the United States, and the Caribbean. The title, 'Mothering Slaves,' draws attention to the multiple forms of 'mothering' that took place in slave societies. Enslaved women acted as mothers to their own children, thus mothering children who would live out their lives under slavery, but also – with varying frequency in different parts of the Americas – undertook mothering work of their owners' children, including sometimes breastfeeding them. These issues are important because slavery was transmitted by inheritance from the mother, and because women's experience of enslavement was very significantly influenced by whether or not they were mothers.



Jennifer Morgan addressing the first Mothering Slaves conference in April

The network's first event was a two-day conference held in April at Newcastle, 'Pregnancy Childbearing and Infant Care: Historical Perspectives from Slave and Non-Slave Societies', organized by Diana Paton. The conference heard papers about Brazil, the United States, medieval Spain, postcolonial India, Jamaica, and Barbados, among others. The keynote by Jennifer Morgan on the topic 'Partus Sequitur Ventrum: Considering Slave Law and Re/Production for Enslaved Women' asked participants to consider the interconnections of race and reproduction in the formation of Atlantic slave societies. A second two-day conference took place at the University of São Paulo in September, on the theme 'Enslaved Motherhood and Childlessness: Comparing Brazil with Other Atlantic Slave Societies'. The keynote, by Maria Odila Leite da Silva Dias, took up the theme of 'Enslaved Women through a Feminist Epistemology'.

The network's third event will be a three-day conference at Reading University on 19-21 April 2016, organized by Emily West. The theme will be 'Motherhood, Childlessness, and the Care of Children from Slavery to Emancipation'. The conference aims to put gender and motherhood, though women's reproductive labour and the political significance of that labour, at the heart of an Atlantic-wide history of slavery.

For more information see the network's website <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/motheringslaves/about/>

09

## Addressing Forced Labour in Supply Chains

By Siobhan McGrath

On June 3rd, CLACS sponsored the panel 'Addressing Forced Labour in Supply Chains: tales from the ground and around the world' at Newcastle University. Chaired by Don Flynn of Migrants' Rights Network, the panel consisted of: Leonardo Sakamoto of ONG Repórter Brasil; Laura Germino and Greg Asbed of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in the US; Anannya Bhattacharjee of the Society for Labour and Development / Garment and Allied Workers Union (GAWU) in India; Jin Sook-Lee of Building and Wood Worker's International; and Andrewss Addoquaye Tagoe of the General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) in Ghana. The panel members were in the region for a meeting: along with Fathallah Omrani of the General Trade Union of Workers in Textile Garment and Clothing Industries in Jordan, they form the Advisory Board for a research project led by Siobhán McGrath and Fabiola Mieres of Durham University's Geography department. Part of a wider consortium project on 'Addressing Demand for Trafficking' (see <http://demandat.eu/>), the project seeks to analyse existing and proposed initiatives to address trafficking, forced labour and contemporary 'slavery' in supply chains. It is based on an inventory of existing initiatives compiled by the researchers, along with four planned case studies on the electronics industry, agriculture, construction and fishing.

While calls to rescue victims of 'slavery' and abolish trafficking have become widespread, not all efforts are informed by the types of grassroots perspectives offered by panel members. Panelists offered insights into their ongoing work to address workers' rights in different contexts. They described their long-term efforts to strengthen these rights and build power among those subject to severe exploitation and abuse. Strategies for achieving these common goals in very different regulatory, economic and socio-cultural contexts were explored by panel members. In spite of addressing some of the harshest situations faced by workers around the world, the event showcased examples of progress and victories, thus inspiring hope.



Leonard Sakamoto at the Addressing Forced Labour in Supply Chains panel

# Research Report

By Matt Davies

The Politics unit in the School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology has been cultivating research collaborations and institutional links with colleagues in the Instituto de Relações Internacionais (IRI) of the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio).

These collaborations began in the Spring of 2014 when we invited Professor João Nogueira to come to Newcastle as a Visiting Fellow. IRI reciprocated in the Autumn of that year, inviting me to come as a Visiting Professor where I taught a postgraduate module on “A Globalização da Política Mundial” and gave the “Inaugural Lecture” for the term to the returning undergraduate students in Politics. In 2015, Newcastle invited Dr Carolina Moulin from IRI as a Visiting Fellow and I have now been back in Brazil at IRI teaching and researching. While Dr Moulin was with us, Dr Kyle Grayson, in Newcastle Politics, organised a very successful workshop on “The Security-Development Nexus” to which we were able to invite various colleagues from IRI – Professor Paulo Esteves, who is the Director at IRI; Professor Nogueira; and Dr Marta Fernandez as well as Dr Moulin – to share their research with colleagues drawn mainly from the International Relations research cluster at Newcastle. One of my tasks while in Rio now has been to plan a follow-up workshop, which we hope to hold at IRI. In the context of these collaborations we have not only begun to explore research, funding, and publication strategies but also have built up the institutional links through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Newcastle University and PUC-Rio. Discussions are now underway to put in place an undergraduate exchange programme – this would be available to students across all faculties of the University – and we are exploring ways of instituting co-supervision for PGRs across IRI and Newcastle Politics.

The research I have been doing here builds upon theoretical work I did in a paper that is now forthcoming in International Political Sociology on what the critique of everyday life adds to the study of International Political Economy. Concretely, I am beginning to look into the ways that the everyday production of urban space in Rio interacts with various international forces expressed in terms of finance, development, culture, and politics. A straightforward example might be seen in the conflicting plans around the urbanisation of an established favela, Vilo Autódromo, situated on land designated for the Olympics park (see photo showing the proximity of the established buildings of the favela and the new builds in the background). But the research encompasses the urban more generally: transport infrastructure, the redevelopment of the city centre and port, the “urban pacification” policies in Rio, graffiti and public parties, are all sites where the everyday and the international interact. In addition to my personal research, Professor Nogueira and I are currently planning research collaborations around these themes.

**1** Rio de Janeiro: a cultural event held in the favela “Vila Autódromo” to draw attention to the city’s efforts to remove the favela to make space for new buildings around the Olympic Park.

**2** Sarah Bennison - with children in Peru

**3** Sarah Bennison - Lake in Peru



10

1



2



3

# PhD Student Research Reports



**Sarah Bennison**  
School of Modern Languages

I'm currently preparing to submit my PhD thesis 'Who are the Children of Pariacaca? Exploring identity through narratives of water and landscape in Huarochirí, Peru'. This interdisciplinary project was funded by the AHRC and based in the School of Modern Languages, supervised by Prof. Rosaleen Howard and Dr. Patricia Oliart.

The project explores cultural identity in the Peruvian Andes by looking at the highly expressive domain of water practice. With a special focus on the Spanish speaking highlands of Huarochirí province in the department of Lima, my thesis draws on oral narratives from the district of San Damián where I carried out in-depth fieldwork in 2012. I'm interested in continuities in irrigators' relationships with their local environment and the beings which dwell in it, as well as the vocabulary they use to describe the landscape. Through this approach, my research shows how identity is negotiated 'on the ground' and engages in current discussions concerning ethnicity and identity in Peru.

I am grateful to CLACS for awarding me funding to travel to Peru in August 2015 for career-focused training. The funding allowed me to complete an intensive 30 hour Quechua training course at Centro Tinku language school in Cuzco. I hope to be able to use my boosted level of spoken Quechua following my PhD-I'm currently drafting proposals for a postdoctoral research project on kinship in Quechua-speaking communities.



**Anne Carruthers**  
School of Modern Languages

I am a third year PhD student in Film jointly supervised by the School of Modern Languages and the School of English. My research project

The Uterus and Narrative Cinema looks at pregnancy in contemporary cinema from the Americas 2000-2015. My research is interdisciplinary in nature and brings together film theory and cultural theory with theories of the body particularly where they intersect with the language of visualising technologies such as the foetal ultrasound. My PhD applies a phenomenological lens to bring into focus contemporary debates on the lived body experience addressing the broader concerns in film scholarship around the turn to affect. My most recent presentation was at the international conference Ethics of Storytelling: Historical Imagination in Contemporary Literature, Media and Visual Arts held at Turku University in Finland where I presented a paper on the foetus as unreliable narrator in Claudia Llosa's film *La teta asustada/ The Milk of Sorrow* (2009, Peru). I am a seminar tutor on the module Introduction to International Film where I also lecture on Spanish cinema. I am a member of the steering group of the Research Centre for Film and Digital Media (RCFDM) based at Newcastle University.

**Iñaki Deza-Cruz**  
School of Biology

Dengue virus is the leading arthropod-borne viral pathogen, with 2 billion people at risk globally and 390 million new infections each year. Many dengue virus endemic areas are popular vacation destinations and there is concern about the dramatic increase in outbreaks, the severity of signs, and the spread of infections into non-endemic areas.

Chikungunya is an RNA virus that belongs to the alphavirus genus of the family *Togaviridae*. The name 'chikungunya' derives from a word in the Kimakonde language, meaning "to become contorted" and describes the stooped appearance of sufferers with joint pain (arthralgia). CHIKV is transmitted to humans by the same species of mosquitoes involved in the transmission of dengue. The broad distribution of competent vectors, coupled with the lack of exposure to CHIKV of the human population in the Americas, places this region at risk for the introduction and spread of the virus.

My project aims to establish the incidence and risk factors for dengue and chikungunya virus infection in immunologically naive people on an Eastern Caribbean island, St. Kitts, where dengue is endemic. I am using serological and Polymerase Chain Reaction testing to detect dengue and chikungunya virus infections, and questionnaire surveys to establish risk and epidemiological factors associated with exposure to the virus. From these data, I will develop statistical and process-based epidemiological models as well as process-based models of disease spread in order to investigate disease spread and control in an island context.

**Charlie Dryden**  
School of Marine Science and Technology

I am now in the final year of my PhD entitled "Reef structural complexity and the dwindling habitat for Caribbean fish communities". The aim of the thesis is to understand how degradation of Caribbean coral reef structure is affecting the associated fish communities. Over the course of study I have visited 14 different Caribbean and Central American countries, working as part of a team to survey the coral reefs and fish communities. The data collected has been used to first improve our understanding of the components of the coral reef structural habitat and then to identify how changes in these components will affect the abundance, diversity and behaviour of the fish community. Finally I will be mapping coral reef structure across the locations surveyed and from additional countries where data has been made available. In addition to my thesis the work have performed has been used in the region-wide "Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment" (FORCE) project and a DEFRA project examining biodiversity in UK overseas territories.

# PhD Student Research Reports (continued)

## Alba Griffin

School of Modern Languages

My research is on the representation of violence in Bogotá's graffiti and street art. I have been here for 7 weeks, talking to graffiti artists and community initiatives. The popular imaginaries of violence are fascinating and complex. Recent events have found their way into the visual urban landscape, including the controversial arrest of 13 people supposedly implicated in a couple of bomb attacks in the city, and the subsequent murals and demonstrations calling for their release.

It is also an interesting time to be here because of the local elections and the discourses of security and order that abound. Within the graffiti scene there is a sense of uncertainty about the elections, as none of the current candidates for Mayor of Bogotá are as supportive of graffiti and street art as the incumbent, Gustavo Petro, who was key to its decriminalisation. During his term there has been a lot of support for graffiti, but the murals his administration commissioned are viewed by many as being largely centred on the mayor's political vision, promoting a 'cultura de paz'. My research suggests that this discourse of peace has been met with suspicion, if not downright derision. The political narrative of post-conflict is at odds with the everyday rumours of violence, the fear of certain areas of the city and the endless news reports about heartless thieves.

I am blogging my research at:

<https://readingthewallsinbogota.wordpress.com/>

## Diana Morales Arcila

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

I just came back from the first part of my fieldwork, in Colombia, where I have been examining how cooperation at a regional level plays a role in local development. The Colombian Coffee Region owes its name to the culture and landscape shaped by coffee production. Before the 1990s, the region was relatively successful in terms of economic growth and wellbeing, compared with the rest of Colombia. However, the rapid and continuous implementation of neoliberal economic policies since 1990, the instability of coffee prices and the Colombian currency, the destruction of infrastructure, and social and familiar bonds in the 1999 earthquake; and more recently, the proven impacts of climate change on the region, led to a stagnation of economic development. This context also forced a change in its economic structure, which had been highly dependent on coffee production, to a more varied range of activities including industries, commerce and tourism.

I plan to analyse tourism and sustainable-local development in this region. Examining tourism allows me to analyse the cooperation process, its rationale, design and how it has been put into practice. Sustainable-local development is also important because of the region's environmental importance and cultural tradition, which needs to be maintained in order to preserve its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list.



## Laura Sariego

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

The aim of my research is to understand and explain the geography of public sector innovation (PSI, preliminarily defined as 'a new or significantly improved service, communication method, or process/organisational method' which includes 'incremental innovations through to major disruptive innovations' (Arundel et al., 2015, p. 1272)) and its relation to local economic development. While in the processes of finishing my literature review, I have recently benefited from presenting at the Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography (EG) at Oxford. In preparing for it, I was able to advance on my view of how within EG the role of institutions in the economy and regional competitiveness has been explored mostly from the state outwards, in a firm/industry-centred, state-driven sort of way; and concluded that through a qualitative view of the state, understanding and explaining the internal mechanisms of innovation within it could be conducive to increased state capacities for both enhancing private sector innovation and pursuing economic development. My next steps include operationalising concepts and writing the methodology chapter, which should include using aggregate quantitative analysis to correlate PSI capabilities and local economic development indicators in Latin America and Europe, to then identify emblematic cases to study them in depth.



## Antony Stewart

School of History, Classics and Archaeology

I am a 3rd year PhD student studying the rise of international involvement and development projects in early-twentieth century Haiti, in the period spanning 1885 and 1957. Specifically, this project looks at this topic through the lens of medicine and public health, one of the most important aspects of the project of foreign-led development. Medical campaigns were inspired and impacted at every level by deep-rooted (yet fluid) preconceptions of the backwardness of Haitian culture and black people, catalysed by exaggerated tales of disease, corruption, and falsified stories of Vodou ceremonies. Through these two aspects, my thesis will tell the story of the rise of significant foreign influence upon Haiti that continues today, especially after the Port-au-Prince earthquake of 2010. Over the past couple of years, it has taken me to Haiti and the USA, including a six-month fellowship at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

**1** Peace is Now – a date has been set for the signing of the peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC, but some are unconvinced

**2** Freedom for 13 colleagues – many argue that the arrests, linked to recent explosions in Bogotá, were unjust and politically motivated

**3** Antony Stewart at the Citadelle Latérière



## William Whitehead

School of Geography,  
Politics and Sociology

My PhD, 'Escaped roots: sub-self-neutering and its political overcoming in Chocó, Colombia' analyses some of

the factors that prevent the affirmation of a collective political identity among some of the poorest and most discriminated-against people in Colombia. Specifically, by challenging the imagined binary that exists between a 'black' periphery - the Pacific region of Chocó - and an inland core or centre - the racially 'whiter', wealthier centres of Bogotá, Medellín and Cali - I will attempt to reveal the heterogeneity of the Chocóan subject while reassessing the way relational ideas about place affect personal and political subjectivities.

One of the main ways such ideas find expression is through the state-driven production of knowledge, including various assumptions about political economy and development. I hope to demonstrate the effects of such practices and discourse on personal identity, particularly the way that they can generate mutually reinforcing elements of identity, or 'sub-selves', such as poverty, educational aspiration, and regional identity. I will analyse the extent to which aggregates of such elements undermine political agency and exacerbate uneven spatial differentiation both within Chocó and between it and other regions in Colombia.

Many more PhD students are affiliated with CLACS. For a full list and additional profiles, see [www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/people/PGRStudents.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs/people/PGRStudents.htm)



13

1  
2



3



# Visiting Fellows and Professors 2015–2016



**Professor Karen Sands O'Connor**

Buffalo State University, New York

Professor Karen Sands O'Connor from Buffalo State University, part of the State University of New York, will be at Newcastle for the whole academic year as Leverhulme Visiting Professor, hosted by the School of English. She is a specialist in children's literature and in literature about and from the Caribbean.



**Dr Alejandro Gasel**

Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral, Argentina

Dr Alejandro Gasel, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral, Argentina, will be with us between November and January as a University Research Committee Visiting Fellow. He will be working with Matthew Benwell in Geography. Dr Gasel has a particular interest in Patagonia and its representation in Latin American literature.



**Professor Hugo Capella**

Universidad de Concepción, Chile

Professor Hugo Capella, Universidad de Concepción, Chile, will join us during the first semester (October-January) through the Santander Grants scheme. He will be working with Josep-Maria Garcia-Fuentes from the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. Hugo is a cultural geographer with a particular interest in urban space.



**José Arturo Figueroa**

School of journalism in the Universidad Austral de Chile

José Arturo Figueroa is lecturer in media, television and film production at the School of journalism in the Universidad Austral de Chile. He is currently visiting the Universidad de Valencia, another partner of the CRIC (Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal) project, and will stay in Newcastle for a week to present his work on home-made videos and memory in Chile in November.



**Alonso Quinteros**

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Alonso Quinteros, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, is lecturer in visual anthropology. His current research studies the post-conflict provincial cinema, particularly from Ayacucho, and he has also worked on the history of Peruvian documentary film. He will be in Newcastle in October and November as part of the Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal (CRIC).



**Professor Maria Helena Pereira Toledo Machado**

Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

Professor Maria Helena Pereira Toledo Machado, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, will be Santander Visiting Fellow in January. Maria Helena is a historian of slavery in Brazil and also has a longstanding interest in photography. She will be working with Diana Paton on their 'Mothering Slaves' project, funded by the AHRC.



Professor  
Andrés Iroumé  
Universidad Austral  
de Chile at Valdivia

Professor Andrés Iroumé, Universidad Austral de Chile at Valdivia will be a University Visiting Professor in spring-summer 2016 to continue a long-term collaboration with Dr James Bathurst, (Civil Engineering and Geosciences). Professor Iroumé is one of the leading forest hydrology specialists in South America. The primary visit research topic will be evaporation as a function of tree species in Chile, investigating the use of latitude as an analogue for climate change.



Professor  
Sara Kindon.  
University of  
Wellington

Professor Sara Kindon, University of Wellington, Victoria, will be visiting for part of the academic year as a University Visiting Fellow. Sara is a geographer with an interest in refugee resettlement. She has worked with communities in Costa Rica as well as in Aotearoa New Zealand and in Indonesia. She will be working with Nina Laurie.



# Latin American Artists in the North East

By Patricia Oliart

As is now a tradition, the ¡Vamos! Festival 2015 brought street art from Latin America to the North East. Murals by Ananda Nahu and Manoel Quitério from Brazil, and Bayrol Jiménez from Mexico, are now part of the city landscape and can be seen in the city centre, North Shields, while Derlon Almeida's work is prominent in Byker. As part of this effort, CLACS was proud to co-sponsor the visit of Elliot Tupac from Peru. Elliot is a renowned graphic designer and street artist whose work is well appreciated all over Latin America. His visit to the UK was possible thanks to a joint effort with Glasgow Print Studio, Wasps Studios, the Peruvian Embassy and the Arts Council of England. Elliot painted the mural Ciudadano del Mundo, as an aspiration of what any human being should feel like anywhere in the world. As part of his activities in the North East, Elliot held a workshop for teenage boys and girls interested in street art at Gateshead with the CoMusic project at The Arches. Right after visiting the UK Elliot Tupac went to Washington to take part of the Smithsonian Institution Folklife Festival, this year dedicated to Peru. Elliot Tupac also designed CLACS's art work.

16



## The First Annual Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture with David Treece – Brazilian Song in Translation: Music, Text, Performance

17:00. Wednesday 18th November 2015

Lecture Theatre 1.46. Barbara Strang Teaching Centre. Newcastle University

What happens when songs leave their place of origin and travel to another cultural and linguistic setting, to be heard translated and performed in another language? What are the possibilities and limitations for the translation of song across cultures and languages? Looking at the role of language in the reception of Brazilian popular music in the Anglophone world, and considering some of its most translated songs, the lecture will share some experiences and preoccupations around the challenge of translatability for this specific medium. We will compare a number of translations and recordings so as to explore both the compositional challenges involved (especially the song's core, discursive-melodic form) and also aspects of vocal performance such as persona enactment, vowel articulation and accent.

# Events 2015–16

- 7 October** Welcome event with music and refreshments. 5.00–7.00 pm
- 14 October** Karen Salt, Aberdeen. 'Twilight Islands and Environmental Crises: Re-writing a History of the Caribbean Region through the Islands Existing in its Shadows'. 5.00 pm. Armstrong Building 1.04. Co-sponsored with History Seminar Series.
- 21 October** Valentin Diaz, Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires  
Pequeña historia del siglo XX  
Armstrong 2.16
- 26 October  
– 6 November** Film series of Chilean and Peruvian films introduced by Arturo Figueroa and Alonso Quinteros. Dates and times to be announced.
- 18 November** David Treece, Kings College London. 'Brazilian Song in Translation: Music, Text, Performance'. The First Annual Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture. 5.00 pm.
- 25 November** Alejandro Gasel, La Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral. 'Las disputas por el territorio en la literatura reciente de América Latina'.
- 20 January** Maria Helena Perreira Toledo Machado, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. 'Traces of Louis Agassiz: The Formation of a Photographic Collection'.
- 17–18 March** Annual Royal Geographical Society–Institute of British Geographers Postgraduate Mid-Term Conference, co-sponsored by CLACS.
- 14 April** Translating cultures: towards linguistic rights for indigenous peoples in Peru. Speakers: Luis Andrade (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Rosaleen Howard (School of Modern Languages), Raquel de Pedro (Heriot-Watt University). Sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).
- 18 April** Karen Sands O'Connor, State University of New York Buffalo. 'Bogle LOuverture and Radical Black Publishing of the 1960s–1980s'
- 10 June** Junot Diaz, MIT: Public Lecture and Day Conference.
- 29–30 June** Postgraduates in Latin American Studies (PILAS) Annual Conference: 'Doing Research in Latin American and the Caribbean: Bridging Perspectives and Identifying Multidisciplinary Research Opportunities'.
- 6–8 July** Society for Caribbean Studies 30th Annual Conference.

Events start at **4.00 pm** unless otherwise stated.

Further events and more details, including locations, will be announced in due course. Please keep in touch by checking our website, twitter feed and facebook page. You can also join our email list by emailing [clac.studies@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:clac.studies@ncl.ac.uk) and asking to be added.

## Find out more about CLACS



Go online for more information  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/clacs)



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/pages/  
Centre-for-Latin-American-and-  
Caribbean-Studies/462801983895030](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centre-for-Latin-American-and-Caribbean-Studies/462801983895030)



Follow us on Twitter  
[twitter.com/CLACSncl](https://twitter.com/CLACSncl)

## Contact us

**Email:** [clac.studies@ncl.ac.uk](mailto: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

Photography acknowledgement: Delmo Roncarati Vilela (UFMG)  
Nidia B. Piñeyro, Ana M. Attías, Ricardo D. Lombardo.

Newsletter edited by Diana Paton and Carolyn Taylor.

Designed by The Roundhouse Design Consultants, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Printed by Potts Print (UK).

© Newcastle University, 2015.

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University.