

EVENTS 2018

Centre for Latin American
Research and Documentation



13/12/18 Dialogues with Civil Society #6: The Honduran Migrant Caravan

We are very pleased to inform you of an upcoming NALACS Dialogues with Civil Society with Honduran activist Lety Elvir (human rights activist and co-founder of PEN International Honduras) about the migrant caravan that left Honduras for the United States.

"EN HONDURAS HAY UNA GUERRA, SILENCIADA PERO NO SILENCIOSA."

Más de 60 mil asesinatos han transcurrido desde el golpe de estado militar (2009) que contó con el aval de gobiernos extranjeros encabezados por el de los Estados Unidos.

El éxodo de mujeres, hombres y niños hondureños hacia los EEUU no es nada nuevo, pero hay algo en este viaje migratorio que la hace especial. La noche del 12 de octubre de 2018, en la ciudad de San Pedro Sula, la ciudad más violenta del planeta, se reunió un grupo de personas autoconvocadas de diferentes puntos geográficos de Honduras; sin conocerse previamente, unos a otros se reconocieron como compañeros de una misma historia de despojo, y al día siguiente emprendieron una caminata de miles de kilómetros hacia el norte para solicitar refugio en los Estados Unidos. Caminaron juntos para reducir los riesgos del trayecto, juntos y sin dinero para pagar "coyotes" u otros servicios de transporte.

Ninguno de ellos pensó que se convertirían en los caminantes más acompañados, tampoco imaginaron que con su sacrificio abrirían los ojos del mundo y se filtrarían por los mass media en pleno Halloween, Thanksgiving o procesos electorales, como seres inexplicables, como fantasías xenófobas, como "invasiones bárbaras" a repeler con ejércitos imperiales, o simplemente como "la caravana de migrantes". ¿Quiénes son esos miles de seres humanos que huyen? ¿Qué les hace arriesgar sus vidas y la de sus niños que llevan a cuestas o aún en sus vientres? ¿Por qué se criminaliza y se niega el derecho de asilo a los hondureños? ¿Qué pasa en Honduras y Centroamérica que expulsa a sus habitantes?

Después de la exposición de Lety habrá tiempo para discusión y preguntas. La discusión sera iniciada por la estudiante de maestría Antonia McGrath, quien vivió en Honduras y grabó alla el documental "The American Fraud".

Lety Elvir Lazo (Honduras) es doctoranda en Letras y Artes de América Central y profesora de la UNAH (1996- 2017). Fue Fullbright Scholar in Residence, Delaware State University, 2006-2007. Es cofundadora y también fue vicepresidenta del PEN International-Honduras 2013-2015.

Libros publicados: Luna que no cesa (1998); Mujer entre perro y lobo (2001); Sublimes y perversos (cuentos), 2004; Golpe y pluma. Antología de poesía resistente escrita por mujeres, 2013; Coeditora de Women's Poems of Protest and Resistance in Honduras (2009-2014), 2015.

23/11/18 Valedictory lecture of Michiel Baud

Confianza: Governance and trust in Latin America and the Netherlands

Michiel Baud, CEDLA-UvA

This lecture will argue that confianza, as a concept that refers to trust relations in Latin America, is vital to understand the dynamics of social change in the region. It allows us to look at day to day resilience among Latin American populations and the ways they build their lives, find alternatives and construct alternative processes of development. In this presentation I will discuss the elements of Latin American confianza and its importance for societal development using some concrete examples from different Latin American countries. To conclude I will make some observations about how in the Netherlands we could borrow some of the insights the concept of confianza has given us.

16/11/18 CEDLA LECTURE

On Friday, November 16th, 2018, Nalacs and CEDLA: Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation organized the 5th edition of the 'Dialogues with Civil Society' series. This time we will receive Mexican human rights defender Diana Gutiérrez, with an introduction by Mexican activist-researcher Fernando Hernandez. The session will be moderated by Rosanne Tromp.

ABOUT THE DIALOGUES

Future Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrado (AMLO) has already made a lot of promises in the area of human rights for his upcoming turn. However, how much do Mexican human rights defenders believe of those promises? Diana Gutiérrez is a Mexican human rights defender who unites families of disappeared people to seek justice. She will discuss her work in the context of AMLO's promises. The afternoon will be introduced by the Mexican activist-researcher and co-founder of human rights collective SMX Fernando Hernandez.

ABOUT DIANA GUTIÉRREZ

Diana Gutiérrez is a human rights defender from Mexico who focuses on the issue of disappearances. In 2017 she co-founded a collective. This organisation works alongside civil organisations and families to help track their missing loved ones. This can involve searching media dissemination (press, internet television), extensive research, checking hospitals, asylums and shelters while coordinating with the Institute of Forensic Sciences (Incifo) and Forensic Medical Service (Semefo). Searches can require travelling to different provinces in Mexico and the organisation frequently becomes a family's first point of contact in the event of a disappearance, as police responses are notoriously slow. In addition the organisation provides workshops, seminars and conferences to help educate the public and has also contributed to the alternative report to the Committee against Forced Disappearances (CED) of the United Nations. During her stay at Peace Brigades International - The Netherlands, Diana hopes to acquire new tools and knowledge applicable to her pursuit of strengthening human rights in Mexico. Furthermore she wishes to expand her contact networks so she may be exposed to new ideas, projects and perspectives.

PROGRAM

15:30 hrs – Introduction by Fernando Hernandez

15:45 hrs – Presentation by Diana Gutiérrez followed by a discussion

17:00 hrs – Drinks and snacks

18:00 hrs – End

07/11/18 LASP MASTER SEMINAR

Interested in specializing in Latin American Studies?

LASP offers a network, knowledge, academic activities and contacts with senior researchers.

Introduction, Dr. Annelou Ypeij, CEDLA-UvA

Masculinity in a Nicaraguan prison, Dr. Julienne Weegels, CEDLA-UvA

Antropology, development studies and Latin America, Dr. Tine Davids, CIDIN Radboud University

Digital youth culture, sexuality and gender in Chile, PhD Irene Arends

02/11/18 CEDLA LECTURE

From Partial to Full Conflict Theory: A Neo-Weberian Portrait of the Venezuela Crisis

[David Smilde](#), Tulane University and WOLA, Follow him on twitter [@dsmilde](#)

Discussion of Venezuela during the twenty years of Chavismo has been dominated by pluralist versus neo-Marxist perspectives. The current deep crisis in the country has only deepened the contrasts in this debate. Each of these “partial” conflict theories provides incisive analytic tools but proves myopic in portraying the breadth and complexity of the conflict and crisis in Venezuela. David Smilde proposes a “full conflict theory” based on the Weberian ideas of multiple, conjunctural causation. Using the work of Michael Mann, he analyzes Venezuela during Chavismo in terms of constellations of power networks that support it versus constellations that oppose it. These constellations include multiple combination networks based on the four sources of ideological power: ideological, economic, political and military sources. This full conflict theory not only provides a better description of the conflict, it provides grounds for normative critique, keying in on the performance and inherent monopolistic tendencies of power networks.

12/10/18 CEDLA LECTURE

Beyond the Elections: Brazil’s Economic Challenges. Edmund Amann, Leiden University

The Brazilian economy has only recovered weakly following its deepest ever recession between 2013 and 2017. It remains beset with structural challenges which will be need to be overcome if the country is to embark finally on a course of sustainable and inclusive growth. In the light of the elections in October 2018, this lecture considers Brazil’s troubled economy and what steps are likely to be taken to improve it once the new administration takes power in early 2019. Competitiveness, pensions reform, the privatization programme and other policy matters will be discussed. The lecture points to the centrality of addressing productivity challenges and the key role of training and education. Brazil’s place in the global economy is also reviewed, especially in the light of the emergence of a more protectionist USA.

28/09/18 CEDLA LECTURE

Outsmarting the Lords of Death: Resilient Memories in Latin America Today. Arij Ouweneel, CEDLA-UvA

In his talk, Arij Ouweneel presents ideas of his new monograph *Resilient Memories: Amerindian Cognitive Schemas in Latin American Art* (Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University Press, 2018). The book takes a cognitive approach to the mediation of collective memory by works of art. In looking at the cultural production of Amerindians—the transnational mnemonic community comprised of indígenas, originarios, mestizos, and cholos—Ouweneel argues that cultural memories and identity are not simply the total sum of individuals’ expressions of self, but that some cultural artifacts become privileged to inform the heart of the mnemonic community. Ouweneel seeks to identify a series of cognitive schemas as the foundation of an Amerindian Cognitive Unconsciousness. Art, then, serves to trigger cognitive schemas embedded within the Amerindian community which act as the mediator of collective memory. Ouweneel will discuss the novela gráfica and illustrate this with an Amerindian cognitive script present in contemporary comics: *Outsmarting the Lords of Death* (not discussed in the book). This script is about the resilient memory of an Amerindian type of Afterlife that could not be wiped out by European and North American missionaries—in spite of the use of the Spanish word purgatorio.

07/09/18 CEDLA LECTURE

Prisoner Capture: welfare, lawfare and warfare in Latin America's prisons. Fiona Macaulay, University of Bradford

This talk focuses on the forms of legality and illegality produced by, and within, prison systems in Latin America. The region saw prison populations surge since the early 1990s, rising well over five-fold in some, leading to a serious structural crisis in the criminal justice system. The state either committed violence against prisoners, permitted violence between prisoners, or ceded the carceral space to the prisoners themselves. The talk develops the concept of "prisoner capture", a double-sided phenomenon of illegality in the state's practices of detention on the one hand, and informal, or parallel, governance exercised by those that it detained, on the other. State authorities held tens of thousands of people in extended and legally unjustifiable pretrial detention, and frequently denied convicted prisoners their legal rights, including timely release. These multiple illegalities on the part of the state in turn encouraged the emergence of prisoner self-defence and self-governance organizations. This resulted in "prisoner capture" of a different kind, when inmates took over the day-to-day ordering of prison life. In turn, this produced a parallel normative and pseudo-legal world in which inmates adjudicated on and disciplined other inmates in the absence of state officials within the prison walls. What can Latin American prisons and penal practices add to the field of socio-legal studies in the region and for the dominant socio-legal literature on prisons and imprisonment?

18/06/18 The Burden of Writing the Sorcerer's Burden

Public Lecture by Prof Paul Stoller, West Chester University

A cooperation between OLA (Dutch PhD forum on Latin America), LASP (Latin American Studies Programme) and CEDLA

What is the future of anthropological expression? During the past few years, I have been thinking about the ethnographic past to ponder the anthropological future. For almost 40 years I've been writing ethnographic works that have taken on many forms - academic essays, memoirs, a biography, and more recently fiction. In this presentation, I use my struggle to write *The Sorcerer's Burden*, a novel about the practice of West African sorcery in contemporary times, to demonstrate how institutional constraint has shaped how we have represented culture. The narrative of my 10-year burden of writing *The Sorcerer's Burden* - against the grain of anthropological convention - leads to a discussion of the representational strengths of ethnography, fiction, drama, poetry and multi-media installations. In the end, I suggest that the complexity of a digital application or an anthropological argument is of limited value if bloodless prose obscures the ethnographic story. It is the quality of our stories, as Jean Rouch might have argued, that determines whether an ethnographic work will remain open to the world. In this way, the story marks our path to the future.

Paul Stoller is Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University. He has been conducting anthropological research for more than 30 years. His early work concerned the religion of the Songhay people who live in the Republics of Niger and Mali in West Africa. In that work, he focused primarily on magic, sorcery and spirit possession practices. Since 1992, Stoller has pursued studies of West African immigrants in New York City. In his most recent work, Stoller has focused on the dynamics of well-being in the world. Stoller's research has resulted in the publication of 15 books, including ethnographies, biographies, memoirs as well as three novels. In 2013 King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden awarded him the Anders Retzius Gold Medal in Anthropology. In 2015 the American Anthropological Association awarded him its Anthropology in Media Award. Since 2010 he has blogged regularly on culture, politics, and higher education for The Huffington Post. His novel *The Sorcerer's Burden: The Sage of a Global Family* was published in September 2016. His most recent book is *Adventures in Blogging: Anthropology and Public Media* (2018).

January - June Exhibition: "Portraits from the gold mine"

A visual essay by Luciana Massaro

Small-scale gold mining is one of the causes of environmental degradation and socio-political conflicts. The use of mercury and deforestation represent a severe threat to the environment and to the health of the miners and their families. At the same time, this activity offers a livelihood opportunity to over 100 million people in more than fifty countries, many hundreds of thousands of which are spread in the Amazon region. The exhibition shows the portraits of different figures involved in small-scale mining in the Vale do Rio Peixoto, state of Mato Grosso (Brazil). Here, the miners are organized into a cooperative that seeks to integrate innovative, effective, and cleaner technology in order to increase gold production, but also decrease the impact on the environment.

This visual essay was part of an anthropological research on small-scale gold mining technology within the GOMIAM Project.

18/06/2018 - 22/06/2018 Intensive summer workshop on ethnographic writing and blogging with Paul Stoller, Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University

The aim of this four-day workshop is to introduce doctoral students to the fundamental features and essential practices of ethnography and ethnographic blogging in the contemporary world. During the workshop students will learn what distinguishes ethnography from other forms of academic and nonfiction representation. The technique of "Weaving the World," the seamless linkage of ethnographic description to social analysis will be presented. Students will be asked to read examples from the work of ethnographers who have, in various ways, attempted to use this technique to evoke social worlds through the exposition of space/place, character, and dialogue. These are strategies that ethnographic writers can use to ensure that readers come to know a people who live in a particular place.

During the workshop students will be asked to write culture. The instructor will outline ethnographic (and blogging) writing practices—the "tricks of the trade." He will then ask the students to begin to "Weave the World" by writing (1) short descriptions of space/place, dialogues, and character portraits (2) combine those elements into a short ethnographic essay that captures in prose the texture of place/space, characters and/or those elements as they are expressed during an event and (3) produce a blog on an issue of contemporary importance.

Paul Stoller is Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University, USA. In his more than 30 years of anthropological research and writing, Stoller has focused on Songhay religion in Niger and the life of West African street traders in New York City. Professor Stoller's work encompasses money, religion, film, writing and medicine. His most recent work investigates the dynamics of well-being in the world. Paul Stoller has made himself a name for challenging the limitations of conventional academic writing: He promotes storytelling as a way to communicate anthropological knowledge to the wider public. Stoller has published 14 books, including ethnographies, biographies, memoirs as well as three novels. Since 2010 he has been blogging regularly on culture, politics, and higher education for The Huffington Post and became an advocate for a more public and engaged anthropology.

Additionally we have a Public lecture on the evening of June 18, 2018: The Burden of Writing the Sorcerer's Burden: Ethnography, Fiction and the Future of Anthropological Expression.

11/06/18 Dialogues with Civil Society: Student Protests in Nicaragua

Understanding the Protests in Nicaragua / Entendiendo las Protestas en Nicaragua

On Monday 11 June, the CEDLA will receive part of the student delegation that has traveled to Europe to discuss the protests and state repression occurring in Nicaragua from 18 April to the present day. The brutal repression has left more than 80 dead, more than 800 injured, and 400 detained. Despite the clear conclusions of the Inter American Human Rights Commission report, the government has not yet taken steps to deescalate the violence.

Yerling Aguilera, teacher from the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), will accompany us and speak on behalf of the protesters.* Members of the Nicaraguan community who have organized multiple demonstrations in the Netherlands will also be there. CEDLA PhD student Julienne Weegels will introduce the Dialogue and act as the moderator.

*Yerling Aguilera is a young sociologist, teacher and researcher who has dedicated her study to the memories of the Revolution and gender-related themes. She is a left-oriented women's rights activist and has helped the current protest movement in diverse ways.

CASTELLANO

El lunes 11 de junio el Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos (CEDLA) recibirá a parte de la delegación universitaria de Nicaragua que está de gira por Europa para llamar la atención a las protestas y la brutal represión del estado que ha ocurrido en Nicaragua a partir del 18 de abril. Esta represión ha dejado 80+ muertos, 800+ heridos y 400+ detenidos. Aunque el reporte de la CIDH fue contundente, el gobierno aún no ha tomado pasos para frenar la violencia y represión en el país.

Nos acompaña Yerling Aguilera,* docente y socióloga de la Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) de parte de la delegación. Estarán presentes miembros de la comunidad nicaragüense que ha organizado ya múltiples manifestaciones en Holanda. La candidata a doctorado Julienne Weegels (Universidad de Amsterdam-CEDLA) presentará al evento y moderará la discusión.

*Yerling Aguilera es una socióloga, docente e investigadora de la UCA. Ha dedicado sus estudios a la memoria de la Revolución y temáticas de género. Se considera de activista de derechos de las mujeres y de izquierda. Ha ayudado al movimiento estudiantil actual de diversas maneras y forma parte de la delegación universitaria que está de gira por Europa actualmente.

ORGANIZERS: SOS Nicaragua - Europa, NALACS & CEDLA

LANGUAGE: The event will be in Spanish with translation in case necessary

8/06/18 "Ex-presidents do not go away": the dominance of known faces and its impact on Latin American politics. Javier Corrales, Amherst College

Many Latin American constitutions allow ex-presidents to run for president. As a result, many ex-presidents run again. Even when they are not allowed to run, many ex-presidents refuse to retire from politics, becoming leading sponsors of candidates and advocates of policy positions. This lecture discusses why lingering ex-presidents can be harmful to democratic development. They block leadership renewal and fuel polarization. Efforts to restrict the influence of ex-presidents should thus be welcomed, with the caveat that some methods to contain the influence of ex-presidents can also be harmful to democracy.

18/05/18 Shantytowns and Urban Commons in Buenos Aires (1943-1972)

Adriana Laura Massidda, CEUR - CONICET Buenos Aires

Throughout history urban commons have been crucial for the construction of collective identity in cities. Moreover, they have acted as sites of negotiation between different social classes, and between the public and those holding political power. This becomes particularly evident in shantytowns, where the need to work communally for improvements overlaps with threats of eviction, meaning that the commons are not only a key object of dispute but more importantly a catalyst for joint action. This talk will explore the historical significance of a series of commons in mid-twentieth-century Buenos Aires shantytowns in order to shed light on their relation to urban politics. On the one hand, residents were effectively organised to negotiate with governments in order to obtain improvements and to resist eviction attempts. On the other hand, however, these political endeavours had stemmed from a vast number of everyday practices which were materially related to common infrastructure and public space. Informal football pitches, for example, constituted the main communal place of each shantytown, and were key to residents' sense of belonging, to the use of leisure time (especially for male kids), and to networking (both intra- and inter-shantytowns). Public taps, around which queues were formed as early as four or five in the morning, were a key meeting space as well (especially for women, who were and continue to be in charge of the home). Furthermore, the need to expand piped water and sewerage networks collectively led to the formation of stable shantytown committees. Important achievements were obtained in this way, and it was indeed no coincidence that commons were the first urban feature to be attacked by the shantytown eradication programme implemented by the last dictatorship. Thus, adopting a broad understand of the urban commons, I will argue that they constituted a key material platform for both everyday life and grassroots organisation in mid-twentieth century Buenos Aires shantytowns.

18/04/18 Dialogues with Civil Society #2: Ana María Rodríguez

CEDLA and Nalacs (the Netherlands Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies) are organizing a series of seminars titled Dialogues with Civil Society. The goal of these dialogues is to bring together a broad audience of academics and non-academics to discuss relevant societal issues in Latin America. The second edition of the series, which is again organized in collaboration with Peace Brigades International - The Netherlands, takes place on Wednesday 18 April and features Ana María Rodríguez, human rights activist and representative of the Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ). On May 27th the presidential elections will take place in Colombia. What are the possible outcomes and what do they mean for the Peace Process? The human rights activist Ana Maria Rodriguez, representative of the Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ), will share her views on this new challenge for the Peace Process and will be answering questions from the public. Ana Maria Rodriguez is a Colombian lawyer from Universidad de los Andes. She has been involved in different research and monitoring activities related to the implementation of the peace agreement with Colombia's paramilitary group the AUC. Nowadays, Ana María is closely involved with the implementation of the peace agreement with the FARC and the ongoing peace negotiations with the ELN. She also coordinates advocacy activities aimed at raising awareness about the human rights situation in Colombia.

13/04/18 Mining conflicts and indigenous peoples' access to justice in Guatemala

Elisabet Rasch, Wageningen University

In Guatemala, grassroots organizing against megaprojects such as open pit mining, oil extraction, and hydroelectric dams goes hand in hand with increased criminalization of social protest and violations of the human rights of activists/defenders. This results in numerous communities demanding a clean environment, participation, and justice - all at the same time. Defenders not only face foreign companies, but are also caught in the middle of armed and non-armed actors that contest the same territory and its natural resources. Their resistance/'defence of their territory' is considered as a threat to internal security (and to narco control). In this lecture I will share my findings of my recent fieldwork in Guatemala, during which I talked to several NGO's and policy makers, as well as with human rights defenders about how they perceive and experience criminalization and how it impacts their actions and feelings of security.

19/03/18 Los Extractivismos Sudamericanos Hoy: Desarrollo, Política, Corrupción

Eduardo Gudynas, CLAES (Uruguay)

En la actualidad, los extractivismos persisten como los principales proveedores de bienes de exportación en América del Sur. Se mantuvieron más allá de todos los cambios políticos de las últimas décadas (desde el neoliberalismo a los progresismos a la nueva derecha). Un examen de la situación actual muestra que se organizan de distinta manera, incluyendo aquellos propios de regímenes conservadores, los del progresismo gobernante tardío y los de los nuevos conservadurismos.

Los extractivismos tienen influencias directas sobre las estrategias de desarrollo, y desde allí se vuelven un factor muy relevante en condicionar la política. Se encuentran diferencias en cuanto al papel del mercado y el empresariado, las potestades y acciones del Estado, y sobre todo las narrativas de legitimación. Las novedades más recientes están en las asociaciones entre extractivismos y corrupción, con redes que se extienden más allá de empresas y políticos, y alcanzan otros ámbitos e instituciones, e incluso comunidades locales.

[Se acumulan impactos locales, pero sobre todo avanzan efectos derrame, especialmente en reconfiguraciones de los sentidos de la economía, los derechos y la democracia. Distintos impactos locales y efectos derrame confluyen en las llamadas "extrahecciones", que son extractivismos con altos niveles de violencia y violación de los derechos.

Esta situación genera a su vez crecientes resistencias ciudadanas y distintos tipos de debates académicos y políticos. Cuando esas disputas se analizan, se pueden identificar un nuevo tipo de alternativas que invocan cambios más allá del desarrollo y de la Modernidad (como por ejemplo, los del Buen Vivir en su sentido original).

09/03/18 Brazil and China: Bilateral Relations and the Challenge of Asymmetry

Cristina Pecequilo, Leiden University, UNIFESP and NERINT/UFRGS

In the last decade, the diplomatic, political, strategic and economic relations between Brazil and China have intensified. The two countries have also joined forces to modernize and rebalance global politics through the BRICS and broader South-South Cooperation. Despite these bilateral and global efforts, the power asymmetries between China and Brazil remain prominent. In addition, China's fast expansion and Brazil's economic and political hurdles are currently putting into question the possibilities and prospects of their multilevel relations. The aim of this lecture is to present and discuss the various challenges of contemporary Brazil-China relations.

23/02/18 Governing the dead. Stateformation and dead bodies in Latin America

Finn Stepputat, Danish Institute for International Studies

The management of dead bodies and human remains constitutes a deep level of politics and governance, which at times have formed part of struggles over authority between the state and other forms of public authority. This talk will revisit processes of state-formation in Latin America - and in Guatemala in particular - by looking at how state institutions have sought to control the powers of death. More specifically, I will analyze how governmental procedures related to dead bodies have developed as a contested part of the emerging modern state since the eighteenth century. I focus on the introduction of the cemetery in late colonial and early post-colonial Guatemala; the formative decades of the liberal state in the late nineteenth century when basic regulatory frameworks were put in place; the treatment of dead bodies during the civil war in the 1980s; and the aftermath of the civil war that saw another set of reforms in the state's management of dead bodies. Ending with a look at the emergence of clandestine and unauthorized cemeteries across Latin America, I speculate whether this could be seen as another sign of declining state authority in Latin America.

09/02/18 The Rise and Fall of the Mexican Developmental State (1920-80)

Alan Knight, Professor and researcher of Latin American history at Oxford University

This paper applies the notion of the 'developmental state' to Mexico during the period c. 1920-c.1980, that is, the two decades of state-building and social reform which followed the armed revolution and the four decades which witnessed the hegemony of the PRI. It considers how to conceptualise the 'developmental state', first, in narrow terms, drawing on the literature devoted to East Asia, then, more broadly, in order to help the model 'travel' – safely and usefully - to twentieth-century Latin America, especially Mexico. The application of the model(s) involves a schematic chronology, embodying four periods, each evaluated according to 'developmental' criteria (economic growth, the role of the state, social – including agrarian - reform, and welfare). It concludes that, as a good model should, that of the developmental state offers a valid, useful and, in some measure, original way of looking at and understanding the distinctive trajectory of Mexico's political economy in the decades following the armed Revolution and culminating in the hegemony of the PRI.

Alan Knight is Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford, where he previously held the Chair of Latin American History and was Director of the Latin American Centre. He previously taught at the Universities of Essex (UK) and Texas, Austin. He is the author of ten books, most dealing with Mexican/Latin American history, in particular the Mexican Revolution. He has also co-edited volumes dealing with the Mexican oil industry, Mexican caciquismo (boss politics), the Great Depression of the 1930s, and superstition in history.

24/01/18 SEMINAR SERIES: Dialogues with Civil Society

CEDLA and NALACS are organizing a series of seminars titled Dialogues with Civil Society. The goal of these dialogues is to bring together a broad audience of academics and non-academics to discuss relevant societal issues. The first guest in this series is human rights defender Lolita Chávez, leader of the K'iche' Peoples Council from Guatemala. Owing to her role in the struggle for the protection of the environment, gender equality and the recognition of indigenous rights, Lolita is one of three final nominees for the Sakharov Prize 2017, a renowned human rights award presented by the European Parliament. Based on her personal experiences, Lolita will discuss the context of human rights defenders in Guatemala. Furthermore, she will address issues related to women's rights, environmental rights and the problems that emerge from the presence of multinational companies on indigenous lands.

