

EVENTS 2017

Centre for Latin American
Research and Documentation



12 & 13 DECEMBER CO-LAB CEDLA & LASP

THIS CO-LAB AIMS AT UNPACKING PLURAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE COMMONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND EXPLORING WAYS TO CREATE A DIALOGUE ACROSS DIFFERENT FIELDS. STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES, PRACTITIONERS, ACTIVISTS AND POLICY MAKERS WILL DEBATE ON THE COMMONS IN THE REGION. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR DISCUSSION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.

Keynote speaker John Powell

President of the International Association for the Study of Commons / University of Gloucestershire, UK
GOVERNANCE OF COMMONS: THE RHETORIC AND REALITY

Commons and 'rights' of common have always been contested, but in the years following publication of Hardin's paper on the 'tragedy' of the commons the notion that some form of sharing of resources was not only possible but desirable, both socially and economically, came under sustained attack. Ostrom's work over several decades has demonstrated the fallacy of some of the neo-liberal arguments, and created the space to explore alternatives to the privatisation-statist approaches to resource governance. More recent developments have seen the rise of 'new' commons as the concept is applied to a wider range of resources, and of 'commoning', the result of new ways of thinking about the nature of the social processes that generate shared services and resources. In many situations the reality of governing commons and commoning is often different from the idealism and conceptual frameworks that drive activities in this arena. Separating the reality from the rhetoric is an important function for an international organisation involved in analysing the concept of commons, and an area where the Latin American experience has a lot to offer. This presentation will explore the wider context of commons governance, with the aim of opening the doors between regions to enable the cross-fertilisation of ideas, and to encourage wider learning from the struggles, scholarship, research, and practice currently happening across Latin America.

04/12/17 Discussion Meeting: The Defense of Garífuna Cultural and Environmental Rights in Honduras

PBI the Netherlands and CEDLA cordially invite you to the Discussion Meeting: The Defense of Garífuna Cultural and Environmental Rights in Honduras. This Discussion Meeting features the Honduran Human Rights Defender Aurelia Arzú. Aurelia is a leading member of the Organización Fraternal Negra de Honduras (OFRANEH) – she works protecting and defending ancestral territories of the Garífuna people in Honduras. Aurelia will discuss the challenges that Honduran afro-indigenous communities face in mitigating the effects of climate change and defending their land rights.

12/12/17 Screening Documentary 'Burden of Peace'

The Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA) and the Faculty of Law of the UvA are organizing a screening of the documentary 'Burden of Peace'. This documentary tells the impressive story of Claudia Paz y Paz, the first woman to lead the Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala. The country that has been ravaged for years by a devastating civil war, in which nearly 200,000 Mayan Indians were systematically massacred, is today one of the most violent countries in the world. Claudia starts a frontal attack against corruption, drug gangs and impunity and does what everyone had held to be impossible up until then: she arrests former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt on charges of genocide. His conviction becomes the first conviction for genocide in a national court in the world history. Directly after the movie, there will be a Q&A with director Sander Wirken moderated by Dr. Barbara Hogenboom (CEDLA).

24/11/17 Environment and consultation in the Brazilian democratic developmental State

Kathryn Hochstetler, London School of Economics and Political Science

Large infrastructure projects present familiar dilemmas, as possible national-level economic benefits clash with very concrete local social and environmental costs. This presentation will focus on the more subtle challenges of siting the smaller projects of wind and solar power. They raise potential "green vs green" conflicts, where projects with global and national climate and economic benefits may still present important local harms. Hochstetler will examine how such tradeoffs have appeared in practice in Brazil and how Brazilians have responded in both their national planning and project-level debates, with some comparative data from South Africa (further background on the broader electricity sector can be found in: Hochstetler, Kathryn and J Ricardo Tranjan (2016) Environment and Consultation in the Brazilian Democratic Developmental State, *Comparative Politics* 48(4): 497-516).

10/11/17 Memory and merchandising drug violence in Latin America

Brigitte Adriaensen, Nijmegen University

Drug violence today is a transnational phenomenon which affects Latin American countries in a more or less visible way; it also evokes governmental and legal measures with problematic consequences for democracy. Although the Mexican case might be the most paradigmatic, with Felipe Calderón's declaration of war against the narcos in 2006, in Argentina the emergency state was declared in the villas as well, as soon as Mauricio Macri became president in 2015. While these measures are all being justified as part of the fight against organized crime, the increasing militarization of the conflict brings human rights seriously under pressure.

In cultural production related to drugs, a tendency can be observed towards exoticism both in national and transnational film, literature and television. The fascination with el narco is inscribed in a discourse which both demonizes and idealizes drug culture. In a certain way, Latin America today seems to take a similar place in the imaginaries of the Global North as once the Orient did, according to Edward Said's study on Orientalism. In this context, Hermann Herlinghaus (2013, *Narco-Epics*) emphasized the importance of studying the discourse on narcotics from a historical perspective. He introduced the concept of psychoactive imperialism to denominate the lucrative trade of narcotics in a broad sense during colonization and modernity, in contrast with the so called prohibitionist period starting only in the 20's of last century and the subsequent interference of the United States in the 'war on drugs' in Latin America. This talk will focus on the contemporary demonization of and fascination with narcotics as it is apparent in the narco.estética (Rincón 2009) in literature, film and television on drugs, which in turn also generates a new kind of tourism related with the figure of Pablo Escobar or with the cult of Jesús Malverde. Specific attention will be paid to the emergence of this narquista discourse in the Mexican context and the role of literature, journalism and tourism in the emerging memory market (Bilbija & Payne, 2009).

08/11/17 The Hero Portrait: Marcus Garvey, Diaspora Memory and Contemporary Art

Petrina Dacres, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts

In collaboration with the NWO-funded programme “The Popular Culture of Illegality”

In the early twentieth century Marcus Garvey led one of the most significant mass movements on racial equality through his Universal Negro Improvement Association. Even after his death his legacy continued to be felt, especially in music and diaspora art. For example, in 1956 in Jamaica a commemorative portrait bust was unveiled in a public park in Kingston, and two years after independence (1962), it was incorporated into a larger memorial when Garvey became the first National Hero of Jamaica. In the mid-1970s, as new heroic statues began to populate the landscape, a full-length statue of Garvey was erected. Most recently, in 2017, two controversial busts of the hero were commissioned by the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. These sculptural interpretations demonstrate the specificity of expressions of Garvey's image in the Jamaican context and the ways in which his portraits are imbricated in aesthetic and historic processes and debates. As these portraits have been re-contextualised in other forms, removed, re-designed and vandalised, they also allow us to consider the instability of Garvey's image in shaping diasporic memory and identity.

CEDLA Exhibition

Before the farewell to arms; A transition zone in Colombia

Photographs and research: Luisa Machacón

Curatorship: Carmen Giménez Solar

Colombia achieved a significant milestone in the history of the country. On November of 2016, the insurgent group FARC - EP and the Colombian government signed the integral, final and definitive peace agreement.



At the beginning of 2017, after 52 years of war, more than 6900 soldiers from the ex-guerrilla group started their transition to a civil life. As agreed during the negotiation process, the Colombian government opened 20 Local Transition Zones for Normalization (Zonas Veredales Transitorias de Normalizacion - ZVTN) and 6 Local Transition Points for Normalisation (Puntos Transitorios de Normalizacion - PTN). These areas are currently home to thousands of soldiers for a maximum period of 3 years. Meanwhile, processes of reincorporation and reconciliation take place in these areas. Through the images of this exhibition, we get a glimpse of the daily life in one of such areas, the Caribbean Block, while the soldiers wait for their disarmament and the beginning of their new political party.

27/10/17 Learning from the Favela: pedagogy, knowledge and the uses of the real

Gareth Jones, London School of Economics and Political Science

In cooperation with LASP and OLA

Rio de Janeiro's favelas host an increasing number of 'summer schools', design studio, artist residences, corporate engagements, many with participants from the Global North. These encounters are often represented as means to undertake participatory or co-produced research, and with a claimed action or catalytic dimension. Importantly, the favela provides an available site for pedagogy, a resource which offers exposure to 'real life' and the residents are promised that their lives can be transformed through practical learning and collaboration. In one of Rio's largest and most conflict-ridden favelas, the Complexo do Alemão, an experimental initiative organized by local activists known as the Centre de Research, Documentation and Memory has created spaces of exchange to orient outsider research away from concerns seem arcane and detached from actual lived realities. The Centre challenges extractivist engagements with the favela that perpetuate long-standing power dynamics between local residents and outsiders. The paper deploys debates on the decolonization of knowledge to analyse how the favela does work as a 'real' site of knowledge production and asks whether a non-extractivist encounter is ever possible.

13/10/17 A decolonial Caribbean ecology: Pesticides and pollution in Martinique and Guadeloupe
Malcom Ferdinand (KITLV)

Beyond the tropical imaginary associated to the Caribbean, these islands also constitute sites of dangerous pollutions. Such is the case for the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe where there is a general contamination of the land, the water, the food and their inhabitants by chlordecone, a pesticide used on banana plantations. This carcinogenic organochlorine and endocrine disruptor may remain in the soils for more than seven centuries. Where the state authorities and governments have framed this pollution as an “environmental accident”, I highlight both the political responsibilities and the way the historical processes of colonization led to such toxic landscapes. On a theoretical level, I contend that the actions of local environmental NGOs against this pollution put forth an understanding of ecology where nature is readily historical, social and political, challenging the colonial foundation of the Caribbean: a decolonial ecology.

22/09/17 Demonizing for the ‘good cause’: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Global Citizen
Round table

Statelessness and the position of Haitians in the Dominican Republic

The lecture by Samuel Martínez will be preceded by a Round Table on the consequences of the Sentencia 168 on the right to citizenship by Dominican-born Haitians, exactly four years after its proclamation. After showing a short documentary, Samuel Martínez, Hunter Keys and Michiel Baud (chair) will discuss the problem of statelessness of more than 100.000 of Haitians in the Dominican Republic which has been the result of the Sentencia.

Lecture: Demonizing for the ‘good cause’: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Global Citizen

Samuel Martínez, University of Connecticut

Comments: Rivke Jaffe, Department of Geography, UvA

A comparison of migrant/minority rights advocacy films from 2007 and 2015/16 shows that both the older and newer visual reports accord prominence to Dominicans’ expressions of hatred for Haitians and frame those hatreds as characteristically Dominican values and opinions. This visual/textual figuration of a “demonic Dominican,” consumed with hatred for Haiti, contrasts with the absence of any parallel identification of rights liberal voices as representatives of a countervailing, characteristically Dominican current of liberal thought. The newer films, however, make stronger use of testimonial storytelling and mark a shift in character selection and point of view. Importantly, the newer films for the first time assign the power of issue framing to Haitian and Haitian-descendant rights claimants rather than non-Haitian and non-Dominican rights defenders. One question is whether this combination, of demonizing moves with first-person testimonial, can shock the consciences of global citizens without alienating Dominican viewers.

15/09/17 Latin America today: what kind of partner for the EU?

Lorena Ruano, European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris)

Comments : Matthijs Schroeder, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Western Hemisphere

In the run up to the bi-regional EU-CELAC summit in El Salvador in October, there was talk of a unique opportunity to boost this relationship, due to a rapidly shifting international context. But, what sort of partner would the EU have encountered in San Salvador if the EU-CELAC meeting had not been cancelled? Latin America and the Caribbean today is a war-free but violent and corrupt region, with institutional consolidation problems and an increasingly contested human rights and democracy regime. It is facing an economic downturn that threatens the gains of the past decade and is vulnerable to the vagaries of its external partners, especially changes in US policy. For that reason, the EU is a necessary ally in the perpetual struggle to diversify LAC’s political and economic links. Despite a multiplicity of regional cooperation schemes (MERCOSUR, Pacific Alliance, CELAC, the OAS), which will be analysed in detail during the talk, regional coordination remains elusive, and expectations about what CELAC can produce should be kept low in the first instance. Deeper cooperation is more viable at a bilateral and sub-regional level, but for some countries of the region this dialogue is the only structured political and cooperation forum they share with the EU.

18/08/17 Lecture

Update on Venezuela's economic, social and political situation

Gerardo González, IESA, Venezuela

On Friday 18 August Gerardo González, researcher at IESA in Caracas and alumnus of the CEDLA Master's Programme, talked with us about the current situation in Venezuela. After a short presentation by González, there will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

LA CHISPA article about this lecture [read it here](#).

30/06/17 Conferencia

El Papel de las Mujeres como Defensoras de los Derechos Humanos en Colombia

CEDLA organiza en colaboración con Peace Brigades International una conferencia sobre el papel de las mujeres como defensoras de los derechos humanos en Colombia.

Colombia es un país donde existe un 98% de impunidad en casos de violencia sexual contra las mujeres. Este tipo de violencia de género es un hecho que se suma al complejo, desigual y poco equitativo contexto al que muchas mujeres han tenido y tienen que seguir enfrentando.

Empezaremos con una pequeña introducción de Prof. Javier Corrales (Universidad de Amherst Massachusetts) sobre el papel de las defensoras de los derechos humanos en Colombia. Después habrá espacio para discusión y preguntas con Olga Silva, abogada y defensora Colombiana de los derechos humanos de Colombia.

Olga Silva es la actual directora de Humanidad Vigente. En su mirada y acciones guarda el anhelo y motivación para aportar a la construcción de un país donde existan garantías plenas y se pueda construir la paz con justicia social. Olga opina que el papel de las mujeres como defensoras de los derechos humanos se enfrenta a una dificultad poco hablada, relacionada con los retos que supone para las mujeres el asumir un rol diferente en una sociedad donde el papel de éstas se encuentra asociado a otro tipo de trabajos y, en el peor de los casos o, quizás, únicamente vinculado al hogar. Por ello, las defensoras de los derechos humanos atraviesan por procesos de ruptura familiar, lo que generalmente significa asumir (entre otras cosas) la responsabilidad de su familia.

23/06/17 Small scale gold mining in the Amazon

Marjo de Theije, Vrije Universiteit / GOMIAM

The Amazon is rich in mineral resources and gold is the one that attracts most media attention and movement of people and technology to extract it. Drawing on research in several Amazonian countries, De Theije discusses the social-economic and environmental impact of small scale gold mining on local communities by focusing on the dynamics that structure mining. She highlights the potential role of small scale gold mining in regional development and the challenges it sets for governance, by including transnational and trans-regional dynamics in the analysis.

19/05/17 The political influence of the Latin American military

Dirk Kruijt, Utrecht University

The topics discussed in this lecture are the following:

1. Basic characteristics of Latin America's armed forces: relatively small, few interstate wars, certain preference for internal enemies, professional armies, dominance of the USA, duality of professional and political military.
2. Political armies of the Right and Left: old-style dictatorship, Mexico's exceptionality, Cuban influence and the Armed Left, institutional coups of the Right, reformist political armies.
3. The military in democratic Latin America: exit strategies and reduction of budget and personnel, popularity of military leaders, new missions and structures.
4. New security agendas: democratic credentials, internal security risks, ear on drugs, zero tolerance and US pressure.

LA CHISPA article about this lecture [read it here](#).

12/05/17 Latin America's new conservatism and the future of LGBT rights

Javier Corrales, Amherst College

For Global South standards, Latin America has seen great strides in advancing LGBT rights. But some countries are experiencing a conservative backlash. This lecture will discuss what's new and what is not new about the current backlash against LGBT rights in the regions. See also the LGBT report by Javier Corrales: in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)

11/05/17 Costa Rican president delivers speech on climate change at UvA

How to fight and adapt to climate change while simultaneously realising inclusive development: that was the key global challenge discussed by President Luis Guillermo Solís of Costa Rica in a speech at the UvA on Thursday, 11 May 2017, which was co-organized by CEDLA. In an inspiring speech held in the university's Agnietenkapel, Solís focused on inclusive development and gender. **+INFO**

21/04/17 Religion, law and politics in four Latin American countries

Speaker: Dr. Emerson Giumbelli. Vrije Universiteit / UFRGS

Discussant: Dr. Andrea Damacena (PUC, Paraná, Brazil)

The lecture will address how the relations between state and religion shape the patterns of religious diversity in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay. The discussion will focus on two elements related to the formalization of religious groups:

- 1) the way that a religious group is legally formalized, the procedures involved and the rights and responsibilities implied
- 2) the existence and functioning of state apparatuses responsible for registering and accompanying formally constituted religious groups.

This presentation aims to demonstrate how these dimensions influence in the political conditions by which religions have been maintained (not only in legal terms) and the ways by which a society defines the place of the religious through the mediation of the state apparatuses. From this perspective, secularization and secularism, among other issues, can be reconsidered to reflect about the Latin America society.

07/04/17 The institutional coup in Brazil: its political and economic background

Arlindo Villaschi, UFES / Leiden University

The lecture will address the key features of the political economy of the 2016 institutional coup in Brazil. Focus will be given to the dismantling of main pillars of the country's development agenda. Built during previous governments such as Vargas, JK, Geisel and more recently (2003-2014), these pillars were crucial to support an autonomous and contemporary insertion of the country in the world political and economic agendas.

30/03/17 PROCESOS DE PAZ COMPARADOS: Lecciones de Guatemala para Colombia

El 30 de marzo el CEDLA organiza en colaboración con Peace Brigades International una conferencia sobre los procesos de paz en Guatemala y Colombia. En noviembre del 2016 culminó el proceso de paz con las FARC. El gobierno de Colombia y las FARC firmaron un acuerdo, poniendo así fin a un conflicto de más de medio siglo. Al mismo tiempo, Colombia ha empezado nuevas negociaciones, esta vez con el grupo guerrillero ELN. Mientras que Colombia todavía tiene un largo camino por recorrer, Guatemala cumple 20 años desde la firma de los acuerdos de paz con la URNG. ¿Qué lecciones puede aprender Colombia del proceso de paz en Guatemala? ¿Cuáles son los grandes obstáculos? ¿Y cuál debería ser el rol de la sociedad civil? Estas son algunas de las preguntas que discutiremos durante este evento.

Empezaremos con una pequeña introducción de Prof. Kees Koonings sobre procesos de paz y América Latina en general. Después habrá espacio para discusión y preguntas con Marcos Ramírez de Guatemala y Berenice Celeita Alayon de Colombia. Ambos nos contarán un poco sobre el proceso de paz en su país. Marcos es uno de los líderes del Consejo de la Comunidad Primavera del Ixcán. A través de la Asamblea de la Sociedad Civil, Marcos ha trabajado en propuestas para la mesa de negociaciones entre el estado y la URNG. Marcos también ha participado en la implementación de los acuerdos. Berenice es una defensora de tierras y de derechos humanos. Ella fundó la organización Para la Investigación y Acción Social (NOMADESC). En 1998 ganó el Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Awards. Además, Berenice elaboró propuestas para la mesa de negociaciones con las FARC a través de diferentes plataformas públicas.

17/03/17 Peace as plural: the differential approach in the Colombian peace accords

Sara Koopman, Tampere Peace Research Institute

Peace means and requires different things for different groups of people. The Colombian accords are the first in the world to recognize that those already marginalized because of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and other categories suffered differently during the war, and thus need targeted measures to build peace. Drawing on a history of constitutional court decisions in the country, this is called a differential approach. But this aspect was added to the accords at the last minute, and while Colombia was in the midst of a homophobic backlash against recent LGBT civil rights wins. The approach was attacked as promoting a 'gender ideology', and it played a key role in the popular no vote against the accords. This presentation looks at how and why difference was taken into account into the accords as well as the fight both against and then for keeping this approach, which was changed but kept in the renegotiated accords. It also turns to how this approach is playing out in early implementation of the accords, and argues that full implementation of it will make the accords more likely to succeed in the long term.

24/02/17 Forming Future Citizens: Assessing 'educación ciudadana' in Latin America

Cristián Cox, UDP / Leiden University

Referent: Mieke Lopes Cardozo, GID & UvA

This lecture will examine the relationships between school education and citizenship and democratic development in Latin America. The analysis is based on empirical evidence of a recent study about the values and concepts in the school curricula of Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. It shows that the curricular contents of present schooling in the region is at fault regarding the preparation for democratic politics. This reflects a common pattern of focusing more on interpersonal and interactional dimensions of the 'life with others' (civil dimension), and not sufficiently foregrounding the relationships with the state and politics (civic dimension). The lecture will present and discuss the implications of this situation.