

Annual Overview 2025

CENTRE *for* LATIN AMERICAN
RESEARCH *and* DOCUMENTATION



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Director's Foreword

Prof. Barbara Hogenboom

As a Centre of Expertise on Latin America, at CEDLA we evidently welcome the growing interest in the region. We immediately experienced this at the start of 2025, when we organised a networking event for researchers and professionals working on Latin America in the Netherlands, which was joined by over 80 participants. These included also many young people who had not visited CEDLA before, and some even travelling from abroad. Clearly, our invitation to share experiences and exchange ideas about the new challenges and opportunities of doing research in/on Latin America came at the right time. The challenges are many: from less funding here and less freedom and security in parts of Latin America to profound concerns about how changes in US policies impact the region's development. The latter has also boosted the broader media attention and Dutch and European interest in Latin America – this is understandable and welcome, but also a bit limited. When you read this overview of CEDLA's highlights of 2025, you will see there are numerous interesting social, cultural, environmental, political and economic trends and initiatives happening in Latin America. It remains our mission to study and discuss these different trends, to share research results with wide audiences, and to collaborate with partners in Europe, Latin America and beyond to further Latin American Studies.

Como centro de referencia sobre América Latina, en CEDLA celebramos el creciente interés por la región. Lo comprobamos a principios de 2025, cuando organizamos un encuentro para investigadores y profesionales que trabajan sobre América Latina en los Países Bajos, al que asistieron más de 80 personas. Entre ellas había muchos jóvenes que visitaban CEDLA por primera vez, y algunos incluso viajaron desde el extranjero. Nuestra invitación a compartir experiencias e intercambiar ideas sobre los nuevos retos y oportunidades de investigar en y sobre América Latina llegó, sin duda, en un buen momento. Los retos son muchos: menos financiación en los Países Bajos, menos libertad y seguridad para investigar en algunas zonas de América Latina y una creciente preocupación por el impacto que los cambios en las políticas de Estados Unidos pueden tener en el desarrollo de la región. Estos cambios también han aumentado la atención de los medios y el interés por América Latina en los Países Bajos y en Europa. Es una atención bienvenida, aunque a veces ofrece una visión limitada de la región. Este resumen de los principales hitos de CEDLA en 2025 muestra también numerosas iniciativas y transformaciones sociales, culturales, medioambientales, políticas y económicas. Nuestra misión sigue siendo estudiarlas y debatirlas, compartir los resultados de nuestras investigaciones con un público amplio y colaborar con socios de Europa, América Latina y otras regiones para seguir impulsando los estudios latinoamericanos.

Research

CEDLA research is dynamic and covers a wide range of topics and locations. Most of CEDLA's collaborative and individual research projects fit under one of three overarching themes: Urban and Global Cultures in Latin America; Environmental Governance and Justice in Latin America; and The Commons in Latin America. Various other projects and initiatives are explored beyond these themes. CEDLA research activities are developed through projects, seminars, and publications by its researchers, often in collaboration with PhD and MA students and external partners.

CEDLA is part of the Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES), a research school combining the humanities and social science-based approaches to the study of various world regions. In addition to bringing in regional expertise on Latin America, CEDLA researchers participate in ARTES' five interdisciplinary clusters: Social Justice and Contestation; Power and Governance; Digital Networks, Communications and Technologies; Belonging and Identity; and Sustainability and Disruption. ARTES pertains to the Amsterdam Institute of Humanities Research (AIHR) of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam.



Collaborative Projects

Contesting Urban Borderscapes in Latin America: Investigating governance through b/ordering processes in self-help neighbourhoods (NWO-funded, 2023-2027)

Christien Klaufus (PI), Isabelle Mollinger and external partners

In 2025, Christien and Isabelle organised the project's second international workshop, in Fundación Sifais, La Carpio, San José, Costa Rica, (18 - 20 June). The workshop 'Tejiendo Infraestructuras Sociales y Vitales en La Carpio' was organised in close collaboration with local community leaders and adapted to the specific dynamics and priorities of the neighbourhood. The workshop brought together advisory board members, neighbourhood leaders, photovoice participants in Mollinger's PhD project, invited Costa Rican academics, representatives of the municipal waste company, and residents from different neighbourhood sectors. Among other things, community leaders from Moravia, Medellín, and La Carpio, San José, exchanged shared concerns and points of divergence between the two sites in two different cities. In a mapping exercise, all participants practised the HOT ChatMaps methodology with around 50 local residents, documenting accumulated waste, recycling points and clean-up initiatives. Taken together, the three-day workshop provided a structured platform for collaboration between residents, leaders, and institutional partners, resulting in a collectively produced mapping of environmental concerns and a foundation for ongoing participatory work in La Carpio.



**LINKAGES: Local and Indigenous Knowledge
for an Amazonian Grounded (Bio)Economy
(NWO&FAPESP-funded, 2022-2027)**

Fabio de Castro (PI), Gabriela Russo Lopes, Vincenzo Carbone with Marjo de Theije (VU), and several partners in Brazil

The LINKAGES project analyses how sociobiodiversity value chains led by local producers can support inclusive and sustainable bioeconomies in the Brazilian Amazon. Grounded in local knowledge and cooperation, these value chains provide income and employment for vast rural and urban populations while promoting alternative ways of relating to nature. Yet, they suffer from multiple challenges, such as limited value-aggregation and market access. Through a critical analytical lens, the project aims at strengthening existing place-based pathways of regional transformation toward sustainability. In June, the LINKAGES project held the virtual academic seminar 'Work in Progress' where all young scholars of the project (MA, PhD, and postdocs) presented their research and received feedback from project colleagues. In August, the project organised a meeting in Santarém, Brazil, where local partners gathered to discuss project progress and to operationalise the external board's recommendations. As a result, the project's Impact Plan was adjusted around four transversal themes related to the sociobiodiversity economy, selected by local actors: product valorisation, market access, role of the youth, and scaling up production. Several activities will be organised around these four themes, with local partners participating according to their demands, interests, and priorities.



Riverhood: Living rivers and new water justice movements: From dominating waterscapes to the Rights of Nature (ERC-funded) and River Commons: Co-governance of rivers through transdisciplinary co-creation of knowledge (INREF-Wageningen University & CEDLA-funded) (2021-2027)

Rutgerd Boelens (PI), Fábio de Castro, Bibiana Duarte Abadía, Barbara Hogenboom, Julienne Weegels and numerous WU and external partners

Riverhood and River Commons are entwined intercontinental research projects that focus on enlivening rivers, river co-governance initiatives, and new water justice movements. Riverhood aims to build groundbreaking transdisciplinary concepts and methodological tools to analyse and support new water justice movements' institutions, strategies and practices for equitable and sustainable water governance. It does so by comparing initiatives in Latin America (Ecuador and Colombia) and Europe (Netherlands and Spain). River Commons are networked socio-ecological systems that integrate the social (human) and natural (ecological, biophysical) communities to practice river stewardship. In both the Global South and North, a large variety of civil organisations and 'new water justice movements' have emerged that engage in co-governance of river commons. The River Commons research and action programme is about learning from and with these initiatives and communities. Shared PhD supervision among CEDLA and WUR is central to both the Riverhood and River Commons projects.

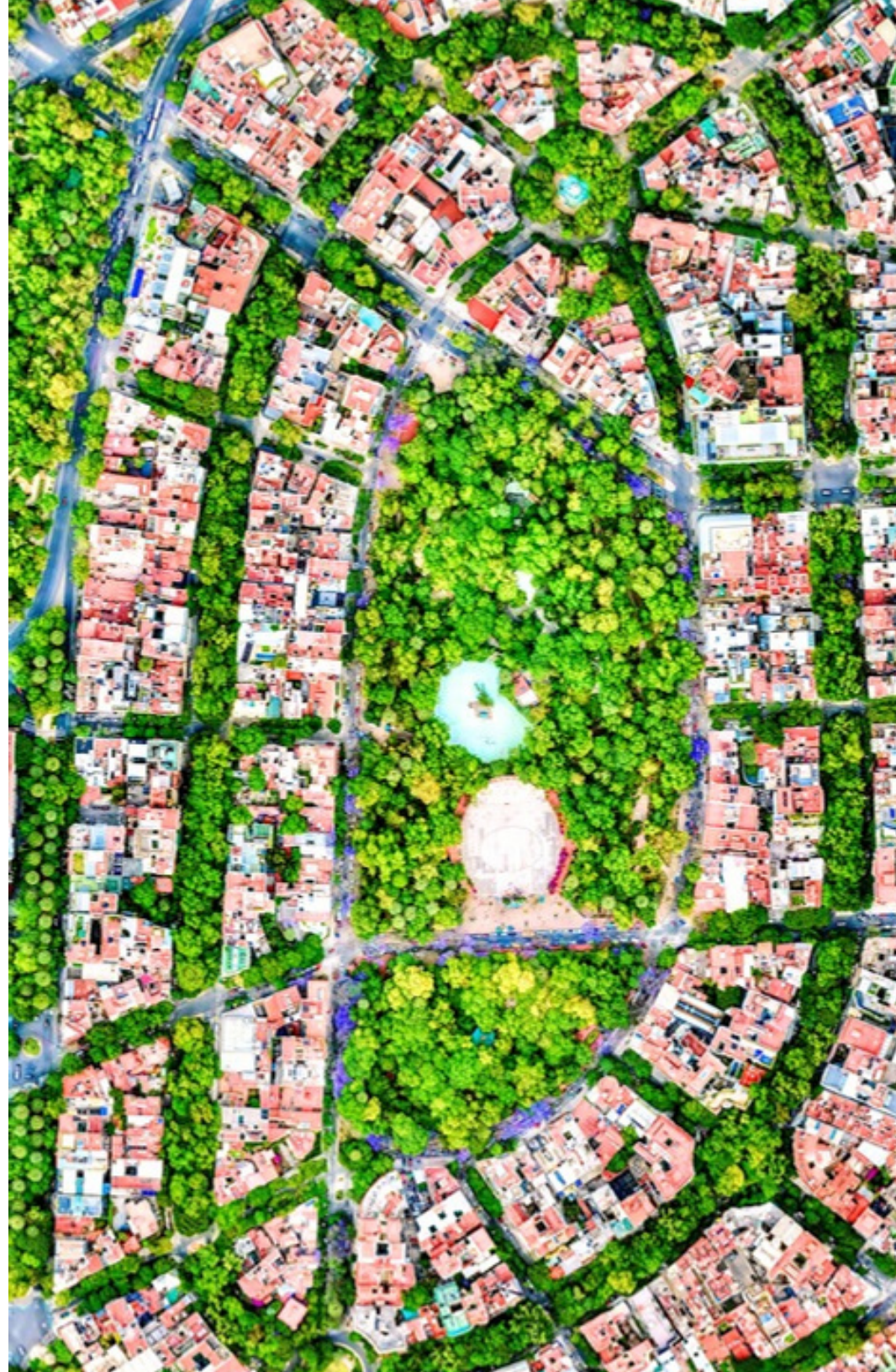


Next, many CEDLA grassroots, research and policy partners in Europe and Latin America join. In the 2025 workshops, representatives from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia have gathered to work on commons and commoning strategies in different seminars. In all participating countries riverine workshops have been organised, called 'River Co-Learning Arenas' (see two CEDLA–WUR publications on this novel methodology), many deploying methods of 'counter-mapping' (three CEDLA-WUR publications).

The Inequality Machine: Criminal Justice, Discrimination and Systemic Change in Amsterdam (2024–2026)

Julienne Weegels (PI) with Arnt Mein (HvA), Ivy Defoe (UvA), Luisa Schneider (VU), Municipality of Amsterdam, Young Perspectives, Mi na mi and Lleca Teatro

This three-year research programme, funded by the Amsterdam Knowledge Centre on Inequality (*Kenniscentrum Ongelijkheid*), is led by Dr Julienne Weegels (UvA) and Dr Arnt Mein (HvA). It combines research on inequalities in the criminal justice system, experiences of justice and (in)security in Amsterdam, and access to legal aid. Although focused on Amsterdam, Julienne's work draws on Southern criminology and participatory action research. In 2025, research with young adults involved in the justice system resulted in *The Inequality Machine*, a community theatre play co-created with Young Perspectives and Lleca Teatro. It was performed four times, including at the Partners for Youth congress. Julienne also presented a draft paper on the project at the Anthropology of Confinement Network meeting.



Staff Research Highlights

Michiel Baud

Michiel published the results of his research on railroad construction and regional development in the Dominican Republic in the book *Historia de un Sueño. Los Ferrocarriles públicos en la República Dominicana, 1880–1930* (Santo Domingo: Editorial Universitario Bonó, 2025). The book was presented at the Feria del Libro in Santo Domingo on 30 September 2025. In addition, with Kees Koonings he took up the research project ‘Tobacco and regional social transformation Bahia, 1870-1930’ (see Kees Koonings).

Dana Brablec

In early 2025, Dana extended her ongoing research with Mapuche civil society organisations in Chile, deepening her engagement with the topic of intercultural health. This work involved visits to dozens of healthcare centres of varying sizes across the Metropolitan, Biobío, and Araucanía regions, where she conducted conversations with medical practitioners, administrators, and users of the healthcare system. At the same time, Dana initiated the first social scientific research in decades conducted in collaboration with Roma communities in Chile, aimed at understanding the internal dynamics, transformations, and contemporary challenges of this small yet significant community. The result of this ongoing work has been published by the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City*. In late 2025, supported by a grant from the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES-UvA), Dana conducted fieldwork with Roma and Gypsy communities in England. This research forms part of an ongoing collaborative project with colleagues in the



United Kingdom examining the role and transformation of civil society organisations in the post-Brexit context. In addition, she was selected to serve on the editorial board of *The Sociological Review*.

Fabio de Castro

In addition to his long-term Linkages project, in 2025 Fabio was involved in two interdisciplinary UvA Seed Grants. The seed grants enabled him to strengthen collaboration with colleagues from other UvA faculties, including Law and Natural Sciences. For the Rights of Nature project, Fabio conducted two fieldwork trips to Spain (June and November) with colleagues to analyse the first case in Europe in which Nature is recognised as a legal subject: the Mar Menor. In addition, he helped the team to organise a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue in Amsterdam in September where more than eighty water body defenders discussed their challenges and strategies to protect nature. For the Beyond the Canopy project, Fabio joined the research team in Brazil in August to carry out a spatial analysis of land use–land cover change in the Transamazon region, where cocoa production in agroforestry and monoculture systems is expanding. He also visited the various research sites of the project in the region. Fabio returned to Belém in November to attend the international climate summit COP30, where he participated in several events and took part in two roundtables.

Bibiana Duarte Abadía

In October 2025, Bibiana joined CEDLA as part-time postdoc in order to further strengthen the bridges between the Riverhood and River Commons projects and CEDLA. Bibiana co-organised the international seminar Rivers – Arenas of Knowledge Politics and Territory Making on 17 December and worked on the development of the River Commons MOOC, expanding access to project knowledge through an open online learning platform.



Christien Klaufus

For Christien, 2025 was a productive year as her book *Life and Death in Latin American Cities* was published with Bristol University Press as part of the Death and Culture series, while the NWO-funded project Contesting Urban Borderscapes went on full speed. To increase the project's public visibility, Christien gave the lecture 'Navigating borders and boundaries: migrant perspectives on settling in and moving on' as part of CEDLA's Friday lecture series on March 7. And to showcase her new book, she presented the paper 'The Double-Faced Nature of Digital Solidarity in Situations of Remote Death: Ecuadorian stories of repatriation and loss' at the international Death, Dying and Disposal (DDD)-17 conference in Utrecht on 28 August. Christien also became an editorial board member of Routledge's new book series Accommodating the Dead. In the Netherlands, her work in death studies translated into an editorial board membership of the book project Mors Neerlandica and a meeting with death practitioners and death study scholars during a seminar by the Dutch Funerary Academy on October 29.

Kees Koonings

Kees and Michiel Baud took up their research project 'Tobacco and regional social transformation Bahía, 1870-1930'. They elaborated their previously collected research material and did new research in Bahia, Brazil. They jointly started to write up their results for a book that will be submitted to the EDUFBA, the publishing house of the Federal University of Bahia, in 2026.

Gabriela Russo Lopes

In addition to the LINKAGES project, Gabriela was involved in two interdisciplinary seed grants (see also Fabio de Castro): 'Beyond the Canopy: Spatial Analysis of the Anthropogenic Forest and Social-Ecological Function Nexus in the Amazon', and 'Rights of Nature: Through the Looking Glass Level'. In August, during the LINKAGES mid-term meeting in Santarém, Brazil, Gabriela led discussions on costs and fair pricing in sociobiodiversity value chains in the Amazon. She also coordinated the subsequent fieldwork of the Beyond the Canopy project in the municipalities of Altamira, Brasil Novo, and Medicilândia. The interdisciplinary UvA team (CEDLA and FNWI) with the Federal University of Pará (UFPA) and the Cacauey Cooperative examined diverse cacao production systems—from monoculture to agroforestry and forest-based extractivism—to better understand their social, ecological and economic dynamics.

Julienne Weegels

Julienne's research activities continue to focus primarily on carceral expansion and contestations in Central America (particularly Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica) and the Netherlands (specifically Amsterdam). In Central America, she combines this focus on expansive surveillance infrastructures and lawfare with a focus on authoritarianism and its contestation. In May 2025, with the help of a FGw-UvA faculty's Aspasia grant, she undertook a week-long writing retreat, in conjunction with the panel she was organising for the Latin American Studies Association conference in San Francisco.

PhD Research

Vincenzo Carbone

Doing Well Out of Capitalism: Exploring the Role of Agroforestry-based Value Chains in the Autonomy and Emancipation of Rural Communities in the Brazilian Amazon
(supervisors: F. de Castro & B. Hogenboom)

Lorena del Castillo

Patchwork Gentrification: Fragmented Urban Governance, Residents' Experiences and Resistance in Lima
(supervisors: B. Hogenboom & C. Klaufus)

Luisa González Valencia

Colombian Popular Cinemas
(supervisors: A. Ouweneel & J. Weegels)

Barbara Haenen

Conflicting and Coinciding Borders: The Orders of Saint Augustine and Friars Minor Capuchin in the Border Regions between Colombia and Perú, 1870-1932
(supervisors: J.M. Baud & B. Hogenboom)

Lieke Prins

Women to the Front: Gendered Street Art Geographies in Medellín, Colombia
(supervisors: A. Ouweneel & C. Klaufus)

Geraldine Lamadrid Guerrero

Hacia una Subjetividad de Alivio
Temporal Autónoma: La Performance Teatral y la Violencia Política desde una Mirada Latinoamericana
(supervisors: R. Fernández Rodríguez, B. Hogenboom & J. Weegels)

Antonia McGrath

An Ethnography of Structural Violence and Civil Society Organization in Honduras
(supervisors: B. Hogenboom & J. Weegels)

Isa Mollinger

Migration, b/ordering and social fabric in auto-constructed neighbourhoods in Latin America
(supervisors: B. Hogenboom & C. Klaufus)

Mirko van Pampus

(Un)Making Extractive Conflict in the Energy Transition: De-politicising and Re-politicising Lithium Mining in Chile
(supervisors: R. Boelens, F. de Castro & B. Hogenboom)

Johann Sebastian Reyes Bejarano

Defining the Course of Rivers Amid Crisis and Conflict: Agrarian Movements, Water Justice and the Commons in the Sumapaz River Basin, Colombia
(supervisors: R. Boelens, F. de Castro & B. Hogenboom)

Raquel Salinas Peixoto

Navigating the legal and imagined spaces that contour the care of unaccompanied child migrants in Central America and the Mediterranean
(supervisors: K. Koonings with B. Kalir)

Marieke van der Sanden

Equal Opportunities in Education: A Study of Socio-Cultural Diversity in Dutch and Brazilian Waldorf Education
(supervisors: B. Hogenboom, K. Koonings with E. Baars & K. Koppel)

Laura Ximena Triana Gallego

From Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta to Bogotá: Cultural agency and political achievements from indigenous communities in visual narratives
(supervisors: F. de Castro & A. Ouweneel)

In 2025, CEDLA's PhD candidate **Hannah Porada** defended her dissertation, *Bridging struggles against extractivism: From place-based resistance movements toward translocal environmental justice endeavors in the Netherlands and Guatemala*, at the UvA's Agnietenkapel (27 November). Her doctoral research addresses two cases of extractive appropriation of resources as part of a global trend that continues to reshape territories, driving environmental destruction, social injustices, and political turmoil. Struggles for social and environmental justice arise at extraction sites, contesting the burdens of resource exploitation, corporate irresponsibility, and power abuse. Through case studies of gas extraction in Groningen, the Netherlands, and building material mining in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, her dissertation examines the territorial transformations and power struggles at extraction sites. It further explores how place-based resistance movements can engage in translocal learning and solidarity bridges - connecting territories and grassroots organisations - to confront shared injustices and articulate broader demands for justice. The dissertation exposes intertwined modes of power and contestation at play at extraction sites, producing complex de- and repoliticization dynamics. The dissertation also shows that translocal bridge building can counter feelings of powerlessness and create transformative opportunities for grassroots actors. Hannah's supervision team consisted of R. Boelens, B. Hogenboom with J.M.C. Vos (Wageningen University) and A.K. Gerlak (University of Arizona).



Key Academic Publications

Below is a small selection of the various articles, chapters and books published by CEDLA researchers in 2025. A full overview of the researchers' publications can be found on their online personal pages.

Baud, J.M. (2025) *Historia de un Sueño. Los Ferrocarriles públicos en la República Dominicana, 1880–1930*. Santo Domingo: Editorial Universitaria Bonó.

Boelens, R., Duarte-Abadía, B., Arbeláez-Trujillo, A.M., Forigua-Sandoval, J., Giraldo-Martínez, L., **Reyes-Bejarano, S.,** Tubino de Souza, D., Silva-Orozco, S., Zavala-Taday, S. and Klarenbeek, M. (2025) 'Travelling rivers, mapping movements: Counter-mapping and translocal river defense networks', *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, pp. 1–33.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2025.2562592>

Boelens, R., Hommes, L., Hoogesteger, J., Swyngedouw, E., Vos, J. and Wester, P. (2025) 'Hydrosocial Territories: imaginaries, materialities, and struggles over knowledge, order and meaning', *Water International*, 50(5), pp. 426–462. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02508060.2025.2528261>

Brablec, D. (2025) 'Urban Indigenous territoriality and the politics of climate urbanism in Latin America', *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 120, pp. 75–86. <https://doi.org/10.32992/erlacs.11459>

Brablec, D. (2025) 'Indigenous urbanisation and the decolonial possibilities of internal diasporas', *The Sociological Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261251366885>

Castro, F., de Theije, M., Jain, A. and Adger, W. N. (2025) 'Transformations to sustainability: Processes, practices, and pathways', *Global Environmental Change*, 92, 103007. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2025.103007>

Giraldo-Martínez, L., **Boelens, R.** and **Duarte-Abadía, B.** (2025) 'River mapping and the politics of eco-scalar fixes: Reconnecting upstream–downstream networks through critical cartographies of Colombia's Bogotá River', *Geoforum*, 165, 104379. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2025.104379>

Klaufus, C.J. (2025) *Life and Death in Latin American Cities: The Necropolis at Stake*. Death and Culture Series. Bristol: Bristol University Press.

Koonings, K. (2025) 'Urban crime in the Global South: the experience of Latin America', in *Handbook on Cities and Crime*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 222–241.

Koonings, K. and Kruijt, D. (2025). Coups and Self-Coups in the Americas. In *Latin American Perspectives on Civil-Military Relations today: History, Panorama, Analysis, Causes, Consequences, Future* (pp. 243-273). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Tubino de Souza, D., Hommes, L., Wals, A., Hoogesteger, J., **Boelens, R., Duarte-Abadía, B.**, Hidalgo-Bastidas, J. P., Huijbens, E., Harris, L. M., Suhardiman, D., Melsen, L., Buijse, T., **de Castro, F.**, Cremers, L., **Hogenboom, B.**, Garcia Vargas, M., Roca-Servat, D., Veldwisch, G. J. and Joy, K. J. (2025) 'River co-learning arenas: Principles and practices for transdisciplinary knowledge co-creation and multi-scalar (inter)action', *Local Environment*, 30(1), pp. 58–80. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2024.2428215>

Weegels, J. (2025) 'Between state theatres and prisoner performances of change: Nicaragua's contested moral politics of incarceration', *Incarceration*, 6, 19 p. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26326663251353927>

Weegels, J. (2025) 'Toca aguantarla': Reeducción, masculinidades y moralidades institucionales en las cárceles nicaragüenses', *Revista de Antropología Social*, 34(2), pp. 181–196. <https://doi.org/10.5209/raso.100545>



Activities, Services and Exposure

CEDLA Activities and Collaborations

Each year CEDLA organises numerous public activities on a wide range of Latin American Studies topics. They attract an ever-changing audience of researchers, students, professionals and others interested in the region. In addition to the monthly Latin American Lectures Series, we host seminars, exhibitions, workshops, dialogue sessions and more. Some of these are organised in collaboration with other departments or organisations. Most activities take place in VOX-POP, the 'creative space' of the University of Amsterdam's Faculty of Humanities, right across the street from CEDLA.

CEDLA Event 17 January

Large networking event for researchers and professionals working on Latin America in the Netherlands

'Understanding Latin America: New Challenges and Opportunities', including interactive brainstorm sessions (world café style) and a plenary roundtable on The Challenges of Doing Research in/on Latin America Today, with Carlos Dada (journalist at *El Faro*), Nanneke Winters (ISS-EUR), Soledad Valdivia (Leiden University), Fabio de Castro (CEDLA-UvA) and moderated by journalist Edwin Koopman (VPRO, *Trouw*).

CEDLA Lecture 14 February

Global History, Latin American Anarchists, and Imperialist Threats in the Post-Great War World – Kirwin Shaffer, NIAS Fellow and Pennsylvania State University



Film festival February - March

CEDLA contributed to three screenings of the '**Transatlántidas: La Tercera Raíz Africana**' film festival on the African heritage and cultural histories of the Caribbean and Latin America, organised by the Instituto Cervantes in the OBA library, with introductions by CEDLA's Diego Galdo González, Luisa González Valencia and Kees Koonings.

CEDLA Lecture 7 March

Navigating Borders and Boundaries: Migrant Perspectives on Settling in and Moving on – Christien Klaufus, CEDLA-UvA

CEDLA Lecture 11 April

From Coke to Cops: Colombia's Journey from Internal Conflict to Regional Security Exporter – Markus-Michael Müller, Roskilde University & Markus Hochmüller, Freie Universität Berlin & University of Oxford

Lecture 24 April

Lecture by Simon Lobach, Geneva Graduate Institute, hosted by the University of Amsterdam's research group **Environment & Society**, in partnership with CEDLA.

CEDLA Seminar 28 April

State Violence as the Blindspot of Transitional Justice: Critical Insights from Situated Research in Colombia and Perú – Diana Gómez Correal, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill & Goya Wilson Vásquez, University of Bristol



Lecture 8 May

El Archivo Bello: Género, Clase e Historia Queer del Salón de Belleza – Diego Galdo-González, CEDLA-UvA

CEDLA Lecture 13 June

Reimagining value from Bolivia's popular markets: Economic diversity in El Alto – Kate Maclean, University College London

Research Event 13 June

CEDLA hosted the event '**Rivers and Communities**' at Casa Migrante in Amsterdam as part of the Riverhood & River Commons MSc Exchange programme. It brought together students, researchers, NGOs and community members.

CEDLA & OLA Workshop 17 June

Ethnographic writing workshop organised by OLA (PhD Forum on Latin America) & Julienne Weegels, CEDLA-UvA

Workshop & Exhibition 18 June

'Tejiendo Infraestructuras Sociales y Vitales en La Carpio, San José' participatory workshop with exhibition of the NWO-funded project Contesting Urban Borderscapes in Latin America, organised by Christien Klaufus and Isabelle Mollinger, CEDLA-UvA

CEDLA Lecture 17 October

Culturally contesting 'bad taste': How Perú's Chicha culture subverts Western aesthetic norms – Adriana Churampi Ramirez, Leiden University

CEDLA Exhibition & Workshop October – December

'Resisting the Tide. Blue Justice and collective actions in fishing communities of Latin America and the Caribbean' exhibition organised by Catalina García, UvA, with a workshop with members of the curatorial and research team and a guided tour (23 October) in collaboration with the OLA PhD Forum on Latin America.

CEDLA Lecture 14 November

From massacre to miracle: Romani presence and the making of a pilgrimage site in Piaui, Brazil – Martin Fotta, Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences

CEDLA & GPIO Webinar 20 November

Conversations on Ocean Justice – Catalina García, UvA & CEDLA; Joeri Scholtens, UvA; Antonia McGrath, CEDLA; João Fernandez Pereira, UvA.

Dialogues with Civil Society 28 November

'River Defenders in Abya Yala' – Jessica Grefa, Kichwa leader; Carlos Giraldo, Somos Del Río; David Fajardo, Cabildo por el Agua de Cuenca

CEDLA Lecture 12 December

Researching displacement together: co-producing knowledge with displaced women in Colombia – Sonja Marzi, Radboud University and The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies / Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe* (ERLACS) is a Diamond Open Access scientific journal published by CEDLA since 1965. ERLACS features peer-reviewed articles, explorations, and book and film reviews in English and Spanish. The journal's global reach and online visibility are high and robust.

The year of 2025 marked a significant **milestone: the 60th anniversary of ERLACS**. To celebrate six decades of advancing research and fostering critical debate, we published a timely special issue titled 'Understanding Latin America and the Caribbean: Current and Upcoming Developments' (No. 120, July-December 2025). It presents nine thought-provoking explorations on transformations in the region, such as populism, indigenous territorial claims, urbanism, and Caribbean ecologies, written by an international group of experts (Bert Hoffmann, Dana Brablec, Víctor Bretón Solo de Zaldívar, Benedicte Bull, Rossana Castiglioni, Javier Corrales, Olivia Gomes da Cunha, Guzmán Ibarra González, Wigbertson Julian Isenia, Rivke Jaffe, Alana Osbourne, Rachel H. Sieder, Soledad Valdivia Rivera), and closes with an afterword by CEDLA's Barbara Hogenboom (managing editor) and Rebeca Fernández Rodríguez (desk editor).



Public and Academic Exposure of CEDLA Staff

To illustrate the interest in the research and knowledge of CEDLA team members and the different audiences that they reach, below we present a small selection of the various academic and public presentations and initiatives and media contributions in 2025.

Rutgerd Boelens

- Keynote presentation at Ribereños y Ríos en Movimiento conference, COLSAN University, San Luis Potosí, México, 3 March
- Keynote presentation at Rivers, Territories, and Movements conference, Latin American Research Centre, University of Exeter, 17 November

Fabio de Castro

- Interview with Climate Change TV during COP30 in Belém, November

Barbara Hogenboom

- Interview on how Trump's drug policy disrupted the EU-Latin America summit, VRT-Radio 1, 11 November
- Interview and answering listeners' questions concerning the consequences of the US military buildup near Venezuela, Radio 1, 21 November



Christien Klaufus

- Invited speaker at the public event 'Antwerpse Dag van de Filosofie' [Antwerp's Day of Philosophy], 6 April

Kees Koonings

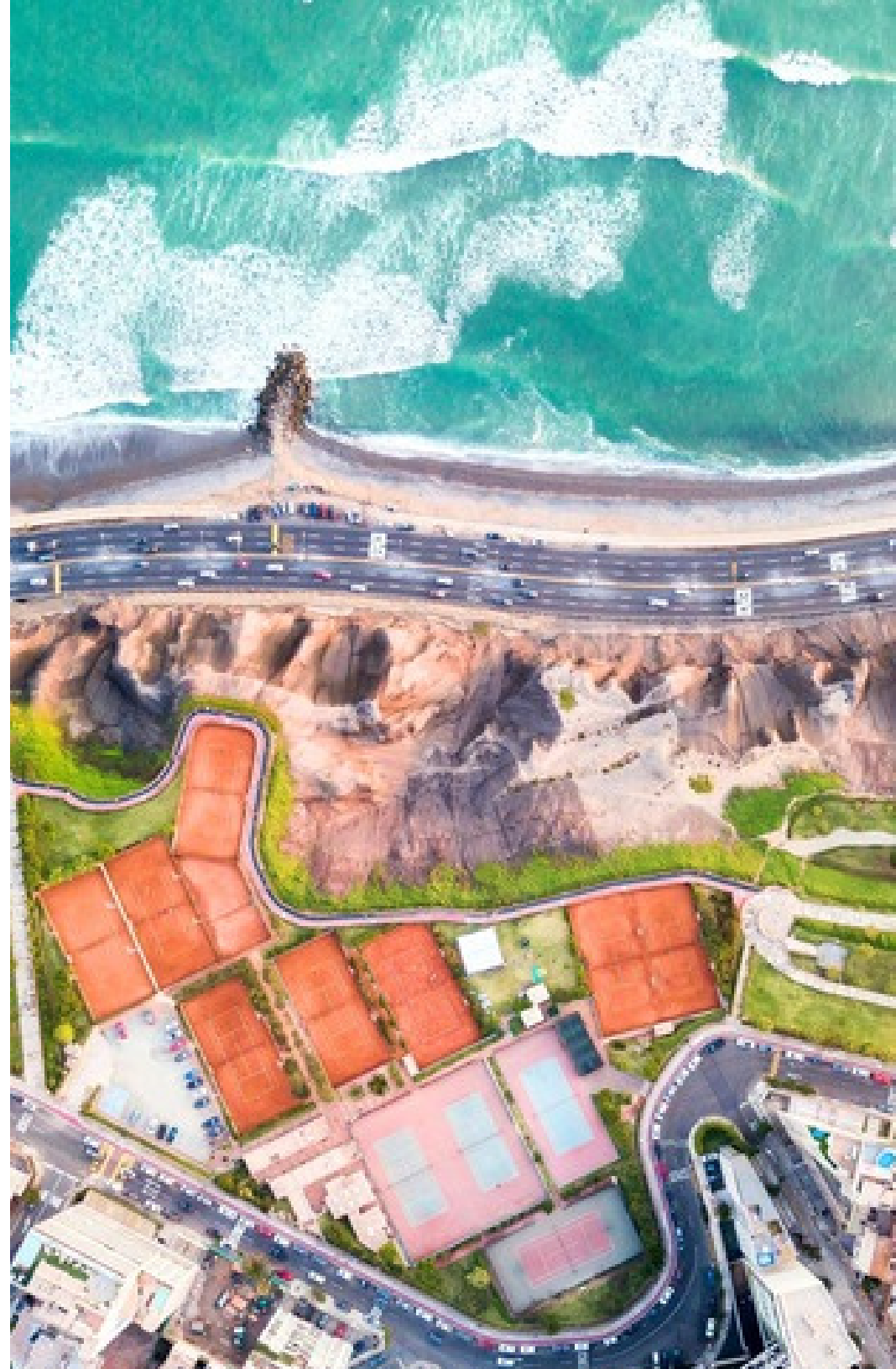
- Interview regarding the conviction of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, Radio 1, 14 November.
- Invited speaker in roundtable on Upcoming Elections in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Perú: A New Turn to the Right? Leiden University, 27 November

Gabriela Russo Lopes

- Invited speaker in the Experts' Group on Carbon Markets of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, November
- Invited speaker at Federal University of Pará (UFPA, Brazil), 'Sociobiodiversidade na Amazônia Brasileira: Caminhos alternativos para o desenvolvimento sustentável', 28 August.

Julienne Weegels

- Invited speaker at two workshops for Latin American junior and senior diplomats on authoritarianism and regional security, Clingendael Institute (The Hague)
- Expert statements for Central American asylum seekers who are appealing negative migration service decisions in the Netherlands and the United States.



A New Home for the CEDLA Book Collection

In September 2025, the CEDLA book collection was relocated to the new University Library of the University of Amsterdam. The collection is now housed in a bright and modern reading space (room A3.02) designed to support study, research and collaboration, offering an excellent new setting for users of the collection. The CEDLA Collection provides a wide range of resources on Latin America, covering the social sciences, economics, human geography, history and culture, including both books and journals. Recent acquisitions in Latin American Studies continue to expand and strengthen these holdings.

Social Media

CEDLA is active on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#), giving us different ways to share our work with a wider audience. Facebook remains our largest channel, with around 12,000 followers, followed by LinkedIn with 5,000 and Instagram with more than 2,300. Our YouTube channel, CEDLAFilms, also offers a growing collection of lectures and other events. Together, these channels help us spread the word about upcoming events, new research, publications and other CEDLA activities, while keeping in touch with our academic community and everyone interested in Latin America.



Teaching and Training

Minors: Global Justice & Latin American Studies

In the academic year 2024–2025, CEDLA continued to offer its two minor programmes, Global Justice and Latin American Studies. The Minor Global Justice continued to grow in popularity, attracting significantly more interested students than could be admitted, which underlines the relevance of its multi-disciplinary approach to themes such as sustainability, intersectionality, decoloniality and innovative justice practices in different regions of the world. The longstanding Minor Latin American Studies again addressed the region's societal, cultural and political dynamics, offering students a solid foundation for understanding the region. As in previous years, both minors were taught from a combination of Humanities and Social Sciences perspectives, drawing on cultural anthropology, human geography, political science and history, among others.

Next to our own Minor and Master's programmes, we continued the teaching in other programmes at the University of Amsterdam. CEDLA staff was active in the Bachelor programme Global Arts, Culture and Politics, teaching several courses and supervising a group of students during the writing of their BA thesis. CEDLA staff was also, once again, involved in teaching several courses at the Liberal Arts and Sciences programme of the Amsterdam University College (AUC).

Master's programme of Latin American Studies

Supervised by CEDLA staff, students in the 2024–2025 Master's in Latin American Studies conducted interesting and timely fieldwork-based research on themes such as gender-based violence, education, migration and other pressing issues in the region.

Prof. R. Boelens

- Emilia Guzmán Ramos - Power, Scarcity and Governance: Petorca's Water Crisis

Dr. D. Brablec

- María Alejandra Díaz Calixto - Sketching ideas for peace; Cátedra De La Paz and Interculturality in urban Colombia
- Barnabás Rózsa - Commodification of authenticity: Changing ayahuasca practices in Iquitos, Perú

Dr. F. de Castro

- Sietske Groen - Connecting in Times of Trade Disputes: The Mexican Maize Movement and its Transnational Network
- Samantha Moon Julca - The Evolution of Colonial Forest Conceptualisation into Peru's Forest Governmentality
- Karla Ulloa Ortiz - Baborigame and Rancherías: Ódami Women Reconfiguring Indigenous Knowledge in Changing Worlds

Dr. C. Klaufus

- Mariana Contreras Hernández - Narratives of Latin American Women Who Migrated for Love: A Decolonial Approach to Cultural Scripts on Intimate Migration in the Netherlands
- Nastya Cuellar Sánchez - Entre el Mercado y la Ciudad Global: Transformaciones socioespaciales de la Plaza de Mercado de la Perseverancia en Bogotá
- Joosje Thoma - Viapolitics of Camionetas in Guatemala: A mobile ethnography of extra-urban buses on the Xela - Reu trajectory

Prof. K. Koonings

- Jheny Diniz Silva - The Role of Community Centers in Educational Empowerment and Future Expectations of Young Adults in São Paulo's Peripheral Communities: An In-Depth Analysis of the Centro de Formação Carlos Kopcak and Its Contribution to Student Development in Diadema

Dr. Nicolás Rodríguez Idarraga

- Laura Bosch Díaz - 'Parece que no estamos aquí': Challenging the discourse of mestizaje, Visibilising Indigenous and Afro-descendant ways of seeing through urban art in Oaxaca

- Maya Cuvi González - Building Local Private Security Networks: Legitimizing the Privatization of Security Through Securitization and Digitalization in an Upper-Class neighbourhood of Quito since 2020
- Milan Francis - 'Volveré y seré millones!': The 'double memory' of the struggle for indigenous liberation and decolonization in Cusco's contemporary peasant federations
- Valeria Lozano Torres - Performative Mano Dura: The Visual Theater backing El Salvador's Mano Dura Model

Dr. J. Weegels

- Beatriz Ferraz Perfeito Damasceno - Repicturing Motherhood: Exploring Politics, Community, Emotions and Relational Repair Among Mothers of LGBTQ+ Children in Brazil
- Diego García Rabines - Touching Intimacy, Trato de Pareja and the Affective Lives of Lima's Gay Nightlife
- Laura Müller - A Counter-Culture of Care: How CremV Challenges the Gendered Brazilian State - The Perspectives of Social Workers on Policies against Gender-based Violence
- Elisa Virginia - 'Entre Payèt' Exploration of Black Women's Navigation (and Negotiation) of Gender Performances During 'Karnaval' in Curaçao.

On Friday 26 September, we celebrated the **graduation of the 2024–2025 MA Latin American Studies cohort** in the historic Surgical Theatre at the newly opened University Library. Once used for medical operations, the venue hosted its very first graduation ceremony, chaired by our new MLAS coordinator, Dr Julianne Weegels. We are proud to recognise the achievements of our graduates, whose research explored a wide range of

topics — from Indigenous and Afro-descendant perspectives in Oaxacan urban art to the privatisation of security in Quito, Lima's gay nightlife, Chile's water crisis in Petorca, forest governmentality in Perú, and Brazilian social workers' approaches to gender-based violence policies. We wish them every success in their future careers and research paths.



Capacity Building for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

With this programme for its Latin American and Caribbean Office, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Academy of International Relations aim to enhance the knowledge and analysis of the region among its staff members. Since 2016, CEDLA has offered a comprehensive tailor-made capacity-building programme in which academic knowledge on the LAC region is shared and discussed in onsite study days and online thematic lectures and seminars. The programme is executed in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV-KNAW), which organises the yearly Knowledge Day on the Caribbean.

The Knowledge Day on Current Developments in Latin America that CEDLA organised on 3 July 2025 addressed recent trends in authoritarianism (Prof. K. Koonings, CEDLA & UU), drugs and the state (Dr. Thomas Grisaffi, University of St. Gallen), human rights and migration (Dr. J. Weegels, CEDLA) and climate politics, trade and environment (Dr. F. de Castro, CEDLA). CEDLA also organised two online lectures. These online sessions offer participants based in different departments in the Netherlands as well as in various embassies in Latin America and the Caribbean a space to learn and to jointly discuss policy implications. On 15 April, Prof. Margaret Myers (Johns Hopkins University) offered a lecture on 'China-LAC-US Relations: New Trends and Implications for Europe'. On 25 November, Bram Ebus (Amazon Underworld) gave a presentation on 'Security in LAC: Criminal Networks, Financial Flows and Spillovers to Society'.



Affiliated Organisations and Scholarships

Slicher van Bath – de Jong Scholarships

The Slicher van Bath – de Jong Programme promotes the study and research of Latin American history from 1500 to 1940, by providing financial support for the historical research of young scientists. It grants financial support (max. €10,000) for research by European and Latin American historians. The Scientific Board consists of Prof. J.M. Baud (Chair; CEDLA, University of Amsterdam), Dr. N.P.A. Vallen (Radboud University) and Dr. S. Valdivia Rivera (Leiden University). In 2025, nine young scholars were awarded a scholarship for their innovative research projects on a wide range of topics:

Elena Barattini

Beyond the Junta: Legal Mobilities and Black Women's Claims to Justice in Post-Emancipation Cuba

Selvin Johany Jerónimo Chiquín Enríquez

¿Del caos al orden? Los primeros años del gobierno de la Real Audiencia en la configuración de Nueva España, 1528-1535

Ana María Garzón Mantilla

Modernismo Andino: Unflattening the Histories of Latin American Art

Juan Vicente Iborra Mallent

Colonization, Afro-descendants, and Border Disputes in the Gulf of Honduras (1821–1854)

Lars Janssen

International Lawmaking in an Imperial Age:
The Emergence of the Latin American Mixed Claims Commission (1828-1864)

María Fernanda Pérez Ochoa

Constelaciones del indigenismo: la participación indígena en el debate intelectual y político del indigenismo continental (1920-1940)

Emma Post

A league of their own Women diplomats in the League of Nations' fight against sex trafficking (1921-1945)

Diego Schibelinski

Sailing a Hidden Atlantic: Slave Ship Crews during the Age of Abolition (1810–1850)

Dyann Sotez Gómez

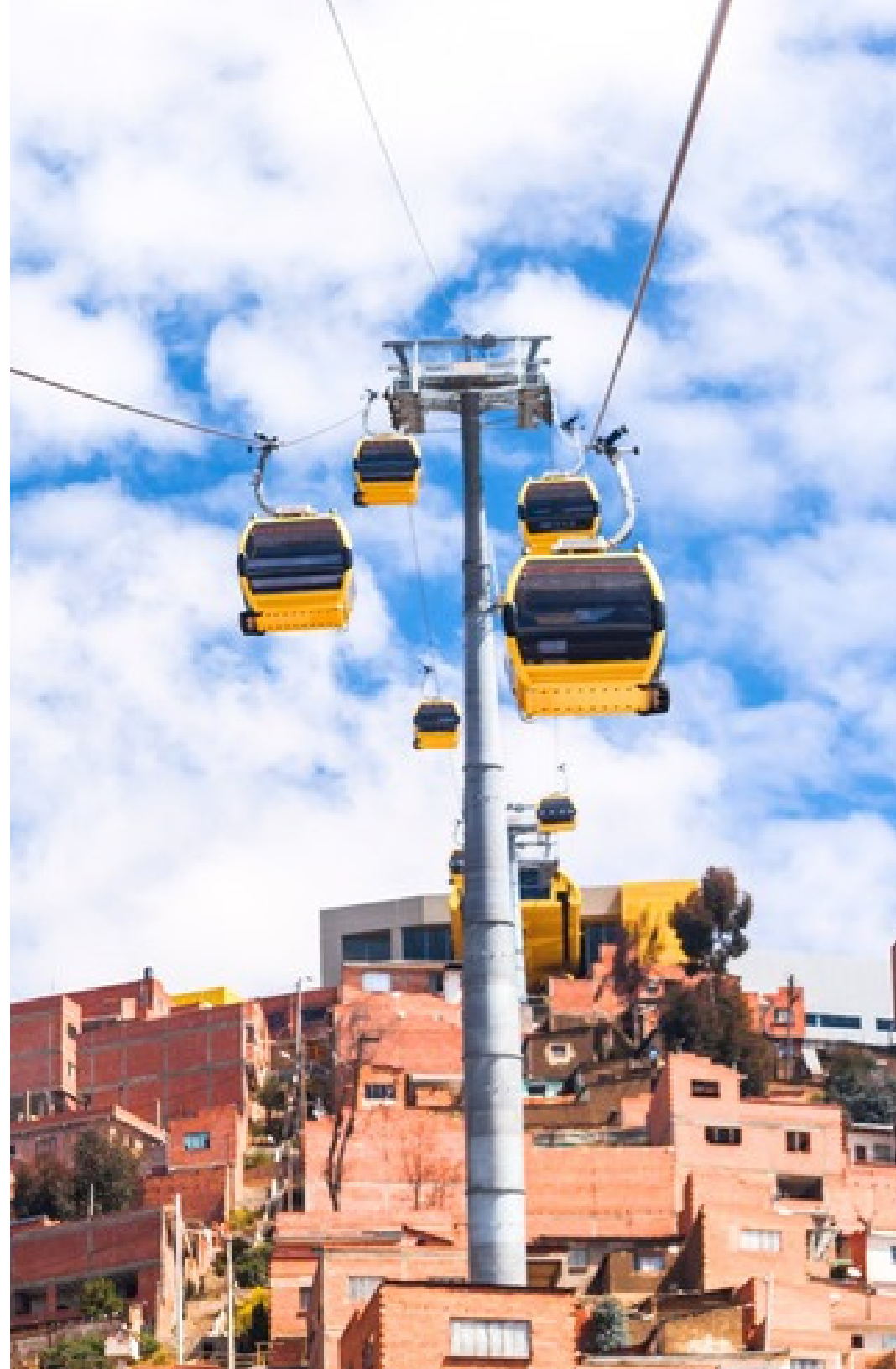
La violencia sexual en la historia latinoamericana.
Seducción, estupro y violación a mujeres menores de edad en Cochabamba-Bolivia en los años 1867 a 1940

OLA: The Dutch PhD Forum on Latin America

OLA is a network of PhD candidates researching Latin America and the Caribbean in Dutch universities. Together they create a series of academic activities, such as a monthly feedback session and annual seminars or forums. OLA provides peer-to-peer support for researchers, while also seeking to build a community among young scholars. This year OLA had as chairs João Fernandez Pereira (UvA) and Antonia McGrath (CEDLA). The 2025 sessions were a mix of in-person and hybrid, given both chairs' extended fieldwork periods, which have also facilitated the inclusion of PhD candidates away on fieldwork or living outside the Netherlands.



PhD Forum on Latin America
Onderzoekers Latijns-Amerika



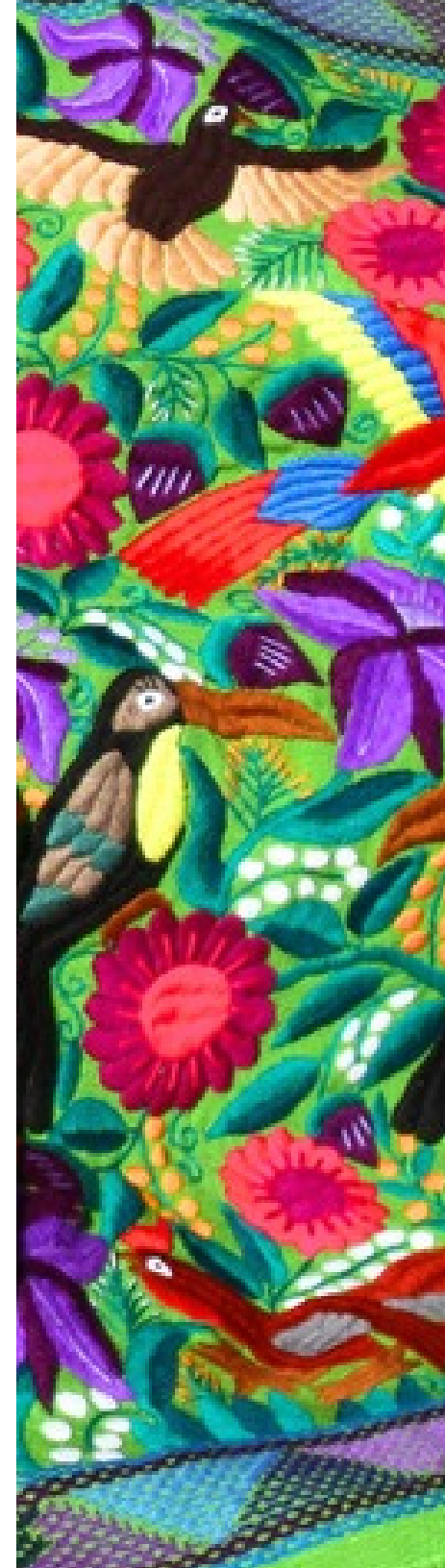
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Dr. Christien Klaufus	Senior Lecturer Human Geography
Prof. Kees Koonings	Professor Em. of Brazilian Studies
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Dr. Gabriela Russo Lopes	Postdoctoral Researcher
Dr. Julienne Weegels	Lecturer Anthropology and Critical Criminology

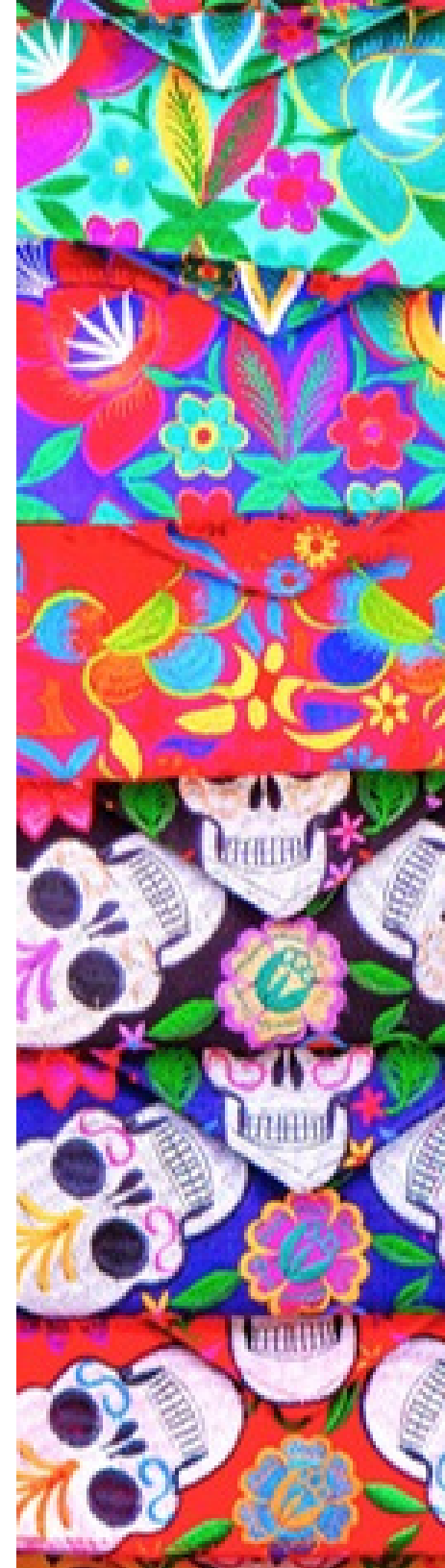


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CEDLA, the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation of the University of Amsterdam, is a multidisciplinary research institute located in the centre of Amsterdam. Since it was founded in 1964, CEDLA has played an active role as a research centre in cooperation with other Dutch and foreign universities and institutes.

CEDLA aims to promote Latin American Studies by conducting and stimulating relevant and original research on developments in that region, and by distributing the results of this research through university education and publications. CEDLA has a specialised collection of print and digital materials on Latin America, covering the social sciences and humanities, which is open to all visitors. The book collection is now housed in the UvA's new University Library.

CEDLA

Visiting address:

Binnengasthuisstraat 46

1012 ZD Amsterdam

Postal address:

Postbus 94554

1090 GN Amsterdam

020 525 3498

secretariaat-cedla@uva.nl

www.cedla.nl

CENTRE *for* LATIN AMERICAN
RESEARCH *and* DOCUMENTATION



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM