

The Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South Working Group  
of The Calgary Institute for the Humanities presents the 1st Annual:

# RLASS SYMPOSIUM

LATIN AMERICAN KNOWLEDGE  
PRODUCTION & MOBILIZATION

**February 12, 2021**

**9 AM - 6 PM MST**

**Reception until 7 PM**

## **Keynote Address:**

"Operationalizing Research for Development:  
From Theory to the Field"

Dr. Anne-Teresa Birthwright is a Research Consultant and a 2020 Specialty Coffee Association Re:co Fellow. She holds a PhD in Geography, with experience in rural livelihoods, food security, and climate change adaptation.



**FREE TO ATTEND & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

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University of Calgary  
Office of Indigenous Engagement



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Calgary Institute for the Humanities

All program events will be hosted on Zoom. Registered attendees will receive log-in details before the Symposium. All times Mountain Standard-Time (MST). Details are subject to change before the start of the summit

## **9:00 - 9:15 AM: OPENING CEREMONY**

Elder Evelyn Good Striker

## **9:15 - 9:30 AM: WELCOMING REMARKS:**

Dr. Noreen Humble (CIH), Dr. Gabriela Alonso-Yañez (RLASS, UofC), Chelsea Klinke (Organizer, UofC)

## **9:30 - 10:20 AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

Dr. Anne-Teresa Birthwright

## **10:20 - 10:30 AM: VIRTUAL BREAK**

## **10:30 - 11:50 AM: BLOCK 1: EXTRACTIVISM & DEVELOPMENT (ENGLISH)**

*Moderator: Dr. Ben McKay*

10:35-10:45: Pedro Alarcón (FLACSO Ecuador): "From Eldorado to the Resource Curse: Towards an Environmental Chronicle of (Under) Development in South America"

10:45-10:55: Paúl Cisneros (IAEN, Ecuador): "Mining conflicts and policy integration in Latin America. Do things get better after the high-courts get involved?"

10:55-11:05: Carolina Godoy (TUM, Ecuador) "The Ecuadorian power sector planning from a multi-criteria analysis "

11:05-11:15: Anna Heikkinen (UH, Finland): "Climate Change, Power and Differential Vulnerabilities in the Peruvian Highlands"

11:15-11:25: Quincy Stemmler (PUCP/ University of Giessen, Germany/Peru): "Conflictive Extractivism: Mining, institutions and social conflict in Peru and Colombia"

11:25 -11:50: Q&A

## **11:50 AM - 12:10 PM: VIRTUAL BREAK**

## **12:10 - 1:30 PM: BLOCK 2: GENDER & IDENTITY (ENGLISH)**

*Moderator: Verónica Briseño (UofC)*

12:15-12:25: Guaraci Dos Santos & Alexandre Kaitel (PUC-Minas, Brazil), Steven Engler (MRU, Canada): "Trilhas descoloniais: polifonia ritual e a narrativa brasileira do Orixá Ogum e São Jorge Guerreira ("Decolonial tracks: ritual polyphony and the Brazilian narrative of Orisha Ogum and Warrior-Saint George")"

12:25-12:35: Jennifer Adams: "Place re/creation and the sustenance of Caribbeanness: Identity in the Diaspora"

12:35-12:45: Chiara Chiavaroli (LSE, UK): "Bodies in place: notions of health in extractivist landscapes "

12:45-12:55: Luisa F. Isidro Herrera (UM, Colombia): "Frictions and Challenges for a Gendered Land-based Peacebuilding in Colombia"

12:55-1:05: Camila Reis & Dr. Evangelia Tastsoglou (SMU, Canada): "Resilience in women survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner violence in Brazil"

1:05-1:30: Q&A

## **1:30 - 1:35 PM: VIRTUAL BREAK**



## **1:35 - 2:55 PM: BLOCK 3: COUNTER-ACTION (SPANISH/ENGLISH)**

*Moderator: Ana Watson (UofC)*

1:40-1:50: Viviana Buitrón Cañadas & Carlos Realpe (FENI, Ecuador): "Los huertos comunitarios como espacios políticos populares en tiempos de Covid-19 en Quito"

1:50-2:00: Bárbara Guadalupe Gaspar Gaona (UNAM, Mexico): "COVID-19 en América Latina: una condena de la desigualdad"

2:00-2:10: Yennesit Palacios Valencia (UL, Colombia) & Sergio Luis Mondragón Duarte (EAFIT, Colombia): "La protección de los derechos humanos para personas afrodescendientes en el context del Covid-19"

2:10-2:20: Carla Rivera (PUC, Chile; CAPES): "Evidencias de cambios institucionales articuladas por la organización estudiantil de postgrado"

2:20-2:30: Héctor Luis Saint Pierre & Alberto Montoya C. Palacios Jr (UofC, Canada & UNESP, Brazil): "Enemy or foe? War or feud? Carl Schmitt's concepts of enmity in Amerindian revenge warfare: Tupinambá and Yanomami cases"

2:30-2:55: Q&A

## **2:55 - 3:00 PM: VIRTUAL BREAK**

## **3:00 - 4:20 PM: BLOCK 4: KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION (SPANISH)**

*Moderator: Danilo Borja (UofC)*

3:05-3:15: Verónica Briseño Castrejón (UofC, Canada): “La crianza Maya de las abejas nativas y el megaproyecto de un tren que no es Maya”

3:15-3:25: Mónica Clavijo-Romero (UNC, Colombia), Héctor Turra & Ana Watson (UofC, Canada), Andrés Fernández (URU, Uruguay) & Samantha Ishak (CSU, USA):  
“Transdisciplina como enfoque metodológico y como objeto de estudio: Desafíos de un grupo de estudiantes de postgrado”

3:25-3:35: Cielo Gordillo Ramirez (PUCP, Peru): “El Buen Vivir en la Reserva Comunal Machiguenga: Experiencia participativa multi-actor en la RC Machiguenga en la elaboración del Plan de vida de la comunidad nativa Poyentimari para el desarrollo sostenible con identidad”

3:35-3:45: David Labastida Rodríguez (UofT, Canada): “La ciencia de Karl Martius en Brasil: concepciones naturalistas, imperialismo informal y pensamiento de archivo”

3:45-3:55: Carla Rivera, Hans Fernández & Manuel Muñoz (PUC & CAPES, Chile): “Experiencia de actividad académica transformadora. Primer Seminario Interdisciplinar Crítico Latinoamericano”

3:55-4:20: Q&A

## **4:20 - 4:25 PM: VIRTUAL BREAK**

## **4:25 - 5:45 PM: BLOCK 5: SOCIOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS (ENGLISH)**

*Moderator: Ricardo Barbosa (UofC)*

4:30-4:40: Joselin Segovia, Nicola Pontarollo & Mercy Orellana (UofBrescia, Italy): "Discontent with democracy in Latin America"

4:40-4:50: Yennesit Palacios Valencia (ULibre, Colombia) & Leonidas Andrés Palacios Valencia (EAFIT, Colombia): "Biodiversidad Amenazada por Fenómenos Extractivos: el caso del Chocó en el Pacífico colombiano"

4:50-5:00: Nicola Pontarollo & Joselin Segovia (UofBrescia, Italy): "Protests across Latin America: are urban and rural areas different?"

5:00-5:10: Alem Cherinet (UofC, Canada): "Violence, Social Mechanisms, and Mexico's General Law on Disappearance"

5:10-5:20: Ricardo Vernet (UofC, Canada): "The Rise & Fall of the Lavalas Government"

5:20-5:45: Q&A

## **5:45 - 6:00 PM: CLOSING REMARKS**

## **6:00 - 7:00 PM: AFTER-HOURS RECEPTION**

Feel free to stay on Zoom to network & continue discussions informally!



# OPENING CEREMONY

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.



Evelyn Good Striker is a Lakota Dakota from Standing Buffalo First Nation in Saskatchewan and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. She grew up experiencing shifting education policies of the federal government; attending Day School, Residential School, and eventually integrating into a public school at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan where she attained a grade 12 education. Evelyn earned a Bachelor and Master of Education from the University of Lethbridge. She has been in the education profession for many years as a classroom teacher and administrator. Evelyn has enjoyed her long career as an educator and cultural advisor. She loves working with students, parents, educators, and anyone who wants to engage in the excitement of learning.

# WELCOMING REMARKS



Dr. Noreen Humble is Professor of Classics at the University of Calgary and currently the Acting Director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. She has published widely on the political thought and literary innovations of the ancient Greek writers Xenophon and Plutarch, as well as on the transmission of these Greek authors, tracing their reception and influence in different intellectual milieus up to the modern era. She currently sits on the boards of the Canadian Institute in Greece and the University of Calgary Press.

Dr. Gabriela Alonso-Yañez is an Associate Professor at the Werklund School of Education and one of the three conveners for the Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South CIH Working Group. Her research focuses on learning in the context of sustainability and global change. She is interested in understanding the factors and conditions that influence how teams produce integrated, action-oriented socioecological knowledge in networks that include knowledge keepers, local community members and academics.





# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. Anne-Teresa Birthwright**

Operationalizing Research for  
Development: From Theory to the Field



Dr. Anne-Teresa Birthwright is a Research Consultant and a 2020 Specialty Coffee Association Re:co Fellow. She holds a PhD in Geography, with experience in rural livelihood, food security, and climate change adaptation. Her graduate work with both Blue Mountain and High Mountain smallholders has found that Jamaica's coffee farmers are indeed vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, their vulnerability has been further compounded by the political economy of the industry. These farmers are vulnerable not because of a lack of agency, but lack of opportunities along the coffee value chain; a chain shaped by systemic inefficiencies and uneven power relations. She also has an interest in action-oriented research where solutions are developed to reduce vulnerability, shape policy, and encourage sustainable livelihoods. Throughout her academic tenure at the University of the West Indies, she has worked on various local and regional multidisciplinary projects centred on reducing risk to future food security and improving the livelihoods of rural communities. As a Co-Principal Investigator on the research project 'Surviving the Drought: An Irrigation Curriculum for Jamaica's Small-Scale Farmers', she has also worked with the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) to build knowledge capacities and implement adaptive irrigation strategies in local farming communities. This project led her to be one of the recipients of the 2017 Prime Minister's Youth Award for Excellence in International Achievement. As a National Consultant, Dr. Birthwright is currently working with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher education Center (CATIE) to develop Jamaica's Climate Change Research Agenda.



# ORGANIZERS



**CHELSEA KLINKE, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Chelsea is a second-year Ph.D. student in Anthropology. Her collaborative participatory research fosters socially inclusive, ecologically sustainable campus spaces and frameworks at UCalgary alongside Indigenous counterparts.

Chelsea is involved in Calgary's agrarian network, apprenticing in regenerative agriculture with DirtBoys Urban Farming, and advocating for Indigenous Food Sovereignty with the social enterprise FoodScape Calgary.



**ANA WATSON, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Ana is a Geography PhD Candidate interested on the intersections of climate change, biodiversity conservation and indigenous rights in extractive landscapes. Drawing on political ecology, Ana's research explores the ways in which the social constructions of environmental concerns and power relationships influence land use decision making, environmental politics and indigenous collective action in Peru's Camisea.



**DANILO BORJA, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Danilo is a third year PhD Candidate in Geography. He studies the politics of conservation, resource extraction and indigenous rights in the Ecuadorian Amazon, being especially interested in grasping the power dynamics of benefit-sharing schemes, territorial disputes, and participation.



# CLASS CONVENERS

Dr. Ben M. McKay is an Assistant Professor of Development and Sustainability in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Calgary. His research interests include the politics of agrarian change in Latin America, food sovereignty alternatives, the extractive character of capitalist agricultural development, the global food system, flex crops, and the rise of emerging economies and their implications for global agrarian transformation.



Dr. Pablo Policzer is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary. A specialist in comparative politics, his research focuses on the evolution of violent conflict - especially among armed actors such as militaries, police forces, and non-state armed groups - in authoritarian and democratic regimes.

# GUEST MODERATORS

Veronica Briseño Castrejon is an architect and doctoral candidate in Environmental Design at the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape (SAPL) at the University of Calgary. Her research takes a critical environmental design approach to ancestral Maya stingless beekeeping practices in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Veronica's studies are supported by the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology.



Ricardo Barbosa Jr. is a MA Student, Department of Geography, University of Calgary, and holds a BA in International Relations from the Federal University of Goiás and in Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Goiás, Brazil. Research interests include food sovereignty, food activism, food policy, and the spatiality of contentious politics.