I want to thank our faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts in arranging their classes and administrative responsibilities remotely in such short notice and under such challenging conditions. We were one of the first units to work from home and hold classes online. Despite current difficulties, the Center held great events this semester. We organized the Babies in Cages conference, which reflected on the dehumanization of Latino and Latina immigrants and refugees from a historical and global perspective. We launched Dr. Lenny Ureña’s book Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840-1920; and Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research by professors Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our annual conference Being on Earth. We also rescheduled the conference What Went Wrong with the Populist Left in honor of our Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar Margarita López Maya to January 2021.

I want to thank the LAS Alumni Board for a successful fundraising campaign that helped raise $6,000 during UF’s Giving Day. We will continue working with the board to seek internships for our students and to increase our endowments. Our MA programs are strong. The new Director of the MALAS program Dr. Carlos Suarez worked hard to increase the number of applicants, and a cohort of excellent and diverse students will be joining the Center in the Fall. Under Dr. Glenn Galloway’s leadership, the MDP program is celebrating 10 years of continued success. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Catherine Tucker, Dr. Lenny Ureña, Dr. Mary Risner, Jessica Baker, and Dr. Susan Paulson the Center was awarded the very competitive and prestigious Tinker Foundation Collaborative Research Grant for the next five years. This grant allows students working on Latin America to get research funds and to collaborate with peers working on similar projects in other first-rate universities. I also want to share that Jessica Baker received a Division Three Superior Accomplishment Award from UF. Jessica went above and beyond her job description leading the audit of the Center, helping to submit two major grants, improving internal policies, and participating in two staff search committees.

We will long for our daily interactions with Dr. Efrain Barradas as he retires. He arrived at UF in 2000, where he started at the Center and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese Studies. We had to postpone the event honoring his academic contributions. He will be missed as a colleague, student mentor, and as the soul of the center. He created Latino Studies at the Center, developed courses, and promoted hiring in this area. He will be Emeritus Professor and continue to research his areas of expertise: Caribbean and Latin American literature, art and culture.

The Center is a great intellectual community. We have to nurture each other and be flexible under uncertain times when people we know and love could become victims of this virus. We are continuing with our normal activities, reviewing applications, working on admissions, and more. Thanks to all of you for your support and patience.
Distinguished colleague Efraín Barradas retired in May 2020, after working twenty years, since 2000, with the Center for Latin American Studies in a joint appointment with the Department of Romance Languages (now Spanish and Portuguese Studies). UF loses an internationally celebrated star professor with this retirement but gains an Emeritus faculty who will never wear out his welcome.


One decade after his debut in literary criticism, in 1984, Dr. Barradas published the first of what became more than a dozen articles on art criticism. He eventually authored three art catalogs: one each on Puerto Rican artists Wilfredo Chiesa (1986), Marcos Irizarry (1987), and Néstor Millán Alvarez (2002).

Over the span of his career, Barradas was a generous collaborator, with five prologues and nearly 200 book reviews to his name. In addition to his highly respected academic contributions, Professor Barradas frequently contributed cultural notes to the newspapers of Puerto Rico, and the popular press tended to return the favor by widely acknowledging his work, making him a celebrity intellectual.

Toward the end of his career, Professor Barradas began to publish his creative writing. My class read his memoir Inventario con retrato de familia (2018), a series of essays that contemplate the emotionally and materially onerous task of packing up the narrator’s parents’ home in Puerto Rico, once they are no longer able to care for themselves. Inventario con retrato de familia, along with another of Dr. Barradas’ recent books, received a glowing review in the latest number of the literary journal Chasqui.

Professor Barradas enjoyed prestigious membership on innumerable editorial and advisory boards based in Puerto Rico and the mainland. He was a tireless mentor to students and dedicated his Sundays to reading dissertation chapters. At UF alone, Professor Barradas served on 63 doctoral committees, 18 as Chair.

In the city of Gainesville, Dr. Barradas is known for his gracious hospitality at his photo-shoot-ready residence in Florida Park, where he showcases a rotating selection of Latin American and Latinx artwork drawn from a vast personal collection of professional and folkloric craft traditions. Professor Barradas lent some of those pieces, as well as signed books, to exhibitions held at the UF art museum and at the UF Latin American and Caribbean collection at the library.

Dr. Barradas, with his daily displays of inimitable fashion sense and extraordinarily warm collegiality, will be deeply missed.
Rebecca Hanson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Criminology, and Law and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida (UF), and Patricia Richards, Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia, presented their 2019 book Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research to students and faculty from the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, the Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women’s Studies Research, and the wider UF community. Roughly seventy attendees gathered in the Ustler Hall auditorium to listen to Professors Hanson and Richards advocate for an embodied approach to ethnography that reflexively engages with the ways in which researchers’ bodies shape the knowledge they produce.

Hanson and Richards were joined by two discussants—K.L. Broad, Associate Professor at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research, and Randol Contreras, Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies at University of California-Riverside. Following an introduction by Dr. Carlos de la Torre, Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, and a warm welcome from those in attendance, Professor Richards opened the book talk by stating that “our objective in this project has been to use women’s experiences with harassment in the field not to come up with a series of tips and strategies for dealing with it, but rather to interrogate the epistemological foundations of ethnographic methodology.”

Professor Richards continued by identifying one of the main conclusions of their work, which is that the ongoing dominance of the white hetero masculine perspective in academia has a silencing effect on women after they have experienced unwanted sexual contact in the field. In Professor Hanson’s opening remarks, she built on Richards’ thoughts to highlight their argument that the sometimes self-imposed silence they discuss in Harassed demonstrates the degree to which women ethnographers can oftentimes consciously or unconsciously become carriers of the discourses that marginalize them. In another important moment, Hanson presented the concept of the “awkward surplus,” which refers to how few ethnographers who participated in the study thought their experiences of sexual harassment in the field were important to share in academic spaces and their fears that their work would be seen as invalid or compromised if they spoke up about these uncomfortable incidents.

Professor Broad opened the discussion phase of the event with a celebratory spirit, stating that Hanson and Richards unequivocally made the interventions they sought to make with the book. For example, Broad applauded their argument for an embodied approach to ethnography that makes transparent power and its manifestations, and that opens up needed space for researchers to write into their work the sexual harassment and violence of our worlds. In closing, Broad called Harassed “more than a methods book,” before adding “or perhaps we should think of it as the best kind of methods book.” Professor Contreras then started his comments by endorsing the book for any graduate students, and for any faculty who are teaching field research methods or qualitative methods. Notably, Contreras mentioned that Harassed will help him with his own methods courses at the University of California-Riverside.

The book talk was sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research. Anyone interested in watching the talk in full may do so at https://youtu.be/33VQromft28. Harassed is available for purchase via the University of California Press: https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520299047/harassed.
Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840 - 1920

Contributed by Marcos S. Ramos Valdes (MALAS Student)

The Center for Latin American Studies in conjunction with the George A. Smathers Libraries, the Center for European Studies, and the UF Department of History held a book talk for Dr. Lenny A. Ureña Valerio’s publication - Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840 - 1920.

With panelists like Margarita Vargas-Betancourt from the University of Florida Department of Special & Area Studies Collections, Sueann Caulfield from the University of Michigan Residential College, Geoff Eley from the University of Michigan History Department, and Lenny A. Ureña Valerio from the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies, the talk centered around the methodologies, conceptual frameworks and historical scope of Ureña Valerio’s work.

The book talk set itself to host and bring together academics from a variety of fields in order to discuss Ureña Valerio’s book and have an interdisciplinary dialog on Polish and German colonial endeavors in Africa, Poland, and Brazil. Attempting to highlight Ureña Valerio’s outstanding and arduous work in crafting her book, Geoff Eley and Sueann Caulfield set themselves to celebrate the book’s understanding of colonialism and its effects - fostering the study of transnational history. Lenny A. Ureña Valerio sets herself apart in the book talk by narrating the long and arduous process of conducting archival research and coming up with her unique take on the ideas of cultural identity, colonialism, and migration.

The book talk ends on a hopeful note for the future of the transnational study of Polish-German historical relations and nineteenth-century colonial subjectivities - as the book presents a steppingstone for more innovative research to come in the future.

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY!

Lorena Albert Ferrando, Spanish and Portuguese
Jennifer Amanda Jones, Family, Youth and Community Sciences
John Diaz, Agricultural Education and communication
Eugenio Rojas, Department of Economics
In 2016, the would-be president of the United States bolstered his appeal to a white majority base by politicizing the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border as an ostensible threat to the safety and security of Americans and their cultural ideals. President Trump has often referred to Mexicans as “criminals,” and this ideological position was made material when he instituted his separation policy, which would allow for the forced separation of migrant children from their parents along with the incarceration of migrants in detention facilities. Images of migrant children flashed across television screens—children sleeping on the floor behind chain-link fences, their bodies crowded together, a few of them under emergency blankets.

This conference sought to intervene in the discourse around Trump’s migration policy to investigate the circumstances under which locking babies in cages was made feasible. The Center for Latin American Studies brought together four scholars from diverse disciplines to weigh in on this question, and to posit novel conceptions of migration, citizenship, and ethics that might offer avenues to fashioning a more just world. In this conference, the value of a Center for Latin American Studies was made explicit, as the interdisciplinary nature of the center and its invited speakers allowed for plural insights and cross-disciplinary collaboration, both in the context of critical discourse and imagining new possibilities for political life.

Dr. Suzanne Oboler, Professor of Latin American and Latinx Studies at John Jay College of the City University of New York, presented a talk titled Caging the Stranger Within: Latinx Belonging and (Re)movable Citizenship in the Age of Trump. She outlined the historical precedence of U.S.-Mexico relations, arguing that despite the incorporation of Mexicans into the United States in its formative years, the “Mexican” has been used as an all-encompassing signifier for Latinx people against which white nationalist identity is constructed. Even in the United States, Latinx persons are politicized as the “stranger within,” regardless of origin.

Dr. Norman Goda, Professor of Holocaust Studies at The University of Florida, gave a talk titled “20,000” Ugly Adults: Thoughts on the Politics of Child Refugees, 1938 and After. He discussed the Wagner-Rogers bill, which allowed for the entrance into the U.S. of 20,000 German-Jewish children following Kristallnacht. He drew connections between the Jewish refugee crisis in 1938, involving separation of children from parents and racialized discourse, with contemporary scenes on the southern U.S. border.

Dr. Andreas Kalyvas, Professor of Politics at The New School for Social Research, presented a talk titled The Stateless Citizen: Irregular Migration and the New International. Kalyvas discussed the political possibilities that come with statelessness, arguing for a new international/post-colonial conception of citizenship that would depart from statist categories, which, he argued, produce illegality, exclusion, and criminalization.

Dr. Miguel De La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at the ILLIFF School of Theology, presented a talk titled An Ethics Para Joder: A Latinx-Based Moral Response to Children in Cages. He argued that Eurocentric thought, which underpins a moral rather than political response to the criminalization of Latinx people, contributes to the very oppression such responses would ostensibly ameliorate. As an alternative, he posits an “ethics para joder,” which embraces hopelessness as a first step toward imagining new liberatory opportunities.

This event was sponsored by the Center for Latin American Student, the University of Florida’s Chief Diversity Officer, and the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research.
Latina Empowerment Symposium

The inaugural Latina Empowerment Symposium was an all-day event held on February 22, 2020. We had the opportunity to engage with and learn from local professors Dr. Jillian Hernandez & Dr. Christopher Busey along with colleagues from California Dr. Yessica Garcia Hernandez & Dr. Leslie Quintanilla. Along with our featured speakers we also had three breakout sessions. Two of the sessions hosted two various presentations held by colleagues and students. Highlighting work being done within the Latinx community by Latinas.

We had a total of 75 people participate throughout the day which included current students, staff, faculty, and community members to include high school students. Therefore, not only was the UF community impacted but the Gainesville community as well.

In an effort to contribute and support the local Gainesville community and Minority-owned businesses, Cilantro Tacos had a food truck behind the institute which people enjoyed.

For Your Information:

**UF ACRONYMS**

- **CWSGR** Center for Women’s Studies & Gender Research
- **DCP** College of Design, Construction & Planning
- **FBLI** Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute
- **FLMNH** Florida Museum of Natural History
- **FRE** Food and Resource Economics
- **Poli Sci** Political Science
- **LABE** Latin American Business Environment
- **LAC** Latin American Collection (UF Libraries)
- **LAS** Latin American Studies
- **MALAS** MA in Latin American Studies
- **MDP** Master of Sustainable Development Practice
- **SAAH** School of Art and Art History
- **SFRC** School of Forest Resources and Conservation
- **SPS** Spanish & Portuguese Studies
- **TCD** Tropical Conservation and Development
- **UFIC** UF International Center
- **URP** Urban & Regional Planning
- **WEC** Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
This semester, the University of Florida recognized Jessica Mrozinske Baker, the Center’s Accounting Coordinator, with a Division Three Superior Accomplishment Award. Superior Accomplishment Awards recognize staff members that have gone above and beyond their normal assigned duties.

Jessica has been part of the Gator Nation for over 30-years. She graduated from UF in 1994 with a BA in History and Classics and began working at the College of Engineering as an OPS Clerk. Jessica’s interest in constitutional law drew her back to school, where she began her law degree in 1997 at the Levin College of Law. After graduating in 1999, Jessica returned to her old position in the College of Engineering where she managed contracts and grants. In 2000, Jessica moved to the Office of Admissions to work with minority transfer students, and in 2001 she moved to the Medical Institutional Review Board, through the UF Office of Research. Jessica started her position at the Center for Latin American Studies in October 2003 and has been with us for the past 16 years.

Jessica’s work is instrumental to the Center. Not only does she monitor all Center funds and budgets, but she also helps faculty write and manage various grants and works with the Office of Research to ensure all proposals are approved. One particular grant that stands out in Jessica’s mind is the MacArthur grant, which helped us establish the Master of Sustainable Development Practice program. “The writing process for this grant was an incredible experience,” says Jessica. “It took almost a year to write and submit the grant with over ten faculty and staff working on the project from both the Center and African Studies.” As part of her work at the Center, and due in part to the type of research our faculty conduct, Jessica has seen all kinds of unusual travel expenses. She recalls her first experience working with a faculty member conducting research in the Amazon. “Because he was in the Amazon, we had to approve expenses like canoe rentals.Coming from Engineering where we were buying lasers to figuring out how to purchase a canoe in the Amazon was an eye-opening moment. I realized there is a lot more to research than what you traditionally see.”

Outside of work, Jessica is very involved in her community. She is part of the Planning and Zoning Committee and even ran for City Commission. Her passion for community involvement was instilled by her father, who was heavily involved with local government issues. “I grew up watching him advocate for disability access. It has always been a part of my life.”

Jessica’s position has changed throughout the past 16 years. “The research and what we do in Latin America has become more intricate. And trying to find ways to properly do that within the UF system involves having to reach out and talk to various people to see how we can accomplish our research goals,” explains Jessica. “UF doesn’t always have the methods in place for accomplishing these goals so there is a lot of innovating from a fiscal aspect that goes on at the Center.”

It goes without saying that Jessica’s hard work and dedication have helped push the Center forward. Join us in congratulating Jessica for her Division Three Superior Accomplishment Award!
Our congratulations go to Dr. Myrian Sá Leitão Barboza for being selected the 2019 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award from UF’s Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program in the Center for Latin American Studies. Dr. Barboza is the 10th recipient of this prestigious dissertation award that honors Dr. Schmink for her significant and transformative contributions to graduate education, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the TCD Program. Dr. Schmink was instrumental in establishing the early interdisciplinary research and training programs that evolved into the TCD program in the 1980’s. Dr. Barboza completed her dissertation in the Department of Anthropology under the supervision of Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo (advisor) and Dr. Marianne Schmink (co-advisor). Her dissertation was entitled “Tükuna cosmopolitical cartography: the gendered meaning and use of territories by Katukina indigenous people (Biá River, Brazilian Amazonia)”.

The Schmink Dissertation Award selection committee was impressed by Dr. Barboza’s ability to integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives with western scientific knowledge as she documented how Katukina peoples understand and manage Amazonian landscapes. Myrian’s dissertation offers a new native perspective on space and time and contributes to the understanding of gender roles and Indigenous perspectives in the construction of Amazonian territory. Myrian’s dissertation research highlights how the Katukina have established relations of use, sharing, and appropriation over time in their landscapes, and how their management of landscapes has affected biodiversity, through comparative examination by gender groups. The committee noted that her dissertation was an outstanding example of interdisciplinary research as it reveals new insights regarding Indigenous land management, including the dynamics of management for sustainability, especially relevant with changing climate in the region.

Myrian complemented her research with a TCD Practitioner Experience grant where she returned results to the Katukina people and worked with them to produce a manual based on their Indigenous knowledge. In addition, through a Schmink Innovation award from TCD, she led a collaborative training program bringing together native people and educators to develop innovative instructional curricula grounded in traditional knowledge. Dr. Barboza also received three awards for her photography, poster and numerous travel and research awards from across the University of Florida. Prior to coming to UF with a competitive scholarship from Brazil’s post-graduate education agency CAPES, Myrian worked as a consultant for Brazil’s Indigenous foundation FUNAI, and as a researcher for OPAN, an NGO focused on Indigenous rights. After leaving UF, she resumed her professor position in the Archeology and Anthropology Program at the Federal University of Western Pará (UFOPA) in Santarém, Brazil.

The Selection Committee included Dr. Richard Stepp (UF Center for Latin American Studies & Department of Anthropology), Dr. Timothy Murtha (UF Center for Latin American Studies and Department of Landscape Architecture) and TCD alumna Dr. Amanda Stronza (Texas A&M University). The TCD program and the Center for Latin American Studies congratulate Dr. Barboza on her selection as the 2019 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award!
The UF Center for Latin American Studies was awarded a $100,000 5-year grant from the Tinker Foundation’s Board of Directors as part of the Tinker Field Research Collaborative. Since 1979, the Tinker Foundation has provided support to graduate students attending U.S. universities to conduct pre-dissertation, exploratory research in Latin America through its Field Research Grant (FRG) program. The Tinker Field Research Collaborative is a new program offered to select Centers that not only funds student field research, but also promotes opportunities for joint experimentation, tool-building, and knowledge exchange on the institutional level.

“Following a rigorous selection process, we are delighted to welcome the University of Florida to join the Tinker Field Research Collaborative,” said Caroline Kronley, President of the Tinker Foundation. “We look forward to working together to enhance the impact of student field research in Latin America.”

The Center for Latin American Studies is one of eleven inaugural members that are part of the Tinker Field Research Collaborative for 2020-2025. This award would not be possible without the help of Dr. Catherine Tucker, Dr. Lenny Ureña, Dr. Mary Risner, Jessica Baker, and Dr. Susan Paulson, who worked with Center Director, Dr. Carlos de la Torre on the application process.

“This prestigious and innovative grant allows students working on Latin America to get research funds and collaborate with peers working on similar projects in other first-rate universities,” said Center Director, Dr. Carlos de la Torre. “This grant will also allow us to support graduate students who would otherwise not be able to engage in field research.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has upturned the academic and research opportunities of students throughout the world. In order to mitigate the potential academic pitfalls that have arisen, the Center for Latin American Studies has created the COVID-19 Summer Emergency Research Fund to support our students’ summer graduate research.

On a traditional academic year, Center students travel abroad during the summer to work on their thesis, practicum projects, or internships. The work that is carried out and the experiences gained are instrumental to the academic and professional development of our students. Due to the pandemic, our students are now facing challenging times, where they will need to adjust their research to be conducted from a distance. Furthermore, many of our international students who often return home for the summer are now faced with the financial burden of staying in the United States due to various travel restrictions.

The goal of the emergency research fund is to provide qualifying students with up to $3,000 to cover reimbursable expenses such as housing, meals, supplies, and other allowable research expenses they incur while carrying out research work during the summer. Priority will be given to current students, based on need, who do not have any source of funding support.

The Center was able to put aside a set amount of funds towards this initiative. We know these are difficult times all around and hope to alleviate some of the burdens our students are facing.

If you would like to contribute to this initiative and help us fund more summer research projects for our students, please donate to the Carmen Diana Deere Director’s Fund: https://www.uff.ufl.edu/give-now/?fund_id=019905.
Art and the Aftermath: On Juan Orrantia’s *Normalcy*

Contributed by Patrick James (MALAS Student)

In the wake of the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, violence increased once more, reaching in 2019 levels similar to before the agreement, as paramilitaries, FARC dissidents, and the National Liberation Army continued their respective struggles in the shadow of Colombia’s military (Human Rights Watch 2020). Tenuous peace agreements have been ubiquitous in contemporary Colombia, as have been the politics of memory regarding what took place during the War, and as novel atrocities continue across the region the possibility of closure is deferred. “There are as many memories as power relationships…” wrote Colombian sociologist Maria Uribe (2009) following the 2005 effort at reconciliation involving the composite group of paramilitary fighters called the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia. Today, the politics of memory are no less charged, though they are rendered more complex as the news is again riddled with images of masked soldiers wielding automatic weapons.

While debates about blame, forgiveness, and amnesty are indispensable political issues at the level of national discourse, they “obliterate the field of vision” by occluding the oblique experiences of local people touched by war (Ricoeur 2004, 152). Oblivions too occur as novel traumas supplant previous ones in the ephemeral cycle of news. As a challenge to the politics of memory integral in the obfuscations rendered by what ethnographer Rebecca Bartel (2019) calls “the governmentality of reconciliation” (157) ethnography holds promise for drawing attention to the emotional and mnemonic textures of life in the wake of violence. In other words, such work affords a phenomenology of post-conflict in local worlds, which does not necessarily mean post-War. The ethnographic question thus becomes, what does it take to render complex experiences such as trauma, mourning, memory, and forgetting in mediated form?

In his 2009 photographic collection titled *Normalcy*, Colombian ethnographer and artist Juan Orrantia shows that art can be a rigorous ethnographic medium through which to represent such encounters. His project relates the aftereffects of a massacre that occurred in a Colombian swamp town called Nueva Venecia, where in the year 2000 a group of paramilitary soldiers killed over thirty innocent fishermen and tossed their bodies into the water (Orrantia 2012, 53). Similar to Marc Augé’s (2004) figuration that memory is only possible through the primary force of oblivion (21), Susan Sontag (2002) writes of photography: “The photographic image...cannot be simply a transparency of something that happened. It is always the image that someone chose; to photograph is to frame, and to frame is to exclude.” (8). While it would seem that photography’s selective nature would be a representational disadvantage, Orrantia embraces what Taussig (2010) calls “the mastery of non-mastery” (29); a representational attitude that sees the so-called problem of representation as an opportunity for creative composition. In Orrantia’s case photography shares mechanical similarities to memory in that framing and oblivion are both prerequisite to image.

When interviewing witnesses Orrantia (2012) notes that he was met with glassy eyes that stared out into the emptiness of place. In such moments, he writes,
past trauma returned in “momentary impulses, flashes, and fleeting images” (54). Thus, Orrantia mobilizes the fragmentary nature of the photograph to work a surrealist aesthetic, which allows for the expression of unsayable trauma by gathering the force of what Roland Barthes (1977) called “the third meaning”—a form of expression that problematizes the arbitrary connection between signifier and signified, goes beyond metaphor, and enters a realm of affect and implicit evocation. In this photographic space the bleak world flashes up, washed out in white and dark tones, populated by absences and bodies framed still in the midst of motion like the memory of one’s son, now dead, rising out of the water on his birthday years ago. The photographs thus are not images of a place or of persons but simulations of a witness’s memory images themselves. In Orrantia’s Normalcy art and an ethnographic attunement to the implicit and unsayable are indispensable as representational medium and method respectively, and they might inform further investigations in the aftermath of violence across the region despite the official status of the Civil War.

References:


For the third consecutive summer, Dr. Mary Risner will offer the online course *Global Studies for Educators*. The course was developed with USDOE Title VI funds in collaboration with faculty from the College of Education and Centers for African and European Studies. It is a “cross-listed” course connecting education students with those in a variety of disciplines across campus to encourage exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives. While there are many resources on global education themes and global competence in the modules, a primary goal of the course is to emphasize the significance of area studies in the process of examining global issues. An understanding of local contexts and basic foundational knowledge of world regions must be part of problem-solving and determining solutions.

*People on the Move* and *Sustainability & Development* are the main themes analyzed and used to model pedagogy that fosters global competence, promotes critical thinking across world regions, and explores the integration of emerging technologies into teaching and learning. A variety of distinguished virtual guests present over the course of the semester, adding unique perspectives to the class.

By the end of the course, students will have contemplated the importance of becoming global citizens to act and promote change in society and will have been introduced to educational resources and pedagogical approaches for globalizing future courses. The coursework has obvious applications in a K-12 and higher education context. However, understanding global issues and how they relate to the local ones is valuable in all aspects of life. Developing skills for teaching and facilitating learning will be useful in any career context, whether it be in a school, a non-profit, a corporation, or working in a volunteer organization. Hence, this course benefits students across disciplinary lines.

**USDOE Title VI Curriculum Collaboration:**

**Global Studies for Educators**

*Contributed by Anna Rodell (COE Doctoral Student/MALAS 2019)*

The Center began collaborating with the Universidad del Norte (UniNorte) through a USAID/HED human rights capacity building partnership grant led by former director, Philip Williams. Since then many other activities have emerged, one of them being Virtual Exchange (VE) projects. Paige Poole is the Specialized English Programs Coordinator at UniNorte who has developed and implemented VE with UF faculty.

During two different semesters, Paige virtually connected students from her English courses with students from Joel Correia’s Human Rights in Latin America course. According to Paige, “The exchange took a project-based learning approach using a digital letter exchange between students where the letters covered topics related to human rights and cultural issues. Students were put into pairs and exchanged four sets of letters prompted by guiding questions ranging from the connection between social media and human rights issues to students’ home countries’ reputations in the realm of human rights.” The exchange concluded with Zoom discussions on city- and nation-level social movements being used to address human rights.

This VE project engaged students from UF and UniNorte in developing intercultural awareness and sensitivity, increased UniNorte students’ English fluency, and enabled both instructors to innovate with new technology. Paige also has collaborated with Suzanne Chapman in a pre-service COE course centered on children’s literature, reading, and how modern technology and social media is affecting what and how much people read. Paige is currently developing a VE module with UF instructor and graduate student Biswadeep Dhar for his course on Principles of Family, Youth and Community Sciences.

For more information on virtual exchange, please visit: https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/faculty-engagement/international-teaching/introduction-virtual-exchange. For VE training opportunities at UF, visit: https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/faculty-engagement/international-teaching/funding-opportunities/virtual-exchange-training.

**Virtual Exchange Collaborations with Universidad del Norte**

*Contributed by Andrew Gallup (MALAS Student)*

SPRING & SUMMER 20 GRADUATIONS

Undergraduate LAS
Minors & Certificates
Sofi-Nicole Barreiro (Poli Sci)
Nicole Calderon Alvarez (Poli Sci/Portuguese/Spanish)
Paula Costas-Velasco (Poli Sci/Economics)
Katarina Gorcho Negron (Architecture)
Ashley Hoyt (Sociology)
Aishwarya Kunta (Biology/Spanish)
Erick Lajara (History)
Danilo Marin (English, Portuguese)
Donato Marrone Vargas (Poli Sci)
Isabella Oliver (International Studies)
Veronica Paz Gonzalez (International Studies--Middle East)
Karolyn Ranero (International Studies)
Lorena Reis (Public Health)
Elisabeth Rios-Brooks (Anthropology, International Studies)
Karla Rivas (Sociology)
Mayara Rodriguez (Criminology)
Amanda Rosa (Journalism)
Jennifer Valle (Anthropology)

Graduate LAS Certificates
Paula Bak (MDP)
Christina Callicott (Anthropology)
Michael Esbach (Interdisciplinary Ecology)
Paula Fernandez-Hernandez (Spanish & Portuguese)
Istvan Kerész (Physics)
Manuel Morales (MDP)
Jessica Mostacedo (MDP)
Gustavo Rodriguez (MDP)
Weston Stitt (MDP)

MALAS Degrees
William Boose
Specialization: Development Studies & Economic Analysis
Advisor: Timothy Murtha
Thesis: Motocarristas: An Ethnography of Motorcycle Taxi Drivers’ Labor Experiences in Iquitos, Perú

Stephanie Cadaval
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Karen Kainer
Thesis: Ten Years of Growing Together: Partnerships, Gender, and Decision Making in Community Mangrove Restoration

Andrew Gallup
Specialization: Development Studies
Advisor: Timothy Murtha
Thesis: Long Way Home: Building Sustainable Solutions

Natasha Joseph
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Rosana Resende
Thesis: Le Fann Andeyo Travay: Challenges Faced by Rural Women to Sustain Their Agricultural Traditions in Northern Haiti

Nathania Martinez
Specialization: Development Studies
Advisor: Timothy Murtha
Thesis: Shifting Social Spaces of Chiquilá: Triggers in Time and Processes of Change/“Espacios Sociales Cambiantes de Chiquilá”

Pia Molina
Specialization: Latinx Studies, Migration & Transnational Studies
Advisor: Lenny Urena
Thesis: ‘Haitian Not Welcome’: The Relationship between Immigration and Anti-Blackness in Chile

Sofia Rogner
Specialization: Crime Law & Governance
Advisor: Rebecca Hanson
Thesis: Mano Dura: A Time for Change

Marcelo Santos Rocha da Silva
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Joel Correia
Thesis: The Political Ecology of a Subnational Jurisdictional REDD+ in the Brazilian Amazon

MDP Degrees
Paula Bak Cely
Specializations: Sustainable Business Consulting, Marketing and Communication; Latin American Studies; TCD
Advisor: Claudia Romero (Biology)
Capstone Field Practicum: Perceptions of Power among Family Farming Stakeholders in Mato-Grosso, Brazilian Amazon

Adi Gangga
Specializations: Gender, Intersectionality, Value Chain Analysis, TCD
Advisor: Claudia Romero (Biology)
Capstone Field Practicum: Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Vaccines Value Chain in Nepal: A Gendered Perspective

Mackenzie Goode
Specializations: Natural Resource and Wildlife Management, African Studies, TCD
Advisor: Cheryl Palm (Agricultural and Biological Engineering / Sustainable Food Systems)
Capstone Field Practicum: Underlying Social Conflicts Drive Human-Wildlife Conflict in Laikipia County, Kenya

Christina Joy
Specializations: Entrepreneurship, Social Impact and Sustainability, African Studies, TCD
Advisor: Sarah McKune  
(Environmental and Global Health / African Studies)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Building a Bridge: Private Education, NGO Governance, & School Sustainability in a Rural Tanzanian Community

**Manuel Morales Mite**  
Specializations: Environmental Education and Communication, Latin American Studies, TCD  
Advisor: Vanessa Hull (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Human-Wildlife interactions in the Podocarpus - Sangay Conservation Corridor, Andes of Southern Ecuador: A Socio-Ecological and Ecographic Characterization

**Jessica Mostacedo Marasovic**  
Specializations: Hydrologic Policy and Management, Climate Science, Latin American Studies, TCD  
Advisor: Stephen Morgan (Food and Resource Economics)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Assessing Agricultural Production and Water Resources Conservation in the Florida Springs Region

**Gustavo Prieto Rodriguez**  
Specializations: Value Chain Analysis, Facilitation Skills, Latin American Studies, TCD  
Advisor: Pilar Useche (Latin American Studies / Food and Resource Economics)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Perceptions and Impacts of the EU Cadmium Regulation on the Colombian Cacao Value Chain

**Weston Stitt**  
Specializations: Value Chain Analysis and Supply Chain Management, Tropical Agriculture, Latin American Studies, TCD  
Advisor: Catherine Tucker (Anthropology / Latin American Studies)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Value Chain Analyses for Sustainability in the Honduran Coffee Sector

**Rio Trimono**  
Specializations: Climate Science, TCD  
Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)  
Capstone Field Practicum: Innovations for Smallholder Dairy Producers in Nepal: A Study on the Adoption and Dissemination of Mobile App Feeding Support Tool and Mastitis Control Technologies

**Graduate Sustainable Development Practice Certificate**  
Natasha Joseph, MA (LAS)  
Beatrice Pierre, MSc (FYCS)

**Graduate Conservation and Development Certificate**  
Paula Bak Cely (MDP)  
Christina Callicott, PhD (Anthropology)  
Liz Hurtado Ccorimanya (MALAS)  
Michael Esbach, PhD (SNRE)

**Miguel Acevedo (WEC)**  

**Mark Brenner (Geography)**  
**Publications:** Obrist-Farner, J. et al. 2019. Recent onset of eutrophication in Lake Izabal, the largest water body in Guatemala.  

**Fernanda Bretones Lane (History)**  
**Conference:** Presented the paper "Enslaved Fugitives and..."

**Award:** In March 2020, she received The Sturgis Leavitt Award for Best Article from SECOLAS (Southeastern Conference on Latin American Studies) for her co-authored article (with Guilherme e Paula Costa Santos and Alain El Youssef) “The Congress of Vienna and the Making of Second Slavery,” Journal of Global Slavery 4, no.2 (June 2019): 162-195. The prize is given annually for the best article or book chapter on a Latin American or Iberian subject published by a SECOLAS member in the previous calendar year.

Kaira Cabañas (SAAH)

**Book award:** Kaira Cabañas, “Learning from Madness: Brazilian Modernism and Global Contemporary Art” (University of Chicago Press, 2018) received Honorable Mention for Arvey Foundation Book Award from the Association for Latin American Art. February 2020.


Kathleen Colverson (IFAS)


Joel Correia (LAS)


**Presentation:** Gave a talk, titled “Frontier political ecologies: Rupture, resources, and resistance in South America’s ‘Green Hell’” at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in Antigua, Guatemala January 3rd 2020.


Carlos de la Torre (LAS)


**Other:** Short Graduate Courses as Visiting Professor, “Populism and Democracy” ITAM, Mexico March 2-6, 2020.

Glenn Galloway (LAS/MDP)

Presented the paper “Forests as complex systems: Implications from the perspective of sustainable development” in the Commemorative International Symposium in honor of Dr. Chadwick Oliver, in Yale University on October 11, 2019.

Karen Garrett (Plant Pathology)


David Prevatt (ESSIE) Presentations: Dr. David O. Prevatt, PE, F.ASCE presented the Keynote Seminar to open the 2020 Residential Building Design & Construction Conference on 4 March 2020, in State College Pennsylvania. Dr. Prevatt’s topic “When Engineering Is Not Enough: Wind Hazard Resilient Residential Communities,” shared some of his research findings developed studying the ravaging effects of hurricane on housing communities from recent events in the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and Florida. https://www.phrc.psu.edu/assets/docs/RBDC2020_Announcement-and-Call-for-Submissions_FINAL.pdf.


Antonio Sajid López Méndez (SPS)

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi (SAAH)

Catherine Tucker (LAS)


Paola Uparela (SPS)


ALUMNI News

ALUMNI UPDATES

Judith Anderson (LAS 2010) is an Associate Professor at the Center for Ethnic Studies in CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Holly Brause (MALAS 2011) is a Research Scientist at the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute. She is also working towards her PhD in Anthropology.

Alexandra Cenatus (MALAS 2018) is the Assistant Director for Programming and Public Engagement at the University of Florida’s Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.

Jonathan Dain (LAS 1991) joined UF as a faculty
Erika Davis (MALAS 2019) started her PhD in the College of Education’s Curriculum and Instruction program at the University of Florida. She is specializing in Teachers, Schools and Society (TSS) and continuing her work on Latinx students’ educational experiences in U.S. schools.

Antonieta Eguren (MDP 2015) moved to Santiago, Chile and works as a Facilitation Specialist for the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Erica Felker-Kantor (MALAS 2011) is a researcher at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Her work has taken her to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Kenya.

Meredith Fensom (MALAS/JD 2004) is the Head of Global Public Affairs at Oxitec Ltd. She is pursuing a Global Executive MBA with INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France.

Celina Fernandez (MALAS 1997) is a consultant for a variety of social organizations. Her work consists of project management and organizational performance evaluation for USAID. She is also the Director of a community-based organization called Barrio Esperanza, whose goal is to improve the quality of life of people through participatory methodology and the involvement of the community.

Hans Goertz (MDP 2015) works as a Project Development Specialist at the University of Tennessee.

Hugo Alejandro Guillen Trujillo (TCD 1998) is a full-time professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Chiapas, México. He teaches classes in sustainable development and wastewater treatment with natural processes. He volunteers as technical advisor in Mayan Indigenous communities. Along with his wife, Susy, he runs a project for conservation of cloud forest (15 acres) as an educational and ecotourism demonstration.

Fiona Hogan (MDP 2019) is the Strategic Projects Manager at the University of Florida’s Office of Sustainability.

Brandon Knox (MALAS 2001) is the Director of Strategic Business Improvement at Johnson & Johnson.

Zach Levitt (MALAS 2018) is an Asylum Officer at USCIS in Washington, DC, where he lives with his fiance.

Moisés Moreno-Rivera (MALAS 2017) works on human rights to water implementation projects across California, concentrating on raising public health awareness of groundwater contamination, domestic well testing, and interim replacement drinking water solutions. He is the Assistant Tribal Liaison for the State Water Resources Control Board at the California Environmental Protection Agency. He focuses on government-to-government relationships with California Native American Tribes. He directs statewide coordination and provides guidance to the Water Boards Regional/Division Tribal Coordinators to facilitate Tribal engagement and consultations on a variety of issues that concern California’s tribal governments.

Mauricio Nunez-Regueiro (TCD 2016) moved to Argentina and works as a researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET).

Danny Pinedo (LAS/TCD 2014) moved to Lima, Peru and works as an Assistant Professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

Adriana Sanchez (MALAS 2006) is the Responsible Seafood Strategy Director at Iberostar Hotels & Resorts. She advocates for sustainable seafood and works with global supply chains to engage and support improvement projects and best practices.

Robert Turkovic (LAS 1981) is a Professor of History and Humanities at Broward College and Palm Beach State College.
Alumni Spotlight:
Amy Duchelle (TCD 2009)

Dr. Amy Duchelle is a Senior Scientist in the Climate Change, Energy and Low Carbon Development Team at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. She received her PhD in 2009 from the UF School of Forest Resources & Conservation and completed a Graduate Certificate from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program in the Center for Latin American Studies under the advisement of Dr. Karen Kainer. While at the University of Florida, Dr. Duchelle was part of the NSF-funded IGERT “Working Forest in the Tropics”, which brought faculty and students together from across campus to promote interdisciplinary research approaches to tackle forest sustainability issues in the tropics. This past March, Dr. Duchelle was named one of 16 Women Restoring the Earth by the Global Landscapes Forum.

Can you tell us about your current position and the research you conduct?

I am a Senior Scientist and Team Leader of Climate Change, Energy & Low Carbon Development at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia. I run one of CIFOR’s largest research projects, the Global Comparative Study on REDD+, which engages a large network of research partners and diverse stakeholders to produce information, analysis and tools towards protecting tropical forests and enhancing the rights and livelihoods of local people.

What aspect of your career have you enjoyed the most?

CIFOR is comprised of dynamic researchers from many nationalities, cultures and disciplines who continue to inspire me. Since my PhD, I have been based in Brazil and Indonesia, and throughout that time been able to engage with climate change and livelihood issues in many other tropical forest countries. It has been a privilege and a challenge to work for an international organization associated with credible and high-quality analysis, independent thinking, a capacity for tackling difficult and controversial issues, and an ability to reach and convene diverse actors and stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels.

What motivated you to join the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program?

Many of the leading scholars and practitioners in tropical conservation and development were affiliated with the University of Florida, and some of the very best Latin American conservation leaders were TCD alumni. I knew that I wanted to work in Brazil for my PhD; I had done my master’s research in Ecuador. And TCD was the go-to place for Amazonian studies.

While completing your TCD certificate, is there a particular skill you learned or class you took that helped set you apart in the workplace? If so, how did it do this?

My PhD training with TCD was so comprehensive that it is hard to pinpoint a particular skill or class. The applied, interdisciplinary research training - both in the classroom and through the opportunity to conduct long-term fieldwork in Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru – as well as targeted skills training, helped me become a well-rounded and confident professional.
What would you most encourage students to take away from their experience at the Center for Latin American Studies?

I would encourage students to learn from and connect with others in the Center for Latin American Studies community (even if these days, it means virtually). The talented scholars and practitioners who are and have been affiliated with the Center serve as a powerful network to address current environmental and social challenges.

How would you describe your experience as a TCD student?

I feel that I was part of TCD during a very magical period, although maybe everyone feels that way. It was when the ‘Working Forests in the Tropics’ Program had just kicked off and the ‘Amazon Conservation Leadership Initiative’ began shortly thereafter, bringing together diverse scholars from across the Americas (and beyond). There was an incredible energy among the graduate student community, and I still have many dear friends and colleagues from that time.

Is there something else you would like to share about your experience as a TCD student?

In the last year of my PhD program, several of us wrote an article for a special section in Biotropica about how graduate students, within our confined academic research environment, could share knowledge in different ways. This article became the basis for a talk that I gave as a CIFOR scientist several years after my PhD during a youth event at the Global Landscapes Forum in Warsaw, Poland and then a blog about how ‘Climate change needs a new kind of scientist.’

Something still strikes me about what is written in that blog: ‘It’s clear that developing integrated solutions to such complex problems will require a new kind of scientist. A scientist who can think across biophysical and social disciplines. A scientist who can work across scales to engage all members of society in their research. A scientist who can understand the policy implications of their work.’

That is exactly the kind of scientist that TCD cultivates.

The greatest resource of TCD is the people and the culture of collaboration that was created by the professors, staff and graduate students. I have tried to create a similar feeling of collaboration in every field or research team that I have worked with since.

What resources offered by TCD and the Center did you find beneficial in your career path?

The greatest resource of TCD is the people and Dr. Amy Duchelle (left) conducted her research with local communities in Brazil nut rich forests, collaborating with Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) scientist, Lúcia H.O. Wadt (right).
The Center for Latin American Studies would like to express its gratitude for the generosity of those who have contributed to the Center’s funds and endowments.

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Please complete our electronic Alumni Update Form online at: www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form and let us know what you’re up to! If space permits, we will include your update on our next newsletter.

If you would like to receive our weekly LAS News and Events email, please send a message to communications@latam.ufl.edu asking to be added to the weekly update list.

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