8TH COLLOQUIUM ON LATIN AMERICA

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

University of Bayreuth
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PARTICIPATION ONLINE (ZOOM)
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11 November 2026

Economic development and the implementation of non-contributory pension schemes in Argentina 1949-1986

This research investigates how the pension reforms were implemented in Argentina from 1949 to 1986. In this period, state-led industrialization was the dominant policy for economic development.
In 1949, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America proposed a development model promoting local industries and domestic production through Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI). Within this framework, the state assumed responsibility for social protection, including auxiliary pensions, as a buffer against economic volatility and inflationary erosion of income. Although historians and political scientists have examined contributory pension schemes in great detail, limited research has been done on the development of auxiliary or non-contributory pension schemes within the Cold War Era. The primary goal of this study is to examine how protectionism, as a core component of ISI, influenced the development and distribution of auxiliary pension schemes as mechanisms of economic stabilization. The central research question is: Did protectionism affect the development of non-contributory pension schemes during this period, and if so, how?
To develop this proposal, archival research uses pension files from the Intermediate and parliamentary archives in Buenos Aires and economic performance indicators such as inflation to underline beneficiary profiles and growing and declining trends in democratic and military governments. This study proposes an analytical interpretation of these pension schemes during a period of state-led industrialization. It will also analyze how these benefits were implemented as supplemental measures to other state pensions within a context of sociopolitical instability.

Fernando Alejandro Remache Vinueza, MA
University of Bremen, Germany

25 November 2026

Relational Economies and Moneyless Continuities: Trueque, Minga, Tequio and the Persistence of Non-Capitalist Economies in the Americas

Methods: This talk draws on archaeological, historical and linguistic-geographical review of sources around the practices and terminologies for economic exchange across multiple languages, alongside ethnographic reflection from almost a decade of practice with El Cambalache, a decolonial moneyless economy project in Chiapas, Mexico (2014-2023).

Theories: Decolonial, Anti-Colonial, Decolonial Feminist, Anarcho-Feminism, Diverse Economies

Findings: From pre-Columbian moneyless Andean economies to Mesoamerican moneyless and money-like technologies among the Aztecs, these economic systems were never proto-capitalist nor primitive collectivist trajectories toward the market economy. They are, and remain, distinct economic logics. These economic practices formed the basis of both empires and small communities. The persistence of trueque, minga, and tequio has simultaneously sustained non-capitalist social power, collective decision-making, and ontological continuity, generating contemporary well-being precisely because they resist, rather than anticipate, capitalism.

Dr. Erin Lea Araujo
El Cambalache, Mexico

9 December 2026

Digital Hermeneutics: Archives, Algorithms, and the Making of Migrants in Argentina around 1900

Ship passenger lists once existed as vast paper archives documenting millions of transatlantic crossings at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Digitization has turned them into searchable databases, letting researchers reconstruct individual migration trajectories with unprecedented ease. This talk explores what this shift from analogue to digital means for migration history. Starting from the repeated transatlantic journeys of two European women between Europe and Argentina around 1900, it asks how their crossings were recorded and categorized at the time — and how they are now retrieved through two digital platforms: the Argentine CEMLA migration archive and the genealogy company Ancestry. The talk argues that list-making at the port of Buenos Aires was itself an act of epistemic construction, to which digitization adds a further layer of mediation. Situated between digital archival methodology and reflexive migration studies, it asks who counts as a migrant, and how digitized passenger lists are transforming historical research and interpretation.

Dr. Agnes Gehbald
University of Bern, Switzerland

16 December 2026

Within, beyond, in between: enchanted gestures of afro-latin sensibilities

Black Geographies is a provocative, imaginative field that invites bold accounts of how Black people and communities create, inhabit, and transform space. Moving beyond approaches that reduce Blackness to actors responding to forces like slavery, colonialism, imperial power, suffering, violence, inequality, or resistance, it calls for methodologies attentive to Black Liveness across time and the plurality of places, particularly in the African diaspora. Drawing on Rodrigues' vibration archaeology (2026), Martins' spiral time (2021), Santa Cruz's rhythm (2004), and Hawthorne's (2019) and McKittrick's (2025) considerations on Black Geographies, this paper examines scales of radical imagination through three modes of producing sensible regimes and corporeality in Afro-Latin contexts: within, by rethinking pleasure and autonomy in carioca funk; beyond, through the Afro-Peruvian cultural revolution advanced by the Santa Cruz siblings' research and artistic practice; and in between, through Colombian bullerengue, a baile-cantao (sung-dance) grounded in collective entanglement. Together, these cases reveal person-community-space bonding processes formed through "enchanted gestures"—dance, chant, writing, and instrumental performance—that evoke distinct yet convergent configurations of Blackness and Africa and inscribe them in space.

Vítor Henrique Guimarães Lima, MA
Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

13 January 2027

"At least 18.667": Uptake and distortion of JEP´s reports on minors involvement in Colombian armed conflict

[tba]

Marcela Pardo, MA
CAPAZ, University of Giessen, Germany

20 January 2027

Reinterpreting Guadalupe: Exploring Generational Transmission and Contemporary Guadalupan Devotion in Guadalajara, Mexico

This lecture explores questions of transformation in Guadalupan devotion in the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, Mexico, approached through lived religion and intergenerational transmission. Since her alleged apparition in the sixteenth century, the Virgin of Guadalupe has traversed five centuries of Mexican history as a religious icon, national symbol, and cultural myth – continually reinvented, reinterpreted, and contested. In Mexico today, her meaning is increasingly negotiated amid religious diversification, individual autonomy, shifting forms of Catholic belonging, and popular culture. Drawing on early material and emerging observations from ongoing doctoral fieldwork, I consider how upper-middle-class emerging adults (ages 24–30) in Guadalajara narrate, practice, and experience the importance of the Virgin in their daily lives. Using a qualitative ethnographic approach and a decolonial epistemological framework, their narratives are situated alongside those of their parents in order to develop an intergenerational perspective on processes of transmission, possible continuity or rupture, and reinterpretation. Additionally, the study takes into account religious diversification in the area by including Catholic, Protestant/Evangelical, and non-affiliated participants. Rather than assuming that the significance of the Virgin of Guadalupe corresponds directly to formal religious affiliation, the research explores whether and how the Virgin's significance may be maintained, negotiated, or redefined across different positions. These emerging observations open broader questions concerning contemporary and generational transformations of Marianism in Latin America.

Taja Fortuna, MA
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

27 January 2027

Movie MONARCA – De Norte A Sur

The documentary portrays the diaspora caused by the 2018 crisis in Nicaragua and subsequent events, and the conditions of exile in Costa Rica: legal status, precariousness, community, art and collaboration. It also explores creative transformation: how migration involves reinventing oneself without abandoning one's roots, and how music and art are forms of collective reconstruction.

The film features conversations with exiled female composers, musicians from various Latin American countries, technicians, and producers from the COPAL collective, as well as testimonies that link the personal with the political, and the emotional with the social.

Trailer: YouTube >>

Spanish with English subtitles

Q&A with the film-makers from Colectivo COPAL

Afterwards:

CLOSING CEREMONY

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