

Netherlands Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (NALACS)  
Department of Latin American Studies (TCLA)/Institute for History, University Leiden  
Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA), Amsterdam  
Institute of Development Policy and Management (IOB), Antwerp University

# Contested Mobility:

People, Commodities and Policies  
across Latin America and the Caribbean



International Conference

13-14 October 2011

University Leiden

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# Introduction

The circulation of people, labour, commodities, illegal goods and state policies across national boundaries has become one of the most distinctive elements of global neoliberalism in 21st century Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mobility provides new opportunities, but also contributes to exclusion, marginalization, insecurity and violence. Millions of Latin Americans and Caribbeans have left their communities of origin to pursue material improvement, thereby creating transnational families. Remittances provide their families back home with a stable source of income. Yet, at the same time, the migrants' often illegal status also jeopardizes security. The trafficking of people, illegal drugs, weapons, animals, pirate CDs and other values has constituted new international markets that rearticulate legal frameworks, the administration and monopoly of violence, and state-society relations at large. Technological developments such as biometrics and the digitalisation of

control (e.g. body, iris or passport scans), or the creation of databases affect mobility and governance structures. Such developments are supposed to ease mobility and expand state surveillance, yet in practice, the deployment of such techniques makes movement but slower and can even erode state authority.

Mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as to Europe and North America is the main topic of this conference. What sorts of chains and networks emerge in the circulation of people, commodities and policies across Latin America? How does the distinction between legality and illegality affect these flows? Does the nation really matter when it comes to their functioning and control? What are the policies governments implement at national and international level to regulate mobility? What are the implications of these flows for the livelihoods of Latin Americans?

This conference seeks to stimulate the academic discussion about mobility from a cross-border perspective. We seek to bring together perspectives 'from above', 'from below' and 'at the border' to study the visibility and regulation of flows throughout the region and beyond.

Organizing institutions:

Netherlands Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (NALACS)  
<http://www.nalacs.nl/>

Department of Latin American Studies, Institute for History, University Leiden  
<http://www.hum.leidenuniv.nl/latijns-amerika/>

Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA), Amsterdam  
<http://www.cedla.nl/>

Institute of Development Policy and Management (IOB), University of Antwerp  
<http://www.ua.ac.be/IOB/>

Netherlands Association for Scientific Research  
<http://www.nwo.nl/>

Leiden, The Netherlands, October 2011

## Keynote address

Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Ph.D. in Anthropology at the City University of New York (1988), is Full Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, and the Laboratory for Globalisation and Development Studies, both in the University of Brasilia. His research topics include development, environmentalism, international migration, cyberculture, globalisation, transnationalism and world anthropologies.

He has published volumes in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, England, Mexico, Spain, United States, and more than 150 articles (in Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, Japanese and German) in journals around the world. Ribeiro has received a number of distinctions, such as the award for best Ph.D. dissertation from the National Association for Advanced Studies and Research in Social Sciences (ANPOCS), and the Roquete Pinto Medal for his contribution to Brazilian anthropology, distinction granted by the

Brazilian Association of Anthropology. His most influential publications include the books *Cultura e política no mundo contemporâneo* (2000), and the volume *World anthropologies: disciplinary transformations within systems of power* (2006) edited with Arturo Escobar.

With the keynote speech 'Globalization from below and the non-hegemonic world system', Ribeiro will open the international conference on Thursday 13 October at 10 hrs., in the Academy Building.

The Netherlands Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (NALACS) gathers academics and professionals working on the Latin American and Caribbean region. Its mission is to promote knowledge and academic debates on the region. Institutions with whom NALACS cooperates include OLA (Latin American Studies PhD student network) and sister organizations Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (Germany) and Society for Latin American Studies (United Kingdom). The association has office at the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA) in Amsterdam. Currently, the association counts more than 150 members.

NALACS focuses on urgent or otherwise topical issues, invites prominent international speakers and offers a forum to experts. The association's activities include lectures, seminars and conferences on social, political and cultural developments in Latin America

and the Caribbean, often organized in close cooperation with Dutch universities. Themes of recent international conferences are 'Indigenous (self-)representation' (2005), 'The rise of the Left' (2006), 'Political parties and democracy' (2007), 'The neoliberal city' (2008), 'Sex and sexuality' (2009), and 'Latin America and the Caribbean: beyond neoliberalism?' (2010).

Members receive the quarterly electronic NALACS newsletter, and twice a year the European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The association also grants a MA thesis award every autumn during the NALACS international conference.

For more information and membership write to:  
[nalacs@cedla.nl](mailto:nalacs@cedla.nl)

# Conference programme

## Conference panels

### **1 People on the move:**

- 1.A Life trajectories and the question of improvement
- 1.B Legalities and transnationalism

### **2 The circulation of commodities:**

- 2.A Chains across borders
- 2.B Environment, food and security

### **3 Technology and power:**

- 3.A Changing mechanisms of surveillance
- 3.B Controversies

### **4 State policies across national borders:** asymmetries, responses and rearticulation

## Conference overview

### Day 1, Thursday 13 October

9:00 Registration

9:30 Welcome

**10:00 Keynote address**

11:20 Coffee break

11:40 Panel 1-A

**13:00 NALACS Master Thesis Award 2011**

13:20 Lunch

14:20 Panel 1-B

15:40 Coffee break

16:00 Panel 2-A

**18:00 Performance 'United States of Banana' by Giannina Braschi**

Reception

### Day 2, Friday 14 October

10:00 Panel 2-B

11:20 Coffee break

11:40 Panel 3-A

13:00 Lunch

14:20 Panel 3-B

16:00 Coffee break

16:20 Panel 4

18:00 End conference

## Programme

### Day 1, Thursday 13 October

Location: Academy Building (room Klein Auditorium), Rapenburg 73, 2311 EZ, Leiden

**9:30** Welcome, José Carlos G. Aguiar (University Leiden)

**10:00 Keynote address** by Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (University of Brasilia)

Discussant: Leo Lucassen (University Leiden)

**11:20** Coffee break

**11:40 Panel 1-A** People on the move: life trajectories and the question of improvement

Chair: Jude Murison (IOB, Antwerp)

Discussant: Griet Steel (IOB, Antwerp)

The 'mobility turn' as a motor for development: a critical analysis of 'new mobilities' in the Bolivian Andes, Gery Nijenhuis & Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University)

Caring over distance: multi-sited livelihoods, connectivity and care -an Andean case study, Eva de Bruine & Michaela Hordijk (University of Amsterdam)

Crossing borders: transnational practices of Brazilian migrants residing in Belgium, Mieke Schrooten (Catholic University Leuven)

**13:00 NALACS Master Thesis Award 2011**

In order to stimulate and recognize academic talent, NALACS honors an outstanding MA thesis on Latin America and the Caribbean. An independent jury awards the prize, worth € 500, to the MA thesis that succeeds best in combining scientific excellence with creativity and writing skills.

**13:20** Lunch

**14:20 Panel 1B** People on the move: legalities and transnationalism

Chair: Griet Steel (IOB, Antwerp)

Discussant: Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University)

Facing local integration and citizenship policies: intercultural trajectories of Latin American immigrants in European cities, Fabiola Pardo Noteboom (Externado University of Colombia)

Ecuadorian perspectives of contested mobility: state policies and migrants' organizations in Spain, Carla Tamagno & Koen Meeuwssen (The Andean Observatory on Migration, Interculturality and Codevelopment, Peru)

Mobility from Ecuador to Spain. The illegalization of migrants: Identification, detention and expulsion, Keina R. Espiñeira (Complutense University of Madrid)

**15:40** Coffee break

**16:00 Panel 2-A** The circulation of commodities: chains across borders

Chair: Michiel Baud (CEDLA, Amsterdam)

Discussant: Damian Zaitch (Utrecht University)

The contested circulation of textiles in Peru: from informal sovereignties to free-trade agreements, Cecilie Vindal Ødegaard (University of Bergen)

Mexico's forgotten border: cross border trade between Merida (Mexico) and Belize's commercial free zone, Yanneke Whitehouse (University Leiden)

The end of the chain: black adolescent labor in the cocaine commodity chain on the Ecuador-Colombia border, Peter Redvers-Lee (Vanderbilt University)

**18:00 Performance** 'United States of Banana' by Giannina Braschi, followed by reception

## Day 2, Friday 14 October

Location: Gravensteen building, Pieterskerkhof 6, 2311 SR, Leiden

**10:00 Panel 2B** The circulation of commodities: environment, food and security

Chair: Christien Klaufus (CEDLA)

Discussant: Gemma van der Haar (University Wageningen)

Chufño goes global: the revalorization of Andean foodways, Lisa Markowitz (University of Louisville)

Residential tourism as a contested mobility in Costa Rica: challenges for governance, institutions and political representation, Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University)

Land, copper, flora: (im)mobility and circulation of contested natural resources, Veronica Davidov (Maastricht University)

**11:20** Coffee Break

**11.40 Panel 3-A** Technology and power: changing mechanisms of surveillance

Chair: José Carlos G. Aguiar (University Leiden)

Discussant: Wil Pansters (Utrecht University)

Crime watch: engaging with mobile representations of illegality in inner-city Jamaica, Rivke Jaffe (University Leiden)

Moving through the city: from citizens to consumers and the other way around, Daniela Vicherat Mattar (Leiden University College)

OK to board? Securitising 'risk flights' from the Caribbean, Sanneke Kloppenburg (University of Amsterdam)

**13:00** Lunch

**14:20 Panel 3-B** Technology and power: controversies

Chair: Adriana Churampi (University Leiden)

Discussant: Sara Brandellero (University Leiden)

Between biopolitics and necropolitics: transnational adoption in Guatemala, Silvia Posocco (University of London)

Institutional bodies, indigenous mobility and state health practices in Southern Chile: the Pewenche case, Cristóbal Bonelli Iglesias (University of Edinburgh)

The art of mobility: a discussion of two performances by Regina José Galindo, Michelle Franke (Radboud University Nijmegen)

Imaginative technologies of (im)mobility at the "end of the world", Noel B. Salazar (University of Leuven)

**16:00** Coffee break

**16.20 Panel 4** State policies across national borders: asymmetries, responses and rearticulation

Chair: Rivke Jaffe (University Leiden)

Discussant: Patricio Silva (University Leiden)

Patterns of international clientelism: the OECS-member states and the United States in a changing Caribbean environment, Wouter Veenendaal (University Leiden)

Un actor no estatal en el escenario internacional. El caso de las FARC-EP 1993-2010, Luis Trejos (Universidad de Chile)

Understanding struggles for water security in the Ecuadorian Andes, Jaime Hoogesteger (Wageningen University)

**18:00** End conference

## Abstracts

### Conference panels

#### 1 People on the move:

1-A Life trajectories and the question of improvement

1-B Legalities and transnationalism

#### 2 The circulation of commodities:

2-A Chains across borders

2-B Environment, food and security

#### 3 Technology and power:

3-A Changing mechanisms of surveillance

3-B Controversies

#### 4 State policies across national borders: asymmetries, responses and rearticulation

## **Panel 1-A People on the move: life trajectories and the question of improvement**

### **The ‘mobility turn’ as a motor for development: a critical analysis of ‘new mobilities’ in the Bolivian Andes**

Gery Nijenhuis, Utrecht University <g.nijenhuis@uu.nl>

Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University <a.zoomers@uu.nl>

All around the world, globalization has coincided with a rapid increase in mobility, both in the form of international flows of labor migrants and as flows of leisure migration or tourism in the opposite direction. For a long time, migration was perceived mainly as the antithesis of development; there was either development or migration. Nowadays, mobility is viewed as a potential source of development; remittances from migrants and spending by tourists making a positive contribution to development opportunities. They offer new possibilities and challenges for sustainable livelihoods and business development. ‘Corridors’ emerge between the areas of origin and the destinations that channel an intensive exchange of capital, people, commodities, and ideas. However, simultaneously there is some danger that because of the linking of localities, processes of ‘local development’ may be undercut, and non-sustainable production and consumption systems may be introduced.

This paper aims to analyze local development in Bolivia from a ‘mobility’ or ‘flows’ perspective, analyzing the role of international mobility (migration, tourism); but taking into account ‘new mobilities’ as well (e.g. circular migration, resettlement of the population in response to new climate variability, the redistribution of services etc. etc.). How are these processes related to decentralization and popular participation? (can the local authorities exert sufficient control?). It is on the basis of mobility that new class relations appear to arise. The more mobile are often better informed and can easily exert influence within the network.

### **Caring over distance: multi-sited livelihoods, connectivity and care -an Andean case study**

Eva de Bruine, University of Amsterdam <eva\_de\_bruine@hotmail.com>

Michaela Hordijk, University of Amsterdam <M.A.Hordijk@uva.nl>

Although the concept “multi-locational livelihoods” has been discussed since the early 1990s, it was mainly understood as household members linking urban and rural localities. Similarly the dynamics of transnational households have mainly been analysed in terms of household members maintaining linkages across national boundaries. Both approaches fail to capture the multi-sited nature of the migrating households in the Andean province of Junin (Peru).

The Andean population – and thus the population of Junin - has historically been characterized by high mobility patterns. Originally this was mainly a regional mobility, dynamically following ecological niches to improve livelihoods. This gradually transformed into a mobility spanning the national territory, including rural-urban migration to both the region’s capital Huancayo and the national capital Lima. Since the 1960s these migration movements have broadened in scope and now cover international destinations in Latin America, Europe and the United States. Consequently the multi-sited households in Junin can have members in the rural villages, the city of Huancayo

and/or Lima, and at international destinations. This study analyses how household members from the Junin Province maintain contact and caring relations over distance. It analyses these patterns from the perspective of the elderly stay-behinds in the Junin province, who have other household members living in other localities in Peru as well as abroad. It are not the often mentioned factors as gender, age or time of separation that most determine the practices of connectivity and care. Our analysis – based on survey research (N=250) complemented with in depth case-studies and life-histories of 20 member of 6 different households – shows that the kind of family relationship exerts more influence over how bonds are maintained over distance.

### **Crossing borders: transnational practices of Brazilian migrants residing in Belgium**

Mieke Schrooten, University Leuven <Mieke.schrooten@soc.kuleuven.be>

Classic migration studies during the 1970s and 1980s conceptualized the migrant as a labour migrant that either was a temporary sojourner or completely assimilated to the receiving country’s culture. In both cases however, migration meant a (temporary) sharp break from the home community. In the contemporary context of globalisation, typified by intense global relationships between people, capital, commodities and ideologies, this classic migratory picture is no longer tenable. Rapid technological development and a revolution in communication are interconnecting individuals and groups, making it increasingly easy for migrants to sustain dispersed forms of community and identity. Not only is it possible to return home more often for real visits, it is also possible to maintain continuous contact by virtual visits.

Today’s mobile, changing and globalising world is profoundly changing the research context, urging researchers to redefine their “fields”. This paper illustrates the complexity of current migration research, presenting the results of an ethnographic research among Brazilian migrants residing in Belgium. It explores the sites, practices and meanings of these migrant’s transnational activities through the scope of the “5Ts” – family remittance transfers, tourism, transportation, telecommunication, and nostalgic trade.

## **Panel 1B People on the move: legalities and transnationalism**

### **Facing local integration and citizenship policies: intercultural trajectories of Latin American immigrants in European cities**

Fabiola Pardo Noteboom, Externado University of Colombia <maria.pardo@uexternado.edu.co>

Local integration policies developed in the last decade in Europe are analysed in this paper, particularly immigrants’ access to citizenship as seen through the integration experiences of Latin Americans in Amsterdam, London and Madrid. Europe is undergoing a moment of resistance to non-western immigration and its policies tend to enforce control measures and selection criteria. In relation to integration policies, and after the ‘abandonment of multiculturalism’, governments tend to resort to short-term legislative interventions in an attempt to achieve results. The recent tendency

is to implement policies with topics highly symbolic of the national cultures, transforming citizenship into a prize that immigrants obtain after following civic and language courses. As shown in the case of Latin American immigrants, its efficiency is limited and migrants are more influenced by informal social and civic networks and transnational activities created by migrants themselves than by the policies designed to integrate them. In the multicultural urban context, these immigrant practices are creating alternative forms to national citizenship and a genuine city identity independent from the national identity promoted by formal integration policies. The resurgence of the concepts of citizenship and national identity as a strategy for integration and social cohesion, and the urgency that characterises integration policies for processes that require long-term views are leading to the inefficiency if not, the failure of these legislative efforts.

### **Ecuadorian perspectives of contested mobility: state policies and migrants' organizations in Spain**

Carla Tamagno, The Andean Observatory on Migration, Interculturality and Codevelopment, Peru <carlatamagno@gmail.com>

Koen Meeuwsen, The Andean Observatory on Migration, Interculturality and Codevelopment, Peru <koenmeeuwsen@gmail.com>

This paper deals with recent migration of Ecuadorians to Spain, the state policies aimed at them and the essential role they play in shaping and defining these policies. Many Ecuadorian migrants went to Spain, due to the harsh economic and political circumstances in Ecuador at the turn of the 21st century while being attracted by el sueño español. Ecuadorians have been able to settle themselves into the Spanish society while others are still struggling. Within this harsh process of settling Ecuadorian migrants' organizations such as Asociación Rumiñahui Hispano-Ecuatoriana play a vital role in the field of powerful actors. They exert agency in different contexts and ways such as in 2001 pressuring the Spanish administration through sit-ins and protest marches to demand the regularization of undocumented migrants leading to reforms of the restrictive Immigration Act. Ecuadorians in Spain construct complex relations and affiliations of cooperation among each other, the host society and with Ecuador. Simultaneously, the Ecuadorian government is for various reasons very much interested in the Ecuadorians in Spain having designed a whole range of policies and created extraterritorial structures. These policies can be characterised by asistencialismo (supportism), a discrepancy between political rhetoric and stated objectives, and a general inefficiency. This highlights a gap between the Ecuadorians in Spain and the Ecuadorian state not permitting to fulfil their capabilities. Ecuadorian migrants' organizations are kept at distance while they could play a vital role to bridge this gap and contribute to 'mainstream' policies.

### **Mobility from Ecuador to Spain. The illegalization of migrants: Identification, detention and expulsion**

Keina R. Espiñeira, Complutense University of Madrid <keina.espineira@gmail.com>

Within the context of an enlarged European Union, and its unification around the pillars of the Schengen space -freedom, security and justice-, the role of European borders today is closely linked to migration mobility, its management and control. The present paper analyzes borders as spaces of classification and social control that transcend their geographical limit, they are externalized and internalized, rearticulating spaces and identities. There are geographies of exclusion (Sibley, 1995), abyssal lines (Sousa Santos, 2006), visible and invisible distinctions.

The study focus on how some migrants are classified as illegal, analyzing specifically the case of people moving from Ecuador to Spain. What are the policies implemented at national and European level to regulate their mobility? What are the mechanisms of border control and how are they implemented? How do they affect mobility? What controversies do they generate in this supposed transnational and postcolonial world? The goal is to analyze the cycle of control surrounding non-legal migrants, departing from visa policies and readmission agreements to aircraft controls, mass raids, detention camps, expulsions and deportations. The hypothesis is that the control of modern migrations arises a geographical regime of social classification and selection, a machine of control that borders beings according lines of difference.

### **Panel 2-A The circulation of commodities: chains across borders**

#### **The contested circulation of textiles in Peru: from informal sovereignties to free-trade agreements**

Cecilie Vindal Ødegaard, University of Bergen <cecilie.odegaard@sosantr.uib.no>

In Peru, the traffic of goods across the border from Bolivia and Chile has been significant, involving primarily women as importers, wholesalers and retailers. In 2009, Peru entered a free-trade agreement with China, and the paper explores how this affects more traditional forms of trade. The trading activities of women are often regarded as an extension of activities in the household, providing some of the background for why the illegal aspects of trade have often been overlooked by the authorities. Important in this circulation of goods is also a more explicit manipulation of image-presentation among traders, and the first part of the paper discusses how this has been produced and played out in encounters with public functionaries.

After the free-trade agreement with China, the importation of textiles into Peru has increased, and both the legal and illegal importation of textiles is increasingly considered a threat to the national textile industry. The second part of the paper therefore discusses how these commodity circuits are made the object of moralization – or de-moralization – among different actors. While the contrabandistas are seen among traders to provide a valuable social service, the regulation of these forms of trade is being strengthened, partly in response to free-trade agreements. Many

contrabandistas are down-sizing their businesses now, also because of the increased competition from importers working directly with China. Due to the free-trade agreements, new mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in relation to trade are being created, and the paper will explore how these mechanisms are gendered.

### **Mexico's forgotten border: cross border trade between Merida (Mexico) and Belize's commercial free zone**

Yanneke Whitehouse, University Leiden <y.c.l.whitehouse@umail.leidenuniv.nl>

Mexico borders three countries, the United State, Guatemala and Belize. The first being border being one of the most famous and studied border in the world and the last one, the forgotten border with the least amount attention politically and academically. It has been described as the less complicated border of the three due to its small size, population and bilateral commercial trade. However, this border has a long established informal border trade with southern Mexico since the pre-hispanic times. In 1994 Mexico became a part of NAFTA which had the aim of creating free trade block between Canada, USA and Mexico, this led to the elimination of free trade areas within Mexico such as free zone of Quintana Roo in the south of Mexico, bordering northern Belize. In the same year Belize passed its Free Trade Zone Act which allowed the construction of the Corozal, Commercial Free Zone in the province of Corozal, Belize taking advantage of its position at the border of Mexico and the disappearance of Quitana Roo's free zone status which gave it a large investment and customer potential. This paper will look at how smugglers from the city of Merida, Mexico manipulate their duty free allowance to move goods from the Commercial Free Zone back to Merida in order to sell them without paying the required taxes. The paper will describe and analyze the challenges these smugglers face.

### **The end of the chain: black adolescent labor in the cocaine commodity chain on the Ecuador-Colombia border**

Peter Redvers-Lee, Vanderbilt University <peter.redvers-lee@vanderbilt.edu>

On the Ecuadorian Colombian border spatial flows take two forms. In the more recognized flow, refugees from the political violence in Colombia stream south into San Lorenzo canton, Ecuador, where they have some recognition as refugees from the Ecuadorian state and from multilateral organizations. The second and unrecognized flow is one that moves adolescent labor north to work in the illegal cultivation of coca plants and the production of coca paste. As palm plantations in northern Ecuador have displaced Afro-Ecuadorians from their lands, and as the Colombian civil war and drug production have intensified along the border, adolescent laborers have been drawn north to work in the drug trade. This paper uses ethnographic and survey research, conducted in the region since 2005, to understand these flows in terms of Henri Lefebvre's notions of space and as the product of shifting modes of production that create racialized, adolescent labor pools.

## **2-B The circulation of commodities: environment, food and security**

### **Chuño goes global: the revalorization of Andean foodways**

Lisa Markowitz, University of Louisville <lisam@louisville.edu>

In tandem with its mineral-based economic growth, in recent years Peru has enjoyed a gastronomic boom, evident in the growth of restaurants, the emergence of celebrity chefs, and increasing food exports. A central element of the boom, under the rubric *Novo Andina* is the promotion of the country's indigenous foods and preparation styles. Ironically, the "lost crops of the Incas" have historically been regarded as pedestrian peasant fare, if not vilified as "dirty Indian food." Although the new-found popularity of and demand for Andean foods, in Peru and abroad, has the potential to generate additional income for small-holding Andean ranchers and farmers, the construction of remunerative value-chains remains an aleatory work-in-progress for the actual producers. Both the celebration and accelerating circulation of once-disparaged food commodities lies at the intersection of international and domestic flows of development practice, tourist desire, and commercial regulation.

In this paper, I provide an overview of the boom and the imbrication of these key ideas and institutions in the revalorization of Andean cuisine. Drawing on recent fieldwork in the southern Peruvian highlands, I show how these trends contribute to new contested mobilities via accounts of producers' individual and collective efforts to engage in and create new commercial circuits for old foods.

### **Residential tourism as a contested mobility in Costa Rica: challenges for governance, institutions and political representation**

Femke van Noorloos, Utrecht University <f.vannoorloos@geo.uu.nl>

Residential tourism is on the rise: Western migrants are increasingly establishing themselves in Latin America and the Caribbean in search of a better and less expensive lifestyle. Residential tourism is one of the most fascinating mobilities of current times, as it makes us rethink the relation between tourism, migration and development (e.g. the migration-development nexus). If predictions are right, in the near future many Latin American and Caribbean localities will deal with a variety of short-term and long-term mobilities of North American retirees and younger populations, many of whom have purchased property overseas. The implications of these movements are still under-researched. This paper, based on empirical research in one of Costa Rica's main residential tourism destinations (Guanacaste), sheds light on the socio-political transformations caused by residential tourism. Questions emerge about institutions, political influence, social organisation, and scale: To what extent do 'old' and 'new', 'internal' and 'external' actors exert influence on local development and show signs of citizenship? How do residential tourists and other migrants connect local involvement with transnationalism? How do these issues relate to local, national and international governance structures – including migration policies? To what extent are there institutional (in)complementarities?

### **Land, copper, flora: (im)mobility and circulation of contested natural resources**

Veronica Davidov, Maastricht University <v.davidov@maastrichtuniversity.nl>

This paper focuses on Intag, an agriculturally rich and highly biodiverse valley in Ecuadorian highlands that is the site of contested copper mining projects and an active anti-mining campesino resistance. I will discuss the way in which material resources of a place like Intag become literally and symbolically mobile as they are inscribed into and remade through economies of value into narratives of entitlement, ownership, and identity. In a sense, the debates about contested material resources are debates about integrity versus disembedding—is the copper under Intag an integral part of the material landscape, or can it be valued, commodified, and physically disembedded from the Intag ecosystem? Will it remain untouched and incorporated, or will it be violently dislodged from and consequently disembedded from local context as it enters the neoliberal transnational circuit of valuation and exchange? I argue that once a process of commodification of natural materials is underway in a place like Intag, there is an emergence of what I call “metonymic materiality”—a discursive frame in which one particular aspect of material resources (such as copper, or arable land, or rare flora) becomes iconic of the place. Once such “dominant” materialities emerge, they may be contested through counter-discursive strategies, where other constitutive materialities are used to symbolize and promote alternative regimes of value. The (im)mobility of natural resources thus shapes the ways in which Intag residents renegotiate their relationship with their environment and with the state, which is actively engaged in its own narrative about which natural resources have “value”, and how they should circulate.

### **Panel 3-A Technology and power: changing mechanisms of surveillance**

#### **Crime watch: engaging with mobile representations of illegality in inner-city Jamaica**

Rivke Jaffe, University Leiden <rjaffe@fsw.leidenuniv.nl>

From the 1980s onwards, Jamaican gangs became notorious for their success in building transnational crime networks. Drugs, guns and people began to travel along cross-border circuits that stretched from the ghettos of Kingston to inner-city neighborhoods in New York, Toronto and London. The notoriety of the so-called “yardies” grew as they received increasing attention from North American and European media. Various mass-mediated representations, from televised specials to mainstream movies and investigative journalism, framed Jamaican gangs for non-Jamaican audiences. Based on ethnographic research with residents of an inner-city neighborhood that gave birth to one of the island’s major “posses”, this paper discusses how interlocutors actively engage with such mobile representations of Jamaican crime. Well aware of previous depictions of Kingston’s gangs and ghettos and the possible repercussions of such representations, they seek to contest, control or appropriate them. Some residents refer to previous studies to warn the anthropologist obliquely that she should not ask too much. Others are eager to watch crime documentaries together, expressing empathy, intimacy and disappointment as they discuss their relationships with, and knowledge of, the featured criminals. How do mass-mediated depictions of crime intersect with a transnational

lived geography of illegality, connecting marginalized urban populations across borders? How do these representations of Jamaican gangs inscribe circuits of transnational belonging, reinforcing the affective dimension of global criminal networks? What are the possibilities and pitfalls of conducting research on crime in a context where international representations of illegality circulate continuously? What methodological insights can we glean through ethnographic engagement with these representational practices? This paper seeks to extend the study of transnational Caribbean criminal networks by exploring how the associated representations of illegality are mobilized.

#### **Moving through the city: from citizens to consumers and the other way around**

Daniela Vicherat Mattar, Leiden University College <d.a.vicherat.mattar@luc.leidenuniv.nl>

The implementation of the new public transport system in Santiago, Chile, Transantiago in 2007 has been highly controversial. Yet, another form of movement emerged from this: those affected users could demand the government on grounds of “moral damage” as stated in the consumer’s protection law. Consumer mechanisms were put in place for the citizens to make the government accountable for the damages caused by the transport system’s failures. This is, consumer tools were effective methods to enact citizenship rights. This paper aims to investigate into this phenomenon mainly in view of the prevailing purism regarding citizenship rights: citizenship as considered to be a privileged political entitlement that has little to do with the economic and often selfish categorisation of consumers’ behaviour.

Using the example of Transantiago, this paper discusses two facets of consumer behaviour that challenge the traditional scope given to citizenship: on the one hand, by challenging conventional understandings of citizenship, consumerism raises the question of individual conscience over public compromises. On the other hand, neither consumption nor civic acts can be reduced to the occasions when individuals make selfish choices among alternatives, in both cases individuals use their agency to enact a larger set of social rituals, expectations and shared values that might enhance or endanger democracy.

#### **OK to board? Securitising ‘risk flights’ from the Caribbean**

Sanneke Kloppenburg, University of Amsterdam <s.kloppenburg@uva.nl>

This paper examines the mobility regime that air travelers from Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles face on their route to and arrival at Schiphol Airport. More precisely, I discuss a number of control practices for detecting and blocking flows of drug smugglers and contraband on these routes. It appears that airlines take part in several preventive measures to block the mobility of (potential) drug smugglers, such as pre-flight checks, digital profiling and the black list. Through such public-private arrangements, it is the journey by airplane that gets blocked at check-in or at the gate, rather than the crossing of the border at the border check points. I show how these arrangements can be beneficial to airlines as well as governments, but also discuss some of the consequences for travelers, such as their limited possibility to appeal. Next, I discuss how these public-private arrangements also work to expand the spatiotemporal contours of the mobility regime. By cooperating with airlines, the Dutch government can shift checks to Caribbean territories and

the stage of departure. The mobility regime thus challenges several boundaries: the boundaries between public and private actors and their tasks and responsibilities, geographical boundaries, and legal boundaries.

### **Panel 3-B Technology and power: controversies**

#### **Between biopolitics and necropolitics: transnational adoption in Guatemala**

Silvia Posocco, University of London <s.posocco@bbk.ac.uk>

This paper focuses on an ethnographically informed analysis of transnational adoption in Guatemala in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. It argues that a biopolitical account of transnational processes of regulation through adoption circuits in and through Guatemala ought to be complemented by a sustained necropolitical reflection. Extending Achille Mbembe's formulation of 'necropolitics' and 'necropower' (Mbembe 2003), the paper develops an analysis the 'sexual necropolitics' of transnational adoption, with a view to exploring the relation between histories of violence, the emergence and progressive intensification of transnational adoption flows, and processes of social, political, and legal restructuring during the Guatemalan conflict (1954 - 1996) and its violent aftermath. In Guatemala, transnational adoption was constituted as an object of biopolitical regulation under the mark of genocidal violence during the Guatemalan conflict. Between 1977 and 2007, transnational adoption was governed through a peculiar form of state-sanctioned legal exceptionalism that ensured the deregulated movement of large numbers of adoptees to North America and Europe. The Transnational Adoptee's vitality and the imperative to govern it do not wane in the violent post-conflict present. Institutional and legal reforms linked to post-Peace Accords reconstruction reveal concerted claims to its biopolitical management through interventions such as the temporary suspensions of adoptees' transnational movement and their seemingly 'indefinite detention' in deregulated institutions.

#### **Institutional bodies, indigenous mobility and state health practices in Southern Chile: the Pewenche case**

Cristóbal Bonelli Iglesias, University of Edinburgh <C.R.Bonelli@sms.ed.ac.uk>

In this paper, I will analyze a governmental local program called 'Intercultural Health Program' in Southern Chile involving Indigenous population, by disentangling in different activities or practices what the words 'intercultural health' meant for Public Health workers. In practice, I will describe how state actions had as main target the participation of Pewenche people, by describing how this local program implied the construction of a system of visible transportation, founded by international capitals plus State funding, of Indigenous people from places that were not necessarily connected before the governmental action. Through the analysis of the making up of collaborative networks of healing between traditional indigenous Mapuche healers and biomedical doctors, I will describe how these visible movements were also designed in order to create a very simplified governance and 'order' of transportation of people through the creation of 'protocols of referral' of Pewenche patients.

The latter, I will argue, worked as a matrix for the representation of the state as single and bounded entity, providing us with the visible fiction of a single and coherent state model of the Healing world in Southern Chile. I will provide ethnographic evidence about practical consequences and controversies of the implementation of this program in terms of treatments and health prevention that involved dramatically lives of Pewenche people. Finally, I will critically reflect about implementation of policies in public health that encourage collaboration between cosmologies in Latinoamerica, but without truly considering local understandings about Health, Healing, and the body.

#### **The art of mobility: a discussion of two performances by Regina José Galindo**

Michelle Franke, Radboud University Nijmegen <Mah.franke@hotmail.com>

Circulation of people, commodities and policies is necessary for neoliberal capitalism to function. Yet, these movements and migrations are controlled. Within this processes, the visual arts take a special —at times contradictory— position. Artworks belong to the commodities that are circulated with relative freedom, while addressing and challenging the (im)mobility controlled by global capital. Case studies from the art world give insight in the complexities of global movements, sometimes questioning theoretical discourses.

This paper focuses on two artworks from the Guatemalan performance artists Regina José Galindo: *Curso de supervivencia para hombres y mujeres que viajarán de manera ilegal a los Estados Unidos* (2007) and *Family Prison* (2008). In the former she organized a survival course for ten Guatemalans who wanted to migrate illegally to the US. In the latter, she occupied —together with her husband and child— a family-size cell owned by a private prison company in Texas. Immigrants who are being held by the US until their illegal status is confirmed usually occupy these cells. While these artworks have been exhibited around the world, they give two different commentaries on immobility. *Curso de Supervivencia* is a tactic that challenges the restricted mobility of people in the age of globalization, embodying Hardt and Negri's multitude. The multitude is largely migrant workforce that fuels what they call Empire. Though presently disempowered, they will soon demand global citizenship and control over their movements. *Family Prison* on the other hand, challenges the philosopher's utopian discourse, pointing to the trend of increasing privatisation and control.

#### **Imaginative technologies of (im)mobility at the "end of the world"**

Noel B. Salazar, University of Leuven <noel.salazar@soc.kuleuven.be>

Chile's geographical remoteness – a long and narrow strip of land between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, the Atacama Desert and the icebergs of Patagonia – has largely defined the imaginaries people share about this country. Despite its historical image as *finis terrae* (the end of the world), many migrants found their way to these isolated peripheral lands. Thanks to new means of transport and communication, Chile nowadays is asexposed to the global circulation of people, objects and ideas as the rest of the world. Based on a creative combination of archival research and ethnographic fieldwork, this paper traces how old imaginaries about Chile as an inaccessible island play an instrumental role in how contemporary Chileans participate in and frame their perceived

exclusion from a plethora of new transnational mobilities, regardless of whether they have the actual means and freedom to cross (imaginary and real) boundaries. Although increasingly under outside pressure, the value of immobility remains at the core of the Chilean social imaginary, geo-politics, and cultural life. The “image management” of the rescue operation of the 33 San José miners who were trapped for 69 days in a collapsed copper-gold mine in the Atacama desert offers a perfect example to analyze the politics of (im)mobility in Chile and beyond. The findings illustrate how mobility imaginaries and practices emerge as sources constitutive of cultural meanings beyond being a mere extension or transfer of them, and how their manipulation effectively influences how Chilean citizens perceive their own and other’s (im)mobility.

#### **Panel 4 State policies across national borders: asymmetries, responses and rearticulation**

##### **Patterns of international clientelism: the OECS-member states and the United States in a changing Caribbean environment**

Wouter Veenendaal, University Leiden <veenendaalwp@fsw.leidenuniv.nl>

During the Cold War era, the seven microstates that are joined together in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were firmly located in the political sphere of influence of the United States. As the US invasion of Grenada in 1983 demonstrates, in this period Washington was determined not to tolerate another Communist regime in the region in addition to Cuba. The (geo-) strategic importance of the Eastern Caribbean microstates gave rise to massive American investments in the region, in exchange for a continuing allegiance to Western interests and the preservation of democratic systems of government in these microstates. As a consequence of the international vulnerability and dependency of the OECS-member states, a relationship of international clientelism thus emerged between Washington and the OECS-members (cf. Sutton 1993; Lewis 1993). Seeing that the end of the Cold War resulted in a decreased attention of the United States in the Caribbean region, it is the question whether this liaison of international clientelism still exists, and if so whether the historical paternal role of the United States has now been assumed by other states. In this paper, the consequences of the end of the Cold War for what concerns the international clientelistic relation between the US and the OECS-microstates will be analyzed and assessed. By providing a comprehensive overview of the conditions and characteristics of this relationship, and by examining the contemporary international affairs of the Eastern Caribbean microstates, it will be investigated whether the end of the Cold War has resulted in the disappearance of this pattern of international clientelism. In the conclusion of the paper, an overview of potential future developments of the international affairs of the OECS-microstates will be presented.

##### **Un actor no estatal en el escenario internacional. El caso de las FARC-EP 1993-2010**

Luis Trejos, Universidad de Chile <luifer\_385@hotmail.com>

El presente trabajo se propone dar respuesta a la pregunta: ¿Cuáles han sido los objetivos, estrategias y procedimientos utilizados por las FARC-EP para insertarse internacionalmente durante y post guerra fría? En este sentido, se busca determinar de qué forma el cambio del sistema internacional influyó directamente en la evolución de su discurso político (paso del comunismo marxista de la guerra fría al socialismo bolivariano del Siglo XXI), conductas militares y la expansión y cualificación de su actividad internacional. En primera instancia se analiza de manera general el comunismo y anticomunismo colombiano durante la guerra fría (1948-1990). En un segundo momento de estudio (1993-2010) se analiza de qué manera la política antidroga de los Estados Unidos para la región andina (Plan Colombia – Iniciativa Regional Andina) y la “guerra contra el terrorismo”, han afectado o potenciado la actividad internacional de las FARC-EP.

##### **Understanding struggles for water security in the Ecuadorian Andes**

Jaime Hoogesteger, Wageningen University <jaime.hoogesteger@wur.nl>

Water security is essential for the livelihoods of peasant and indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Andes. Nonetheless recent approaches to water security as enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals and the human right to water tend to use the term through a rather narrow approach that focuses almost exclusively on the minimum daily water and sanitation needs of individuals. Herewith they disregard the complex relationship there exists between water, livelihoods and identities in many Andean regions. This paper explores how water security is constituted from a local perspective focusing on the situation of the marginalized and rural poor. It shows through which strategies water use collectives struggle to attain and maintain their water security through collective action and diverse organizational and federative alliances at different scalar levels which breach from the local to the national. From this perspective water security is a conception for Andean livelihoods sustenance; which depends on diverse multi-layered collective struggles for resources, rights, and recognition.

## Performance: United States of Banana

Giannina Braschi is a Puerto Rican writer, author of the Spanglish novel *O-Yo Boing!* and *Empire of Dreams*. For the conference, she will read a scene from her new book *United States of Banana*. The work explores the cultural, economic, and political journey of nearly 50 million Hispanic Americans living in the United States. *United States of Banana* takes place at the Statue of Liberty in post-9/11 New York City, where Hamlet, Zarathustra, and the performer are on a quest to free a fictional Puerto Rican prisoner.

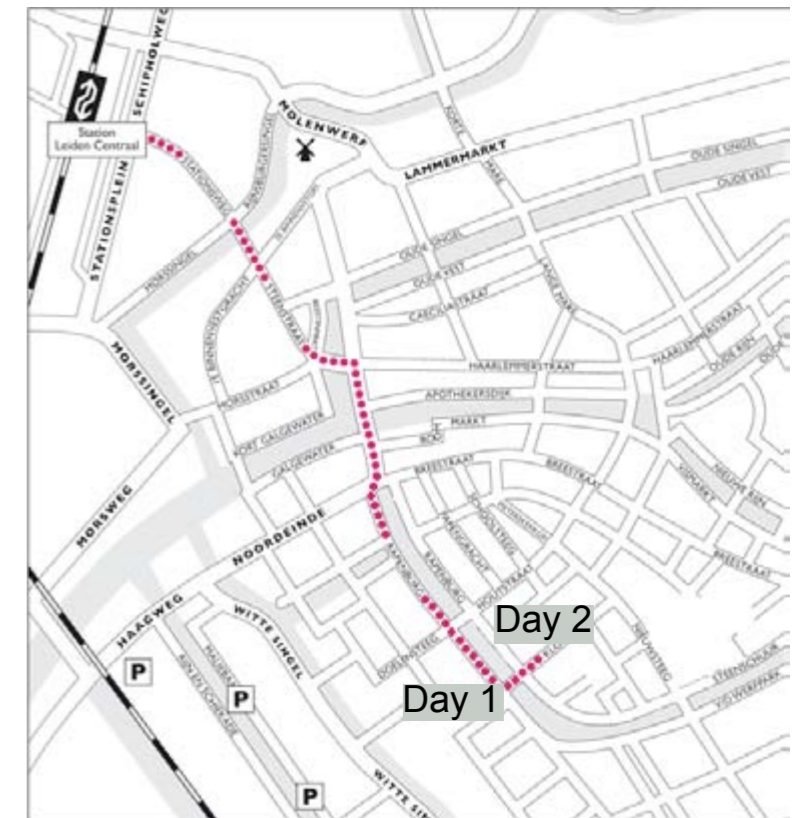
“Revolutionary in subject and form, *United States of Banana* is a beautifully written declaration of personal independence. Giannina Braschi’s take on U.S. relations with our southern neighbors in Latin America and the Caribbean, most especially Puerto Rico, is an eye-opener. The ire and irony make for an explosive combination and a very exciting read,” declared Barney Rosset of *The Evergreen Review*.

The performance/reading will take place on Thursday 13 October at 18 hrs., in the Academy Building.

# Conference locations

**Day 1**, Thursday 13 October  
Academy Building, room Klein Auditorium  
Address: Rapenburg 73  
2311 EZ Leiden  
[Open map on internet](#)

**Day 2**, Friday 14 October  
Gravensteen building  
Address: Pieterskerkhof 6  
2311 SR Leiden  
[Open map on internet](#)





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