A Remote Welcome to a New Academic Year

The start of this new academic year is an unusual one for everyone. As we embark in these unchartered waters, we’re adjusting our work accordingly and will be offering webinars and remote research opportunities for students this academic year, such as the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas, the Peruvian Feminist Oral History Project, and the Bilingualism Research Lab.

The RCA will collaborate with campus partners, specifically The Humanities Institute and the Institute for Social Transformation, to offer webinar programming to inspire sustained cross-border dialogues that tie the region. We look forward to hosting our first webinar lecture on Nov. 19th at noon with Associate Professor Pascha Bueno-Hansen of the University of Delaware.

We are delighted to welcome Darío León to the RCA team. Darío is the community and research coordinator for the Institute for Social Transformation. Thank you for supporting the RCA as we start a new academic year. Be sure to check out our 2019–20 annual report and please remember to make a voting plan for November.

Saludos,
Sylvanna M. Falcón
Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS
Associate Professor Sylvanna Falcón ~ The Evolving Practice of Human Rights Accountability: The New Terrain for Justice

Monday, November 9
6:30–8 p.m.
Virtual Event

As part of the “Slugs & Steins” monthly lecture series for alumni and community members, Associate Professor Sylvanna Falcón will discuss the founding of the human rights lab, how human rights accountability has shifted in the digital realm, and why a new generation of human rights activists are needed with critical digital literacy skills in search for the truth. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please go to the Slugs & Steins event page.
**Associate Professor Pascha Bueno-Hansen ~ Dissident Genders and Sexualities in the Andes: Transitional Justice Otherwise**

**Thursday, November 19**
**12–1:30 p.m.**
**Virtual Event**

Co-presented with [The Humanities Institute](#), Associate Professor Pascha Bueno-Hansen will provide a lunchtime webinar lecture on the modalities of resistance of people of non-normative genders and sexualities to armed conflict, political repression, and authoritarian regimes in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. Bueno-Hansen is an associate professor of women and gender studies at the University of Delaware and earned her Ph.D. in politics at UC Santa Cruz. She is the author of *Feminist and Human Rights Struggles in Peru: Decolonizing Transitional Justice* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). This event is co-sponsored with [The Institute for Social Transformation](#) and is free and open to the public; [advance registration is required to access the Zoom link](#).
Brazilian Reactionary Wave Webinar Series

Domestic Workers’ Resistance on Friday, November 6 at 11 a.m.
LGBTQ Resistance on
Friday December 4 at 1 p.m.

These two webinars will bring together scholars and activists engaged in researching and resisting Brazil’s current political crisis, marked by the election of president Jair Bolsonaro in October 2018, and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed over 140,000 Brazilians. The Institute for Social Transformation’s Seed Grant Award is funding this webinar series. The event is free and open to the public. Please go to the webpage for more information, including registration.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Winners and Losers
Higher Education and Social Mobility

Social and Economic Mobility Research
Jorge Klor de Alva, an RCA Distinguished Alumni affiliate, has published research on social mobility based on 1,107 four-year universities titled "Winners and losers: Universities and the pursuit of the American dream," which draws on a previous study called "Is the university next door the way to upward mobility?" For anyone interested in the data for this research and its methodology, it is publicly available.

Venom Lab
How do venomous snakes provide us with new ways for understanding how environments and societies have related over the course of the last century? Lily Balloffet, assistant professor of Latin American and Latino studies, explored this question in the Venom Lab with 6 undergraduate student researchers who were part of the RCA's Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program. Balloffet seeks to link human and animal ecologies by studying snake species such as the Terciopelo, Bushmaster, and Central American Rattlesnake. The Institute for Social Transformation's Building Belonging Program partially funded this summer project.

Human Rights Lab
The Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas spent a total of 410 hours conducting human rights investigations and building open source research skills in the first year. Since the lab primarily supports the digital verification efforts of NGOs, news outlets, and other advocacy partners, not all of our completed research can be public. We are happy to share two public reports: "Chile at the Threshold", "Germán Aburto: A Social Media Timeline of a Chilean Activist" and "Human Rights Crisis in Chile: A Digital Inquiry." These reports will be shared with human rights organizations in Chile.

KUDOS & ACHIEVEMENTS
In partnership with the Latin American and Latino Studies Department of UC Santa Cruz, we are very proud to introduce the first cohort of Tinker Foundation award recipients.

**Juan Carlos Jeri Vidal**
*Project Ayniqucha: A dynamic and participatory strategy for bycatch prevention and improvement of fishing efficiency in Peru*

Coastal Science and Policy Master Program, Division of Physical & Biological Sciences

**Julia Harencar**
*Solving the mystery of a contradictory pattern of beetle damage in Panamanian spiral gingers*

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Ph.D. Program, Division of Physical & Biological Sciences

**Boyeong Kim**
*Miracles Revisited: Developmentalism and the Government of Gendered Citizen in Chile and South Korea*

Latin American and Latino Studies Ph.D. Program, Division of Social Sciences

**Mario Gomez-Zamora**
*The P’urhépecha Sexualities in the Local and in the Transnational Space*

Latin American and Latino Studies Ph.D. Program, Division of Social Sciences

**Katie Ligmond**
*Women and Textiles: A Look at Empire from the Margins*

History of Art and Visual Culture Ph.D. Program, Division of Arts

**Piper Milton**
*Spatial and Cultural Transformations: Centers of Religious Devotion in Colonial Central Mexico*

History Ph.D. Program, Humanities Division
Lucas Solorzano

*Freedom is a Place: Shaping abolitionist geographies in the wake of migrant containment and detention*

Social Documentation M.F.A. Program, Division of Arts

Lucia Vitale

*INGOs and National Health Care in Costa Rica: Towards Health for All*

Politics Ph.D. Program, Division of Social Sciences
Congratulations to Pascha Bueno-Hansen, graduate of the Ph.D. program in politics with graduate emphasis in Latin American and Latino studies, on the Spanish translation of her book on decolonizing transitional justice in Perú by the Institute de Estudios Peruanos.

RCA STAFF PROFILE
Darío grew up in Chico, CA to farmworking parents who immigrated from the state of Guanajuato, México. Darío is an alumnus of UC Santa Cruz. His work in strengthening communities spans over 16 years of experience engaging with diverse neighborhoods and cities in different aspects throughout the state of California. During his free time, he enjoys watching sports, movies, traveling, restoring and customizing sneakers, as well as restoring classic cars.

**RCA CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Faculty Research Awards**
*Due: November 2, 2020, 5 p.m. PST*
This award supports research in areas of specialization for the RCA in Chicanx, Latinx, and/or Latin American, migration, and human rights studies by UC Santa Cruz faculty.

**Research Cluster Awards**
*Due: November 2, 2020, 5 p.m. PST*
Research clusters are collaborative research groups with UC Santa Cruz faculty and/or graduate students. Clusters independently organize activities, such as reading groups, workshops, symposia, conferences, and lectures, and can now be renewable for up to three years.

**Graduate Student Grants**

**Due: November 2, 2020, 5 p.m. PST**

These grants help fund research expenses for UC Santa Cruz graduate students in good academic standing in Chicanx, Latinx, and/or Latin American, migration, and human rights studies, such as research or conference travel, software packages, transcription, and other research supplies.

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