

## Conferences/Symposia (continued)

1:30 p.m. *Session III: Decolonial Performance: A Roundtable Conversation*

**Armando García** (University of Pittsburgh)

**Alicia Arrizón** (Professor and Chair, Department of Women's Studies University of California, Riverside)

**Walter Mignolo** (William H. Wannamaker Professor of Literature and Director, Center for Global Studies and the Humanities, Duke University)



Walter Mignolo.



Left to right:  
Neepa Majumdar,  
Alicia Arrizón,  
Natalie Léger,  
Gerard Aching,  
and  
Fatimah Tobing Rony .

*Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies, Humanities Center, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Department of English, Global Studies Center, Cultural Studies Program, Film Studies Program, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Department of Theatre Arts, and Women's Studies Program.*

## 19<sup>th</sup> Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference

The Nineteenth Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference was held on March 21 and 22, 2014. **Greg Grandin** (Professor of History, New York University) delivered the Fifteenth Carmelo Mesa-Lago Distinguished Latin American Social and Public Policy Lecture on “Who Aint a Slave: Slavery in Fact and Herman Melville's Fiction.”

The annual Latin American Social and Public Policy conference features presentations on social and public policy research in Latin America by university students, with comments by University of Pittsburgh faculty and local experts. For the 19th conference, twenty-eight students from the University of Pittsburgh and six students from other universities (Harvard University, The New School, University of Arizona, University of Florida, University of São Paulo, and Wingate University) presented papers and eight experts led discussions.

The 2013 conference was organized by Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellows **Ignacio Arana Araya** (Political Science), **Alana DeLoge** (Linguistics), **Diana Hoyos** (Anthropology), **Adam Prosk** (History), and **Katie Watt** (Public and International Affairs) with direction and support from **Luis Bravo** (Coordinator of International Relations and Fellowships). The organizers and the Center would like to thank everyone involved in the conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Latin American Social and Public Policy Program of the Center for Latin American Studies (a US Department of Education-designated Title VI National Resource Center). A list of the conference panels, presenters, and discussants follows.

### Friday, March 21, 2014

8:50 a.m.

Welcome: **Scott Morgenstem** (Director, Center for Latin American Studies)

9:00 a.m. *Panel 1: Presidents, Elections, and Democracy*

Moderator: **Eamonn Berry** (Public and International Affairs)

**Ignacio Arana Araya** (Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “Individual Differences and Presidential Behavior: How Presidents’ Uniqueness Leads to Institutional Change in the Americas”

**Miguel Carreras** (Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “Individual-Level Determinants of the Vote for Outsiders in Latin America”

**Ronald Alfaro** (Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “All They Wanted? Presidents, Political Support and Agency Design in Costa Rica”

Discussant: **Kevin Morrison** (Assistant Professor, Public and International Affairs)



Left to right: Eamonn Berry, Kevin Morrison, Ignacio Arana Araya, Miguel Carreras, and Ronald Alfaro.

10:15 a.m. *Panel 2: Health*

Moderator: **Alana DeLoge** (Linguistics)

**Camilo Ruiz** (Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh): “The Balmis Smallpox Vaccine Expedition. New Colonial Biopower under the Discourse of Humanitarianism”

**Rachel Chamberlin** (Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh): “Framing Health Policy in Latin America: Understanding the Disjuncture between International Agreements and National Practices”

**Maria Dieci** (Social Studies, Harvard University): “Rights Within Reach: Implementing Maternal Health Care Rights for Colombia’s Displaced Women”

Discussant: **Martha Terry** (Assistant Professor, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences)



Left to right: Maria Dieci, Rachel Chamberlin, Martha Terry, Hector Camilo Ruiz, and Alana DeLoge.

12:30 p.m.

**2014 Keynote Address:** “Who Aint a Slave: Slavery in Fact and Herman Melville's Fiction”  
by **Greg Grandin** (Professor of History, New York University)



**Greg Grandin** is professor of history at New York University and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His research and writing focuses on US foreign policy, Latin America, genocide, and human rights. He has published in *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *The Boston Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The American Historical Review*. He has been a frequent guest on *Democracy Now!* and has appeared on *The Charlie Rose Show*. Professor Grandin also served as a consultant to the United Nations truth commission on Guatemala and has been the recipient of a number of prestigious fellowships, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. He is the author of *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* (Metropolitan 2009)—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History, the National Book Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award, Amazon.com's best history book of 2009; *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Empire* (Metropolitan 2005); *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America During the Cold War* (University of Chicago Press 2004); and *Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation* (Duke University Press, 2000)—which won the Latin American Studies Association's Bryce Wood Award for the best book published on Latin America in any discipline. His most recent book, *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World*, narrates the history of a slave-ship revolt that inspired Herman Melville's other masterpiece, *Benito Cereno*.



Left to right: Grace Kelly, Rebecca Wallace, Amelia Thorne, Madeline Townsend, and Matt Rhodes.

2:00 p.m. Panel 3: Seminar/Field Trip to Argentina

Moderator: **Ignacio Arana Araya** (Political Science)

**Grace Kelly** (University of Pittsburgh): "Museum Identity in Argentina: Representations of National Identity"

**Amelia Thorne** (University of Pittsburgh): "A Study of the Effects of Socioeconomic Class on the Use of Public Spaces in Rosario, Argentina"

**Rebecca Wallace** (University of Pittsburgh): "An Imagined Community of Peronists"

**Madeline Townsend** (University of Pittsburgh): "Para que no vuelva a

repetir': The Patterned, Politicized, Prepackaged Nature of Collective Memory and the Argentine Dictatorship"  
Discussant: **Matt Rhodes** (Instructor, Administrative and Policy Studies, Education)



3:30 p.m. *Panel 4: Violence and the State*  
Moderator: **Diana Hoyos** (Anthropology)  
**Hillary Heath** (History and Political Science, Wingate University): “A Moral Obligation to Do What We Could: Jesse Helms, the United States and Argentina's Dirty War (1976-1983)”  
**Adam Prosk** (History, University of Pittsburgh): “Demobilization and Transitions to Peace in Latin America”  
**Irene Cabrera Nossa** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “Borders and Armed Conflict in Colombia: FARC's Retreat and International Externalities”  
Discussant: **Laura Gotkowitz** (Associate Professor, History)

Standing (left to right): Diana Hoyos, Adam Prosk, and Hillary Heath.  
Seated (left to right): Laura Gotkowitz and Irene Cabrera Nossa.

5:00 p.m. *Panel 5: Criminality and Victimization*

Moderator: **Adam Prosk** (History)

**Peter Yehl** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “Human Trafficking in Latin America: Refocusing on the '3Ps'”

**Rachel Samuels** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “Evolution of Policies to Fight Femicide in Latin America”

**Liz Getman** (Latin American Studies, University of Florida): “The Effect of Crime Victimization on Support for Guatemala's Judicial and Political Systems”

Discussant: **Laura Macía** (Postdoctoral Fellow, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences)



Left to right: Rachel Samuels, Adam Prosk, Laura Macía, Peter Yehl, and Liz Getman.

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

9:00 a.m. *Panel 6: Institutional Development*

Moderator: **Katherine Watt** (Public and International Affairs)

**Rebecca Hollender** (Milano School of International Affairs, The New School): “Contextualizing the Rise of Alternatives to Development in Latin America”

**Katelin M. Hudak** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “A Growing Economy and Expanding Waistlines: The Nutrition Transition in Chile (with an empirical cross-country comparison)”

**Rebecca H. Jeudin** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “An Analysis of Policies and Policy Options for the Improvement of Food Security in Haiti through Rural Agricultural Development”

Discussant: **Paul Nelson** (Associate Professor, Public and International Affairs)



Left to right:  
Katherine Watt,  
Rebecca Hollender,  
Rebecca H. Jeudin,  
Katelin M. Hudak,  
and  
Paul Nelson.

10:30 a.m. *Panel 7: Development*

Moderator: **Alana DeLoge** (Linguistics)

**Bianca G. Barabas** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “The Credibility of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America”

**Beliji Lileth Lopez Benavides** (Education, University of Pittsburgh): “Mobility and Repatriation Programs in Latin America: Cause and Effect”

**Julia Radomski** (Anthropology and Economics, University of Pittsburgh): “‘Hay que cuidarse’: Perceptions of Social Positions and Development in Fertility Decisions in Quito, Ecuador”

**Alek Suni** (Economics, University of Pittsburgh): “U.S. Quantitative Easing’s Effects in South America”

Discussant: **Jorge Delgado** (Instructor, Administrative and Policy Studies, Education)



Left to right: Beliji Lileth Lopez Benavides, Jorge Delgado, Bianca G. Barabas, Alek Suni, Julia Radomski, and Alana DeLoge.

1:00 p.m. *Special Presentation: Policy and Planning in Developing Countries*

Moderator: **Katherine Watt** (Public and International Affairs)

The Communications and Transport Secretary in Mexico has proposed a regional rail project, the Tren Transpeninsular (TTP), to connect major beach resort areas and several major archeological sites in the Yucatan Peninsula. Students in the Public and International Affairs Capstone Seminar course (Policy and Planning in Development



Standing (left to right): Srivastava Kodavatiganti,  
Katelin Hudak, and Soledad Calvino.

Seated (left to right): Lizette Ponce,  
Justin Royer Moore,  
and Elyce Nollette.

Countries) are working with a local non-profit in Mexico, *Foro para el Desarrollo Sustentable*, which has been hired to conduct a preliminary assessment of the potential social impacts of the TTP. Students in the capstone will identify best practices on the implementation of informed consent protocols—which are increasingly more commonly used in infrastructure projects—and create a literature review of similar infrastructure cases to understand the process of consultation with indigenous communities. Free, prior, and informed consent protocols aim to assess the wide-ranging impacts that projects will have in communities—including economic, environmental, social, and cultural. A group of the Capstone Seminar students traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula in early March 2014 to meet with members of the indigenous communities that will be affected by the rail project. This special panel is a compilation of their initial findings.

Presenters: **Srivastava Kodavatiganti**, **Lizette Ponce**, **Justin Royer Moore**, **Elyce Nollette**, **Katelin Hudak**, and **Soledad Calvino**.



Standing (left to right): Javier Vazquez-D'Elia, Katherine Watt, and Lizette Ponce.  
Seated (left to right): Fiorella Lopez-Jimenez, José Antonio Ziebarth, Trisha Lopez, and Samuel Talman.

2:15 p.m. *Panel 8: Democratic Politics and Governance*

Moderator: **Katherine Watt** (Public and International Affairs)

**Fiorella Lopez-Jimenez** (Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona): “The Economics of Religion and Political Stability”

**José Antonio Ziebarth** (Law, University of São Paulo): “Democratic Governance and the Need for Policy Coordination: A Comparative Analysis of Government Institutional Designs”

**Lizette Ponce** (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “Is Latin America Democratic?”

**Trisha Lopez** (Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh): “*Interculturalidad* and *El Buen Vivir* as National Re-branding in Ecuador”

**Samuel Talman** (Economics and Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “Erratic Economies: The Climb to the Top of South America”

Discussant: **Javier Vazquez-D'Elia** (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science)

### Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities

Many scholars in the humanities have found fieldwork an indispensable tool, and have found that it transformed the practice and goals of their scholarship. Yet, there exists in the humanities no public discourse on fieldwork, nor any formal training in how to conduct fieldwork. And, whereas in anthropology, fieldwork is built into funding plans and time-lines for the degree, in many humanities disciplines time-lines and the absence of institutionalized funding have discouraged fieldwork. Thus, far from fieldwork being an institutionalized or institutionally recognized part of work in the humanities, humanities scholars often have to fashion and improvise their own rough tools with which to conduct it. And this is done largely in isolation. This colloquium (convened on March 28 and 29, 2014) launched a conversation amongst humanities scholars doing fieldwork on the global south. It began a process of articulating, sharing, and developing practices and understanding of fieldwork in the humanities.