

The Swiss School of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)  
Presents its Online PhD Workshop

“Latin America - Networks, Platforms, and Ecosystems”

Friday, January 21, 2022 (14:00 – 19:00 Switzerland time)  
Saturday, January 22, 2022 (09:00 – 13:15 Switzerland time)

Zoom Link for both days: <https://unisg.zoom.us/j/69886905245?pwd=VTByZ0ZJbzhPVFowR01KZTd0Rkdudz09>  
Meeting ID: 698 8690 5245      Passcode: 961526



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The concepts of networks, platforms and ecosystems have had a remarkable trajectory from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The metaphors of these concepts and their terminologies, however, are much older and more complicated than the sustained boom of their uses since the 1980s. Network theories, for example, have been established in many scientific disciplines, although we tend to focus on the everyday use of the term, denoting mostly the digital, technologies and infrastructures as well as personal and institutional relationships. “Networking” has filtered into our professional and private lives, expanding beyond technology, unto business and politics. The meaning of *network*, nonetheless, has been assessed differently in academic research and it can also cover the physical, biological, philosophical as well as the social. While cultural theorist Hartmut Böhme recognizes the status of “net” and “network” as the “leading cultural metaphors of modern society and its sciences”, the media scholar Erhard Schüttpehl sees “network” as an absolute term. Classifications of the word cover a broad spectrum that consider it an inflationary buzzword, a transdisciplinary concept, cultural paradigm, and epistemic idea. The term platform is equally peculiar since it can also expand from computing to the political. Platforms can be physical or virtual spaces as well as a declaration of the principles on which a group or persons stands for. Equally, ecosystems were traditionally a complex community of organisms functioning in an ecological environment. The term now also can signify a network of organizations and businesses within interdependent parts that make up a whole. The peculiarities for these terms and their expanding connotations, which are also met with great skepticism, require a more precise differentiation not only of their meaning, but also of their uses within different disciplines. In this SSLAS PhD Workshop, we will take a closer look at these concepts in such diverse contexts as social conditions, economic relationships, education and innovation, art, and technical infrastructures as well as gender equality.

SSLAS PhD Workshop organized by the  
Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo  
de la Universidad de San Gallen (CLS-HSG)  
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8, CH-9000 St.Gallen

## Friday, January 21, 2022

- 14:00 – 14:15            Opening Remarks  
Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez (Universität St.Gallen)
- 14:15 – 15:15            *“Offense taken: networks and the reputation cost of fact checking in a polarized Latin America”*  
Prof. Dr. Ernesto Calvo (University of Maryland, USA, Director of the Interdisciplinary Lab for Computational Social Science)  
Moderated by Dr. Enzo Nussio (ETH Zürich)
- 15:15 – 16:15            *“Social networks, rights, and gender equality in Brazil”*  
Prof. Dr. Mariana G. Valente (Insper University, InternetLab, Brazil)  
Moderated by PhD Student André Cardozo Sarli (Université de Genève)
- 16:15 – 16:45            *Virtual Coffee Break*
- 16:45 – 17:45            *“The Edgelands Interdisciplinary Pop-up Institute (currently in Medellín)”*  
Dr. Yves Daccord (The Edgelands Interdisciplinary Pop-up Institute)  
Prof. Dr. Beatriz Botero (Sciences Po Law School Paris)  
Moderated by PhD Candidate Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi (Universität St.Gallen)
- 17:45 – 18:45            *“Platform governance - Open government partnerships in Brazil”*  
Dr. Fabro Steibel (Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University)  
Moderated by Dr. Melina Teubner (Universität Bern)

## Saturday, January 22, 2022

- 09:00 – 10:00            *“Humans and ecosystems: The Hutukara and the Xapiri - notes on the ecocriticism of a Yanomami Shaman”*  
PostDoc Dr. Mayara Ribeiro (Universität Zürich)  
Moderated by Dr. Rocío Robinson (Universität St.Gallen)
- 10:00 – 10:30            *“Collaborative value creation through ecosystems”*  
Dr. Joachim Stonig (Universität St.Gallen)  
Moderated by Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez (Universität St.Gallen)
- 10:30 – 11:30            *“Why is the drug trade not violent? Cocaine production and the embedded economy in the Chapare, Bolivia”*  
Dr. Thomas Grisaffi (University of Reading, Universität St.Gallen)  
Moderated by Dr. Rocío Robinson (Universität St.Gallen)
- 11:30 – 11:45            *Virtual Coffee Break*
- 11:45 – 13:15            *Network analysis in art (in Colombia) and impact investment (in Brazil)*  
Dr. Annatina Aerne (Université de Lausanne)  
PhD Candidate Letícia Vargas Bento (Universität St.Gallen)  
Moderated by Dr. des. Sabrina Tabares (Université de Neuchâtel)
- 13:15                      Announcements and closing remarks  
Dr. Rocío Robinson (Universität St.Gallen)