



"Manifestación" (1934), Antonio Berni

**The Swiss School of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)**  
**PhD Workshop**  
*"Political Polarization and Democracy in Latin America"*

**Thursday, February 6, 2025 (13:45 – 19:00 & Dinner)**

**Friday, February 7, 2025 (09:00 – 14:00 & Lunch)**

**University of St. Gallen, The SQUARE**

Latin America is undergoing rapid change. This is not a new statement, but it is gaining momentum as it refers to accelerated changes taking place in a context of marked contrasts, including extreme political polarization. Traditional and serious challenges in the region, such as widespread labor market informality, profound social inequality, or much-needed state reforms, must now be addressed in the context of constant political and social tensions, often with seemingly irreconcilable policy proposals, and a public sphere that is being transformed by new digital technologies that are reconfiguring modes of participation and understandings of what is "public". In this two-day workshop at the Swiss School of Latin American Studies, we will bring together scholars from different disciplines to address questions related to the aforementioned political polarization and its impact on democratic institutions in the region.

SSLAS PhD Workshop organized by the  
Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo de la Universidad de San Gallen (CLS-HSG)



**Thursday, February 6, 2025**

**Universität St. Gallen**

**The SQUARE**

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| 13:45 – 14:00 | <i>Opening Remarks</i><br>Prof. Dr. Matias Dewey (Universität St. Gallen)<br>Prof. Dr. Christian Bueschges (Universität Bern)   |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | <i>Polarización política y democracia en América Latina</i><br>Priv. Doz. Yanina Welp (IHEID)   |
| 15:00 – 16:15 | <i>Media Platforms and polarization in Latin America</i><br>Prof. Dr. Mariana Valente (University of St. Gallen)  |
| 16:15 – 16:40 | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |
| 16:40 – 17:20 | <i>The Rise of (International) ESG Law: What it is, how it operates, and whether it actually works:<br/>A Case Study of Lithium Mining in the Lithium Triangle</i><br>Agustín Giustiniani Sandoz (PhD at IHEID) |
| 17:20 – 18:00 | <i>Whose white gold? Political feelings of resource extraction and democratic spaces in Argentina</i><br>Filippo Bozzini (PhD at University of Lausanne and IHEID)  |
| 18:00 – 18:15 | <i>Break</i>  |
| 18:15 – 19:00 | <i>Imaginando la economía en América Latina</i><br>Stephan Gruber (Postdoc at Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)  |
| 19:30         | <i>Dinner: Restaurant Marktplatz, Neugasse 2, 9000 St.Gallen</i>  |

**Friday, February 7, 2025**

**Universität St. Gallen**

**The SQUARE**

- 09:00 – 10:15      *Personalización del poder y autocratización en América Latina*  
Prof. Dr. Mariana Llanos (University of Erfurt)
- 10:15 – 11:00      *Digital Payments: Pathway to Inclusion or Driver of Inequality?*  
*A Comparative Study in the Global South*  
Dr. Guadalupe Moreno (Postdoc at Goethe University in Frankfurt)
- Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 12:45      *Anti-Tax Corporate Networks and Tax Reforms in Unequal Democracies in Latin America.*  
Germano Ribeiro (Postdoctoral Fellow at IHEID)
- 12:45 – 13:00      *Closing Remarks*  
Prof. Dr. Matias Dewey (Universität St.Gallen)  
Prof. Dr. Christian Bueschges (Universität Bern)