

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

**“Latin America in the Face of a Pandemic: Current Situation, Responses, and Political Perspectives”
“América Latina ante la pandemia: situación actual, respuestas y perspectivas políticas”**

Thursday, January 21, 2021 (16:15 - 19:00 Switzerland time)

Thursday Zoom Link: <https://unig.zoom.us/j/81511961873?pwd=WTlnVGRuclNFalpVN01EVFpZR0tyQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1196 1873 Passcode: **444333**

Friday, January 22, 2021 (16:00 - 19:00 Switzerland time)

Friday Zoom Link: <https://unig.zoom.us/j/88333642603?pwd=dFBQU2N4NUNyYb25pL0VnVHgwcnPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 883 3364 2603 Passcode: **076508**



Photo: Argentina President Alberto Fernández's Twitter

As in the rest of the world, Covid-19 has inflicted considerable pain in Latin America, both economically and socially. The region currently has some of the highest Covid-19 death rates in the world, with Brazil ranking second globally only after the USA. Latin America is facing a pandemic crisis borne out of political instability, social unrest, fragile health systems, and longstanding and pervasive inequality in income, health care, and education. Furthermore, informal workers have been impacted severely since they have little access to social protection and the informal labor market makes up approximately 54% of all work across the region. An estimated 231 million people are predicted to be living in poverty at the beginning of 2021, reaching levels that were last seen 15 years ago.

This SSLAS Workshop aims to analyze the impacts of the pandemic from various social aspects and political perspectives within the regional context to try to gather a better understanding of a pandemic that continues to spread across our Latin American societies. We will start off with two workshops on how to do academic remote fieldwork in times of Covid-19. The keynote speech will be on the effects of the pandemic on Latin America's political landscape, including its impacts on democracy, parties, and populism. We will also hear about the medical responses, what worked, and what needs to be done as well as receive country updates and listen to experiences from SSLAS alumni now in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

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

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – Research Methodologies and Practices During the Pandemic

- 16:15 – 16:30 Opening Remarks
Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez (Universität St.Gallen)
- 16:30 – 17:30 Workshop “*Creative Research Methods for Doing Remote Fieldwork in a Pandemic*”
Prof. Dr. Helen Kara (United Kingdom)
- Moderated by Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez (Universität St.Gallen)
- 17:30 – 17:40 *Virtual Coffee Break*
- 17:40 – 18:40 “*How To Do Remote Research During Covid-19*”
Input by SSLAS Researchers
- Exchange of Ideas “*Managing Emotions and Academic Work During a Pandemic – An Anthropological Perspective*”
Dr. Maria Claudia Coelho (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Brazil)
- Moderated by Dr. Rocío Robinson and PhD Student Letícia Vargas Bento (Universität St.Gallen)
- 18:40 – 19:00 Presentations by new SSLAS PhD Students
Felipe Román Lozano (Université de Lausanne) and Tobias Krauss (Universität St.Gallen)

Friday, January 22, 2021 – Analysis from Abroad and on the Ground across Latin America

- 16:00 – 17:00 Keynote “*Populism, Polarization, and Democracy: Latin American Politics in the Age of Covid-19*”
Prof. Dr. Kenneth Roberts (Cornell University, USA)
- Moderated by Dr. Rocío Robinson (Universität St.Gallen)
- 17:00 – 18:00 Keynote “*Covid-19 Medical Response in Latin America – What Worked, What Did Not, and What Needs to be Done Now*”
Prof. Dr. Rocío Sáenz (Former Costa Rica Minister of Public Health / Universidad de Costa Rica)
and Dr. Karol Rojas (School of Public Health, Universidad de Costa Rica)
- Moderated by Prof. Dr. Christian Büschges (Universität Bern)
- 18:00 – 18:05 *Virtual Coffee Break*
- 18:05 – 19:00 Panel “*Country Updates on the Pandemic and Experiences from SSLAS Alumni on the Ground*”
Dr. Renata Peregrino de Brito (Professor, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RIO, Brazil)
Dr. Juan Fernando Palacio (Professor, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB), Medellín, Colombia)
Dr. Emilie Dupuis (Consultant, Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecorregión Andina (CONDESAN), Ecuador)
Dr. Carlos Vargas (Professor, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico)
- Moderated by Prof. Dr. Vanessa Boanada-Fuchs (GIMLA, Universität St.Gallen, Brazil)
- 19:00 Announcements and Closing Remarks
- Dr. Rocío Robinson (Universität St.Gallen)