The Swiss Society of Latin American Studies

invites you to the Workshop

The Future of Higher Education in Latin America: Knowledge, Engagement, and Global Partnerships

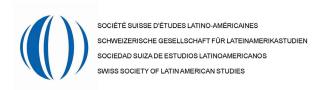
University of Bern, October 2 & 3, 2025, Mittelstrasse 43, Room 220



Foto: Fragmento del mural realizado por la Brigada Ramona Parra para el primer Festival de Intervención Urbana Hecho en Casa, 2012. Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM), Santiago de Chile. Fotografía de Rodrigo Fernández, 2017. Fuente: Wikimedia Commons.

The Future of Higher Education in Latin America: Knowledge, Engagement, and Global Partnerships

The Swiss Society of Latin American Studies (SSLAS) and the Ibero-American Studies at the University of Bern will host a workshop on 2–3 October 2025, with the support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW). The event will explore the future of higher education in Latin America and its relevance within global academic debates. It will critically examine the role of universities as agents of social transformation, taking into account their historical legacies, contemporary innovations, and emerging challenges. Drawing on pedagogies, theories, and key concepts from the region, participants will reflect on how Latin American institutions foster civic engagement, address epistemic injustices, and integrate diverse systems of knowledge. The workshop will also consider threats to academic freedom, state interventions, and restrictive policies under different political regimes, as well as the potential of transnational collaborations. Furthermore, it will ask what European universities might learn from the innovative approaches developed in Latin America. Bringing together diverse disciplinary perspectives, the event aims to promote equitable partnerships and alternative academic models that transcend the traditional North-South hierarchies.







The Future of Latin American Higher Education Institutions: Knowledge, Engagement, and Global Partnerships

Thursday, October 2, 2025

13:15 - 13:30	Opening Remarks
	Drof Dr Christian Dijachass (Unive

Prof. Dr. Christian Büschges (University of Bern)
M.A. Christiane Hoth (University of Bern)

Universities at the Crossroads: Knowledge, Democracy, and Social Responsability

Chair: Dr. Rocío Robinson (University of St. Gallen)

13:30 – 14:30 Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (University Bielefeld and

CALAS, Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the

Humanities and Social Sciencies)

Between (De)Coloniality, (Post)Truth, and (Anti)Democracy: Constellations of Academic

Knowledge Production in Latin America

14:30 – 15:30 M.A. Kathia Reynders (KU Leuven)

Service-learning in a Latin-American versus a European Context, Exploring a Unique Facilitating

Role for Latin American Studies

15:30 – 15:50 *Coffee Break*

PhD Project Presentations

Chair: Dr. André Masseno (University of Zürich)

15:50 – 16:30 Iraides Thamara Romero (World Trade Institute, University of Bern)

Libraries as Bridges: Expanding Access to Education for Indigenous Communities in

the Amazonian Region

16:30 – 17:10 Françoise Delavy (Iberian and Latin American History, University of Bern)

Color Production in Indigenous Colombian Communities: A Reflection on Identity and

Partnership with the Territory

17:10 – 17:30 *Coffee Break*

Knowledge, Pedagogy, and Engagement:

Activism, Conviviality, Buen Vivir, and Postcolonial Approaches to Diversity and Social Inclusion

Chair: Prof. Dr. Elize Mazadiego (University of Bern)

17:30 – 18:30 Prof. Dr. Angela Stienen (PH Bern)

Planetary Thinking in Knowledge Co-Production: Insights from a Long-Distance Research Partnership

between Antioquia University in Colombia and Bern University of Education in Switzerland

18:30 – 19:30 Prof. Dr. Marisa Belausteguigoitia (UNAM)

Im/Possible Conversations: Imagination, Critical Fabulation and Knowledges in Crisis

20:00 *Conference Dinner*

Friday, October 3, 2025

Institutional Futures: The Impact of Policies, the Role of Intercultural Universities, and New Forms of Participation and Governance

Chair: Doz. Dr. Félix Terrones (University of Bern)

10:00 – 11:00 Prof. Dr. Anna Meiser (LMU München)

Towards an Interculturalization of Knowledge and Academia: Perspectives from (Indigenous) Latin America

11:00 – 12:00 Prof. Dr. Miriam Lay Brander (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Latin American Studies and Migration: Experiences and Perspectives

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

PhD and Early Postdoc Project Presentations Chair: Dr. Melina Teubner (University of Bern)

13:00 – 13:40 Léa Marie Lamotte (Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern)

Educación Intercultural en Quito, Ecuador: Cuestionar la "interculturalidad" desde esperiencias con la Unidad Educativa Intercultural Bilingüe Jatari Unancha y la

Universidad Amawtay Wasi

13:40 – 14:20 Dr. Javier Sadarangani (Early Postdoc, Iberian and Latin American History, University of Bern)

Emotions in Conservative Intellectual Production between 1890 and 1930. Two Cases Studies: Leopoldo

Lugones (Argentina) and Alberto Edwards (Chile)

14:20 – 14:40 *Coffee Break*

14:40 – 14:55 Dr. Letícia Vargas (University of St. Gallen)

Outcomes of the First Meeting of Foreign Universities, Research Institutes, and Funding

Agencies with Offices in Brazil

14:55 – 15:00 Dr. Rocío Robinson (University of St. Gallen)

Leading House Latin America: Results from the Past Mandate and Upcoming Calls

15:00 – 15:15 Final Remarks: The Swiss Society of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)

Prof. Dr. Matías Dewey (University of St. Gallen)
Prof. Dr. Christian Büschsges (University of Bern)

For more information or to sign up please contact:

João Ribeiro Marinho (joao.ribeiro@unibe.ch)

Location:

Uni Mittelstrasse, Room 220 Mittelstrasse 43 3012 Bern

