

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.



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

Thursday, October 2, 2025

13:15 – 13:30	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Christian Büschges (University of Bern)</p> <p>M.A. Christiane Hoth (University of Bern)</p> <p>Universities at the Crossroads: Knowledge, Democracy, and Social Responsibility</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Rocío Robinson (University of St. Gallen)</p>
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (University Bielefeld and CALAS, Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciencies)</p> <p>Between (De)Coloniality, (Post)Truth, and (Anti)Democracy: Constellations of Academic Knowledge Production in Latin America</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>M.A. Kathia Reynders (KU Leuven)</p> <p>Service-learning in a Latin-American versus a European Context, Exploring a Unique Facilitating Role for Latin American Studies</p>
15:30 – 15:50	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>PhD Project Presentations</p> <p>Chair: Dr. André Masseno (University of Zürich)</p>	
15:50 – 16:30	<p>Iraides Thamara Romero (World Trade Institute, University of Bern)</p> <p>Libraries as Bridges: Expanding Access to Education for Indigenous Communities in the Amazonian Region</p>
16:30 – 17:10	<p>Françoise Delavy (Iberian and Latin American History, University of Bern)</p> <p>Color Production in Indigenous Colombian Communities: A Reflection on Identity and Partnership with the Territory</p>
17:10 – 17:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>Knowledge, Pedagogy, and Engagement:</p> <p>Activism, Conviviality, <i>Buen Vivir</i>, and Postcolonial Approaches to Diversity and Social Inclusion</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Dr. Elize Mazadiego (University of Bern)</p>	
17:30 – 18:30	<p>Prof. Dr. Angela Stienen (PH Bern)</p> <p>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</p>
18:30 – 19:30	<p>Prof. Dr. Marisa Belausteguigoitia (UNAM)</p> <p>Im/Possible Conversations: Imagination, Critical Fabulation and Knowledges in Crisis</p>
20:00	<p>Conference Dinner</p>

SSLAS PhD Workshop

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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
experiencias 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 Büschges (University of Bern)

For more information or to sign up please contact:

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Location:

Uni Mittelstrasse, Room 220
Mittelstrasse 43
3012 Bern

