

## **Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America**

### **Speakers and moderators**



**Thomas Grisaffi** is the interim director of the Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo at University of St.Gallen (CLS-HSG), Switzerland. He is a Senior Researcher at the University of Reading, UK, and Visiting Professor at the HSG. Trained as an anthropologist, Thomas's research focuses on coca and cocaine production and its global commodity chain, alternative development, and democracy in Perú and Bolivia. He is the author of 'Coca Yes, Cocaine No: How Bolivia's Coca Growers Reshaped Democracy' (2019, Duke Univ Press) and is the co-editor of 'Cocaine: From coca fields to the streets' (2021, Duke Univ Press).

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**Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi** is a program manager and researcher at the Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo at University of St.Gallen (CLS-HSG), Switzerland. He holds a PhD in Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory from the University of St. Gallen. His research interests include media psychology, migration studies, humanitarian communication, and persuasive communication. He is a senior news editor, reporter, and producer with a professional experience of a decade.

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**Lucia Michelutti** (PhD LSE) is professor of Anthropology at University College London (UCL). She writes on issues of democracy, popular politics, authority and leadership, crime, mafia and violence, caste, race, kingship, and popular religion in South Asia (North India) and Latin America (Venezuela). She is the author of *The Vernacularisation of Democracy* (Routledge, 2008); co-author of *Mafia Raj* (Stanford UP, 2018); co-editor of *Wild East* (UCL Press, 2019) and the special issue *Brigands* (*Terrain*, 2021). She is currently the PI of the ERC funded project 'Anthropologies of Extortion' (2021-2026).

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**Patrick Naef** is a Senior Researcher at the University of Geneva where he received his PhD in 2014. He was also a Postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. He conducted more than a decade of research on urban violence and collective memory in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Colombia, and he is currently working on organized crime in the cities of Medellín (Colombia) and Nairobi (Kenya). He is also working on a book project about the intimacy of criminal governance in Medellín. In addition to two previous books, his academic work has been published in journals such as *Political Geography*, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and *Journal of Anthropological Research*.

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**Enrique Desmond Arias** is the Austin W. Marxe Professor of Western Hemisphere Affairs at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is the author of *Criminal Enterprises and Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Cambridge University Press) and *Drugs and Democracy in Rio de Janeiro* (University of North Carolina Press). He is the co-editor of *Violent Democracies in Latin America* (Duke University Press) and *Cocaine: From Coca Fields to the Streets* (Duke University Press). He has published articles in *Political Geography*, *Comparative Politics*, the *Latin American Research Review*, the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Global Crime*, and *Policing and Society*. An article he published in *Current Sociology* won the 2018 Best Article Prize from the Section on Defense, Public Security, and Democracy of the Latin American Studies Association. His research has been funded by various organizations including the National Science Foundation, Open Society Foundations, the United States Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative, the CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de America Latina, the National Science Foundation, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He has worked as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHabitat).

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**Miranda Sheild Johansson** is a Social Anthropologist at UCL Anthropology, London. She is a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow and holds a PhD in Anthropology from the London School of Economics. Her current project, 'The Sociality of Tax: A Multiperspective Study of Fiscal Relations' investigates fiscal regimes in the UK, Sweden, and Bolivia. Key areas of focus in Miranda's work on tax include indigenous perspectives on tax, decolonising tax, statecraft in Latin America, and fiscal exchange logics. She has also published on themes of agricultural labour, the social contract, the value of transformation, and animate landscapes in Bolivia. Miranda has worked as a Teaching Fellow in the Anthropology department at UCL and in 2018 she was awarded the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship. Miranda is the author of the Tax entry in *The Open Encyclopedia of Anthropology* and co-editor of the volume 'Anthropology of Tax: Ethnographies of Fiscal Relations' (Cambridge University Press, in press).

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**Julia Sauma's** work investigates the ecological and relational dynamics involved in creating and maintaining collective refuges against sociopolitical and racial violence and discrimination, whilst also reflecting on the place of the body, affect and miscommunication in the making of anthropological knowledge. For the Anthropologies of Extortion project, Julia is continuing longstanding work with maroon communities in the Brazilian Amazon to consider, among other things, how contemporary relations with extractive industries perpetuate deeply rooted extortive relationships and forms of governance. Julia is a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London.

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**Amy Penfield** is an economic anthropologist with a particular interest in emerging economic subjectivities in the rapidly changing rainforests of lowland South America. She has conducted long-term research with a Yanomami language group (Sanema) in the Venezuelan Amazon, investigating their encounters with outside forces, particularly the socialist state of Venezuela. She also explores themes of gold mining, deforestation, and energy access in Amazonia.

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**Ashraf Hoque** is associate professor of social anthropology at UCL. His work sits at the intersection of migration and diaspora studies, the anthropology of Islam, and the political economy of South Asia. He is author of *Being Young, Male and Muslim in Luton* (UCL Press, 2019), and co-editor of the *Anthropology of Islam Book Series* at Edinburgh University Press.

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**Katherine Saunders-Hastings** is Lecturer (Assistant Professor) of Latin American studies at University College London's Institute of the Americas, where she teaches urban and political anthropology. She employs ethnographic methods based in long-term fieldwork to understand urban violence and criminal economies in Latin American cities. Her recent work has focused particularly on the effects of changing patterns of gang violence and extortion in Guatemala on urban insecurity, local life, and governance practices. After earning her doctorate in Socio-Legal Studies from the University of Oxford, Katherine was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. Her research has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Clarendon Fund, and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. She has worked with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (Montreal, Canada) and the Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales (Guatemala City) and has provided advice and training on crime and gangs in Latin America to the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Serious and Organized Crime unit of the Home Office.

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**Paul Rollier** is a CNRS researcher at the CéSor-EHESS. His main research interests are in the anthropology of religion (Islam and Christianity) and the cultural logic of justice and political representation in South Asian Muslim societies. His work draws on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in working-class neighbours in Pakistan's Punjab province. He is the co-author of *Mafia Raj: The Rule of Bosses in South Asia* (Stanford University Press, 2018) and co-editor of *Outrage: the rise of religious offence in contemporary South Asia* (University College London Press, 2019). His current research circles around questions of religious offence and Muslim-Christian relations in Pakistan. Before joining the CNRS and coming to the CéSor, Paul Rollier held research and teaching positions in South Asian studies and anthropology at the University of St Gallen (2015-2021), the University of Oslo (2016-2018), and UCL (2012-2014). He studied anthropology and languages (Hindi and Urdu) at SOAS, from where he obtained his PhD in social anthropology in 2012.

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**Zora Hauser** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford. In her work, Zora investigates criminal governance and illicit economies in a variety of settings, with a focus on dynamics of trust and violence. She is currently exploring the transatlantic cocaine industry while turning her dissertation on the international expansion of the Calabrian mafia into a book (forthcoming with Oxford University Press). Her work has been featured on CNN, in Der Spiegel, the FAZ, and the Swiss Broadcasting Group (SRF), among others. Based on her research, Zora has given evidence in front of the first parliamentary inquiry into Italian mafias in German history. During her DPhil, Zora served as a security analyst within the University of Cambridge's Partnership for Conflict, Crime & Security Research (PaCCS). She has previously worked in the private sector on countering transnational trafficking and served as an analyst for the NATO Foundation and the Italian Ministry of Defence. She holds an MA in International Relations and a BA in Political Science from LUISS University, Rome.

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**Matías Dewey** is the interim director of the Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo at University of St.Gallen (CLS-HSG), Switzerland. He is a Privatdozent at the Sociology Department of the SHSS. He studied sociology in Argentina and received his PhD in political science from the University of Rostock. His main fields of research are economic and political sociology, with a particular interest in illegal markets and their relationship with governments and state structures. Previously, he worked at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, where he wrote his habilitation, and at the GIGA Institute for Latin American Studies.

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