

CLS HSG

NEWS Latin American Studies at University of St.Gallen

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Dear Readers,

In this edition of our newsletter, we bring you a snapshot of the diverse events, activities, and research initiatives that unfolded at the CLS-HSG in 2023.

This year proved to be exceptionally busy with many events, from thought-provoking discussions at the Ethnography Talk on the future of resource extraction in Bolivia, Positive Actions 2022 awardee's lecture at HSG, and a workshop on Venezuelan migration in Latin America to an international conference on anthropologies of extortion in Latin America, the presentation of a special issue titled „Futurity Beyond the State: Illegal Markets and Imagined Futures in Latin America“, and a two-day event on the market for Latin American antiquities, co-organized in collaboration with the Museum der Kulturen Basel and Musée d'ethnographie Neuchâtel. Additionally, two SSLAS workshops were held in Bern and Zurich in collaboration with UK Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS).

In 2023, two PhD theses and three MA theses were successfully completed at the Centro. The fieldwork initiatives of our researchers showcased our dedication to understanding real-world dynamics, ranging from exploring the fast fashion industry in Buenos Aires and São Paulo to researching the illicit cocaine supply chain in Bolivia and indigenous communities in Colombia. Our researchers demonstrated their commitment to addressing contemporary issues through active participation in lectures, conferences, and workshops, resulting in productive scientific publications.

Regarding exchange students, the autumn semester of 2023 saw a total of 32 outgoing students, including 8 free movers, while 31 Latin American students joined HSG for the semester. The Magellan 2023 project was a resounding success, allowing 40 students to explore Switzerland and Colombia.

The Latin American alumni networks remained active in 2023. The LatAm@HSG continued to flourish and successfully held an insightful workshop in October on Arte Latinoamericano at HSG. The HSG Alumni Club Andean Region celebrated its first year of existence in August by organizing an educational visit to the dis-

tribution center of Roche Colombia. This newsletter also spotlights the dynamic collaborations and activities of the St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA). Finally, we are delighted to share team news, including the addition of new members who bring valuable expertise to our community.

As we navigate through these varied realms of research and engagement, our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and inclusivity, contributing meaningful insights, and promoting intercultural collaboration between Switzerland and Latin America remains unwavering. We invite you to explore more detailed accounts of these events and initiatives on our [website](#). Stay tuned for more updates and content as we continue to embark on this journey of discovery together!

CLS Team



Estimados lectores:

En esta edición de nuestro boletín, les presentamos una instantánea de los diversos eventos, actividades e iniciativas de investigación que han tenido lugar en el CLS-HSG durante 2023.

Este año ha sido excepcionalmente fértil en eventos destinados a estimular la reflexión. La Charla Etnográfica sobre el futuro de la extracción de recursos en Bolivia fue seguida en primavera por la conferencia en la HSG de la profesora galardonada con el premio Positive Actions 2022. Tampoco faltó un taller sobre la migración venezolana en América Latina, y tuvimos el placer de contar con las charlas de expertos académicos en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Antropologías de la Extorsión, en su capítulo sobre América Latina. Asimismo pudimos participar en la presentación de una edición especial titulada „Futurity Beyond the State: Illegal Markets and Imagined Futures in Latin America“, así como asistir a un evento de dos días de duración sobre el mercado de antigüedades latinoamericanas, organizado en colaboración con el Museum der Kulturen Basel y el Musée d'ethnographie de Neuchâtel. Además, se celebraron dos talleres SSLAS en Berna y Zúrich conjuntamente con la Sociedad de Estudios Latinoamericanos del Reino Unido (SLAS).

En 2023, hemos podido congratularnos en el Centro de la exitosa finalización de dos tesis doctorales y tres tesis de maes-

■ Events

■ Ethnography Talk

March 9, 2023, hybrid

The CLS hosted on March 9, 2023, the HSG Ethnography Talk, entitled “Grounding Energy: Materiality, Extraction, and the Allure of Potentiality in Bolivia”, to delve into the intricates of energy and climate policy in Bolivia. The joint presentation was by anthropologists, Dr. Mareike Winchell from the University of Chicago, and Prof. Dr. Mark Goodale from the Université de Lausanne.

Dr. Winchell introduced her latest book project, titled „Ghostly Invasions: Political Theologies of Fire,“ focusing her talk on the racialization of climate policy in Bolivia. Prof. Dr. Goodale, supported by the Swiss National Fund (SNF), presented findings from his research project on lithium industrialization, infrastructure, and green energy policy, with a specific emphasis on Bolivia. Beyond the empirical insights from these presentations, the ensuing discussion shifted towards ethnographic methods, prompting a reflection on how this approach needs to be reconsidered to address complex global phenomena, be it in the context of resource extraction, supply chains, or climate change in Bolivia and beyond.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Thomas Grisaffi, the hybrid event took place at the SQUARE. You can find more information about this talk on our [website](#).



Prof. Dr. Mark Goodale and Dr. Mareike Winchell, SQUARE.

■ Prof. Ana Beatriz Prieto

March 23, 2023, hybrid

On March 23, the CLS hosted Professor Ana Beatriz Prieto for a lecture at HSG. Prof. Prieto was honored with an [award](#) for Positive Actions 2022 from the Swiss-Argentine Chamber of Commerce, in the category ‚Individuals‘, under the theme ‚Youth‘, recognizing her contributions to the Club de Ciencias Huechulafquen in Argentina. During her presentation at HSG, Prof. Prieto detailed the activities of the Club, which is an informal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education space that engages in practical science by conducting environmental research and has recently expanded to include topics such as particle physics and cosmology through collaborations with the CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Switzerland. Prof. Prieto and her team actively participate in international science education programs like The GLOBE Program and Environment Online (ENO), fostering connections among students, teachers, and scientists from diverse backgrounds. With over 30 years of teaching experience, including secondary education, informal education, and the last 15 years in postgraduate education, Prof. Prieto’s commitment to international cooperation and science education is exemplified by her longstanding involvement in projects and leadership in the field. You can find more information about this talk on our [website](#).



Prof. Ana Beatriz Prieto at HSG..

tría. Las iniciativas de trabajo de campo de nuestros investigadores e investigadoras, que van desde la exploración de la industria de la moda rápida en Buenos Aires y São Paulo a la investigación de la cadena de suministro de cocaína ilícita en Bolivia y las comunidades indígenas en Colombia, son una señal inmejorable de nuestro empeño y dedicación por comprender las dinámicas del mundo real. Nuestros investigadores demuestran su compromiso a la hora de abordar los problemas contemporáneos mediante su participación en ponencias, conferencias y talleres, lo que da como resultado una productiva serie de publicaciones científicas.

Con relación al intercambio universitario, en el semestre de otoño 32 fueron los y las estudiantes que eligieron Latinoamérica para esta experiencia (incluidos 8 free-movers). La Universidad de St. Gallen recibió por su parte a 31 estudiantes procedentes de este continente. El proyecto Magellan 2023 también obtuvo un éxito fulminante, y permitió a 40 participantes explorar Suiza y Colombia.

LatAm@HSG, la red latinoamericana de personas egresadas, se mostró igualmente activa durante 2023 y organizó en octubre un esclarecedor taller en la HSG sobre el arte latinoamericano. Por otro lado, el HSG Alumni Club de la Región Andina celebró su primer año de existencia en agosto, aprovechando la ocasión para visitar el centro de distribución de Roche en Colombia.

■ Venezuelan Migration in Latin America

July 05, 2023, hybrid

The „Venezuelan Migration in Latin America“ workshop, organized by the CLS, St.Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA), Asociación Colombiana de Investigadores en Suiza (ACIS), and Rede Brasil Suíça de integração acadêmica e profissional, delved into the intricate challenges posed by the phenomenon of Venezuelan migration in the region. Focusing on the integration struggles faced by both migrants and host countries, the event addressed key issues such as education, employment, and the recognition of qualifications. Despite these challenges, the workshop also emphasized the potential opportunities arising from Venezuelan migration, particularly in terms of economic contributions, skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation brought by migrants. The workshop aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11, emphasizing inclusivity, safety, resilience, and sustainability in cities.

More details about the workshop can be found on our [website](#).

■ Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America

September 29, 2023, hybrid

On September 29, the CLS had the privilege of hosting sixteen international scholars for an academic exchange examining the social life of extortion across the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa. This scholarly gathering was part of a five-year European Research Council funded project led by University College London (UCL). This collective journey delved deep into the anthropologies of extortion in Latin America, transcending borders and disciplines. Research papers were focused on various countries, including those in Latin America such as Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Venezuela, as well as other nations like China, Bangladesh, France, Germany, India, Italy, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, and the United Kingdom (UK).



The Community at the Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America.

Through numerous panels, we examined the intricate web of criminal political entanglements and the blurred boundaries between legitimate and illicit economies in the region. We went beyond the surface, exploring the enduring impact of extortion on social and moral relations. Extortion, often described as „protection rackets,“ emerged as a vital social dynamic and a source of governance worldwide.

You can find more information about this event on our [website](#).

■ Futurity Beyond the State

October 20, 2023, hybrid

On October 20, the CLS hosted a public event highlighting the intersection of illegal markets and the notion of futurity in Latin America. The focal point of this event was the presentation of the special issue titled „Futurity Beyond the State: Illegal Markets and Imagined Futures in Latin America“, published by Cambridge University Press.

This remarkable collection of articles represents the culmination of extensive field-based research conducted across Latin America. It delves into the clandestine world of illegal markets across the region, with a particular emphasis on understanding the expectations and representations of the future imagined by those who

Este boletín también desea resaltar la dinámica colaboración y actividades a cargo del St.Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA). Finalmente, nos complace sobremanera compartir noticias sobre el equipo del centro, lo que incluye la adhesión de nuevos miembros que aportan valiosas experiencias a nuestra comunidad.

A medida que nos adentramos en estos variados terrenos de investigación y otros esfuerzos, nuestro compromiso con la promoción de un diálogo interdisciplinario e inclusivo, la aportación de ideas significativas y el fomento de la colaboración intercultural entre Suiza y Latinoamérica permanece firme e invariable.

Por ello, les invitamos a que conozcan con mayor detalle la relación de todos nuestros eventos e iniciativas a través de nuestra [página web](#). Por favor, permanezcan atentos a posibles novedades y nuevos contenidos, y sigan acompañándonos en este viaje hacia el futuro.

Equipo del CLS

engage in illicit economic activities. The event was entirely moderated and presented by HSG students. You can find additional information (video, photos, etc.) about this public event on our [website](#).



Kedron Thomas (University of Delaware) and Matias Dewey (University of St. Gallen).

■ The Market for Latin American Antiquities

November 02, 2023, hybrid

On November 2nd and 3rd, the CLS hosted a two-day event, co-organized in collaboration with the Museum der Kulturen Basel and Musée d'ethnographie Neuchâtel, to explore various aspects of Latin American antiquities, from their place in museum collections to their impact on international trade practices.

The conference, entitled "The Market for Latin American Antiquities: Canon, Trade and Conventions", brought together comparative provenance research that examined the role of the (art) market for pre-Hispanic and ethnographic cultural objects in the formation of museum collections. The presentations focused on the formation of a canon as well as the marketing strategies of the trade and international interventions to curb illegal activities.

Following two days of rigorous discussions encompassing a wide array of topics, including pre-Columbian artifacts, the movement of archaeological objects from Latin America to Europe, the vital role of indigenous business partners in collectors' pursuits, the

role of Knowledge Graphs in the art world, the dynamics of the Pre-Hispanic Art Market, and more, all graced by the expertise of distinguished experts, curators, and scholars, the event culminated in a resounding success. To conclude these enlightening panels, the participants were privileged to partake in a captivating art tour at HSG, expertly guided by the esteemed Prof. em. Dr. Yvette Sánchez.



Experts, curators, and scholars at The Market for Latin American Antiquities.

More details about the conference can be found on our [website](#).

■ SSLAS

■ Languages and Practices of Sustainability

May 25-26, 2023, University of Bern

This SSLAS was a joint collaborative effort with the UK Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) who received funding from the UK Research and Innovation agency. The topic of the two-day workshop/conference focused on the rise of the concept of sustainability in the political, economic, social, and scientific dimensions in the past three decades and how climate crisis, population growth, the depletion of non-renewable natural resources, among other factors, has led all sectors of society on a global scale to ask how to satisfy the needs of our species in the present without irreversibly affecting our planet or the quality of life of future generations.

Prezadas leitoras e prezados leitores,

Nesta edição de nossa newsletter, trazemos um breve relato sobre eventos, atividades e iniciativas de pesquisa ocorridos no CLS-HSG em 2023.

Este ano foi excepcionalmente repleto de eventos: desde as discussões instigantes ocorridas durante a Palestra Etnográfica sobre o futuro da extração de recursos na Bolívia, passando pela premiada palestra Positive Actions 2022 na HSG e por um workshop sobre a migração venezuelana na América Latina, até uma conferência internacional sobre antropologias de extorsão na América Latina e a apresentação de uma edição especial intitulada „Futurity Beyond the State: Illegal Markets and Imagined Futures in Latin America“, além de um evento de dois dias sobre o mercado de antiguidades latino-americanas, coorganizado em colaboração com o Museum der Kulturen Basel e o Musée d'ethnographie Neuchâtel. Ademais, houve a realização de dois workshops SSLAS sediados em Berna e Zurique e em colaboração com a Sociedade Britânica de Estudos Latino-americanos (SLAS).

Em 2023, duas teses de doutoramento e três teses de mestrado foram concluídas com sucesso no nosso Centro. As iniciativas de trabalho de campo de nossos pesquisadores atestaram o nosso empenho em compreender a dinâmica do mundo real, desde a exploração da indústria de

The discourses and practices that have emerged in Latin America have brought about a range of proposals to approach but also to question notions of sustainability and, particularly, sustainable development. During this SSLAS workshop, various aspects of the discourses and practices of sustainability in Latin America were discussed in a local, national, and global context.



SSLAS, Bern.

Prof. Dr. Christian Büschges (University of Bern) made the opening remarks. Dr. Theresa Tribaldos (University of Bern) then spoke about the concept of just transition in food systems. Dr. Paul Merchant (University of Bristol) followed with a presentation on New Languages of Sustainability in Contemporary Chilean and Peruvian Art. Then, Prof. Dr. Vanessa Boanada Fuchs (University of St. Gallen) joined online to talk about developing a common language for the study of socio-environmental entrepreneurship in the Brazilian Amazon. Presentations from PhD students then followed: Marcella Marer (University of Zurich) and Lucas Figueroa (Geneva Graduate Institute). Dr. Rocío Robinson then explained how the collaboration between the SSLAS and the SLAS came about and discussed future perspectives of cooperation. The beginning of the second day was devoted to presentations from the UK SLAS cohort: Sarah Capes (University of London), Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Chant (University of Warwick), and Joanna Morley (University of Liverpool). PhD Students Jimena Maria Solar Alvarez and Iván Buevas

from the University of Bern also presented their research as well as Lukas Becker (University of Geneva).

■ América del Sur Amerindia & Natural History Collections

August 24-25, 2023, University of Zürich - LZZ

This SSLAS examined the origins, cultural diversity and transformations of indigenous communities in South America as well as their modes of resistance and resilience today. Furthermore, this two-day event discussed the legacy of several Swiss and German scientists who explored the continent and built museum collections in Europe between the 18th and mid-20th centuries. It featured two keynote lectures by Arturo Jaimes and Chiara Barbieri on South America's first settlers and over twenty junior and senior researchers who presented and discussed their respective research projects. The event was organized in collaboration with the Department of Paleontology (UZH, AG Sánchez-Villagra). Additionally, it continued the exploration and joint work between the SSLAS and the UK Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) begun at the previous SSLAS workshop in Bern in May 2023.



SSLAS, Zurich.

Further activities of the SSLAS and a list of all members of the network with their research projects can be found on the [website](#).

fast fashion em Buenos Aires e São Paulo até a pesquisa da cadeia de fornecimento ilícito de cocaína na Bolívia e nas comunidades indígenas colombianas. Nossos pesquisadores demonstraram seu compromisso com questões contemporâneas por meio da participação ativa em palestras, conferências e workshops, o que resultou em publicações científicas bastante produtivas. Em relação aos estudantes de intercâmbio, o semestre do outono de 2023 teve o total de 32 estudantes egressos, incluindo 8 free movers, enquanto 31 estudantes latino-americanos ingressaram no HSG durante o semestre. O projeto Magellan 2023 foi um extremo sucesso, permitindo que 40 estudantes explorassem a Suíça e a Colômbia. As redes de ex-alunos latino-americanos mantiveram-se ativas em 2023. O LatAm@HSG continuou a dar frutos, realizando exitosamente em outubro um workshop esclarecedor sobre a arte latino-americana na HSG. O HSG Alumni Club Andean Region comemorou em agosto o seu primeiro ano de existência por meio de uma visita educativa ao centro de distribuição da Roche Colômbia. Destacamos ainda o dinamismo das colaborações e das atividades do St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA). Por fim, temos o prazer de compartilhar novidades acerca de nossa equipe, tal como a adesão de novos membros que, por sua vez, trazem conhecimentos valiosos para nossa comunidade.

■ Research projects

You can find below the BA/MA/PhD theses with a Latin America focus finished in 2023. The entire list of ongoing and completed theses can be found on our [website](#).

Bachelor theses – Completed

Fernán Caballero. „Mutual effects of organized crime and the growing production of avocado in Mexico“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez]

Josi Michel Nicolas. „¡Atrévete! Die argentinische Gründerszene vor dem Hintergrund der drastischen Wirtschafts-krise“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez]

Celine Poblete Cuevas. „Nachhaltiger Aufbau oder Ausbeutung? Eine Konfliktanalyse zwischen den Mapuche und den Forstunternehmen in Chile“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez]

Master theses – Completed

Jorge Miguel Sanz-Agero. „The Management of Central American Investments by Swiss Impact Funds“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez, Prof. Dr. Harald Tuckermann]

Julian Stella. „Unpacking financial inclusion in Colombia: Regulatory rationale behind an elusive concept“. [PD Dr. Matías Dewey]

PhD Theses – Completed



Dr. Leticia Vargas Bento

Leticia Vargas Bento. „The Emergence of the Brazilian Impact Investing Field: Institutional Logics in Practice“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez, Prof. Dr. Sergio G. Lazzarini]

Ashraf Montoya Zegarra. „Analysis of the cocoa culture in Peru“. [Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez, Prof. Dr. John W. Schouten]

■ Lectures, conferences, workshops

Matías Dewey

Conferences and workshop presentations

- „Introduction to mini-Conference (organized with Gabriel Feltran)“. The Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics - SASE, Rio de Janeiro, 2023.

- „Forschungsagenda Cannabisforschung Schweiz“. SQUARE, HSG, June 12, 2023.

- „Negotiated criminality: practices, people, and organizations in illegalized economies“. Ethnographic Institute, Emlyon Business School, France, April 25, 2023.

Invited lectures

- „Mercados ilegales, nuevas tecnologías y narcotráfico: aspectos conceptuales y tendencias“. Departamento de Sociología, Doctorado en Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, May 19, 2023.

Thomas Grisaffi

Invited lecture

- „Cocaína, de las chacras a las calles“. Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia, July 27, 2023.

Moderation

- „Opening remarks“. Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America, University of St. Gallen, September 29, 2023.

Markus Schwaniger

- „Cibernética Organizacional: Experiências, Impacto e Perspectiva“. Conferência Gestão Sistêmica, ITA Instituto de Tecnologia Ae-

À medida que percorremos estes diversos domínios de pesquisa e de iniciativa, permanecemos inabaláveis tanto no nosso compromisso de promover o diálogo interdisciplinar e a inclusão, quanto no de contribuir com insights significativos e, sobretudo, no de promover a colaboração intercultural entre a Suíça e a América Latina. Convidamos você a explorar o nosso [site](#), onde encontrarão relatos mais detalhados sobre esses eventos e demais iniciativas. Informe-se também sobre as novidades e o nosso conteúdo – e desejamos que continuemos juntos nesta incrível jornada de descobertas

Equipa do CLS

ronáutica, São José dos Campos, Brasil, March 26, 2023.

Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi

- „How to blunt prejudice against Venezuelan immigrants?“. Venezuelan Migration in Latin America: Integration Challenges and Opportunities, SQUARE, HSG, July 5, 2023.

Moderation

- „Opening remarks“. Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America, University of St.Gallen, September 29, 2023.

Elida Villalba Vargas Ebert

- „The community management of rural water in Paraguay from a dual perspective: human rights and commons“. IASC 2023 - XIX Biennial IASC Conference - The Commons We Want: Between Historical Legacies and Future Collective Actions, University of Nairobi, Kenya, June 19-24, 2023. [\[link\]](#)



Dr. Elida Villalba Vargas Ebert
presenting at IASC 2023, Kenya.

Pilar Ramírez Gröbli

- „Diáspora científica colombiana en Europa. Trayectorias, alcances y aportes“. XXIII Congreso Internacional de la Asociación de Colombianistas, University of Tours, Francia, November 16-18, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

- „El boom de los aceites vegetales en el mercado Global: El aceite de palma y los desafíos a la sostenibilidad en las geografías tropicales“. XII Encuentro Internacional de investigación y espíritu empresarial, Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander, Ocaña Colombia, November 28-30, 2023.

Rocío Robinson

- „AIT Mexico – Bridging the Innovation Ecosystems of Switzerland and Mexico“. Embassy of Switzerland in Mexico City, Mexico, January 30, 2023.

- „Switzerland's Innovation Ecosystem & AIT Startups Latin America - How we strengthen innovation together!“. Latin America and the Caribbean High-Level Conference - Science & Technology Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores del Gobierno de México, Mexico City, March 15, 2023.

- „The Perfect Match – Swiss & Brazilian Bilateral Programs“. Web Summit Rio de Janeiro, May 02, 2023.

- „AIT Startups – 10 years of the AIT Brazil“. 1st Conference Brazil – Switzerland Association, University of Zürich, September 16, 2023.

- „Startup Surge in Latin America: Navigating Innovation Trends in 2024“. LATCAM Youth Committee Event, Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) Headquarters in Zürich, October 19, 2023.

- „Impact Changemakers Unleashed!“. Impact Changemakers Unleashed Event, Impact Hub Basel, November 14, 2023.

Moderation

- „Wrap-up“. Venezuelan Migration in Latin America: Integration Challenges and Opportunities, SQUARE, HSG, July 5, 2023.

■ Publications

Matías Dewey

- „Weberian Civil Service and Labor Enforcement“ (co-authored with Lucas Ronconi). *IZA Discussion Paper*, No. 16295, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Markus Schwaninger

- „Sustainable Amazon: A Systemic Inquiry with Native Populations“. *Sustainability*, 15(9), 7517: 1-24, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

- „O Que é Engenharia de Variedade e Porquê Precisamos Dela?“. *Anais do 17º Congresso Brasileiro de Sistemas: cibernética da sustentabilidade: design, transformação e aprendizagem, Palmas TO, Brasil,*

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Andreas Krafft

- *Hope across cultures: Lessons from the International Hope Barometer*. Springer Nature, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Pilar Ramírez Gröbli

- „The Inga indigenous people of Colombia as „the guardians of the land.“ Inga community and Communities' leader Hernando Chindoy Chindoy“. *Alternautas*, 10(1), 2023. <https://doi.org/10.31273/an.v10i1.1405> [\[link\]](#)

■ Fieldwork

Matías Dewey

Matías Dewey's research initiative, supported by the Seed Money Grant and GFF (Project Funding of the Basic Research Fund), was a comprehensive exploration into the intricate dynamics of the fast fashion industry in two vibrant Latin American metropolises—Buenos Aires (Argentina) and São Paulo (Brazil). The collaborative funding from the Leading House for Latin American Region and the University of St. Gallen underscores the significance and scope of this investigative endeavor.

The fieldwork undertaken by Matías Dewey encompassed a multifaceted approach designed to capture the nuanced facets of the fast fashion landscape. In essence, his fieldwork was a meticulous blend of on-the-ground engagement, direct interviews with industry insiders, and consultations with knowledgeable experts. One pivotal aspect of this research involved engaging directly with key players in the industry. Matías conducted in-depth interviews with fast fashion producers operating within the bustling La Salada and Mercado da Madrugada marketplaces. Through these interviews, he sought to unravel



the intricate web of factors influencing production, distribution, and market strategies within the fast-paced world of fashion in these specific urban settings.

Complementing these interviews, participant observation became a pivotal component of Matías's methodology. Immerse in the vibrant atmospheres of La Salada and Mercado da Madrugada, Matías actively observed and documented the day-to-day activities of fast fashion producers. This immersive approach aimed to unveil the implicit practices, challenges, and interactions that shape the operational landscape of these marketplaces. Participant observation allowed Matías to go beyond the surface and gain a first-hand understanding of the lived experiences of those involved in the fast fashion trade.

Expanding the scope of his research beyond the marketplaces themselves, Matías conducted interviews with subject matter experts in both Buenos Aires and São Paulo. These experts, likely possessing specialized knowledge in fields such as economics, sociology, or fashion studies, provided valuable insights that complemented the data obtained from the marketplace interviews and participant observation. By tapping into the expertise of these individuals, Matías aimed to enrich his analysis and offer a more comprehensive perspective on the broader implications and intricacies of the fast fashion industry in the selected locations.

Thomas Grisaffi

Thomas Grisaffi returned to Bolivia this summer for three weeks to continue his research on the organization of the illicit cocaine supply chain connecting Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil. While there he spent time in the Chapare, where he interviewed coca growers, drug traffickers, community leaders and local government officials. In addition, Thomas interviewed police officials, public prosecutors



SIMagination challenge

The SIMagination programme has been very present in Latin America for years with the following projects:

Guatemala:	PureDrops / - Niños en Xela
Paraguay/Brazil:	Planting the Future
Colombia:	Liter of Light
Brazil:	Saude Criança



A mother and her daughter in the project
Niños en Xela

SIMagination Challenge

Dufourstrasse 40a
CH-9000 St.Gallen
<https://simaginationchallenge.unisg.ch/>

The SIMagination Challenge-> [Video](#)



La Paz, Bolivia.

and defense lawyers in the major cities. The aim of this research is to understand processes of illicit governance in the shadow of the state. The main question driving this investigation is: how is cooperation built and sustained in the illicit drug economy? This research is part of a five-year project funded by the European Research Council titled 'Anthropologies of Extortion', which maps and analyses extortion practices across diverse global settings and is led by University College London.

Óscar Bohórquez

In July 2023, Óscar Bohórquez, a PhD student of the CLS, embarked on a transformative fieldwork expedition, immersing himself in the vibrant tapestry of Colombia's indigenous communities. This profound journey led Óscar to La Guajira reservations, specifically to the cities of Maicao, Bogotá and La Vega, where he conducted compelling audiovisual film interviews with the Wayuu, Misak, and Kogui indigenous peoples, among others.



Interview with an indigenous woman in Hatonuevo, La Guajira

The expedition commenced with a sacred ceremony in La Vega, offering a unique window into the spiritual practices of local communities. This initial experience set the stage for Óscar's subsequent endeavors, including a captivating video interview with Nat Nat Iguaran, an indigenous woman vying for the mayor's office in

Maicao. The conversation delved into the aspirations and challenges faced by indigenous individuals in the political arena. Venturing into La Guajira, Óscar engaged in meaningful dialogues with women leaders across three indigenous reservations. These conversations explored topics such as cultural preservation, community development, and the nuanced challenges confronting indigenous communities. The interviews, a crucial element of a comprehensive analysis of visual storytelling, were conducted in Bogotá, enhancing research skills while preserving cultural context.



Interview with Nat Nat Iguaran, candidate for mayor of Maicao, La Guajira

At its core, Óscar's research focuses on dismantling colonial imaginaries and practices. By leveraging decolonial narratives, strategic alliances, and alternative media platforms, his study aims to contribute to a more inclusive Colombian society. Human-centric approaches, ethical considerations, and cross-cultural communication are pivotal aspects of his research, spotlighting the delicate interplay between local and global initiatives. This groundbreaking work underscores the power of visual storytelling as a potent means of cultural preservation and amplification of indigenous voices. Óscar aspires to foster a connection between academia and grassroots initiatives, contributing to the ongoing development of a harmonious, peaceful, and inclusive society in Colombia.

■ Magellan

It's our pleasure to inform you, that the project Magellan 2023 was a great success. With the Universidad de los Andes, located in



magellan@shsg.ch
www.ressortinternational.ch/magellan-latin-america

Bogotá as our partner university, we were able to create two unforgettable journeys, one taking place in Switzerland between 15th to the 24th of July 2023 and the other one in Colombia between the 27th of July until the 5th of August 2023. A total of 40 students were able to explore Switzerland as well as Colombia. Whether it was visiting the UN in Geneva or the Lindt Home of Chocolate in Zurich, river rafting in the rivers of Colombia or enjoying an empanada on the Monserrate in Bogotá, fun and joy for intercultural exchange once more flourished. Long lasting friendships were founded and all our students, once more created memorable experiences. With Magellan 2023 we were able to reach our one goal, to bring Swiss and Latin American culture together. We lived once again new cultures, brought diverse people together, and spread joy.



Magellan excursion to Monserrate, Bogotá, Colombia.

Bruno Aebli has passed on the legacy of Magellan to a new Chairwoman, Alyina Kaiser. Alyina will bring once again Latin America and Switzerland together, with the University of Desarrollo in Santiago de Chile as a partner university. Currently, Alyina and her team are recruiting participants for their intercultural exchange and setting up the Magellan project for 2024. The Magellan team 2024 is still looking for potential partners to support this amazing exchange of culture with Chile and Switzerland. The Magellan-Team would be happy for every contribution and support towards this cause.

■ Student Mobility

■ Outgoing

The following HSG students complete their exchange at a Latin American partner university in the autumn term 2023:

Argentina

Buenos Aires – Universidad de San Andrés

Ariel Signorotti, Dalia Hostettler

Buenos Aires – Universidad Torcuato di Tella

Luca Neo Grasmugg, Juliette Virginie Nicola Pelka, Paul Maximilian

Alexander Stoff, Raffael Hucklele, Sarah Meibom

Brazil

São Paulo – Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo (FGV-EAESP)

Simon Gebhardt, Sara Wüst, Léa Toffel

São Paulo – Universidade de São Paulo, Faculdade de Economia, Administração e Contabilidade

Neva Anaïs Pillon

São Paulo – Universidade de São Paulo, Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras de Ciências Humanas

Anna Chatrina von Albertini

Chile

Santiago de Chile – Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Facultad de Historia, Geografía y Ciencia Política

Nina Tamara Brenzikofer

Santiago de Chile – Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Facultad de Economía y Administración

Felix Hofmann

Santiago de Chile – Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Jonathan Calvin Hessler, Stefan Kohler, Manuel Bernhard, Xavier Radman



Student Mobility

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exchange@myunisg.ch
www.unisg.ch/de/universitaet/hsgservices/beratung/beratungsstellen/student-mobility

Colombia

Bogotá – Universidad de los Andes

Alexandre Roger Michel Hess

Medellín – Universidad EAFIT

Laura Radman, Natalie Baumer

Mexico

Ciudad de México – Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)

Luca Herbert Kaufmann

Monterrey – Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)

Johann Allgäuer

Peru

Lima – Universidad del Pacífico

Noah Laufer

■ Incoming

The following students from Latin American partner universities spend the autumn term 2023 at HSG:

Argentina

Buenos Aires – Universidad Torcuato di Tella

Federico Garay, Rocio Aylen Mandará, Felipe Scokin

Buenos Aires – Universidad de San Andrés

Paula Tamara Lipera, Diego Patricio Podesta

Buenos Aires – Universidad Nacional de San Martín

Tomás Nougués

Brazil

São Paulo – Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo (FGV-EAESP)

Ana Bernardo, Enrico Boldrini Rodini Luiz, Ricardo Lukas León Badillo, Daniela Marha Settani, Leo Gabriel Raddatz, Thalles Rezende Lorena, Lorenzo Salzano Bissetti, Noah Agha Schüler, Romane Marie Valenti, William Whitaker de Carvalho Pfeiffer, Bianca Wirth, Oriane Caroline Louise Poujol, Nelson Andres Correa Velandia

Rio de Janeiro – Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Escola Brasileira de Economia e Finanças de Rio de Janeiro (FGV – EGPE)

Hugo Sampaio

Chile

Santiago de Chile – Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Antonia Tapia, Ian Cooper, Gonzalo Solervicens

Colombia

Bogotá – Universidad de los Andes

Isabella Martin Paez

Medellín – Universidad EAFIT

Susana Osorio Agudelo

Mexico

Ciudad de México – ITAM Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

Valentina Aus Den Ruthen Smeke

Ciudad de México – Universidad Panamericana, IPADE Business School

Diego Alejandro Alonso Contreras, Ana Isabel Aranda Vazquez, Rodrigo López Santillán

Peru

Lima – Universidad del Pacifico

Valeria Patricia Lozano Gomez, Mathias Alonso Minchan Wolstrohn

■ Outgoing Freemovers



Universität St. Gallen

**St. Gallen Institute of Management
in Latin America (GIMLA)**

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01310-920 São Paulo

+55 11 3141 0214
gimla@unisg.ch

These HSG students organized their exchange for the autumn term 2023 on their own behalf:

Argentina

Buenos Aires – Universidad Argentina de la Empresa

Zeno Moretto Balestra, Adrien Saltiel, Fabio Wörnhard

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro – Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro

Jelena Jankovic

Colombia

Medellín – Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana

Sangeetha Akkara, Nuria Wildermuth

Bogotá – Colegio de Estudios Superiores de Administracion CESA

Janos Gründling

Mexico

Ciudad de México – Universidad Iberoamericana IBERO

Eric Oberpeilsteiner

GIMLA

The Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA) initiated a new collaboration with the CLS, taking on the role of the Leading House for the Latin American Region starting from March 2023. For detailed information on the Leading House's activities and grants, please visit their [website](#).

In addition, the GIMLA has continued throughout 2023 to expand its activities and projects. In September, GIMLA, in conjunction with the University of Colorado Boulder, the ITC Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation at the University of Twente, the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), and UNITAC Hamburg, organized an [expert workshop](#) focusing on community-based approaches to data collection in informal settlements. Moreover, the

GIMLA co-hosted the 2nd conference on „[Insights for Sustainable Impact](#)“ with the partner university Escuela de Ciencias Aplicadas e Ingeniería at Universidad EAFIT. This one-day event provided a platform to explore how data can contribute as a sustainable ally across various sectors. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with experts, connect with a global audience from diverse industries, and stay updated on career developments.

In September 2023, the GIMLA had also the privilege of hosting Professor Martin J. Eppler, the prorector of the University of St.Gallen, in Medellín, Colombia. Highlights of his visit included productive institutional meetings with renowned universities such as Universidad de Antioquia and Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, participation at the 2nd GIMLA conference on „[Insights for Sustainable Impact](#)“, and a deep exploration of the Medellín's culturally rich environment. Throughout 2023, the GIMLA actively participated in various forums and exhibitions, including the Housing Forum and Hospitalar Expo.

For more info, please visit GIMLA's [website](#) or follow the institute on [social media](#).

Courses

Spring term 2023

Master Level

- PD Dr. Matías Dewey: „Kulturen/Cultures: Soy, Coffee and Cocaine – Cultural Representations of Latin American Commodities“.

Bachelor Level

- PD Dr. Matías Dewey: „Sociology: Sociology of Illegal Markets“.
- Prof. Dr. Patrik Aspers, Dr. Matias Dewey, Dr. Judith Nyffeler: „Gesellschaft/Society: Practical Research on Marketplaces“
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Michael Grisaffi: „The Rise of Sub-National Authoritarianism in Latin America and Beyond“.
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Michael Grisaffi: „Power, Politics, and Democracy - Who Runs the World?“.



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Vizepräsident:

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- Prof. Dr. Thomas Michael: „Drugs, Security and Democracy in Latin America“.
- Dr. Vanessa Boanada Fuchs: „Global Water Governance“.
- Dr. Ana Esquinas Rychen: „Kulturen/Cultures: Vamos de vinos! How Cultural Can Wine Experience Be?“.

Language courses

Assessment

Spanish B1 / B2

Spanish, English Track, B1

Portuguese A2

Portuguese, English Track, A2

Bachelor / Master

Spanish B1 / B2 / C1

Spanish, English Track, B1

Portuguese A2

Portuguese, English Track, B2

Lecturers

Ana Esquinas Rychen, Sabrina Zehnder, Cristina Albizu Yeregui, Estela Mansur Buss, André Masseno

■ Alumni

■ LatAm@HSG

In 2023, the vibrant activities of LatAm@HSG continued to flourish, marking another milestone in the exploration and celebration of Latin American art. On the dynamic date of October 17th, the network orchestrated a highly successful workshop dedicated to the captivating realm of Arte Latinoamericano. Collaborating seamlessly with the CLS, this event served as a converging point for a diverse assembly of academics and practitioners, each contributing valuable insights into the multifaceted dimensions of Latin American art and its profound ties to Switzerland.

In the backdrop of the past two decades, Latin American art has experienced an inspiring ascent, capturing global attention and acclaim. Switzerland, ever the cultural nexus, has played a pivotal role in nurturing the visibility and international triumph of Latin American artistic expression through a myriad of initiatives. The

workshop not only facilitated a profound exchange of ideas, but also served as a catalyst for forging new connections by creating an atmosphere of collaboration and camaraderie.



Arte Latinoamericano, SQAURE, HSG.

As participants engaged passionately in discussions, the workshop became a nexus of creativity and knowledge, paving the way for informal networking opportunities that promised to cultivate enduring relationships between members of the network. The repository of knowledge and experiences shared during the workshop serves as a testament to the network's commitment to disseminating valuable content and fostering a robust community. For the video of the workshop and more information please visit our [website](#). Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives and events of the [LatAm@HSG](#) in the future.

■ HSG Alumni Club Andean Region

The [HSG Alumni Club Andean Region](#) celebrated its first year of existence, and they were very pleased to organize their inaugural company visit in Bogotá. On August 3rd, the Club visited the distribution center of Roche Colombia, one of the newest and largest of its kind in the country. They enjoyed an insightful tour and gained knowledge about the significance of this Swiss company for the Colombian healthcare system.

HSG Alumni Clubs in Lateinamerika

HSG Alumni CLA (Club Latinoamericano)



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HSG Alumni Club Brazil

Lodovico Brioschi, Präsident

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Immo Paul, Vizepräsident

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HSG Alumni Club Buenos Aires

Urs Gujan, lic.iur. HSG

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HSG Alumni Representative Chile

Rolf Bosshardt

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HSG Alumni Club Andean Region visits Roche Colombia.

Furthermore, on September 21st, the Swiss chapter of the club reunited for the first time in person. They had a relaxed evening in a Zurich bar, exchanging interesting stories from their experiences and connections to the Andean Region. They are delighted to continue organizing social events, company visits, or discussions in their second year. Currently, they are actively seeking new members to help build this alumni bridge between Switzerland and the Andean Region. Feel free to reach out to them via their [LinkedIn group](#). They look forward to seeing you soon and expanding their networks.



HSG Alumni Club Andean Region get-together in Zurich.

Team News

In 2023, the CLS experienced a few changes in its team:

Dr. Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi has decided to step down from his position as program manager and research assistant at the CLS and SHSS-Spanisch. He will be transitioning to a new chapter in his professional journey with Team Marke at the University of St.Gallen. We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Omid for his dedicated efforts and contributions to Latin American Studies. Thank you, dear Omid, for exemplifying an outstanding work ethic and maintaining a positive attitude, especially in challenging situations. We are delighted that you will remain a part of HSG, and we wish you the very best in all your future endeavors.

Dr. Tomás Nougés joined the CLS team as a PostDoc in the Autumn Semester 2023. With a PhD in Sociology from the Escuela Interdisciplinaria de Altos Estudios Sociales de la Universidad Nacional de San Martín (EIDAES/UNSAM) in Argentina, Tomás brings invaluable experience in researching the financialization of social policy. He served as a CONICET doctoral scholarship holder and his thesis addressed the process of financialization of social policy in Argentina, under the title: „Entre la deuda y la inclusión. La financiarización de la política asistencial en Argentina (1983-2019)“. Currently, as a postdoctoral researcher of CONICET based at EIDAES, he is developing a research project on the financialization of welfare in South America, entitled „¿Nuevas infraestructuras de bienestar en Sudamérica? Un estudio comparado de la financiarización del bienestar en Argentina, Brasil y Chile en el siglo XXI“. Tomás is conducting his postdoctoral research stay at the CLS with the support of an ESKAS (Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships) grant. His research at CLS aims to investigate the interrelationships between digital art platforms, fintech markets and their impact on Latin America. We're excited to have his expertise in our team, and we look forward to collaborating on innovative and



Dr. Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi



Dr. Tomás Nougés



Natalia Martínez Rojas

meaningful projects.

Natalia Martínez Rojas joined the CLS as a doctoral student as part of her internship in the Autumn Semester 2023. Natalia is a student of the PhD program in Industrial Engineering at Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia. She is passionate about research and innovation in the field of sustainable agriculture. The project she is working on focuses on creating sustainable solutions for farmers in the central eastern region of Colombia, with the goal of improving local agriculture. Under the supervision of Professor Camilo Olaya, Natalia contributes to the exploration of innovative approaches to improve sustainability in the agricultural sector. During her internship, Natalia worked closely with Professor Harald Tuckermann. Her experience and insight were invaluable assets to our team.

Please follow us on:



Feedback

We welcome your suggestions, comments and advice on the newsletter and will gladly consider your contributions in our next issue:

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Please share!

Please feel free to recommend our newsletter to your friends and/or let us know about interested potential readers: cls-hsg@unisg.ch

Gratitude

For the design of the newsletter our special thanks go to:

Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi, PhD

- Program Manager / CLS-HSG

Thomas Grisaffi, Prof. Dr.

- Interim Director / CLS-HSG

Matías Dewey, PD Dr.

- Interim Director / CLS-HSG

Rocío Robinson, PhD

- Academic Program Manager / Leading House for the Latin American Region and Swiss School of Latin American Studies

Ana Esquinas, PhD

- Fachverantwortliche Spanisch / Centre for Languages and Transcultural Communication-HSG

André Masseno, PhD

- Lehrbeauftragter Portugiesisch / SHSS-HSG

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