

# Ibero- Amerikanisches Institut





# Ibero- Amerikanisches Institut



Ibero-Amerikanisches  
Institut  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

<b>4</b>	Message of Greeting: Prof. Dr. Marion Ackermann, President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz	<b>23</b>	Linguistic Materials from the Colonial Period Originating in Mesoamerica
<b>5</b>	Prefacio: Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel, Director of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut	<b>24</b>	Image Archive
<b>6</b>	The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut	<b>25</b>	Teobert Maler: Photographic Expeditions in Mexico and Guatemala
<b>10</b>	The Turbulent History of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut	<b>26</b>	Research
<b>12</b>	Library and Special Collections	<b>28</b>	Mecila – Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America
<b>14</b>	LACARinfo – Fachinformationsdienst Lateinamerika, Karibik und Latino Studies	<b>30</b>	Visiting Scholars
<b>16</b>	IberoSearch	<b>32</b>	Publications
<b>17</b>	A New House (Not Only) for Books: The Storage Facility Friedrichshagen	<b>34</b>	Journal <i>IBEROAMERICANA. América Latina – España – Portugal</i>
<b>18</b>	Digital Collections	<b>35</b>	Journal <i>INDIANA – Estudios Antropológicos sobre América Latina y el Caribe</i>
<b>19</b>	Cultural Magazines of Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>36</b>	Program of Events
<b>20</b>	The <i>Colección Fernando Eguidazu de la Novela Popular Española</i>	<b>38</b>	International Workshops and Conferences
<b>21</b>	Art Prints and Illustrations Archive	<b>39</b>	Lecture Series and Research Colloquium
<b>22</b>	A Panorama of Peruvian Popular Music in Text, Sound, and Images	<b>40</b>	Kulturforum
		<b>41</b>	Forschungscampus Dahlem
		<b>42</b>	Support the IAI
		<b>43</b>	Förderkreis des Ibero-Amerikanischen Instituts e.V.
		<b>44</b>	Contact

## Message of Greeting

“We connect people, times, and places”: this guiding principle of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), with its museums, archives, and research institutes, largely characterizes the work of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute).

The IAI is characterized by its enormous archive of knowledge with diverse and interrelated materials on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal, as well as by its multidisciplinary research and international scientific cooperation. In addition, it offers a wide range of multilingual events that create spaces for dialogue for the most diverse communities. Added to this are its numerous networks, developed over many years, and its close cooperation in Germany and around the world. In this way, the IAI embodies in its own way what characterizes the SPK as a whole. The combination of science and culture, interconnected work, and cooperation gives rise to a multitude of new perspectives and intellectual impulses that are so important today. With its international profile, specific expertise, and experience, the IAI greatly enriches the SPK.

The Foundation, which is one of the largest cultural and scientific institutions in the world, includes, in addition to the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (SMB, National Museums in Berlin), the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (SBB, Berlin State Library), the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz (GStA, Prussian Secret State Archives) and the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung (SIM, State Institute for Music Research).

Prof. Dr. Marion Ackermann,  
President of the Stiftung  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

## Foreword

In this brochure we would like to give you an insight into the work of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute). We want to make you curious to visit us or to participate digitally in our activities, collections and publications!

The outstanding Research Library, the richness of the Special Collections, the diverse research activities, and the extensive program of events make the IAI a special place. That is not only true for us who work here, but also to the many people who come from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain or Portugal, and for those who are interested in these regions. We experience in our everyday work this attachment to the IAI and appreciation of our existence. This fills us with pride and gratitude, but also shows us the responsibility to work together in order to guarantee the continued development of this unique bridging institution.



Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel,  
Director of the Ibero-  
Amerikanisches Institut



## The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute) is a multidisciplinary, non-university institution for the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences. As an Area Studies institution, it has a regional focus – Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal – and also takes transregional inter-connections into account. This gives it a genuinely international orientation.

The equal integration of different areas of work under one roof – collections, research, and events – is what makes the institute so unique. The IAI's Library and Special Collections contain outstanding holdings on the Institute's focus regions. The central tasks of the Institute are to further develop these multimedia collections, make them accessible and preserve them for the future. Based on its Collections, the IAI develops its own research activities, participates in joint projects with universities, hosts international scholars, and implements a multilingual publication program based on the principles of open science. Cultural and scientific events are another central element of the Institute's social outreach mission.

The IAI is part of excellent networks in science and culture at both the national and international level. Stable cooperation, multilingualism, and the inclusion of diverse cultural perspectives are fundamental components of its work. This profile enables the Institute to act as a bridge between different actors, institutions, fields of knowledge, and regions.



Since 1962, the IAI has been a part of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) a world-renowned association of museums, libraries, archives, and research institutions. The SPK's interdisciplinary collections cover a wide geographical area and offer cultural diversity and historical depth. The association's special profile lies in its unique way of linking culture and science.







## The Turbulent History of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

The special combination of library, research institution, and cultural center that makes up the profile of the IAI was already in place when it was founded. The IAI opened on October 12, 1930 in the Royal Stables of the Berlin Palace as a center of scientific and cultural exchange with Latin America, the Caribbean region, Spain, and Portugal. The cornerstone was laid when Ernesto Quesada, an Argentine intellectual, donated his private library of more than 82,000 books to the Prussian State. This donation was supplemented by the Mexico Library, which was compiled by Hermann Hagen with the support of the Mexican president Plutarco Elías Calles, and a collection from the geographer Otto Quelle of the University of Bonn.



Ernesto Quesada  
(1858–1934)

Founding director of the IAI was Otto Boelitz. From 1934 on, his successor, retired Major General Wilhelm Faupel, enacted a policy of active National Socialist relations. This prompted the Allies in 1945 to limit the functions of the Institute, by then situated in Berlin-Lankwitz, to that of a “Lateinamerikanische Bibliothek”, a Latin



Royal Stables of the Berlin Palace:  
first location of the IAI



Former Siemens- Villa  
at Berlin-Lankwitz: location of  
the IAI since 1941 to 1977

American Library. It wasn't until 1954 that the regional focus was once again extended to Spain and Portugal. In 1962, when the Institute was incorporated into the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK), the name was changed back to “Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut”. A thorough institutional restructuring process began in the late 1990s. Building on this, interlinkages between information, research, and culture as well as internationalization has evolved significantly since the turn of the millennium.

The IAI has been part of the Kulturforum in Berlin, one of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz's central locations, since 1977. Along with the Kulturforum, the newly established Forschungscampus Dahlem (Research Campus Dahlem) is also important for intensifying co-operation within the SPK.

International Writer's Meeting  
at IAI, 1964 with Miguel Ángel  
Asturias, Jorge Luis Borges,  
Augusto Roa Bastos and  
Ciro Alegría, among others





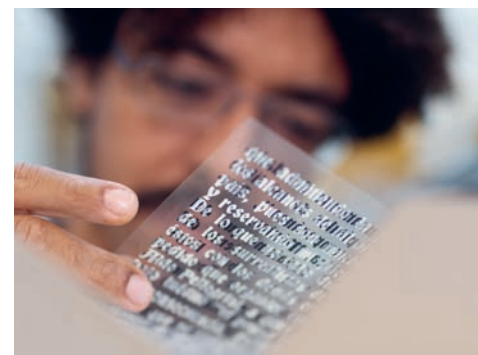
## Library and Special Collections

With its Library and Special Collections, the IAI is home to the largest European knowledge archive on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal and their transregional entanglements. The IAI Library is one of the world's leading research libraries for Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal and their transregional entanglements. It provides its users in Germany and abroad with information and media from and about these regions in all forms with a focus on the social sciences, humanities and cultural studies. The main target group is researchers. The Library is also an attractive place to work and learn for all parts of society. As part of the digital transformation, the Library is setting new priorities in its collection activities and in access to and dissemination of information. Acquisitions are geared towards the needs of science and follow the e-preferred policy. However, many materials are still published exclusively in analog form and acquired by the Library. Information, media and research data are made available with the respective metadata. The Library performs an archiving function for digital and analog information and media.

The IAI considers its Collections as part of the globally shared cultural heritage and assumes its responsibility to protect it both through measures to preserve the originals and through digitization to protect the Collections. The Library offers modern, multilingual access to information and media. It provides free services both for on-site use and for remote access. Information provision and user communication are multilingual and use both digital and analog methods.

The Special Collections form a central interface between collections, research and events at the IAI. Organizationally, the holdings of the Special Collections are divided into Collections from corporate bodies, Film Collection, Image Archive, Art Prints and Illustrations Archive, Map Collection, Papers and Manuscripts, Audio Library, Poster Collection and Newspaper Clippings Collection. The special quality of the Special Collections and their importance for national and international research lies in the fact that they

contain analog and digital materials that are interlinked across all disciplines. In combination with the IAI's library holdings, this results in unique opportunities for linking text, sound and image sources. The materials in the Special Collections are the starting point for many national and international research, publication and exhibition projects. The IAI's Special Collections not only enable users to gain new insights and cultural experiences, they also make a special contribution to preserving the cultural heritage of Latin America, the Caribbean and the Iberian Peninsula.



More information  
on the Collections





The Fachinformationsdienst Lateinamerika, Karibik und Latino Studies LACARinfo (FID, Specialised Information Services Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies), coordinated by the IAI Library, has been supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) since 2016.

The FID enables to develop new services for supplying literature and information on Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latino Studies in close exchange with the scientific communities.

The FID supports ongoing and planned research projects by acquiring and making materials and information available free of charge. A direct loan from FID is also possible. By continuing to develop the discovery system IberoSearch (*iberosearch.de*), the FID makes search of and access to digital resources easier. Acquiring new commercial databases with free access for registered users makes it possible to access new information.

The FID makes analog media digitally accessible by means of *Digitization on Demand* of non-copyrighted publications, international cooperative digitization projects, and licensing negotiations on e-media with commercial Latin American publishing houses.

The FID strengthens the networking between scientists by building an expert database and designs thematic portals on popular literature and on Latin American and Caribbean culture periodicals, as well as by offering platforms for other topics.

The FID promotes dialogs between scientific communities and librarians through direct communication and consultation on information needs, as well as through its presence at academic conferences, congresses, and universities.



The web portal *lacarinfo.de* offers information on the FID, new services as well as access to research tools and the FID blog. This blog (*lacarinfo.de/blog*) informs on new regional databases and research tools as well as news from Latin America and the digital world.



The discovery system IberoSearch (*iberosearch.de*) is a library search system that enables users to search a variety of data sources, including subject databases and repositories, under a uniform interface. In addition to IAI library holdings, this includes free and licensed electronic full texts, as well as bibliographic references to IAI Special Collections. Search results can be filtered, sorted, downloaded in various formats, and further processed in quotation systems.

IAI users can directly access a large number of electronic full texts. If a text is not available in the IAI library, it can be suggested for acquisition via an electronic form.



## A New House (Not Only) for Books: The Storage Facility in Friedrichshagen

The IAI's book and periodical holdings take up 50 kilometers of shelf space. Every year more than one kilometer of shelf space is added. It was clear already years ago that there was no more room for a steadily growing collection of materials in the center of Berlin. Therefore, the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) built the Speichermagazin Friedrichshagen, a new storage facility at the Müggelsee in Friedrichshagen. The modern storage facility with an excellent technical equipment is being used by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library), the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute), as well as the bpk-Bildagentur (bpk, Picture Agency). It provides space with optimal conditions for storing books and periodicals, film rolls and original photos, large wall maps, microfiches, and many other kinds of materials.



Moving older holdings to Friedrichshagen allows the IAI to keep the new acquisitions that come in every year in the central building in Potsdamer Straße and at the same time to store older holdings under optimal conditions. The first major re-location of collections to Friedrichshagen took place in 2014. Since then about 30,000 additional volumes have been moved to Friedrichshagen every year, creating space for the new acquisitions. Daily deliveries bring materials to the IAI reading rooms in Potsdamer Straße, so that users have access to ordered materials within 24 hours.

The new central storage facility in Friedrichshagen, whose space reserves are calculated to include two additional building extensions by the year 2100, thus guarantees that the IAI is equipped for the future with Europe's largest specialist library on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal.

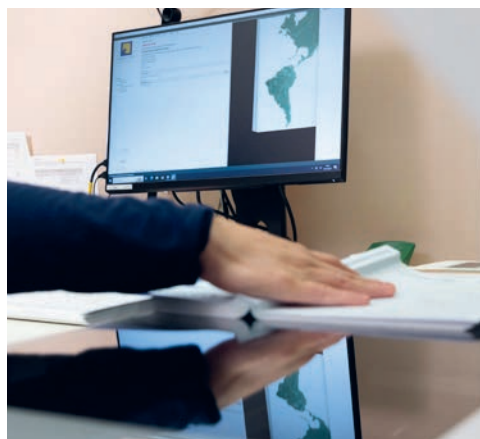




## Digital Collections

The Digital Collections of the IAI ([digital.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://digital.iai.spk-berlin.de)) comprise all non-copyrighted digitized materials in the holdings of the Library and the Special Collections. The spectrum covers books, cultural periodicals, theater and novel periodicals, operetta libretti, posters, historic and glass plate photographs, historic maps, and manuscripts and letters from papers and manuscripts. Non-copyrighted materials, which are highly relevant to research, or fragile materials that are susceptible to deterioration were digitized. Collaborative digitization projects with national and international partners allow to constantly expand and supplement the Digital Collections.

Users can create an account in order to save and organize search results into virtual bookshelves, or add comments to individual digital objects. They can download materials and add them to personalized research environments. A search is possible both in the table of contents of a publication and in the metadata. For example, you can search by author, place of publication or title. Increasingly, publications are also made searchable in full text.



The IAI's Digital Collections



## Cultural Magazines from Latin America and the Caribbean

Within the collections of the IAI, cultural magazines are understood to be both illustrated magazines, whose wide range of topics attracted a diverse audience, and literary and cultural publication projects that often functioned as mouthpieces for individual, more or less clearly defined groups – for example, the avant-garde. Broad public interest in fields like literature and cultural sciences, linguistics, history, art history, as well as in the typography and media of these publications continues to increase.

With support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation), from 2013 to 2021 more than 160 periodicals from the period between 1860 and 1930 were digitized and made available in the IAI Digital Collections for international research. More periodicals have been added, which are now available in digital form because of a concrete demand or for reasons of preservation.

Cultural magazines from countries like Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru are especially well represented in the IAI's physical and Digital Collections. The Caribbean region is another focal point. This is related to the special significance of individual magazines like *La Habana literaria*, *El curioso americano* or *Carteles* on the one hand, and with the fact that their relatively low circulation numbers, the climatic conditions, political upheaval, and natural catastrophes in the countries of publication had an adverse effect on the number of extant copies. That makes some of them rarities already.



Cultural Magazines of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Digital Collections



## The Colección Fernando Eguidazu de la Novela Popular Española

When the IAI acquired the Fernando Eguidazu Collection of Popular Spanish Novels in 2019, a spectacular private library was added to its holdings. After more than 30 years of intensive collection activity, Fernando Eguidazu succeeded in compiling almost 50,000 popular Spanish novels from the period between the middle of the 19th to the late 20th century. It is the largest known collection of this genre on Spain. It includes early serialized novels along with their 19th century advertising leaflets, probably unique in the whole world, also newsstand literature and novel series, as well as collections from the heyday of paperback novels. Their topics include adventure, history, science fiction, fantasy, vampires, pirates, wild west, secret agents, war, and love. Unique examples of popular Argentine novels like *Narraciones terroríficas* or Mexican and Cuban publications are also included.



It will probably take years to completely process and add the collection to the IAI catalog. But all of it is already available for research and offers access to primary sources, some of which were already considered to be lost. The collection will be supplemented and expanded whenever possible.

With support of the former Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media), the 19th century works were digitized and made available to the public as part of a project during 2020. The digitization of works from the early 20th century is ongoing.



## Art Prints and Illustrations Archive

The Art Prints and Illustrations Archive of the IAI comprises approximately 2,800 high-quality prints from and about Latin America. The focus is on Mexico and Chile. In 2010, the IAI received a donation of 52 works by renowned artists such as Helen Escobedo, Leonora Carrington, Fernando Aceves Humana and Roberto Turnbull. They deal with the theme of freedom in woodcuts, lithographs, etchings and a sculpture. The Taller de Gráfica Popular (TGP) was an association of international artists founded in Mexico City in 1937. The group produced graphics, prints, posters, and brochures on political and social issues, such as trade unions and the labor movement, anti-fascism, and international politics. Using woodcut and linocut techniques, it produced over 3,000 posters, leaflets, and illustrations. The IAI owns approximately 250 of these works. José Guadalupe Posada (1852–1913) criticized the Mexican upper class with his political prints. His best-known works include the *calaveras*, satirical depictions with skeleton motifs. The graphic collection of the IAI contains over 700 of his works.



More information  
on the Art Prints and  
Illustrations Archive



The Mexican  
prints collection  
in the Digital  
Collections





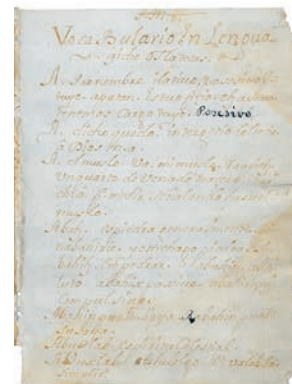
## A Panorama of Peruvian Popular Music in Text, Sound, and Images



Peru, especially its capital city Lima, had a multi-faceted musical culture in the early 20th century. It combined the traditions of the Andes Mountains with North American and European influences. The rich musical life of this time has left many testimonies: scores for pianolas; shellac records, which were also played on Peruvian radio from 1924 onwards, thus making it possible for a wide audience to experience the most varied musical genres independently of a specific performance; scores published by specialized publishing houses or in illustrated magazines; theatre programs, and small-format booklets containing mainly the texts of popular music pieces and songs. All of these media also include illustrations of artists, instruments, and performances. These different historic sources in sound, text, and image can be found in the Gérard Borrás Collection, which the IAI acquired between 2018 and 2019. The Collection opens up a wide range of possibilities for research; from studies of popular culture to music history and ethnomusicology.

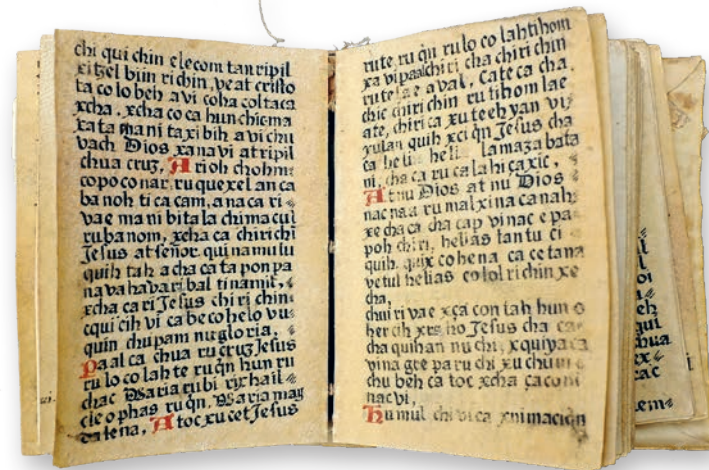


## Linguistic Materials from the Colonial Period Originating in Mesoamerica



The IAI in Berlin received a large amount of material on the indigenous languages of Mesoamerica, mainly thanks to the collection activities of Walter Lehmann (1878–1939) and Eduard Seler (1849–1922). These include various unpublished colonial dictionaries and doctrinal texts, both originals and transcriptions of manuscripts that can only be accessed at the IAI. Walter Lehmann's legacy in particular still holds promise for interesting discoveries, as demonstrated by the manuscript *Arte y vocabulario del idioma Huasteco* by Seberino Bernardo de Quirós, dating from 1711. Although its existence had been known for a long time, it was considered lost since the early 20th century. It was rediscovered at the IAI and published in book form in 2013.

The dictionaries and texts from the colonial period preserved at the IAI have been digitized and incorporated into the IAI's Digital Collections. Among them are the following works: *Chu macahanil lunes cuxlaxel vae* (*Libro de la oración y meditación Lengua Quiche*) by Luis de Granada; *Vocabulario en lengua Quiche Otlatecas*; *Esriptura rajilabal 19. Diciembre rug junab 1786 año* (*Esriptura Quiché 1786, Esriptura Xajila 1786*). A project carried out between 2017 and 2022 contributed to a better understanding of the processes of colonial knowledge production and the transfer of cultural concepts through missionary linguistic planning.



## Image Archive

The Image Archive of the IAI comprises a total of 216,950 image documents. These include 142,700 photographs, 62,450 slides, 8,300 photographic glass plates, 1,100 film negatives, and 2,400 postcards. Most of the materials are part of the bequests held by the Institute. The Image Archive contains many items from the early years of photography. This includes photographs by the Peruvian photographer Max T. Vargas (ca. 1874–1959), especially images of landscapes, excavation sites, cities and buildings in Peru and Bolivia. Also from Martín Chambí (1891–1973), who worked as Max T. Vargas' assistant from 1908 onwards, the image archive has portraits, landscape photos, and photos of archaeological sites, such as Machu Picchu and Cusco. The photographs of Austrian naval engineer Arthur Posnansky (1873–1946), who devoted himself to archaeology, traveled to Bolivia around 1900, and researched Bolivian archaeology and antiquities, feature black-and-white motifs from Tiahuanaco, Isla del Sol, and Isla de la Luna. The legacy of the Austro-German architect and photographer Teobert Maler (1842–1917), considered one of the pioneers in the investigation of Mayan ruins in Mexico and Guatemala, includes numerous photographs documenting the state of pre-Columbian buildings at the time and which therefore remain of great value for research today.



More information  
on the Image Archive



## Teobert Maler: Photographic Expeditions in Mexico and Guatemala

Teobert Maler (1842–1917), a trained architect, was an important 19th century photographer. The IAI holds his papers, which include 2,500 photographs, 145 archeological plans and sketches, 3,200 pages of manuscripts and notebooks, 100 letters, and many other materials. With funds from the former Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media), the IAI was able to catalog and digitize Maler's papers from 2017 to 2019. They are now available in the IAI's Digital Collections and can be accessed from anywhere.

Maler is considered to be a pioneer in the exploration of Mayan sites. No other person ever discovered and documented as many unknown Mayan ruins as he did. From 1865 to 1877 and 1884 to 1894 he traveled around southern Mexico and Guatemala in extensive expeditions. Until today Maler's photos and sketches are an important resource for Mayan archaeology. For example, they were widely used in the IAI's archaeological research project in Dzhekbátún (Campeche, Mexico), which was funded from 2012 to 2018 by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation). Teobert Maler's historical city shots, landscape and portrait pictures are less well known. That is why, in a series of exhibitions in cities including Berlin, Bonn, Hamburg, and Campeche, and in a book of photographs available in Open Access, they were presented to a broader public.



More information on  
Teobert Maler in the  
Papers and Manuscripts



Teobert Maler's papers  
and manuscripts in the  
Digital Collections



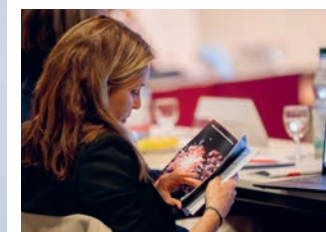


As a non-university Area Studies institution, the IAI conducts regional research in the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences, focusing on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, Portugal, and their transregional interdependencies. Third-party funded projects, especially joint projects with national and foreign universities and research institutions, visits by guest scholars, international networks, and the Institute's academic publication program play an important role in research at the IAI. The diverse, multimedia holdings of the Library and Special Collections are central to the Institute's research profile. Many of the IAI's projects are located at the interface between research and collections, as well as between science and culture. Based on the regional orientation of the collections and their multimedia nature, the IAI contributes to the debates on material and immaterial cultures in terms of content and methodology, also taking into account the effects of digital transformation.



The IAI is committed to nationally and internationally networked, cooperative research that addresses socially relevant topics and contributes to linking theory and practice. The research activities of the scientists at the IAI cover a broad spectrum of disciplines. The research is characterized by a strong focus on cooperation: with academic communities in Germany, within the framework of third-party funded projects, and with international visiting scholars. Scientific cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe offers a wide range of opportunities for exchanging experiences, co-producing knowledge, and learning from one another. Comparing different perspectives and linking different knowledge practices can make an important contribution to solving common problems. "Latin America Matters": Latin America is important for Germany and Europe because social experiences and knowledge production from this region provide answers to global social challenges, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, interdependent inequalities, transnational migration, cultural diversity, and plural citizenship.

From 2025 to 2030, research activities at the IAI will focus on the research line "Knowledge – Cultures – Medialities. Latin America and the Caribbean in a Transregional Perspective". The research program focuses on three areas: 1) "Knowledge Production and Knowledge Circulation", 2) "Cultural Production and Cultural Transfer", and 3) "Controversial Cultural Heritage". These topics correspond to the profile of the IAI and its role within the SPK network. They draw on the Institute's collections and existing scientific expertise, on its networks and collaborations, take current scientific debates into account, and address relevant global social challenges.



More information  
on Research

**Mecila – Maria Sibylla Merian Centre  
Conviviality-Inequality  
in Latin America**

The collaborative project Mecila – Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America started in 2017. It has been investigating past and present forms of social, political, and cultural living together in Latin America and the Caribbean. It wants to contribute to a better understanding of conviviality in diverse and unequal societies. Mecila is financed by the Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space). After a three-year preliminary phase, the six-year long main phase began in 2020.



Mecila's headquarters are located in São Paulo (Brazil) with other hubs in La Plata (Argentina), Mexico City (Mexico), Cologne, and Berlin (Germany). In this consortium of German and Latin American institutions, the IAI works together with the Freie Universität Berlin (main coordination), the Universität zu Köln, the Universidade de São Paulo (USP), the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP), the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS; CONICET / Universidad Nacional de La Plata), and El Colegio de México.



The IAI coordinates the subproject *Medialities of Conviviality and Information Infrastructure*. It examines, for example, how different notions of living together in difference and inequality manifest themselves in practices such as writing, drawing, photography, collecting and exhibiting. In addition, it deals with the (co-)production, circulation and acquisition of knowledge and the consequences of digital transformation for the social role of the media. The IAI is also responsible for Mecila's information structure, including the articulation of its libraries and the coordination of exchanges between the librarians.

The rationale of BMFTR's funding line Maria Sibylla Merian International Centres for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences is to establish strong platforms to interlink knowledge production in the Global South more effectively with the Global North. This is why Mecila cooperates closely with other Maria Sibylla Merian Centres in Guadalajara (Mexico), Delhi (India), Accra (Ghana) and Tunis (Tunisia).



**Mecila:**

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Forschung, Technologie  
und Raumfahrt



## Visiting Scholars

Every year, numerous international guest scholars from various disciplines and career stages come to the IAI for research purposes. Their research stays are financially supported by the IAI Scholarship and Fellow Program, by German and foreign funding institutions or their home institutions. The guest researchers mainly come from Latin America, the Caribbean, the USA and Europe. The IAI is an attractive research location for visiting researchers not only because of its extensive collections, but also because of the Institute's diverse networks. They are involved in the Institute's various activities. Examples include the regular research colloquium and the lecture series on the research theme.



The IAI awards 10 to 12 fellowships per year for one to two-month research stays in Berlin. In addition, the IAI invites one or two distinguished international scholars each year as fellow to conduct research and develop collaborative third-party funded projects together with IAI scholars.

The grants are designed to support researchers in carrying out projects related to the IAI's research themes and collections. Two key aspects must be addressed and justified in the application: first, the project should demonstrate innovation; second, it should have the potential to connect with other disciplines.

The guest researchers strengthen the IAI's research profile with their expertise and knowledge. Visits often lead to longer-term collaboration, which is reflected in joint publications, events, reciprocal guest invitations and research projects.



More information  
on Visiting Scholars

## Publications

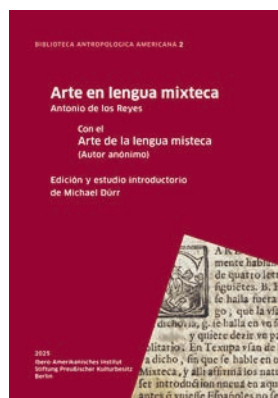
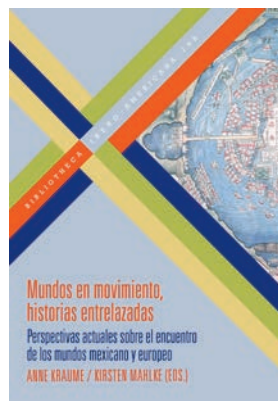
The IAI offers a diverse publication program in German, Spanish, Portuguese, and English. This program is primarily driven by the Institute's research activities, scientific events held at the IAI, research stays by visiting scholars, and collaborations with national and international universities, research institutions, and cultural organizations. The program includes academic journals, book series, co-editions, exhibition catalogues, and the working papers series. A publications brochure provides information about new publications approximately every two years.

The publication program follows an international, multidisciplinary, and multilingual approach. It adheres to internationally established quality assurance standards. These include, for instance, double-blind peer review processes, internationally staffed editorial boards, regular evaluations, and the inclusion of IAI journals in major international indexes. Convinced that diversity in knowledge production also includes linguistic diversity, the IAI deliberately avoids an "English-only" strategy. The IAI is committed to a Free and Open Access strategy whenever possible. Through the IAI's Repository of Publications, we offer a significant portion of the books, journals and working papers published since the Institute's founding for free download.

The multidisciplinary book series *Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana* publishes monographs and edited volumes on literature, culture and language, history, economics and politics of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal.

The multidisciplinary book series *Bibliotheca Luso-Afro-Brasileira* publishes monographs and collections on literature, culture, language, history, economy, and politics in Portuguese-speaking countries.

The monographs and essay collections in the *Biblioteca Antropológica Americana* series present the results of research into the indigenous and multiethnic societies and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean, both past and present. The range of topics encompasses all fields of Amerindian studies, including archaeology, ethnohistory, ethno-linguistics, as well as cultural and linguistic anthropology. Outside of these series, the IAI publishes monographs and anthologies in cooperation with national and international partners, as well as several series of working papers.



More information on the  
Publication Program



**Journal**  
**IBEROAMERICANA.**  
**América Latina –**  
**España – Portugal**

The interdisciplinary journal *IBEROAMERICANA*. *América Latina – España – Portugal* is dedicated to the analysis of the history, literature, cultural life, and socio-political dynamics of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. *IBEROAMERICANA* publishes contributions that go beyond national frames and disciplinary horizons, it prioritizes comparative and transversal approaches to research, and takes a stand in debates of regional and international significance. The journal envisages itself as a bridge between different academic traditions and fields of research. *IBEROAMERICANA* is comprised of four sections: Dossier; Articles and Essays; Forum for Debate; Notes. Iberoamerican Reviews.

*IBEROAMERICANA* is published three times a year in print and online with free and open access. Since 2001 it has been published in cooperation with the GIGA Institute for Latin American Studies (Hamburg) and the publishing house Iberoamericana Vervuert (Madrid/Frankfurt am Main). Its international Editorial Board and Scientific Advisory Board have members from various disciplines. *IBEROAMERICANA* applies double blind peer review procedures and is registered in important international indices. The journal publishes articles in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.



[journals.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de)

**Journal**  
**INDIANA – Estudios**  
**Antropológicos sobre**  
**América Latina y el**  
**Caribe**

The IAI has been publishing *INDIANA – Anthropological Studies on Latin America and the Caribbean* since 1973. It is an internationally recognized forum for research on multiethnic, indigenous, and Afroamerican societies and cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean, past and present. *INDIANA* brings together original articles from all fields of American anthropology, including archaeology, ethnohistory, social and cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.

*INDIANA* features a combination of articles and a dossier devoted to a specific subject. The journal publishes contributions in Spanish, Portuguese, English, and German, which are selected on the basis of established quality standards, including an international Editorial Board, double blind peer review procedures, and registration in important international indices. *INDIANA* is indexed in Scopus, Redalyc, Latindex Catálogo, REDIB and HAPI, among others. It appears twice a year in print as well as online with free and open access.

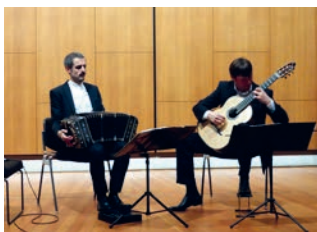


[journals.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de)

## Program of Events

The IAI organizes a wide variety of cultural and scientific events, which take place at the Institute's spaces and online. They are also held at the venues of other institutions with which the IAI cooperates in Berlin, Germany, and around the world. The multilingual Program of Events ranges from readings, lectures, round tables, symposiums, and conferences to film screenings, concerts, and exhibitions. It is a central element of the IAI's mandate in the areas of information, education, and mediation since its foundation. It is closely linked to the IAI's various fields of work and presents the Institute's collections, projects, and research activities to a wider audience.

The events bring together a wide variety of people, fields of knowledge, cultural perspectives, and institutions. They create spaces for intercultural and transcultural dialogue and interaction in which new forms of cooperation, participation, and communication are explored and established. They are the result of cooperation with a wide range of partners from the scientific, cultural, and political spheres, both nationally and internationally. In this way, they contribute to expanding and strengthening the networks of the Institute and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz.



More information  
on the Program of Events



## International Workshops and Conferences

International workshops, symposia, and conferences in Berlin, but also in other places of Germany and in Latin America are an integral part of the event program of the IAI. They are closely connected to its research activities and its third-party funded projects and delve into scientific and current social debates. For the most part, they are carried out together with national and international partners from scientific, cultural, political and economic areas.



## Lecture Series and Research Colloquium

The Research Theme “Knowledge – Cultures – Medialities. Latin America and the Caribbean in a Transregional Perspective” is accompanied by an interdisciplinary lecture series. The lectures in the series are deliberately not limited to Latin America, since we are very much interested in discussions with colleagues that deal with the topics focusing on other regions.

In order to promote the IAI’s networking with national and international research institutions and strengthen academic exchange across disciplinary boundaries, the IAI holds a Research Colloquium about every two weeks. During the colloquium, visiting scholars and members of the Institute’s staff present their research projects for discussion, exchange ideas and discuss epistemological and methodological issues. The presentations and discussions are usually held in Spanish, and occasionally in English or Portuguese.



More information  
on the Lecture Series



More information on the  
Research Colloquium

## Kulturforum

The Kulturforum near Potsdamer Platz is one of the central locations of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz. This historic site of art, culture, and science brings together important institutions and collections of the Foundation: the Neue Nationalgalerie (New National Gallery) and the new building of the Museum of Modern Art Berlin modern, the Gemäldegalerie (Gallery of Old Masters), the Kunstbibliothek (Art Library), the Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts), the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung (State Institute for Music Research) with the Musikinstrumenten-Museum (Museum of Musical Instruments), the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library), and the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (Ibero-American Institute). The diversity of the collections reflects



all facets of modern European art, intellectual, and cultural history. Paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, books, decorative arts and design objects, and musical instruments are all housed at the Kulturforum. With Berlin modern, the Museum of Modern Art, modernity will be a key theme at the Kulturforum. In this way, the SPK is continuing the site's traditional identity. The Kulturforum and its immediate urban surroundings reflect the history of the last century like few other places in Berlin. The IAI aims to contribute to establishing the Kulturforum as a public space for dialogue; as a place that is aware of its history and where both European and non-European perspectives are reflected.

## Forschungscampus Dahlem

The IAI cooperates with other institutions of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, in order to strengthen the interconnections between their broad spectrum of collections and holdings. This involves the co-organization of scientific events, the joint hosting of visiting scholars, collaboration within third-party funded projects, and co-editing of publications.

The Forschungscampus Dahlem (Research Campus Dahlem) of the SPK is of particular strategic importance in this context. There the IAI works closely together with the Ethnologisches Museum (Ethnological Museum), the Museum für Asiatische Kunst (Asian Art Museum), Museum für Europäische Kulturen (Museum of European Cultures), the Institut für Museumsforschung (Institute for Museum Research), and the Rathgen-Forschungslabor (Rathgen Research Laboratory) as well as the Kunstbibliothek (Art Library). The focus lies on the analysis of material and immaterial cultures in a trans-regional context. Connecting collections and holdings, collaborative object- and collection-based research, and science communication are important dimensions of the cooperation. Since the museums involved are located in Dahlem, collaborations with the nearby Freie Universität Berlin plays an important role at the Forschungscampus Dahlem. One of the objectives is to overcome historical delimitations between museums, archives, and libraries as well as reducing asymmetries between collection institutions and universities through new formats of cooperation in research, teaching, and scientific outreach. The IAI makes an important contribution by introducing Latin American and Caribbean perspectives into the scientific debates on cultural diversity and global shared cultural heritage as well as the social role of collecting institutions.





## Support the IAI

The Collections of the IAI contain numerous valuable media from past centuries. Books, photographs, drawings, etchings, or maps give fascinating glimpses into the history, culture, politics, economy, or literature of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. Many of these media are unique and have exciting stories to tell of their own.

Unfortunately, time and intensive use have left clear marks on some of these outstanding materials, so that they had to be taken out of circulation. Donations make it possible to restore them and to keep them as far as possible in their original condition. In addition, especially damaged media



can be digitized and made available in the IAI's Digital Collections unhindered by time and place.



More information on the possibilities  
of supporting the IAI

## Der Förderkreis des Ibero-Amerikanischen Instituts e.V.

Since April 2000, the association Förderkreis des Ibero-Amerikanischen Instituts e.V. (Supporter's Circle of the IAI) has supported the work of the Institute. Its members enrich the IAI's cultural activities with a diverse range of events. Moreover, they contribute to the purchase of rare media and outstanding collection items and financially support publications of the IAI.

The association regularly publishes news, gives background information and event tips in its multilingual blog *Entdecke Lateinamerika neu in Berlin!* ("Re-discover Latin America in Berlin!").



Are you interested in becoming a member?

Phone: + 49 (0)30 266 45 – 15 00  
E-mail: [foerderkreis@iai.spk-berlin.de](mailto:foerderkreis@iai.spk-berlin.de)  
[www.foerderkreis-des-iai.org](http://www.foerderkreis-des-iai.org)



## Contact

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut  
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz  
Potsdamer Str. 37  
10785 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0)30 266 45 – 1500  
Fax: +49 (0)30 266 35 – 1550  
E-Mail: [iai@iai.spk-berlin.de](mailto:iai@iai.spk-berlin.de)  
[www.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de)



Subscribe to the  
IAI Newsletter



The IAI in Numbers

Editor:  
Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Berlin 2025  
© Text: Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Graphics: [lmn-berlin.com](http://lmn-berlin.com) (Revision: IAI)  
Printing: Satztechnik Meissen

### Credits:

© IAI: pp. 8 centre, 10, 11, 16, 19, 20 left, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 rig, 30 (Sandra Jaramillo Restrepo, CeDInCI, Argentina), 32, 34, 35, 36 centre, 37 left top and below, 43  
© IAI, Foto: Peter-Paul Weiler: pp. 1, 2, 6 right, 9, 13 left centre and below, 18  
© SPK, Foto: Thomas Koehler / Photothek: p. 4  
© IAI, Foto: Zöhre Kurc / bundesfoto: pp. 5, 36 left and right, 37 right top  
© IAI, Foto: Stefan Maria Rother: pp. 6 left, 12, 13 top, 31  
© IAI, Foto: Peter Groth: pp. 6 centre, 15  
© IAI, Foto: Laurin Schmid / bundesfoto: pp. 7, 40  
© SPK, Foto: Thomas Imo: pp. 8 top and below, 13 right centre, 20 bel, 26 below, 33  
© BBR, Foto: M. Meisse: p. 17  
© Proyectos Archeológicos Dzhekbátún y Santa Rosa Xtampak: p. 26 top  
© IAI, Foto: Ole Heinrich / bundesfoto: pp. 27 left, 39  
© IAI, Foto: Tanja Marotzke / bundesfoto: p. 27 right below, 38 © Mecila, Foto: Ricson Onodera: pp. 28, 29  
© Kulturprojekte Berlin, Foto: Angela Regenbrecht: p. 41  
© IAI, Foto: Ulf Büschleb / bundesfoto: p. 45







**Ibero-Amerikanisches  
Institut**  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz