



Mecila:

Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2024

Informalities, Conviviality and Inequality in Latin America

São Paulo, 7th – 10th October 2024

Sponsored by



**Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung**

Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre
Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America

Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2024

**Informalities, Conviviality and Inequality
in Latin America**

Informalidades, convivialidade e desigualdade
na América Latina

Informalidades, convivialidad y desigualdad
en América Latina

São Paulo, 7th – 10th October 2024

São Paulo, 7 a 10 de outubro de 2024

São Paulo, del 7 al 10 de octubre de 2024

**Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros,
Universidade de São Paulo (IEB / USP)**

Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, 78, Cidade Universitária – SP 05508-010

Phone number: +55 11 3091-3197

Auditório 2, 2nd floor | Segundo andar | Segundo piso

Eduroam available

Coordination | Coordenação | Coordinación

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Mecila Central Coordination Office

Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America

What is Mecila?

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. Thereby, it wants to contribute to a better understanding of conviviality in diverse and unequal societies. Mecila is financed mainly by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF, Federal Ministry of Education and Research). After a three-year preliminary phase, the main phase began in April 2020 and will last until March 2026.

Mecila's headquarter is located in São Paulo (Brazil) with complementary hubs in La Plata (Argentina), Mexico City (Mexico), Cologne (Germany), and Berlin (Germany). In the consortium, German and Latin American universities and research institutions work closely together: the Freie Universität Berlin (main coordination), the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, the Universität zu Köln, the Universidade de São Paulo, the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata), and El Colegio de México.

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut coordinates within Mecila the Research Area Medialities of Conviviality and is in charge of developing Mecila's Information Infrastructure, which includes the articulation of the libraries of the institutions that constitute the Centre. Complementary, the Universität zu Köln coordinates the Research Area [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality and is responsible for the Research Data Management, while the Freie Universität Berlin coordinates the Research Area Politics of Conviviality and is in charge of the general coordination of the Centre.

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

An Innovative Research Network

Mecila is conceived as a transnational, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research network. It articulates pertinent research and outreach activities conducted by a group of 21 Principal Investigators (PI), 12 Associated Investigators (AI) and three Postdoctoral Investigators (PDI), who are based at the institutions of the consortium.

The Centre is led by the Executive Board, consisting of representatives of its seven member institutions, one representative of the Postdoctoral Investigators and the Academic Manager. The Executive Board agrees on a board of Directors (two from Germany, two from Latin America) of the Centre. Two of these Directors are based in São Paulo during their respective terms, while the other two co-chair the Centre remotely from their home institutions. An International Advisory Board and an Ethics Committee composed of outstanding scholars and representatives of civil society, closely assess the activities of the Centre in order to ensure scientific excellence and social relevance in all research and outreach activities, as well as transparency, gender balance, and intersectional equity in all selection processes.

In order to enhance international and multidisciplinary scientific co-production, circulation of knowledge and network building, a variety of formats and instruments have been established. Each year, several fellows – Senior Fellows, Junior Fellows, Thematic Research Fellows, Urban Narratives Fellows – are recruited via international calls to join the Centre. They stay several months in São Paulo, in order to develop their own research projects related to the thematic foci of Mecila, participate in the Centre's activities and develop its network further. In addition, Doctoral Researchers from the institutions of the consortium with PhD programs carry out research stays in the São Paulo hub. Distinguished visiting scholars are invited to the Centre as São Paulo Research Visits for short-stays in order to give public conferences and develop specific collaborative activities. The Mecila Chair, which rotates within the Latin American institutions of the consortium, fosters mobility and network building within the region. The Germany Research Visits, mainly for Latin American Principal Investigators, deepen the exchange with the German institutions of the consortium.

Among the main activities, rotating between the member institutions of the Mecila consortium, are Institutional Workshops, Thematic Workshops, Civil Society Workshops, and Public Lectures. Each Research Area of Mecila has developed complementary formats, both virtual and in presence. The Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum takes place in Mecila's headquarter in São Paulo.

The Centre's primary research results are regularly published in Mecila's Working Papers Series, available online. Consolidated research results are published in books, edited volumes, and in articles and dossiers in indexed scientific journals. In cooperation with the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), the Mecila Book Series "Biblioteca Mecila-CLACSO" has been established.

www.mecila.net

The Institutions of the Mecila Consortium

Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin)

The Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin) owes its founding, in 1948, to international support, and international impulses have shaped the university's research activities and student life ever since. It is a full-spectrum university, comprising twelve departments and three Central Institutes which together offer more than 150 different academic programs in a broad range of disciplines. As an International Network University and part of the Berlin University Alliance, FU Berlin thrives on its many contacts with higher education institutions and organizations in Germany and abroad, which provide critical impetus for the university's research and teaching activities. Strong ties with Latin America and the Caribbean are anchored in the Lateinamerika-Institut (LAI, Institute for Latin American Studies). Founded in 1970, it is with 8 professors and about 50 research associates Germany's largest institute for research on Latin America and the Caribbean and also one of Europe's leading institutions for Latin American Studies. At the LAI, seven disciplines are represented in research and teaching in the social sciences, cultural studies and humanities. It develops in cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean institutions a broad range of research and teaching projects.

www.fu-berlin.de | www.lai.fu-berlin.de

Universität zu Köln (UzK)

Created in 1388, the Universität zu Köln (UzK) is the sixth university to be established in Central Europe. As a full-spectrum university, UzK is divided into six faculties (Management, Economics and Social Sciences; Law; Medicine; Arts and Humanities; Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Human Sciences). The research on Latin America has a long tradition at UzK and is promoted by the Centro Latinoamericano de Colonia (CLAC, Latin American Centre of Cologne), which also coordinates cross-faculty courses with focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. The Instituto de Historia Ibérica y Latinoamericana (IHILA, Department of Iberian and Latin American History) is the only major independent university institution in Germany devoted to the study of Iberian and Latin American history. Additionally, the Instituto Luso-Brasileiro (PBI, Luso-Brazilian Institute) is one of the largest and most traditional institutes of its kind in the German-speaking world. It deals with countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Angola and Mozambique from an interdisciplinary perspective. Since 2014, the Global South Studies Center (GSSC) articulates interdisciplinary research expertise in relation to Africa, Asia and, Latin America, promoting cooperation among leading researchers in Germany and internationally.

www.uni-koeln.de | www.lateinamerika.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de
www.pbi.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de | www.gssc.uni-koeln.de

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI)

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute) is a multi-disciplinary, non-university institution of the humanities, cultural sciences, and social sciences. As an area studies institution it has a regional focus – Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal – while it also incorporates transregional interrelationships. This gives it a genuinely international orientation. An information centre, a research centre, and a cultural centre, all housed under the same roof and on an equal footing give the Institute its unique profile. The library and special collections of the IAI are among the world's most outstanding on Latin America, the Caribbean and the Iberian Peninsula. The Institute develops its own research activities, is involved in collaborative projects with universities, hosts international visiting scholars and has a multilingual scientific publishing program. It also carries out a broad spectrum of scientific and cultural events. The Institute's stable and sustainable structures are a decisive advantage here. The IAI has been a part of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) since 1962. With its libraries, museums, archives, and research institutes, the SPK is one of the world's largest cultural and scientific institutions. It is jointly supported and financed by the German Federal Government and all the Federal States, the Länder. The combination of different types of institutions, a broad spectrum of collections and diverse disciplines makes the SPK a great environment for the development of the IAI.

www.iai.spk-berlin.de | www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de

Universidade de São Paulo (USP)

The Universidade de São Paulo (USP) is a public university founded in 1934 as part of an effort to modernize higher education in Brazil. USP is a state-operated university and does not charge tuition fees. The university offers a comprehensive range of programs across various fields of knowledge, including the humanities and social sciences. USP comprises 42 teaching and research units, six specialized institutes, four hospitals, four museums, 48 libraries, 15 archives, and a considerable number of well-equipped laboratories. With 333 courses, USP serves more than 60,000 undergraduate students. In addition, its graduate programs comprise 264 courses with approximately 37,000 students enrolled. USP accounts for 22% of Brazil's scientific production and frequently ranks as the top university in Latin America in terms of research output and quality. To carry out its activities, USP operates across eight campuses located in cities such as São Paulo, Bauru, Lorena, Piracicaba, Pirassununga, Ribeirão Preto, Santos, and São Carlos. Additionally, it has teaching units, museums, and research centres situated outside these campuses in various municipalities. Internationalization is one of USP's guidelines. The mobility of students and professors, as well as participation in networks and consortia, are the translation of this goal. Between 1,500 and 3,000 international students are received in its undergraduate and graduate programs each year.

www5.usp.br

Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Cebrap)

The Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Cebrap) is a global research centre, founded in 1969 by intellectuals, most of whom were professors at Universidade de São Paulo (USP) who had been removed from the university by the regime established after the 1964 military coup. As in its origins, Cebrap's research focuses primarily on the analysis of the Brazilian reality. It adopts a comparative analysis approach, combining specialization and interdisciplinarity. The Centre draws on diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives from various fields, including Sociology, Political Science, Demography, Law, Philosophy, History, Anthropology, Economics and Geography. Today, Cebrap has established itself as a leading institution on the national scene and is known for its research projects, publications and seminars that follow a multidisciplinary approach and continue to have a significant impact on public debates. Over the years, Cebrap has conducted more than 500 research projects and collaborated with some 200 national and international partners. Cebrap disseminates its research through various channels, including the interdisciplinary academic journal "Novos Estudos", which features contemporary research. It also maintains a Virtual Library, housing video archives and articles produced by Cebrap, and organizes the traditional Cebrap Seminars, which foster discussions on Brazilian political and social reality.

www.cebrap.org.br

IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Founded in 1905, the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) is the first and largest of the 21 free and public universities spread throughout the Province of Buenos Aires. Teaching, research, and extension are currently the fundamental pillars of the UNLP. The university comprises 17 faculties, with an enrollment of around 110,000 students. In recent years, an average of about 35,000 prospective students has applied for one of the 120 degree programs offered by the UNLP. Each year, approximately 7,000 students graduate from its programs. Since its creation in 1920, research has been a distinctive activity of the Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación of UNLP, achieving progressively greater institutionalization through the formation of specific units: institutes, centres, and areas. The Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS) was established in August 2009 with the aim of integrating and strengthening these units and their researchers. It operates as a dual-dependency entity of both UNLP and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet). The objectives of IdIHCS are to promote, carry out and coordinate theoretical, empirical, and methodological studies in the field of social sciences and humanities. Among its key functions are: the elaboration and execution of research programs and projects; collaboration in the training of young scientific researchers; the provision of advice and transfer of knowledge and/or research tasks for institutions that require it; and the organization of scientific meetings (congresses, symposiums, conferences and research forums, meetings, etc.), as well as courses, seminars and research workshops. With more than 270 researchers, 157 doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, 12 research support professionals and 3 administrative agents, IdIHCS is the largest Conicet humanities and social sciences research centre in Argentina.

www.unlp.edu.ar | www.idihcs.fahce.unlp.edu.ar

El Colegio de México (Colmex)

El Colegio de México (Colmex) is an outstanding social science and humanities research and teaching institute. Created in 1940, the origins of Colmex are linked to La Casa de España, which received many distinguished exiled scholars during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The institution operates as a small public university and research centre with a highly specialized faculty, an excellent academic library and a program of high level seminars and conferences on cutting edge issues of the contemporary world as well as in many academic disciplines. Its eight academic centres offer degrees in the following fields: Master's and Doctoral degrees in History, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Linguistics, Literature, Asian and African Studies, Urban Studies, Demography and Environmental Studies, a Master's Program in Gender Studies, and undergraduate degrees in International Relations, Public Administration and Economics. Admission is based on open and very rigorous competition for candidates from Mexico and abroad. Virtually all accepted students obtain scholarships, which require full time dedication to their academic program. El Colegio de México has numerous, ongoing academic exchanges with many high-level educational institutions around the world.

www.colmex.mx/en

The Research Areas of Mecila

Research Area: Medialities of Conviviality

The Research Area Medialities of Conviviality analyses, through the lens of inequality and difference, processes of co-production, circulation, and appropriation of knowledge, imaginaries, and representations. These processes include movements of persons, ideas, values, and objects. Practices such as writing, drawing, photographing, collecting, and exhibiting offer clues to the study of how notions of conviviality – for instance, utopias or mythical pasts – become manifest in objects that are produced, negotiated, and circulated in unequal convivial configurations. Digital transformation is shaping the circulation of knowledge in new and unprecedented ways, reducing old inequalities but also producing new ones. The knowledge dimension and the ways and means of mediation are key to understanding the nexus between conviviality, difference, and inequality.

Research Area: [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality

The Research Area focuses on the question of how convivial configurations evolve and interact to bring about changes in convivial regimes, favouring a diachronic approach without limiting itself to it. One prominent field of inquiry is labour relations: forced labour arrangements and resistance to it in colonial settings; informal and formal labour and their relationship in historical and contemporary Latin America. Another field consists of the legal settings and everyday negotiations of legitimacy and illegitimacy in family formation and their connection with social hierarchies and group formation. Finally, Latin America's

heterogeneous urban populations and the historically grown power hierarchies is on the focus. In all our research projects, the tensions between norms (socio-political, legal, moral, or economic) and convivial realities and practices play an important role.

Research Area: Politics of Conviviality

The main concern of the Research Area lies in how markers of difference are negotiated in contexts of power asymmetries and subsequently impact patterns of inequality within convivial configurations. It inquires how various agents either enhance or challenge existing inequalities through their everyday and institutional practices. The scope of this Research Area is not limited to the realm of institutionalised politics, macro-structures, and top-down power relations: politics also encompasses everyday life interactions, unstably codified practices, unspoken conflicts, and informal agreements, which are also marked by inequality and conviviality in particular ways. In this sense, both the public and private spheres of social life are eminently political.

www.mecila.net/en/programa-de-pesquisa-2

Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2024

The **Mecila Annual Meeting** is the central platform to present and discuss the main interdisciplinary research results of the Mecila community together with invited researchers. It plays an important role for the articulation of the three Mecila Research Areas. The **Young Researchers Forum** has the specific objective to foster the international exchange and networking of early career researchers, addressing specific challenges and making visible their research contributions. This year, the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut is the main organizer of the Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum, as this responsibility rotates among the German institutions of the Mecila consortium. Back to back to The Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum the consortium's board meetings will take place.

The Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2024 **"Informalities, Conviviality and Inequality in Latin America"** is conceptually framed by Mecila's annual theme "Informalities". We are particularly interested in convivial contexts of informalities that are shaped by inequalities and differences. Multidimensional studies of informality have a long tradition in Latin American social sciences. The concept addresses relations, practices, and norms of subaltern social agents or groups that are in tension with established legal frameworks, public institutions, or formal work relations. This includes more intimate spheres such as domestic work as well as public spaces such as urban markets or illegal settlements. Cultural production is also subject to transitions between the formal and the informal and vice versa. This transformation of the status of media has symbolic and economic implications and modifies circulation regimes. Thus, we are interested in understanding different dimensions of informal conviviality as processes of negotiation and transformation that point to interstices and interdependencies in different settings: How urban and cultural spaces flesh out dynamics of informal practices and representations? How they constitute

alternative niche regimes that have their own logics and dynamics of institutionalization and creativity? Does the impact of inequalities differ for women, men and/or sexual dissidences depending on whether we explore (more) formal or (more) informal settings? What ways does the relationship between illegality and informalities define dynamics of violence and exclusion?

During the event, the most recent publications by the Mecila Book Series "Biblioteca Mecila-CLACSO" will be presented, showing the interdisciplinary and interconnected efforts of all Mecila Research Areas.

Location of the Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum

Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros (IEB / Universidade de São Paulo)

Within the Universidade de São Paulo system, the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros (IEB) stands out as a centre for multidisciplinary research and documentation on the history and cultures of Brazil. Founded in 1962 by Sérgio Buarque de Holanda, the IEB's primary mission is to reflect upon Brazilian society by fostering the integration of different fields within the humanities.

The IEB has been recognized for its outstanding work, receiving the Rodrigo de Melo Franco de Andrade Award from the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (IPHAN) in 1995 in the category of Preservation of Cultural Assets, both Movable and Immovable. It holds the responsibility of safeguarding and maintaining an exceptional collection, consisting of a significant ensemble of personal archives created by Brazilian artists and intellectuals during their lifetimes. This remarkable collection is distributed among the Archive, Library, and Visual Arts Collection, comprising original manuscripts from influential figures, rare books, and works of art. Periodically, the IEB adds to this unique collection through donations or acquisitions. The IEB's research activities are closely intertwined with its collection. Scholars conduct research in various thematic areas, including Arts, Literature, Music, History, Economic History, Geography, Economics, Anthropology, Museology, and Sociology. Notably, the institute's postgraduate program, named "Brazilian Cultures and Identities", focuses on two research lines: 1) Society and Culture in Portuguese America and Brazil, and 2) Brazil: The Reality of Creation, the Creation of Reality. The IEB serves as a vital hub for intellectual exploration and critical analysis, contributing to a deeper understanding of Brazilian society and its cultural heritage within the broader academic community.

The Collection consists of 91 funds, an extensive documentation resulting from research and both singled out and general documentation. In quantitative terms, these are approximately 500,000 documents in the Archive, 250,000 books in the Library and 8 thousand objects in the Visual Arts Collection. The Archive is responsible for the organization of textual and audio-visual documents, while the Library deals with published works and the Visual Arts Collection brings together works of art and three-dimensional objects. Insti-

tutional responsibility for this cultural heritage implies reflecting and developing guidelines on guarding and conserving, as well as the incorporation of new collections, aiming at the preservation of memory, production of knowledge, extroversion and the publication of the collection. In this sense, IEB offers access to the collection through the IEB Electronic Catalog.

The IEB's journal, "Revista do Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros" (RIEB), also serves as a platform for showcasing the institution's extensive archival resources. The RIEB is a quarterly publication dedicated to disseminating original and unpublished articles, reviews, and documents in the field of Brazilian Studies, encompassing disciplines such as History, Literature, Arts, Music, Geography, Economics, Law, Social Sciences, Architecture, and more. Since its start in 1966, the journal has maintained a multidisciplinary focus, inviting contributions from researchers affiliated with diverse institutions to support a wide spectrum of scholarly discourse. In addition, the institute has launched a podcast series that discusses various aspects of Brazilian culture, history, and arts. This initiative aims to engage a broader audience and promote Brazilian Studies through new media channels.

In 1968, the IEB Visual Arts Collection was created with the arrival of the Mário de Andrade collection. From 1981, the Visual Arts Collection was open to new incorporations and today has a heterogeneous set of 20 collections totaling about 8,700 pieces of interest for Brazilian culture. The Visual Arts Collection is responsible for exhibitions taking place in the Marta Rossetti Batista exhibition room within IEB. The exhibitions are based on research with the Institute's Collection and developed with the documentary set of the three services: Archive, Library and Visual Arts Collection. The exhibition program at IEB highlights the erasure of intellectual contributions by marginalized groups, such as women, Black individuals, LGBTIQ* communities, indigenous peoples, and those from peripheral regions.

Since January 2024, an Artistic Residency has been taking place at IEB, in partnership with the Instituto Çarê. In this residency, artists from "Coletivo Sá Menina" have been attending IEB with the goal of creating and developing a scenic-musical performance based on their research experiences with the documents in the collection, thus promoting the democratization of access to research and documentary sources beyond the walls of the university. The "Coletivo Sá Menina" will present this performance during the Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum, reflecting on the racism rooted in Brazilian society and offering the artistic perspective they bring to the collection.

In the framework of the visit of IEB during the Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2024, archivists and librarians of IEB will address informalities in Brazil from the perspective of the archives. The attempt of the visit is to introduce the participants to the challenges of building archives and memories in contexts of convivial knowledge production marked by interdependent inequalities from the colonial and postcolonial past to the present.

www.ieb.usp.br



Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros

MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024

SEGUNDA-FEIRA, 7 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | LUNES, 7 DE OCTUBRE 2024

09.30 – 10.30

Welcome Addresses | Boas-vindas | Palabras de bienvenida

Sérgio Costa, Freie Universität Berlin / Spokesperson of Mecila

Carlos Gilberto Carlotti Jr., Rector, Universidade de São Paulo

Monica Dantas, Director, Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros USP

Adrian Gurza Lavalle, President, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento

Martina Hackelberg, Consul General, Deutsches Generalkonsulat São Paulo

10.30 – 11.00

Opening Panel: General Framing and Conceptual Introduction to the Conference | Mesa de abertura: Enquadramento geral e introdução conceitual à conferência | Mesa de abertura: Encuadre general e introducción conceptual a la conferencia

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Marcos Nobre**, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Principal Investigator

Barbara Göbel, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Principal Investigator

Laura Flamand, El Colegio de México / Mecila Principal Investigator

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café**

MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024

SEGUNDA-FEIRA, 7 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | LUNES, 7 DE OCTUBRE 2024

11.30 – 13.00

Panel I: Urban and Cultural Spaces of Informalities, Inequality, and Conviviality | Espaços urbanos e culturais de informalidades, desigualdade e convivialidade | Espacios urbanos y culturales de informalidades, desigualdad y convivialidad

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Tilmann Heil**, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

Antonella Delmonte Allasia, Universidad de Buenos Aires / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

Ways of Making a Living in the Garment Industry | Maneiras de ganhar a vida na indústria textil | Formas de ganarse la vida en la industria textil

María José Álvarez Rivadulla, Universidad de Los Andes

Care beyond the State and with the State | Cuidado para além do Estado e com o Estado | Cuidado más allá del Estado y con el Estado

Bianca Freire-Medeiros, Universidade de São Paulo

Epistemology of the “laje” Revisited | Epistemologia da “laje” revisitada | Epistemología de la “laje” revisitada

Carlos Alba, El Colegio de México / Mecila Principal Investigator

Notes for an Interpretation of the Popular Feast | Notas para uma interpretação da festa popular | Notas para una interpretación de la fiesta popular

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Fraya Frehse**, Universidade de São Paulo

MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024

SEGUNDA-FEIRA, 7 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | LUNES, 7 DE OCTUBRE 2024

13.00 – 14.20 **Lunch Break** | Intervalo para o almoço | Pausa de almuerzo

14.20 – 14.30

Short Mecila Book Presentation I | Breve apresentação de livro Mecila I | Breve presentación de libro Mecila I

Gesine Müller / Jan Knobloch 2024 (ed.): "Escrituras de lo posglobal en América Latina. Futuros especulativos entre colapso y convivialidad", Biblioteca Mecila-CLACSO Vol. 2.

Presenter | Apresentadora | Presentadora: **Gesine Müller**, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Principal Investigator

14.30 – 16.00

Exploring Informalities through Spoken Poetry and Theatre | Explorando informalidades por meio da poesia falada e do teatro | Explorando informalidades a través de poesía hablada y teatro

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Tomaz Amorim**, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Academic Manager

Performance of Spoken Poetry by | Performance de poesia falada por | Performance de poesía hablada por **Daniel Minchoni; Eveline Sin**, São Paulo

Presentation of the Theater Group | Apresentação do Grupo de Teatro | Presentación del Grupo de Teatro **"Coletivo Sá Menina"**, São Paulo

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024

SEGUNDA-FEIRA, 7 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | LUNES, 7 DE OCTUBRE 2024

16.30 – 18.00

Panel II: Gender Inequalities in (In)formal Settings | Desigualdades de gênero em contextos (in)formais | Desigualdades de género en contextos (in)formales

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Raquel Rojas**, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

Talja Blokland, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Mecila Senior Fellow
Morals of Mothering through Neighborly Conviviality: Informality, Formality, and Exclusions among Mothers in Berlin | A moral da maternagem através da convivialidade entre vizinhos: Informalidade, formalidade e exclusões entre as mães em Berlim | **Morales del maternaje a través de la convivialidad vecinal: Informalidad, formalidad y exclusiones entre madres en Berlín**

Izadora Xavier do Monte, Mecila Junior Fellow

Militarized Conviviality in Brazil: How Women Theorize Race and Resistance to Violence in Brazilian "Favelas" and "Periferias" | Convivialidade militarizada no Brasil: Como as mulheres teorizam a raça e a resistência à violência nas favelas e periferias brasileiras | Convivialidad militarizada en Brasil: Cómo las mujeres teorizan la raza y la resistencia a la violencia en las favelas y periferias brasileñas

Laura Flamand, El Colegio de México / Mecila Principal Investigator
Social Protection for Women with (In)formal Jobs. The Social Policy of the López Obrador Government in Mexico (2018-2024) | Proteção social para mulheres em empregos (in)formais. A política social do governo de López Obrador no México (2018-2024) | **Protección social para las mujeres con empleos (in)formales. La política social del gobierno de López Obrador en México (2018-2024)**

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez**, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main / Mecila International Advisory Board

TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024

TERÇA-FEIRA, 8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | MARTES, 8 DE OCTUBRE 2024

09.30 – 11.00

Panel III: National and Transnational Spaces of Informalities and Illegality | Espaços nacionais e transnacionais de informalidades e ilegalidade | Espacios nacionales y transnacionales de informalidades e ilegalidad

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Peter Birle**, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Principal Investigator

Cristina Teixeira Marins, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

Informality in the Platform Economy: Social Media, Labor and Politics in Brazil | Informalidade na economia de plataforma: Mídia social, trabalho e política no Brasil | Informalidad en la economía de plataforma: Redes sociales, trabajo y política en Brasil

Manuel Santos Silva, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Principal Investigator
Gender and Vulnerable Employment in the Global South: Evidence from Global Microdata | Gênero e emprego vulnerável no Sul Global: Evidências de microdados globais | Género y empleo vulnerable en el Sur Global: Evidencia a partir de microdatos globales

Ramiro Segura, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Associated Investigator

Out of Place. Notes on Informality, Regulation, and Urban Order | Fora do lugar. Notas sobre informalidade, regulamentação e ordem urbana | Fuera de lugar. Notas sobre informalidad, regulación y orden urbano

TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024

TERÇA-FEIRA, 8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | MARTES, 8 DE OCTUBRE 2024

Marcial Alécio Garcia Suarez, Universidade Federal Fluminense / Mecila Senior Fellow

Transnational Organized Crime and Hybrid Governance in Latin America: Brazil and Mexico | Crime organizado transnacional e governança híbrida na América Latina: Brasil e México | Crimen organizado transnacional y gobernanza híbrida en América Latina: Brasil y México

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Georg Wink**, University of Copenhagen / São Paulo Research Visit

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

11.30 – 13.00

Panel IV: Through the Lens of Conviviality-Inequality. Literary Perspectives on Informalities | Pela lente da convivialidade-desigualdade. Perspectivas literárias sobre informalidades | Bajo la lente de la convivialidad-desigualdad. Perspectivas literarias sobre la informalidad

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Gloria Chicote**, IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Principal Investigator

Fernando Nina, Universität Heidelberg / Mecila Senior Fellow
Forms of Self-Enactment as a Baroque Counter-Discourse in the 17th Century: Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala | Formas de autoencenação como um contradiscurso barroco no século XVII: Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala | Formas de autoescenificación como contradiscurso barroco en el siglo XVII: Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala

TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024

TERÇA-FEIRA, 8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | MARTES, 8 DE OCTUBRE 2024

Roger Friedlein, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Mecila Senior Fellow

Latin American Epic Poetry in the Dynamics of Informalisation | A poesia épica latino-americana na dinâmica da informalização | La poesía épica latinoamericana en la dinámica de la informalización

Mário Augusto Medeiros da Silva, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Principal Investigator

For the Activism of the Words: Anthologies, Exhibitions, Meetings and Critics about the African-Brazilian Literature in the 1980s | Por uma militância ativa da palavra: Antologias, mostras, encontros e crítica sobre literatura negra na década de 1980 | Por una militancia activa de la palabra: Antologías, exposiciones, encuentros y crítica de literatura negra en la década de 1980

Susanne Klengel, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Principal Investigator

“Milena Berlin”: Literary In/formality and Poetic Conviviality | “Milena Berlin”: In/formalidade literária e convivialidade poética | “Milena Berlin”: In/formalidad literaria y convivialidad poética

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: Gesine Müller, Universität zu Köln, Mecila Principal Investigator

13.00 – 14.20 **Lunch Break** | Intervalo para o almoço | Pausa de almuerzo

TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024

TERÇA-FEIRA, 8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | MARTES, 8 DE OCTUBRE 2024

14.20 – 14.30

Short Mecila Book Presentation II | Breve apresentação de livro Mecila II | Breve presentación de libro Mecila II

Samuel Barbosa / Osvaldo Barreneche / Tilmann Heil 2024 (eds.): “Normative Multiplicity. Entanglements and Frictions of Legal Pluralism, Multinormativity and Conviviality”, Biblioteca Mecila-CLACSO Vol. 3.

Presenters | Apresentadores | Presentadores: Samuel Barbosa, Universidade de São Paulo / Mecila Principal Investigator; Tilmann Heil, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

14.30 – 16.00

Breakout Groups: Informalities through the Lens of the Mecila Research Areas | Grupos de Discussão: Informalidades sob o olhar das áreas de pesquisa do Mecila | Grupos de Discusión: Informalidades a través de la lente de las áreas de investigación de Mecila

Group A: Medialities of Conviviality | Grupo A: Medialidades da convivialidade | Grupo A: Medialidades de la convivialidad

Room | Sala | Aula: Auditório 2

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: Clara Ruvituso, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

Group B: [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality | Grupo B: Histórias da convivialidade | Grupo B: Historias de la convivialidad

Room | Sala | Aula: 9

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: Tilmann Heil, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2024

TERÇA-FEIRA, 8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | MARTES, 8 DE OCTUBRE 2024

Group C: Politics of Conviviality | Grupo C: Políticas da
convivialidade | Grupo C: Políticas de la convivialidad

Room | Sala | Aula: 10

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Raquel Rojas**, Freie Universität Berlin /
Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

16.30 – 18.00

**Roundtable I: The Experiences of Mecila and CALAS.
Conviviality, Inequality, and Crisis as Critical
Perspectives from the Global South** | Mesa Redonda I:
As experiências de Mecila e CALAS. Convivialidade,
desigualdade e crise como perspectivas críticas do Sul
Global | Mesa Redonda I: Las experiencias de Mecila
y CALAS. Convivialidad, desigualdad y crisis como
perspectivas críticas desde el Sur Global

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Marianne Braig**, Freie Universität Berlin /
Mecila Ethics Committee

Tomaz Amorim, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Academic Manager

Jochen Kemner, Universität Kassel / CALAS Academic Manager

Jaime Preciado Coronado, Universidad de Guadalajara / Mexican Co-Director CALAS

Bianca Tavorari, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Principal
Investigator

WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2024

QUARTA-FEIRA, 9 DE OUTUBRO 2024 | MIÉRCOLES, 9 DE OCTUBRE 2024

10.00 – 13.00

**Informalities in Brazil from the Perspective of
the Archives: Visiting the Instituto de Estudos
Brasileiros, USP** | Informalidades no Brasil da
perspectiva dos arquivos: Visitando o Instituto de
Estudos Brasileiros, USP | Informalidades en Brasil
desde la perspectiva de los archivos: Visitando el
Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, USP

Coordination | Coordenação | Coordinación: **Monica Dantas**, Directora
Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, USP / Mecila Associated Investigator

Archivists / Librarians | Arquivistas / Bibliotecários/as | Archivist / Bibliote-
carios/as: **Adriano de Castro Meyer**; **Dina E. Uliana Elisabet**; **Paulo J. Moura**
Palumbo; **Marin Riba**; **Valéria Valente**, Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, USP

13.00 – 14.20 **Lunch Break** | Intervalo para o almoço | Pausa de almuerzo

14.20 – 14.30

Short Mecila Book Presentation III | Breve apresen-
tação de livro Mecila III | Breve presentación de libro
Mecila III

Gloria Chicote / **Susanne Klengel** 2024 (eds.) "Convivialidades literarias: entre
observación, descripción y creación", Biblioteca Mecila-CLACSO Vol. 4.

Presenters | Apresentadoras | Presentadoras: **Gloria Chicote**, IdIHCS, Conicet /
Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Principal Investigator; **Susanne**
Klengel, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Principal Investigator

WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2024

QUARTA-FEIRA, 9 DE OUTUBRO 2024 | MIÉRCOLES, 9 DE OCTUBRE 2024

14.30 – 16.00

Panel V: Histories of Informalities. Beyond Methodological Nationalism and Eurocentrism | Histórias de Informalidades. Para além do nacionalismo e eurocentrismo metodológico | Historias de informalidades. Más allá del nacionalismo y del eurocentrismo metodológico

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Barbara Potthast**, Universität zu Köln, Mecila Principal Investigator

Alain El Youssef, Mecila Junior Fellow

Inequalities in Historical Perspective: Notes on the Theory of Historical Times | Desigualdades em perspectiva histórica: Notas sobre a teoria dos tempos históricos | Las desigualdades en perspectiva histórica: Notas sobre la teoría de los tiempos históricos

Ina Kerner, Universität Koblenz / Mecila Senior Fellow

Inequality, Conviviality, and Solidarity: A Postcolonial Theory View | Desigualdade, convivialidade e solidariedade: Uma visão da teoria pós-colonial | Desigualdad, convivialidade y solidaridad: Una visión desde la teoría postcolonial

Krista Lillemets, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Junior Fellow

Coexisting Labor Configurations in Brazil's Recent Historiography: A Peripheral Approach | Configurações de trabalho coexistentes na historiografia recente do Brasil: Uma abordagem periférica | Configuraciones laborales coexistentes en la historiografía reciente de Brasil: Un enfoque periférico

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Silke Hensel**, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Associated Investigator

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2024

QUARTA-FEIRA, 9 DE OUTUBRO 2024 | MIÉRCOLES, 9 DE OCTUBRE 2024

16.30 – 18.00

Young Researchers Forum Panel I: Medialities in Transition. Between Formal and Informal Regimes | Medialidades em transição: Entre regimes formais e informais | Medialidades en transición: Entre regímenes formales e informales

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Clara Ruvituso**, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator

Lara Denise Oliveira Silva, Universidade Estadual do Vale do Acaraú

Wordcity Cartography | Cartografia de palavracidade | Cartografía de la ciudad-palabra

Christoph Müller, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Principal Investigator

Literary-Artistic Representations of Convivial Contexts: Comic, (Fan)zine, Graffiti | Representações literário-artísticas de contextos de convivialidade: Quadrinhos, (fan)zine, grafite | Representaciones literario-artísticas de contextos de convivialidad: Cómic, (fan)zine, graffiti

Ornela Boix, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

Formality and Informality in “Independent” Music Markets in Latin America | Formalidade e informalidade nos mercados de música “independente” na América Latina | Formalidad e informalidad en mercados de la música “independiente” en América Latina

Anna Julia von Sigsfeld, Ethnologisches Museum - Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz / Mecila Junior Fellow

Museum Ethics and Informalities | A ética dos museos e as informalidades | La ética de los museos y las informalidades

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Peter W. Schulze**, Universität zu Köln, Mecila Principal Investigator

THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2024

QUINTA-FEIRA, 10 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | JUEVES, 10 DE OCTUBRE 2024

09.30 – 11.00

Young Researchers Forum Panel II: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers | Projetos de pesquisadores/as doutorales Mecila | Proyectos de investigadores/as doctorales Mecila

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Moacyr Novaes**, Universidade de São Paulo / Mecila Principal Investigator

Philipp Seidel, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Invited Doctoral Researcher
Perlongher's Night Wanderings: Getting Dirty in the City of São Paulo | As andanças noturnas de Perlongher: Sujando-se na cidade de São Paulo | Andanzas nocturnas de Perlongher: Ensuciarse en la ciudad de São Paulo

Isabela Maia Pereira de Jesus, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Doctoral Researcher
The Construction of Subjectivities and the Mythopoetic: Analyzing Hilda Hilst and Carola Saavedra | A construção das subjetividades e o mitopoético: Analisando Hilda Hilst e Carola Saavedra | La construcción de subjetividades y mitopoética: Analizando a Hilda Hilst y Carola Saavedra

Pâmilla Vilas Boas Costa Ribeiro, Universidade de São Paulo / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

Life is a Backwater: Performance and Narrative in the Batuque of Ponto Chique in the Context of Environmental Change | A vida é um remanso: Performance e narrativa no batuque de Ponto Chique no contexto das mudanças ambientais | La vida es un remanso: Performance y narrativa en el batuque de Ponto Chique en el contexto de cambios ambientales

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Stephanie Schütze**, Freie Universität Berlin, Mecila Principal Investigator

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2024

QUINTA-FEIRA, 10 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | JUEVES, 10 DE OCTUBRE 2024

11.30 – 13.00

Young Researchers Forum Panel III: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers | Projetos de pesquisadores/as doutorales Mecila | Proyectos de investigadores/as doctorales Mecila

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Rúrion Melo**, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Principal Investigator

Francisco Javier Sibaja Madera, El Colegio de México / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

Land, Crops, and Livestock: History of the Colombian Caribbean Valleys of Sinú and San Jorge | Terra, cultivos e pecuária: Uma história dos vales caribenhos de Sinú e San Jorge, na Colômbia | Tierra, cultivos y ganado: Historia de los valles caribeños colombianos del Sinú y San Jorge

Tomás Schierenbeck, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

“Argentinisches Wochenblatt” and the Construction of a Cultural Reference (1939-1945) | “Argentinisches Wochenblatt” e a construção de uma referência cultural (1939-1945) | “Argentinisches Wochenblatt” y la construcción de un referente cultural (1939-1945)

Agustina Luques, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

Students Agendas in the Construction of University Policies in Argentina | As agendas estudantis na construção de políticas universitárias na Argentina | Las agendas estudiantiles en la construcción de las políticas universitarias en Argentina

Discussant | Comentarista | Comentarista: **Jeffrey Lesser**, Emory University / Mecila International Advisory Board

13.00 – 14.20 Lunch Break | Intervalo para o almoço | Pausa de almuerzo

THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2024

QUINTA-FEIRA, 10 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | JUEVES, 10 DE OCTUBRE 2024

14.20 – 14.30

Short Mecila Book Presentation IV | Breve apresentação de livro Mecila IV | Breve presentación de libro Mecila IV

Piovani, Juan / Chicote, Gloria 2024 (eds.) "Convivialidades políticas y sociales en la pospandemia", CLACSO.

Presenters | Apresentadores/as | Presentadores/as: **Juan Piovani**, IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Principal Investigator; **Gloria Chicote**, IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Principal Investigator

14.30 – 16.00

Roundtable II: How to Connect Formal and Informal Knowledge Productions? Strategies to Overcome Asymmetries | Mesa Redonda II: Como conectar as produções de conhecimento formal e informal? Estratégias para superar as assimetrias | Mesa Redonda II: ¿Cómo conectar la producción formal e informal de conocimientos? Estrategias para superar las asimetrías

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Juan Piovani**, IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Principal Investigator

THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2024

QUINTA-FEIRA, 10 DE OUTUBRO DE 2024 | JUEVES, 10 DE OCTUBRE 2024

Guilherme Bianchi Moreira, Universidade de São Paulo

João Marcos de Almeida Lopes, Universidade de São Paulo

José Rodrigo Rodriguez, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Associated Investigator

Astrid Ulloa, Universidad Nacional de Colombia / Mecila Associated Investigator

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

16.30 – 18.00

Final Panel: Wrapping up, Lessons Learned, and Looking Forward | Mesa final. Encerramento, lições aprendidas e perspectivas futuras | Mesa final. Conclusiones, lecciones aprendidas y perspectivas futuras

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Samuel Barbosa**, Universidade de São Paulo / Mecila Principal Investigator

Discussion | Discussão | Debate

Closing Remarks | Observações finais | Observaciones finales

Sérgio Costa, Freie Universität Berlin / Spokesperson of Mecila

Abstracts

Panel I: Urban and Cultural Spaces of Informalities, Inequality, and Conviviality

Informalities can be understood as those activities, spaces, and times that lie outside of hegemonic and normative reference frameworks usually associated with clearly defined collective forms of organization, such as a well-governed city, the state, a national canon of cultural production, or regularized economic activities. A strict juxtaposition of the formal and informal, however, has been demystified and stands, at best, as a misleading equivocation. Rather, any formalized regime of conviviality or inequality in the city comes with an intricate set of informal arrangements that are crucial to its maintenance. Urban and cultural spaces provide countless examples of the interplay and interdependency of in-formalities. The contributions to this panel are invited to explore empirical examples drawn of urban and cultural spaces that flesh out the dynamics of their informal practices and representations. This exploration seeks to understand either (1) how these practices and representations equally challenge and sustain hegemonic regimes of inequality-conviviality that govern the chosen space, or (2) how they constitute alternative niche regimes that have their own logics and dynamics of institutionalization and creativity.

Ways of Making a Living in the Garment Industry

Antonella Delmonte Allasia, Universidad de Buenos Aires / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

The presentation introduces an ethnographic study of the work experiences of Bolivian migrants in garment workshops with varying degrees of informality located in São Paulo and Buenos Aires. Based on fieldwork findings, I propose rethinking the concept of informal work and, instead, understand these experiences as ways of making a living. This idea allows us to recognize a whole set of practices that we commonly would not understand within the confines of “work” (including exchanges, investments, loans, even leisure or religions) but which, like sewing, economically sustain the workshops day-by-day. Thus, it is argued that the workshops, far from being isolated or closed spaces, are intertwined with a network of relationships based on kinship, hometown ties, friendship, neighbourhood, camaraderie, and/or brother/sisterhood. These daily interactions that enable the existence of the workshops are shaped by migratory status, gender, and the urban environment. The analysis adopts an intersectional lens and delves into the articulation between ways of making a living and conviviality in urban settings.

Care beyond the State and with the State

María José Álvarez Rivadulla, Universidad de Los Andes

The pandemic put care at the centre of the policy debate, something that feminists had been fighting for long. Care, broadly conceived as everything that maintains life afloat, overwhel-

mingly relies on women. The sexual division of labour at home also corresponds with a sexual division of informal community care initiatives that the pandemic also highlighted, because they proliferated especially in poor neighbourhoods in less developed countries. Community care initiatives keep life afloat in underprivileged areas, especially when welfare states are weak. To operate, they often maintain a delicate equilibrium between informal practices and formal arrangements with the state to obtain funding. How do these organizations navigate the usually rigid norms and standards of the state to provide care while, at the same time, maintaining creative logics to be able to fulfil the needs of their communities? This presentation is based on a collective action research project we are conducting in Bogotá, Colombia with Allison Benson, Cristian Gil and Laura Prieto.

Epistemology of the “laje” Revisited

Bianca Freire-Medeiros, Universidade de São Paulo

Wealth/poverty, formality/informality, legality/illegality are dualisms that shape urban theories and create hierarchies among urban spaces. Since their origins, favelas have been framed within these dualistic narratives as the very opposite of a formal city. However, the enduring existence of favelas shows that patterns of expansion, segregation, and exclusion in Brazilian cities do not fit neatly into the traditional division between center and periphery or the dichotomy between local and global. In this presentation, I will revisit a text co-authored with Leo Name, arguing that the “laje” is an urban form that allows us to visualize material and spatial properties from a new epistemic angle. While the dictionary definition of “laje” covers its technical aspects (“continuous work of reinforced concrete, which constitutes a two-story house, the ceiling of a compartment, or its floor”), it does not encompass the plurality and diversity of values that “laje” hold in densely populated favelas. The presentation will draw on photographs from a six-year socio-ethnography in Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro.

Notes for an Interpretation of the Popular Feast

Carlos Alba, El Colegio de México / Mecila Principal Investigator

What does the feast reveal in all its complexity? This is the general question guiding this presentation. It will be argued that the feast ritual has been present across all times and places, regardless of the complexity of the societies. Therefore, the feast is the way in which a human group creates, reinforces, and legitimizes, both in reality and symbolically, its identity, internal cohesion, and collective memory; its experiences, which appeal to a historical or mythical origin or fact; and its sense of belonging as a group that shares certain emotions, values, and beliefs. Some interpretations of the meaning of rites and feasts will be presented, along with the ambiguity that feasts represent between the sacred and the profane, the boundary between what is licit and illicit, and the role of transgression, excess, and the reinvestment of values in popular feasts. From an economic perspective, it will be shown how the resources accumulated during work define the rhythm of secular life, while prodigality and excess set the tone of the feast.

Exploring Informalities through Spoken Poetry and Theatre

To reflect on informality and artistic languages, and their ongoing negotiation between canonized forms and popular expressions, the event will feature two performances followed by discussion groups. The first will be a spoken poetry presentation by poets Daniel Minchoni and Eveline Sin, both with extensive experience in São Paulo's performance, and slam scene. The performance will showcase original texts in Portuguese and Spanish. The second will feature artists from "Coletivo Sá Menina", who create a theater performance based on their research with archival documents. After the performances, discussion groups will be formed to debate the presentations and the role of informality in Latin American cultural practices. The discussion will explore topics like informal modes of cultural circulation—zines, sarais, SLAM, social networks—and the critical judgments emerging from aesthetic innovations. We aim to connect elements of Latin American cultural history, marked by coexistence, inequality, and diversity, with the strategies that artists and activists have employed in recent decades. Additionally, we will discuss how diverse voices, rooted in everyday experiences and languages once considered subaltern or informal, have begun to shape the artistic scene, shifting traditional reference points.

Panel II: Gender Inequalities in (In)formal Settings

The term informality is polysemic and subject to debate, describing a wide range of phenomena, including urban settlements, labor relations, migration, and even romantic and sexual unions. Despite its broad usage and different meanings, the concept is almost always negatively connotated. This is because informal relations are understood to lack regulation and tend not to guarantee labor, civil, or private/property rights. The objective of this panel is to explore the spectrum between formal and informal relations and settings, going beyond the conventional dualistic interpretation of the dyad and focusing on the role of gender in this context. Does the impact of inequalities differ for women, men and/or sexual dissidences depending on whether we explore (more) formal or (more) informal settings? What are the processes by which the meanings and conditions of informality are negotiated, and how does this affect patterns of conviviality?

Morals of Mothering through Neighborly Conviviality: Informality, Formality, and Exclusions among Mothers in Berlin

Talja Blokland, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Mecila Senior Fellow

Neighborhoods are moral sites to access resources, and higher use of a local infrastructure means a different set of connections to a locality, at least in a European city like Berlin (and I look forward to discuss this from the standpoint of mothering and neighborhoods in São Paulo and other Latin American cities). This paper addresses subtle mechanisms of in- and exclusion of a specific informality, namely gendered "neighborly conviviality", in everyday practices of mothers, which are also patterned by social, cultural and political historical contingencies. The tight neighborly conviviality around the formal setting of neighborhood schools reproduces inequalities.

Militarized Conviviality in Brazil: How Women Theorize Race and Resistance to Violence in Brazilian "Favelas" and "Periferias"

Izadora Xavier do Monte, Mecila Junior Fellow

Conviviality debates have emphasized that conviviality does not only refer to harmonious instances of "living together", but rather it is embedded in violent dynamics. In this paper, I will propose the idea of "militarized conviviality" to talk about the reproduction of gender and race inequalities in Brazil. Militarization is a concept employed by women's pacifist movement, as well as a conceptual category in critical and Feminist Security Studies (FSS). I am going to propose that the debates in critical FSS around militarization allows us to see some dynamics that are invisible in usual International Relations/Political Science theorizations. More importantly, in relation to other concepts that have already engaged with the conviviality framework, like hybrid governance or violent pluralism, this debate fills an important gap: they integrate gender and race to our thinking of the relation between conviviality and violence. Finally, I will use my experience debating militarization with different women resisting it in informal networks from "favelas" and "peripheries" to understand their definition of militarization as racism, and of gendered effects of militarization.

Social Protection for Women with (In)formal Jobs. The Social Policy of the López Obrador Government in Mexico (2018-2024)

Laura Flamand, El Colegio de México / Mecila Principal Investigator

We analyzed the social policy of the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador with a focus on actions aimed at women. We identified two main trends: universalism in coverage and recentralization in provision by eliminating intermediaries. We discuss the logic of these trends in light of comparative studies on social policy. We argue that, depending on their characteristics, universalism and centralization may have different effects in reducing inequalities in social protection between men and women. We examine these trends in three key interventions in this period: the Welfare Pension for the Elderly, the Youth Building the Future program, and child care services. The findings reveal heterogeneous progress across interventions. In terms of universalism, there was a very notable expansion in the coverage of non-contributory pensions, and persistent gaps in the generosity of supply between the contributory and non-contributory subsystems. Eliminating intermediaries to provide these interventions has meant giving low priority to the adequacy and quality of these public services.

Panel III: National and Transnational Spaces of Informalities and Illegality

The boundaries between formal and informal and between legal and illegal spaces are often blurred. Informality beyond state regulation or contractual guarantees can go hand in hand with forms of illegal activity, but this is not necessarily the case. This panel examines hybrid spaces at the national and transnational levels, where formal and informal logics often overlap. How do workers in the informal sector perceive their living and working conditions,

how do their political views develop, and what is the role of social media in this context? What role do gender inequalities play in areas of precarious employment and how do they evolve over time? What is the relationship between informality and power? How does the relationship between illegality and violence influence the dynamics of violence, and what role do issues such as weak law enforcement and corruption play in this context? These are some of the questions that will be discussed in this panel with reference to Brazil, Mexico, and other countries in the so called Global South.

Informality in the Platform Economy: Social Media, Labor and Politics in Brazil

Cristina Teixeira Marins, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

Despite government efforts to promote industrialization, a significant portion of the Brazilian workforce has never had access to the social protections associated with traditional employment contracts. This presentation examines what happens to this large population, typically low-income informal workers living in impoverished urban areas, as digital platforms become more pervasive in contemporary society. More specifically, it examines how informal workers perceive the evolution of their working and living conditions, how they form their political views, how social media contribute to the formation of political subjectivities, what workers' expectations for the future are, and what individual survival strategies and new forms of collective organization emerge in this context. Based on longitudinal ethnographic research conducted over the past decade (2011-2023), the project argues that workers from different segments of the service sector, which have long existed in Latin America, are now deeply dependent on digital social media platforms to make a living. By discussing how these pervasive technologies have reshaped the lives of workers in Rio de Janeiro, this research invites us to re-examine key assumptions about precarity and the platformization of work.

Gender and Vulnerable Employment in the Global South: Evidence from Global Microdata

Manuel Santos Silva, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Principal Investigator

This paper examines gender inequality in vulnerable employment: forms of employment typically characterized by high precariousness, inadequate earnings, and lack of decent working conditions. Using a large collection of harmonized household surveys from countries in the Global South, we measure long-term trends, describe geographical patterns, and estimate correlates of gender inequality in vulnerable employment. Conditional on individual and household characteristics, women are 7 percentage points more likely to be in vulnerable employment than men. Marriage and parenthood experiences are important drivers of this gender gap. Across countries, the gender gap is smaller in richer countries with lower fertility rates and more gender-egalitarian laws, particularly those regulating marriage, parenthood, access to assets, and access to entrepreneurship. Since the 1990s, rising levels of female education and rapidly declining fertility have pulled women out of vulnerable employment faster than men. However, this process is largely exhausted, and

the current level of the gender gap in vulnerable employment is almost entirely unexplained by standard labor supply factors.

Out of Place. Notes on Informality, Regulation, and Urban Order

Ramiro Segura, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Associated Investigator

This paper reflects on the productivity of urban informality in the ordering and regulation of public space in the cities of the Global South. Against the idea that it is merely a technical category describing a situation defined by the lack of property registration and/or the misuse of land-use prescriptions, the paper argues that informality is linked to power, urban planning, social distinction and the struggle for access to the city. On the one hand, due to its undoubted normative charge (informality literally means "without form"), the category has hierarchizing and homogenizing effects on the universe defined as "informal". On the other hand, the category has become part of everyday language as a signifier around which different agents dispute social distinctions, set spatial limits and distribute uses of space. Both dimensions are intertwined in disputed policies for the ordering and regulation of urban space that seek to displace, relocate and even expel "informal" actors, uses and/or practices and, by this means, define who can do what, where and when in the city's public space.

Transnational Organized Crime and Hybrid Governance in Latin America: Brazil and Mexico

Marcial Alécio Garcia Suarez, Universidade Federal Fluminense / Mecila Senior Fellow

In the last two and a half decades, there has been a robust production of theoretical works, mainly related to the phenomenon of communities of "long peace", negative peace, hybrid peace, and blockages to peace and security in South America. The question addressed in this paper is: In what ways does the relationship between illegality and violence define the dynamics of violence, and how are they influenced by different variables, such as illegal market competition, fragile law enforcement, and corruption? These discussions relate to another important issue: formal and informal governance (including the absence of state control) in areas of high violence. Although much of this hybrid governance literature examines empirical cases that have occurred in urban settings, other experts have focused on different places in South America to better understand hybrid governance. The assumption adopted is directed to the dynamics of violence in the illicit drug market in Brazil, driven by the context of hybrid governance and its amplitude, more precisely the study will be addressed in a comparative analysis between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Panel IV: Through the Lens of Conviviality-Inequality: Literary Perspectives on Informalities

This panel focuses on the relationships between literature and informalities in Latin America through the lens of conviviality-inequality tensions that characterize the Mecila approach. We propose to investigate the processes of multiple informalities that affect the literary and cultural fields. The publishing world is perhaps the area where confrontations are openly waged between formal practices, heirs of the autonomous formation of literary institutions, and the emergence of multiple and diverse practices of creation, dissemination and reception of literature. These emerging practices do not recognize the borders between “high” literature and “popular” literature, between analog and digital media, or do not fit into generic classifications. This ontological overflow also exceeds the boundaries between text and image, between work and manifestation, and between art and society, creating a synergy of literature, cinema and plastic arts as connected universes within the same context.

Forms of Self-Enactment as a Baroque Counter-Discourse in the 17th Century: Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala

Fernando Nina, Universität Heidelberg / Mecila Senior Fellow

The contribution proposes a reading of the manuscript “El primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno” (1615) by the indigenous Waman Puma as hybrid text and as counter-discourse, insofar as it intertwines dominant European cultures and dominated American indigenous cultures in a subversive way. Waman Puma’s forms of self-enactment generated a space within textuality that allowed him to gain legitimacy for his counter-discourse and transcend the space of power generated by the colonial order.

Latin American Epic Poetry in the Dynamics of Informalisation

Roger Friedlein, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Mecila Senior Fellow

The development of epic poetry in the 19th century in Brazil and Latin America can be described as a process of informalisation that encompasses several aspects of the poems: linguistic register, metrical form, the heroic nature of epic protagonists, and the (self-) fashioning of poetic figures underwent profound changes in the sense of an expansion of the spectrum of possibilities and abandonment of an aesthetic that was based on the ingenious imitation of authoritative models established in formal terms. Although poets influenced by Romanticism tried in various ways to adapt epic poetry to the new aesthetic guidelines of originality and authenticity, the informalisation of epic poetry ultimately led to its dissolution as a literary genre and its replacement by less formally standardised genres such as “poema narrative”. Be it examples of the highest informality such as Martín Fierro or of linguistic reformalisation in the Modernismo hispanoamericano / Parnassianismo brasileiro (Olavo Bilac: “O caçador de esmeraldas”); this “post-epic” poetry can only be fully understood if it is seen against the background of the formality from which it sets itself apart.

For the Activism of the Words: Anthologies, Exhibitions, Meetings and Critics about the African-Brazilian Literature in the 1980s

Mário Augusto Medeiros da Silva, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento / Mecila Principal Investigator

My interest in this paper is to discuss events, works and debates of the 1980s in which black intellectuals, national and foreign researchers, convened in São Paulo to explore the idea of Black Literature and the political and cultural history of black people in Brazil and abroad. In this way, I analyze anthologies and critical works on the Black Brazilian Literature (“Reflexões sobre a literatura afro-brasileira” and “Criação Crioula, Nu Elefante Branco”), as well as meetings organized by black intellectuals, the São Paulo government, and private associations, including the “First Profile of Black Literature – International Exhibition of São Paulo” and the debates about black literature at the “Third Biennial Nestlé of Literature”.

“Milena Berlin”: Literary In/formality and Poetic Conviviality

Susanne Klengel, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Principal Investigator

In my lecture, I will address recent phenomena of artisanal and informal publishing as poetic action and literary-political activism, which aims to revive analogue processes and create new forms of conviviality against the background of digital reproducibility and the growing expansion of cyberspace. In the focus of my observations will be the project of the “non-editorial” Milena Berlin, launched around 2010 by the Argentinean poet and literary activist Cristian Forte. Milena Berlin is part of a network of Milena projects that began with Milena Caserola, Buenos Aires in 2005. I will present different activities, works, performances, poetic and pedagogical interventions of the “non-editorial” in Berlin’s cultural scene and urban space, while reflecting on the place of this ex-centric Latin American literary production and its contribution to the debate about conviviality.

Breakout Groups: Informalities through the Lens of the Mecila Research Areas

Mecila is organised into three interconnected Research Areas (RA): The RA [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality analyses how the nexus between conviviality and inequality takes shape in different historical contexts and is presented and represented in discourses and cultural, socioeconomic, and legal manifestations. The RA Politics of Conviviality studies the articulation and negotiation of differences and inequalities in everyday life and within institutions. The RA Medialities of Conviviality focuses on processes of co-production and circulation of knowledge and representations in convivial and unequal contexts, including structures, networks, and flows of ideas, values, imaginaries, and objects. In the Breakout Groups we propose to focus on the question of informalities through the lenses of the respective RA: How are informalities expressed in [Hi-]Stories, politics and medialities of conviviality? What approaches appear relevant in the Mecila Network? What challenges have we encountered in our research?

Roundtable I: Experiences from Mecila and CALAS. Conviviality, Inequality and Crisis as Critical Perspectives from the Global South

The roundtable delves into the interconnected concepts of conviviality, inequality, and crisis, highlighting their global relevance with a focus on experiences and perspectives from the so called Global South. On the basis of research results from the two Maria Sibylla Merian Centres for Advances Studies located in Latin America: Mecila and CALAS, the roundtable investigates how both acute and chronic crises impact convivial relations, exacerbate inequalities, and challenge existing social structures. It underscores the integration of Latin American perspectives with highly internationalized viewpoints, fostering productive exchanges with allies in the so called Global North. The roundtable will explore various theoretical and methodological approaches, both localized and comparative, developed over the years in the centres within the humanities and social sciences. It will consider how these concepts intersect with broader debates on social change, inequality, and power. The discussion will also address how the dynamics of epistemic diversity from the periphery can contribute to analyzing and proposing solutions to urgent crises such as climate change, immigration, and social violence. Through a critical examination of recent work from both centres, participants will explore the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary, interregional research.

Panel V: Histories of Informalities. Beyond Methodological Nationalism and Eurocentrism

The panel is concerned with the question of how our postcolonial present is shaped by European colonialism and Nationalisms on both a theoretical and empirical level. It stresses that postcolonial theory necessarily has to move beyond methodological nationalisms and eurocentrism and highlights some examples of how this can and must be done. This includes a debate on local and global inequalities, but also on the historical layers that shape our present conviviality and inequality configurations. A critical theory of capitalism from the South can lead us to broaden dominant concepts of labor, and include the perspectives of peripheral realities and marginalized Southern knowledge. This panel also looks at specific commodities, like coffee, in a *longue durée* perspective in order to propose a way in which the global history of the relationships between this commodity and slavery or other forms of asymmetrical dependencies can be written beyond eurocentrism and methodological nationalisms.

Inequalities in Historical Perspective: Notes on the Theory of Historical Times

Alain El Youssef, Mecila Junior Fellow

The paper discusses local and global inequalities on the basis of the theory of historical times developed by Fernand Braudel and Reinhart Koselleck. Starting from the assumption that the discussion of inequalities is usually conducted from a presentist perspective – or at most, from a middle-term one – the talk analyzes some analytical tools that can include

in this academic debate the multiple layers of time that make up the present. The idea to be developed is that certain structures from the past, through their historical perpetuation, have a significant impact on the present, in a way shaping the beacons that guide the inequalities of our daily lives. By reinforcing these layers of time, some of which have a global dimension, the presentation also contributes to studies that seek to extrapolate the theoretical and empirical limits of methodological nationalism in favor of interpretations centered on the perspective of the uneven and combined development of global societies.

Inequality, Conviviality, and Solidarity: A Postcolonial Theory View

Ina Kerner, Universität Koblenz / Mecila Senior Fellow

Post- and decolonial studies analyze, theorize and critique the manifold facets of our postcolonial present, a present that is shaped by European colonialism in many ways. Western knowledge production has de-thematized, trivialized, glossed over or even legitimated these influences for a long time. In these cases, Western knowledge production can be interpreted as being shaped by colonial logics itself. Post- and decolonial theories help address and undue such colonial residues. In my presentation, I will highlight how a postcolonial theory view challenges, shifts and broadens our notions of inequality, conviviality and solidarity. I will furthermore show that deliberately moving beyond methodological nationalism and eurocentrism simultaneously is an integral part of this theoretical program.

Coexisting Labor Configurations in Brazil's Recent Historiography: A Peripheral Approach

Krista Lillemets, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Junior Fellow

The basic premise of this paper is that the definition of capitalism as a social form through “free” wage labor has limitations in taking into account peripheral forms of labor in capitalist development, especially forced (unfree) and unpaid/semi-paid labor. Thus, the aim is to contribute to a critical theory of capitalism by rethinking the narrow dominant concept of labor from the perspective of peripheral realities and marginalized southern knowledge. Therefore, I will first examine the conceptual contributions of some international and Brazilian Marxist social science works to reevaluate notions of private property, labor exploitation and expropriation, commodification of labor power, and coercion in developing a more global concept of capitalism. Second, I will examine the recent Brazilian “new historiography” and macro-structural research on the coexistence of free, unfree and coercive labor arrangements under the hegemony of nineteenth-century liberal-industrial capitalism. The intertwined analysis of these two historiographical developments sheds light on how economic and political structures shaped the conviviality and socio-legal inequalities in the social organization of labor in the 19th century.

Young Researchers Forum Panel I: Medialities in Transition. Between Formal and Informal Regimes

Practices such as writing, drawing, photographing, collecting, and exhibiting offer clues to the study of how notions of conviviality – for instance, utopias, mythical pasts or resistances– become manifest in objects that are produced, negotiated, and circulated in unequal convivial configurations. In the media practices of artists and counter-cultural social movements, the spaces of production are often marked by informality (and even illegality) and alternative dissemination strategies, such as “piracy” or interventions in unauthorized public spaces. At the same time, actors seek to stabilize their cultural stakes through institutional and formal channels. In this panel, we invite to reflect on medialities in transition, analyzing different examples of medial and intermedial practices in tension between the formal and informal, in spaces such as the music industry, comics and visual arts.

Wordcity Cartography

Lara Denise Oliveira Silva, Universidade Federal do Ceará

The city and the connection we made with it seem to go beyond what is built, the coming and going, the rationality of displacements, temporality, anonymity, and impersonality. There are other layers in the relationship with the city that go beyond the concrete of streets, avenues, squares, buildings, and other built objects. It is possible, therefore, to understand it from alternative lenses to classical studies and approaches, giving particular focus to the notion of urban imaginary. This presentation is linked with the interdisciplinary field of urban studies and its theme is the relationship between cities and affections. This is an unfolding of experiences from previous research that focuses on understanding the connection between urban interventions and the narratives of the city, as well as contemporary sociability that they seem to point to. Urban interventions are understood as graffiti, pixações, scratches, drawings, words, and phrases made by spray on the city’s public surfaces such as walls, posts, squares, streets, etc.

Literary-Artistic Representations of Convivial Contexts: Comic, (Fan)zine, Graffiti

Christoph Müller, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut / Mecila Principal Investigator

In the course of the 20th century, various literary and artistic forms of expression developed that were and are used by different subcultures to exchange and discuss artistic positions on the one hand and social and political realities on the other: comics, (fan)zines, and graffiti. In addition to the transported content, it is their dissemination within certain groups with similar interests, the use of specific codes usually known only to insiders, and the autonomous production process that make these forms of expression representations of convivial contexts in several respects. The lecture will present examples of artistic and content-related positions as well as forms of production and dissemination of Latin

American comics, (fan)zines and graffiti. It will also explore their interrelationships and trace their role in the representation and discussion of social inequalities, informalities and conviviality.

Formality and Informality in “Independent” Music Markets in Latin America

Ornela Boix, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Thematic Research Fellow

Since the late 1990s, the process of digitization has been at the root of various structural changes in the music industry. In this context of deep transformations, this presentation explores practices and conceptions that link “independent” music and the market. Our focus is on a network of music fairs and conventions across Latin American countries spanning the past fifteen years. Employing an ethnographic approach, we examine business meetings, educational sessions, and live performances at these events. Rather than viewing the economy as a privileged frame of reference, we conceptualize the market as a socially regulated practice, both formally and informally. We argue that these fairs cultivate and maintain convivial yet unequal relations among producers from various Latin American nations. Through this exploration, we observe profound changes in market dynamics and discern shifts in the aesthetic and social value attributed to music.

Museum Ethics and Informalities

Anna Julia von Sigsfeld, Ethnologisches Museum - Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz / Mecila Junior Fellow

This contribution will critically examine museums’ informal practices in community collaboration. As anthropological museums strive to rethink their work, they increasingly rely on informal practices to meet demands for transparency and inclusivity. However, this reliance raises critical questions about underlying power structures, the sustainability, and the ethics of informal engagement. Can informal practices adequately address the complexities of knowledge sharing and collection care in community consultations and participatory decision-making? This input will analyze these concerns by exploring how informal practices impact museum ethics and community relations. It will also pose the question of what is required to effectively bridge the gap between institutional policies and community expectations.

Young Researchers Forum Panel II: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers

Perlongher's Night Wanderings: Getting Dirty in the City of São Paulo

Philipp Seidel, Freie Universität Berlin / Mecila Invited Doctoral Researcher

This research elucidates how neo-baroque aesthetics are used as a means of authentic Latin American queer expression in literature, focusing on three Latin American authors. All three authors were political activists involved in the struggle for LGBTIQ* rights. Among them is the Argentinean Néstor Perlongher, who fled Argentina during the military dictatorship due to the ongoing repression and arrived in São Paulo in 1982. In Brazil, he continued his anthropology studies at University of Campinas, graduating with a groundbreaking thesis on male prostitution in São Paulo. His research involved long excursions into the nocturnal underworld, in which he was also an active participant. His time in Brazil is clearly reflected in his literary and theoretical works, linguistically in his use of the *portunhol*, but also stylistically in his use of the neo-baroque style. Drawing on archives from Unicamp and local queer movements, the talk will analyse some of his poems as examples to illustrate this process of contamination, aiming to reveal new ways of empowering historically marginalised individuals and emphasising the transformative potential of conceptualising queerness as a dynamic process.

The Construction of Subjectivities and the Mythopoetic: Analyzing Hilda Hilst and Carola Saavedra

Isabela Maia Pereira de Jesus, Universität zu Köln / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

This research project examines the literary works "A obscena senhora D" (1982) by Hilda Hilst and "O manto da noite" (2022) by Carola Saavedra. Although published 40 years apart, both works offer non-hegemonic perspectives regarding the literary genres they write in, the transcendent and decentralizing use of language, and the themes they explore. Through a comparative analysis, this project aims to examine the construction of subjectivities and their identities: for both authors, the traditional unity of human characters is transcended through their fusion with non-human entities. In Hilst's case, this occurs within the context of confronting paternalism, while in Saavedra's work, it takes place against the backdrop of Latin America's colonial history. Therefore, the project aligns with Mecila's research on the interrelationships of conviviality and inequality, providing new insights in the realm of comparative literary studies, particularly regarding interspecies convivial constellations. Furthermore, the construction of the mythopoetic aspect will be another central element of this research project. To this end, the construction of language and narrative strategies, as well as the transformation and reinterpretation of traditional myths as a form of symbolic representation in the authors' works, will be examined, with both seeming to engage in a dialogue with the collective imagination through intertextuality.

Life is a Backwater: Performance and Narrative in the Batuque of Ponto Chique in the Context of Environmental Change

Pâmilla Vilas Boas Costa Ribeiro, Universidade de São Paulo / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

The extraordinary unpredictability of the São Francisco River profoundly shapes the daily lives of its riverside communities, who inherit an ancient practice known as Batuque or *Lambo*. The Batuque repertoire encompasses music, dance, and narratives about everyday experiences such as floods, displacement, and the historical processes of colonization and violence along the banks of the São Francisco River, dating back to the time of colonial enslavement in Brazil. In the face of environmental changes and the deteriorating condition of the São Francisco River, these river communities today encounter new challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the hypothesis that the performance of Batuque revives all elements of this environment – including past memories, physical conflicts, legends, and natural elements, all of which are at risk of disappearing – the presented research aims to analyze the representations of Batuque in Ponto Chique, Minas Gerais. To achieve this, a co-participatory approach is being applied, incorporating audiovisual media as an ethnographic method to activate images of the past and investigate the juxtaposition of images and temporalities in Batuque. This research also fosters discussions in anthropology, ecology, image, and performance, and contributes to new forms of representation and communication, aligning with Mecila's research objectives.

Young Researchers Forum Panel III: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers

Land, Crops, and Livestock: History of the Colombian Caribbean Valleys of Sinú and San Jorge

Francisco Javier Sibaja Madera, El Colegio de México / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

This project investigates the agrarian changes and environmental transformations in the Colombian Caribbean valleys spanning from 1850 to 1970. The processes of land appropriation and privatization during this period resulted in significant shifts in land tenure dynamics, displacing traditional agricultural practices and promoting livestock farming as the dominant economic activity, which will be critically analyzed in this study. These agrarian changes and environmental transformations involved processes of inequality and patterns of conviviality around land ownership, particularly affecting communal and public lands. Consequently, conflicts, negotiations, resistance, and coexistence emerged among various groups, notably between farmers and ranchers, concerning land possession and use. Drawing from Brazil's historiographic heritage regarding land issues, including the expansion of the agricultural frontier, agrarian reforms, land disputes, and social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, this study aims to deepen understanding of inequality, communal dynamics, and negotiation processes in land distribution and appropriation across Latin America. By offering a nuanced perspective on negotiations and convivial patterns, that moves beyond traditional agrarian history's predominant focus on conflict, this research seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the land problem and agrarian issues in Colombia and Latin America.

“Argentinisches Wochenblatt” and the Construction of a Cultural Reference (1939-1945)

Tomás Schierenbeck, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

This research examines the editorial project of the weekly newspaper “Argentinisches Wochenblatt”, which served as a cultural reference for the German-speaking community in Argentina during World War II. The study focuses particularly on sections of the “Wochenblatt” that addressed national and everyday topics for its readers. Several exiles contributed to the “Wochenblatt”, opposing the Nazi regime and developing an anti-fascist political and intellectual network. Through extensive archival work, this doctoral project aims to examine the relationship between print media and migration from a socio-historical perspective, and hence contribute to German philology and research on periodical publications in Argentina. In terms of conviviality, the “Argentinisches Wochenblatt” functioned as a platform for the production, circulation, and negotiation of discourses, symbols, attitudes, practices, and spaces, but also as a platform for circulating imaginations and cultural representations. This led to the creation of an imagined German-Argentine and anti-fascist community, which this study critically examines. One of the main themes discussed is how the weekly and the publishing house functioned as a space for debate and the representation of a socio-generic paradigm to its German-speaking readers in Latin America.

Students Agendas in the Construction of University Policies in Argentina

Agustina Luques, Universidad Nacional de La Plata / Mecila Doctoral Researcher

Historically, student agendas have aimed to democratize social, economic, and political spheres, advocating for equal access to higher education. However, the impact of student demands on institutional policies remains underexplored in academic literature. My PhD therefore investigates student involvement in institutional politics across three Argentine universities. In contrast to a recent neoliberal era that marginalized student demands, the current environment demonstrates a growing recognition of student participation and militant activism. The research seeks to enhance understanding of how institutional policies are formulated and articulated, focusing on student-driven agendas, strategies, and processes that integrate their perspectives into university procedures. Consequently, the study addresses questions concerning student influence and agency within university settings, seeking to identify recurrences, continuities, and differences between the agendas constructed by student activism and the institutional policies of the selected public universities (Universidad Nacional de La Plata; Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento and Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche) from 2018 to 2022. The lens of conviviality-inequality provides insights into the specific dynamics of power relations inherent in negotiation processes, legitimization dynamics, and transformations within institutional hierarchies, exploring why and how these processes unfold. Ultimately, this investigation aims to enrich empirical analyses by examining how student-led initiatives for higher education democratization generate changes at universities and intersect with broader societal and academic contexts.

Roundtable II: How to Connect Formal and Informal Knowledge Productions? Strategies to Overcome Asymmetries

The academic professionalization of the social sciences has brought about greater formalization and standardization of the modes of knowledge production, but also a progressive self-absorption, with publications increasingly oriented toward a limited “expert” audience and weak interaction with the non-academic world. On the other hand, in recent decades a criticism of this increasingly self-referential science has gained strength, which highlights the value of other forms of knowledge and the place of other (non-scientific) actors in the production of knowledge. Within the framework of these tensions and debates, in this round table we reflect on how to connect formal and informal knowledge productions and on some possible strategies to overcome asymmetries between science and informal knowledges, and between scientists and other social actors such as indigenous and community leaders, artists, journalists and policy makers.

Biographical Notes

Alba, Carlos

Mecila Principal Investigator Carlos Alba is Professor and Researcher at El Colegio de México (Colmex), having earned his PhD in Social Sciences from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He has been a member of the Board of Colmex and has contributed as a Visiting Fellow at several universities in Mexico, France, Germany, and the United States. Carlos Alba has been involved as a council member for various academic journals, including the *Revista Mexicana de Sociología* (Mexico), *Tempo de Ciência* (Brazil), *Perfiles Latinoamericanos* (FLACSO-Mexico), *Espiral* (Mexico), *Argumentos* (Mexico), *Sociétés Contemporaines* (France), and *Frontera Norte* (Mexico). He also led the Mexican component of the interdisciplinary DFG / Conacyt funded International Research Training Group “Between Spaces”, collaborating with Freie Universität Berlin to establish a doctoral research group. His research interests encompass informal economies and politics, poverty and public policies, as well as globalization processes and a wide array of political and economic development issues across different regions of Mexico.

de Almeida Lopes, João Marcos

He is Professor at the Instituto de Arquitetura e Urbanismo at Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and has served as its Director since June 2024. João Marcos de Almeida Lopes obtained his Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urbanism from USP, followed by a Master's degree in the same field from Universidade Federal de São Carlos, where he also earned a PhD in Philosophy and Methodology of Sciences. Since 1983, he has been teaching at various educational institutions. Since 2018, he is a Research Productivity Fellow of the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico. He is also a member and co-coordinator of the Research Group “Habitação e Sustentabilidade” and an associate of the Usina – Centro de Trabalhos para o Ambiente Habitado. Regarding the latter, he has been involved in projects related to popular housing initiatives through mutual aid and self-management, as well as programs addressing precarious settlements and the development of housing policies and programs. His research and work interests encompass popular housing, human settlements, self-management, “mutirão” (communal work), and the design, technique, and technology of building construction.

Álvarez Rivadulla, María José

She is Professor of Sociology at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, holding a PhD in Sociology from University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on urban and various forms of inequalities, with particular attention to networks and their segregation, as well as public policies aimed at reducing inequality and enhancing welfare. Previously, she has published on residential and educational segregation, social movements, marginalized neighborhoods, and urban interventions such as cable cars and social housing. Her work also explores attitudes towards inequality in diverse contexts and the formation of wealthy

enclaves in gated communities, with a special focus on Montevideo, Medellín, and Bogotá. Currently, María José Álvarez Rivadulla is engaged in researching Bogotá's local care policy from a comparative perspective. She is also a researcher involved in the international research partnership “Change Stories”, which aims to redefine how stories of successful urban change are narrated by including community-based partners in the process.

Amorim, Tomaz

He is Academic Manager of Mecila since 2022. Tomaz Amorim holds a PhD in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature from Universidade de São Paulo, with an exchange internship at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. He completed postdoctoral research stays at Universidade Estadual de Campinas and at the DFG funded Cluster of Excellence “Temporal Communities. Doing Literature in a Global Perspective” at Freie Universität Berlin. His main research interests are Critical Theory and modernist literature in Germany and Brazil. Tomaz Amorim is currently developing research on the relations between extractivism and avant-garde movements in South America. He published two poetry books in Brazil, literary translations and writes regularly on contemporary Brazilian literature.

Barbosa, Samuel

Mecila Principal Investigator Samuel Barbosa is Professor at the Law School of Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and permanent researcher at the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento. He was the former President of the Brazilian Institute of History of Law (2016-2019). Samuel Barbosa was Mecila Chair at El Colegio de México during October and December 2023. He is one of the coordinators of the Legal History Network, based at the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros at USP. He holds a PhD in Theory of Law from USP and a Master's degree in Studies in Religion and the Old Testament from Universidade Metodista de São Paulo. He completed his postdoctoral studies at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory in Frankfurt am Main, where he was Visiting Researcher on several occasions. His research focuses on the multi-sited formation of normative orders and their conflicts.

Bianchi Moreira, Guilherme

The former Mecila Junior Fellow 2023 is Professor of the Department of History of Universidade de São Paulo, specialized in the field of Indigenous History. He obtained his Master's degree from Universidade Federal do Paraná and his PhD from Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, both in History. During his PhD studies, he was a visiting researcher at Goldsmiths, University of London, and at the Department of Anthropology at the University of California. From 2020 to 2021, Guilherme Bianchi Moreira served as a substitute professor at the Instituto Federal de Minas Gerais, and in 2022, he was a visiting scholar at King's College London and the Canning House Library. His main research interests include Indigenous History, the Theory of History and Intellectual History.

Birle, Peter

Mecila Principal Investigator Peter Birle is Director of the Research Department of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) and teaches at Freie Universität Berlin. He was Mecila German Director in Presence from April to September 2023 in São Paulo. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. He is member of the the Executive Board of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (ADLAF). He was an Assistant Professor at Universität Rostock and Visiting Professor and Researcher at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. Peter Birle's research interests include Latin American foreign policies in comparative perspective, regional cooperation and integration in Latin America, comparative analysis of Latin American political systems, and knowledge production in and about Latin America.

Blokland, Talja

Mecila Senior Fellow 2024 Talja Blockland is Professor of Urban and Regional Sociology at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, where she is also a member of the council of the Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies. She received her PhD from University of Amsterdam. She has been a visiting scholar at Manchester University, The New School for Social Research in New York, and Yale University. Additionally, she served as a senior researcher and project leader at the Institute for Urban Development at Delft University of Technology, and held the position of Gradus Hendrik Professor for Community Development at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Talja Blokland's research interests encompass social theory, urban sociology, and social policy. Within urban research, she focuses on urban inequalities and processes of marginalization, particularly how urban co-living fosters social and spatial segregation in cities. She also explores processes of place-making and neighborhood change, as well as the development of trust, safety, and common understandings within the urban environment. She has published works on concepts related to conviviality, such as public familiarity, community as urban practice, and urban comfort zones.

Boix, Ornela

Mecila Thematic Research Fellow 2024 Ornela Boix is an Adjunct Researcher (investigadora adjunta) at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet) and Academic Secretary at the Department of Sociology at Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP). She teaches methodology of social research at UNLP and offers courses on ethnographic methodologies and the sociology of culture at various Argentine universities. She earned her PhD in Social Sciences at UNLP, where she also obtained her degree in Sociology. Her research primarily focuses on cultural sociology, examining the intersections between aesthetics, work, and cultural policies within contemporary musical scenes. In her current project as a Mecila Thematic Research Fellow, she investigates the informal frameworks of "independent" music in Buenos Aires and São Paulo over the last twenty years of historical transformation.

Braig, Marianne

She is the chair of the Mecila Ethic Committee. Marianne Braig is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the Lateinamerika-Institut of Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). She holds a PhD in Sociology from FU Berlin and a double degree in Economics and Sociology from the same institution. She is currently working on the intertwining and interdependence between inequality and transnational violence in the global context, on transformations and developments in Latin America, and also on cultural state politics and governance.

Chicote, Gloria

Mecila Principal Investigator Gloria Chicote is Professor Emeritus of Hispanic Literature at Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) and Researcher (Investigadora Superior Ad Honorem) of the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet). Gloria Chicote was Mecila Chair at El Colegio de México between August and October 2024. From 2020 to 2023, she served as Director of the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS) of the Conicet at UNLP. In 2019, Gloria Chicote was appointed Scientific Ambassador of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and Member of the Academic Committee of the Permanent Observatory of Hispanism. She holds a PhD from Universidad de Buenos Aires. Her main areas of interest are Hispanic-American popular cultures and languages, in particular the romancero. On these topics she has published more than 80 scientific articles in Spanish, English and German in main indexed scientific journals and authored and/or edited 18 books.

Costa, Sérgio

Mecila Principal Investigator and Spokesperson of Mecila Sérgio Costa is Professor of Sociology at the Lateinamerika-Institut of Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). He is also editor of the book series "Global Entangled Inequalities: Exploring Global Asymmetries", published by Routledge. Sérgio Costa holds a PhD from the Department of Sociology of FU Berlin, from which he also received his habilitation published as "From North Atlantic to Black Atlantic: Social Theory, Antiracism, Cosmopolitanism" (2007, in German). His areas of interest are social theory, postcolonial sociologies, inequality research, conviviality and difference. His publications include four monographs, approximately 100 articles and book chapters as well as 13 edited volumes.

Dantas, Monica

Mecila Associated Investigator Monica Dantas is Director of the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros (IEB) at Universidade de São Paulo (USP). She earned a PhD in History from USP. She completed her post-doctorate at the Faculty of Law of Universidade de Nova Lisboa. Monica Dantas was a Visiting Professor at Columbia University, and at Université Toulouse II - Jean Jaurès. She was vice-president of the Brazilian Institute of Legal History and co-coordinates the Legal History Network based at IEB/USP. Her studies focus on the History of Brazil in the 19th century, with emphasis on the History of Social Movements, Political History, Legal History and History of Freemasonry.

Delmonte Allasia, Antonella

Mecila Thematic Research Fellow 2024 Antonella Delmonte Allasia is Professor of Anthropology at Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), where she also received her PhD in Anthropology. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet) based at the Institute for Gender Studies Research at UBA. She is also a member of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences' Working Group on South-South Migrations and Borders and the Argentine Association for Research in Women's History and Gender Studies. She has participated in various national and international research groups and projects, including those based at Conicet and the Mexican Consejo Nacional de Humanidades, Ciencias y Tecnologías. Her main research topic revolves around analyzing the labour relations in the garment industry, with a special lense on migration and gender issues. Her current research project as a Mecila Fellow continues this line of inquiry, aiming to rethink the concept of informality based on the experiences and work trajectories of Bolivian migrants in the clothing manufacturing sectors of São Paulo and Buenos Aires.

El Youssef, Alain

He is a Mecila Junior Fellow 2024. Alain El Youssef holds a Bachelor's degree in history from Universidade de São Paulo, as well as a Master's degree, a PhD, and a Postdoctoral degree in Social History from the same institution. Alain El Youssef possesses extensive experience in the field of history, particularly focusing on politics, diplomacy, the slave trade, slavery, and abolition in the Empire of Brazil. He is a member of the Laboratory for Studies on Brazil and the World System (Lab-Mundi) and coordinates the research group "Capital, Estado e Trabalho: A crise da escravidão negra no longo século XIX". As Mecila Junior Fellow, he is currently engaged in a project that analyzes the Brazilian abolitionist process from a global perspective.

Flamand, Laura

Mecila Principal Investigator Laura Flamand is Full Research Professor at the Center for International Studies of El Colegio de México (Colmex) and a member of the National System of Researchers (SNI Conacyt). Laura Flamand was Mecila Chair at the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata) between May and July 2024. She is also the founding director of the Network for the Study of Inequalities at Colmex since 2017. She earned a Master degree and a PhD in Political Science from University of Rochester. She has received research fellowships from the Department of Politics at Oxford University, Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C., and Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on social and gender inequalities, intergovernmental public policies, and applied statistic.

Frehse, Fraya

She is a Professor of Sociology at Universidad de São Paulo (USP). Fraya Frehse holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, a Master's degree in Social Anthropology, and a PhD in Social Anthropology from USP, with the latter including a doctoral stay at Oxford

University. She has served as a visiting researcher at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Darmstadt, and Université Paris Diderot. Additionally, she has held visiting professor positions at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo and Freie Universität Berlin. She holds a Research Productivity Fellowship from the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico and is a full member of both the Brazilian Anthropology Association and the Brazilian Sociology Society. Fraya Frehse's expertise lies at the intersection of anthropology and sociology with history, with a particular focus on urban studies. Her research primarily addresses everyday life and history in and through space, space and body as objects of sociological knowledge, urban mobility, cultural heritage, public space, and urbanization in Brazil.

Freire-Medeiros, Bianca

She is Professor of Sociology at Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and Associate Researcher at the Centro de Estudos da Metrópole at the same institution, where she coordinates the database "UrbanData – Brasil". She holds a degree in Social Sciences and a postgraduate qualification in Urban Sociology from Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, a Master's degree in Sociology from the Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro, and a PhD in History and Theory of Art and Architecture from Binghamton University. She has worked as a researcher at the Centre for Migration and Development at Princeton University, and as a visiting professor at El Colegio de México and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Her research fields include transnational and socio-spatial (im)mobilities, tourism, consumption, and urban space, particularly focusing on images that represent urban space and cultural otherness.

Friedlein, Roger

Mecila Senior Fellow 2024 Roger Friedlein is a Professor of Romance Philology, specializing in Ibero-Romance Literary and Cultural Studies, at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. He studied Romance Philology (Spanish, French) and Arabic Studies at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Universitat de Barcelona and Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). He obtained his PhD from FU Berlin. From 1999 to 2009, he worked as a Research Assistant at the Institute for Romance Philology and the Collaborative Research Centre "SFB Kulturen des Performativen" at FU Berlin. Roger Friedlein's current research interests include the processes of knowledge constitution in Renaissance epics and the literary transformation from Romanticism to Modernism around the turn of the 20th century in Spain, Hispanic America, and Brazil.

Garcia Suarez, Marcial Alécio

Mecila Senior Fellow 2024 Marcial Suarez holds a PhD in Political Science from Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro. He currently holds positions as Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Universidade Federal Fluminense, where he also leads the International Politics Analysis Group. Previously, he served as a Research Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Belfer Center for Science and

International Affairs. His research focuses on international security, with particular emphasis on the roles of state and non-state actors, hybrid governance structures, and the resilience of local communities. Within the framework of Mecila, his project investigates how formal and informal governance mechanisms intersect to manage violence across various security, social, and political contexts.

Göbel, Barbara

She is Director of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) and Honorary Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin. Barbara Göbel is Mecila Principal Investigator and leader of the Mecila subproject at IAI. She is President of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (ADLAF) for the period 2024-2026. She studied social anthropology, prehistory, and economic and social history at Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München and holds a PhD from Universität Göttingen. She has been involved in several international, interdisciplinary projects and is member of multiple boards and review panels of national and international organizations and funding agencies. She worked at the Universities of Göttingen, Tübingen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Köln and Bonn in Germany and at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Collège de France and has served as Visiting Professor at several universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and the United States. In 2022, she received the Premio Leloir from Argentina as a recognition of her engagement for the internationalization of sciences. Her main research interests are anthropology of nature; socio-environmental inequalities; geopolitics of knowledge; infrastructures of knowledge and digital transformation.

Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Encarnación

She is Professor of Sociology with a focus on Culture and Migration at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. She is also member of the International Advisory Board of Mecila. Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez holds a PhD in Sociology from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. She has published widely on gender, migration, and care work in the framework of Marxist and decolonial perspectives and feminist and queer epistemologies. She has been an early and staunch advocate of decolonial theory in the academia of German-speaking countries. Among her many publications is the book "Migration, Domestic Work and Affect" (Routledge, 2010). More recently she has published with Shirley Anne Tate the "Palgrave Handbook in Critical Race and Gender" (2022) and with Rhoda Reddock "Decolonial Mourning and the Caring Commons. Migration-Coloniality Necropolitics and Conviviality Infrastructure" (Anthem Press, 2024) as well as with Pinar Tuzcu "Migrantischer Feminismus in der deutschen Frauenbewegung" (Assemblage, 2021). Her work engages with entangled migrations with a focus on German migration to Brazil, affective labor, materialities, institutional racism, racial capitalism and the coloniality of migration.

Heil, Tilmann

He is an academic staff member of the Iberian and Latin American History Department at Universität zu Köln and a Postdoctoral Investigator of Mecila, where he also coordinates the Research Area "[Hi-]Stories of Conviviality". Tilmann Heil holds a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology and an MPhil in interdisciplinary Migration Studies, both from Oxford University. His current research project "Urban alliances is on the political approximations and shared struggles among long-term and new residents" is based on ethnographic research in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. His related book project "Valued Difference" tracks the intersectional assemblages of social hierarchy in Rio de Janeiro. Since his doctoral work, he has sharpened the notion of conviviality in his book "Comparing Conviviality" (Palgrave, 2020) as a process of interaction, negotiation and translation from which forms of minimal and fragile sociality emerge. He has addressed situations of ethnic and religious plurality and multilingualism.

Hensel, Silke

Mecila Associated Investigator Silke Hensel is Professor of Iberian and Latin American History at Universität zu Köln. From 2004 to 2021 she was Professor of Modern and Contemporary History with special emphasis on non-European History at Universität Münster. Silke Hensel holds a PhD in Medieval and Modern History from Universität Hamburg. Since 2016, she has been editor of the "Jahrbuch für Geschichte Lateinamerikas". Her research topics revolve around history of political culture, State and Nation building, migration, history of racism and history of Mexico.

Kemner, Jochen

He currently serves as Academic Manager of the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CALAS) in Guadalajara, Mexico. After completing a Master's degree in History, Economics, and Spanish and Latin American Studies, he obtained his PhD in Latin American History from the Universität Bielefeld, where he also worked as a Senior Researcher on various collaborative projects, including the Latin America Competence Network. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Universidad de La Habana and the Universidad de Guadalajara. Jochen Kemner's primary research interests encompass the History of Latin America and inter-American relations, with a particular focus on the Caribbean, Brazil, and the United States, as well as slavery, transnational activism, politics of memory and history, global history, and global learning.

Kerner, Ina

Mecila Senior Fellow 2024 Ina Kerner is Professor for Politics in the Department of Cultural Studies and the Head of the Department of Political Science at Universität Koblenz. She obtained her PhD from Freie Universität Berlin and served as a Junior Professor of Diversity Politics at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin from 2009 to 2016. She has also held teaching and research positions in Berlin, New York, London, Islamabad, Duisburg, and Bielefeld, among other locations. Ina Kerner's work is situated at the intersection of political theory, gender

studies, and postcolonial studies. Her current research focuses on two interconnected challenges: developing a post-secular feminist critique of religion and rethinking core questions of political theory in the context of post- and decolonial studies.

Klengel, Susanne

Mecila Principal Investigator Susanne Klengel is Professor for Latin American Literatures and Cultures at the Lateinamerika-Institut of Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). She is a member of the Cluster of Excellence "Temporal Communities - Doing Literature in a Global Perspective" at FU Berlin and of the International Research Training Group "Temporalities of Future in Latin America", both funded by DFG. Her research topics are, among others, avant-garde movements, especially surrealism, Latin American and Brazilian literature of the 21st century, discourses of memory in literature, South/South literary and cultural relations, especially between India and Latin America, as well as "Berlin" in Latin American literature. More recently, she has been addressing issues of the pandemic and is researching the Spanish flu in the aesthetic avant-gardes.

Lesser, Jeffrey

He is the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of History and the Director of the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory University. Jeffrey Lesser is a member of the International Advisory Board of Mecila. His main field of research is modern Latin American history, focusing on ethnicity, immigration and race, especially in Brazil, with a special interest in the construction of national identity. He has worked several times as a distinguished Visiting Professor in Brazil, mainly at Universidade de São Paulo, and in institutions such as the Connecticut College and Brown University as well as at Tel Aviv University.

Lillemets, Krista

Mecila Junior Fellow 2024 Krista Lillemets studied Urban and Regional Planning at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and Sociology at the Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Políticos at Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. She earned her PhD in Sociology from Freie Universität Berlin. Krista Lillemets has been a Visiting Lecturer of Brazilian and Latin American Sociology and Social Theory at the Tallinna Ülikool, where she organized an international conference on "Comparative Perspectives of Development Experiences in South America and Eastern Europe: Development and Semi-Periphery". She has also been a Visiting Researcher at Universidade de São Paulo. Her research interests encompass (global) historical sociology, Marxist political economy of labour, world-system analysis, global labour history, unfree and compulsory labour arrangements in historical and contemporary capitalism, geopolitics of knowledge, with a particular focus on Latin America, especially Brazil, and Eastern Europe. Her current project within the framework of Mecila aims to examine the mix of enslaved, compulsory, and free labour in 19th-century Brazil under the hegemony of liberal-industrial capitalism.

Luques, Agustina

She is a Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2024 and an advanced PhD candidate at the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences at Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP). Agustina Luques holds a degree in Educational Sciences from UNLP. Her research focuses on higher education studies, specifically student participation in institutional policy across three Argentine universities.

Maia Pereira de Jesus, Isabela

Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2024 Isabela Maia Pereira de Jesus is an advanced PhD candidate in Romance Philology at Universität zu Köln (UzK). She holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Literary Studies from Universidade Estadual Paulista. Her current doctoral research project seeks to provide new insights in the field of comparative literature studies, particularly regarding the conviviality of humans and non-humans in the context of Latin America's colonial history.

Medeiros da Silva, Mário Augusto

Mecila Principal Investigator Mário Augusto Medeiros da Silva is Professor of Sociology at Universidade Estadual de Campinas and Director of the Arquivo Edgard Leuenroth. In 2023 he was a Mecila Senior Fellow. Mário Augusto Medeiros da Silva is an expert in Brazilian social thought, literature, and society; Black intellectuals; and social memory and the author of "Os escritores da guerrilha urbana: literatura de testemunho, ambivalência e transição política (1977-1984)" (Annablume, 2008); and "A descoberta do insólito: literatura negra e literatura marginal no Brasil (1960-2000)" (Aeroplano, 2013). He is co-editor of "Polifonias marginais" (Aeroplano, 2015) and "Rumos do sul: periferia e pensamento social" (Alameda, 2018).

Melo, Rúrion

Mecila Principal Investigator Rúrion Melo is Professor of Political Theory at the Department of Political Science of Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and Permanent Researcher at the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento. He coordinates the Political and Critical Theory Studies Group at USP and conducts research in the areas of political theory and social theory. He is one of the coordinators and translators of the "Coleção Habermas" (translation of the complete works into Portuguese) of the publishing house of Universidade Estadual de São Paulo. Rúrion Melo holds a PhD in Philosophy from USP. He has published several articles and books on topics related to Critical Theory, theories of democracy, public sphere, and struggles for recognition, feminism and anti-racism.

Minchoni, Daniel

He is a poet, graffiti artist, art director, editor, presenter and creator of literary events. He studied Social Communication and a postgraduate degree in Media Studies at Universidade Potiguar. Between the years 2002-2006 he created and carried out "Poesia Esporte Clube", a project of poetic experimentation and soiree, held at Casa da Ribeira. He is a

founding partner of Editora Jovens Escribas and founder and editor of the labels: Maus Costumes and DoBurro. In São Paulo, he created “Sarau do Burro”, a space dedicated to the arts in Vila Madalena. The event welcomes artists and poets who come from all over the city to listen and speak poetry. There is no registration, defined order of presentation, or previously planned theme, which makes the atmosphere warm, welcoming and informal. His newest book is “phala'cia” (2022).

Müller, Christoph

He is Director of the Digital Library and IT Infrastructure Department, specialist for Central America, Venezuela, Colombia and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Deputy Director of the Library of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut. Christoph Müller is also a member of the Board of REDIAL (European Network of Information and Documentation on Latin America) and Principal Investigator of Mecila, where he coordinates the Information Infrastructure. He received his PhD in Literature from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen. His research areas include the digital transformation in libraries; literary studies and art history; 20th century literature of Lusophone and Francophone Africa; 20th century conceptions of theatre in the Río de la Plata region and Central American and Brazilian literature.

Müller, Gesine

Mecila Principal Investigator Gesine Müller is Professor of Romance Studies at Universität zu Köln (UzK) and Principal Researcher at the Global South Studies Center of UzK. From 2015 until 2021, she led the research group “Reading Global. Constructions of World Literature and Latin America” of the European Research Council. Her latest DFG-funded research project addresses post-global aesthetics. Gesine Müller’s research areas include literatures of French and Spanish Romanticism, Latin American cultural theory, Caribbean literatures and theories of cultural transfers.

Nina, Fernando

Mecila Senior Fellow 2024 Fernando Nina is an Interim Professor in the Department of Ibero-American Cultural Studies at Universität Heidelberg. He completed his studies in Modern German Literature and earned a PhD in Romance Philology from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. In addition to extensive teaching experiences in Mainz, München, and Utrecht, he has held Guest Lecturer positions in Spain, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil. His primary research interests encompass cultural phenomena in Latin America spanning the 17th to the 20th centuries, cultural theory, theories of decolonization and the subaltern, and Latin American cultural philosophy. His current project focuses on offering decolonial perspectives on the work of Afro-Brazilian author Conceição Evaristo, particularly exploring themes related to the body, procreation, reproduction, slavery, and desire.

Nobre, Marcos

Mecila Principal Investigator Marcos Nobre is Professor of Philosophy at Universidade Estadual de Campinas and Senior Researcher of the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento. He obtained his PhD in Philosophy at Universidade de São Paulo. His research interests are political philosophy, social theory and Critical Theory. His numerous academic publications and interventions in the public political debates show the importance he places on renewing the intellectual trend of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School.

Novaes, Moacyr

Mecila Principal Investigator Moacyr Novaes is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Universidade de São Paulo (USP). He holds a Master’s degree and a Doctoral degree in Philosophy from USP. During his graduate studies, he carried out research stays at Université Catholique de Louvain and the Internationales Projekt Augustinus-Lexikon, Würzburg. He has been a member of the Center for the Study of Patristic and Medieval Philosophy of São Paulo since 1992. He has worked on projects with French universities at the École Normale Supérieure-Ulm, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille, and Université de Bordeaux. At USP, he was President of the Faculty of Philosophy, Literature and Human Sciences’ Research Commission, Director of the Centro Universitário Maria Antônia, Director of the Agency for National and International Academic Cooperation, and Assistant Pro-Rector for university outreach.

Oliveira Silva, Lara Denise

She is Professor at Universidade Estadual do Vale do Acaraú. Lara Denise Oliveira Silva holds a degree in Social Sciences from Universidade Estadual do Ceará (UFC), as well as a Master’s degree and a PhD in Sociology from UFC. In the past, she has held teaching positions at various institutions, including UFC, where she is a permanent member of the Laboratório das Artes e das Juventudes. Her work focuses on Sociology and Anthropology, particularly on issues related to cities, youth, culture, and urban art.

Piovani, Juan

Mecila Principal Investigator Juan Piovani is Professor of Sociology at Universidad Nacional de La Plata and Researcher (Investigador Principal) of the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet). He also holds in 2023 the Mecila Chair at Universidade de São Paulo. Juan Piovani is Director of the “Programa de Investigación sobre la Sociedad Argentina Contemporánea”. He received his PhD from Sapienza – Università di Roma. In 2014 he received the Bernardo Houssay Award of Argentina for his theoretical and empirical contributions in the fields of research methodology in social sciences and the empirical analysis of employment and gender. He was a Visiting Professor in several universities in Latin America, Europe and Asia. His research focuses on social sciences in contemporary Argentina and the theory of sociological research methods and techniques.

Potthast, Barbara

She is Mecila Principal Investigator and Professor Emeritus of History at Universität zu Köln (UzK). Between 1996 and 2016 she was a member of the Executive Board (and President 2004-2006) of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (ADLAF). She received her PhD at the Institute for Iberian and Latin-American History at UzK. Her research interests include the family and gender history, ethnic relations and, generally, the social history of Latin America, especially Paraguay and Argentina.

Preciado Coronado, Jaime

He is a Professor and Researcher at the Departamento de Estudios Ibéricos y Latinoamericanos at Universidad de Guadalajara, where he has been the coordinator of the PhD Program in Political Science at the Centro Universitario de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades. Since March 2024, Jaime Preciado Coronado is the new co-director of the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CALAS) in Mexico. He holds a PhD in Latin American Studies from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3) and is a member of the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores de México. From 2007 to 2009, he served as president of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología. Since 2008, he is the Coordinator of the Red de Investigación sobre la Integración Latinoamericana y Caribeña. His research and publications focus on the geopolitics of globalization and regional integration, political geography, democracy in the Americas and electoral processes.

Rodriguez, José Rodrigo

Mecila Associated Investigator José Rodrigo Rodriguez is Professor of Law at Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos and Permanent Researcher at the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, where he coordinates the “Núcleo Direito e Democracia”. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from Universidade Estadual de Campinas, and a Master’s degree in Law from Universidade de São Paulo. His main interests are: Critical Legal Theory, Philosophy of Politics, Philosophy of Law and Legal Sociology. He is the author of the book “Como Decidem as Cortes? Para uma Crítica do Direito (Brasileiro)” (FGV Editora, 2013), which won in 2014 the Jabuti Award.

Rojas, Raquel

She is a Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator at Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin), where she coordinates within Mecila the Research Area “Politics of Conviviality”. She holds a PhD in Sociology from FU Berlin and a Master’s degree in Social Sciences from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Raquel Rojas also received a degree in Social Development from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales and a BA in Social Sciences from Universidad Nacional de Asunción. She worked as a visiting lecturer (2022-2023) and a postdoctoral researcher (2021-2022) at the Lateinamerika-Institut of FU Berlin. In 2021 she carried out a research stay in São Paulo as a Mecila Junior Fellow. Her research focuses on inequalities and intersectionality, labor relations, and struggles to take care out of the private sphere and make it a matter of public policy.

Ruvituso, Clara

She is a Mecila Postdoctoral Investigator at the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut and coordinates within Mecila the Research Area “Medialities of Conviviality”. Clara Ruvituso studied Sociology at Universidad Nacional de La Plata and obtained her PhD in Political Science from Universität Rostock. She worked as Lecturer and Researcher at Universität Rostock in Political Science (2013-2018) and in Sociology at Freie Universität Berlin (2019-2020). She was a Visiting Professor at Universidad Nacional de La Plata and at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3). Her research focusses on the production and circulation of knowledge between Europe and Latin America, including translation, reception and exchanges in contexts of inequality.

Santos Silva, Manuel

Mecila Principal Investigator Manuel Santos Silva is Junior Professor of Latin American Economics at the Lateinamerika-Institut of Freie Universität Berlin. He completed his Master’s degree in Development Economics at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (GAU), where he also earned his PhD. He was a Postdoctoral researcher at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and Universität Münster. His primary research focus centers on examining, from an empirical perspective, how gender inequalities influence and interact with labor markets, public policies, and political processes.

Schierenbeck, Tomás

He is a Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2024. Tomás Schierenbeck holds a degree in History from Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) and is an advanced PhD candidate of the Binational Doctoral Program “Interdisciplinary Socio-Cultural Studies in Europe and Latin America” of Universität Rostock and UNLP. His research project focuses on the German-speaking publishing market in Argentina, specifically the “Argentinisches Wochenblatt”, and the construction of cultural references in German-Argentinian communities during the period of World War II.

Schulze, Peter W.

Mecila Principal Investigator Peter W. Schulze is Professor of Latin American Studies and Director of the Luso-Brazilian Institute at Universität zu Köln. Between 2021 and 2022 and 2024 he served as Mecila German Director in Presence in São Paulo. He received his PhD at Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz with a doctoral thesis on “Strategies of Cultural Cannibalization: Postcolonial Representations from Brazilian Modernismo to Cinema Novo”, that was awarded the Georg-Rudolf-Lind Prize (2015) of the German Association of Lusitanians. He has been a Visiting Professor at several universities, including Universidade Federal da Bahia, Universidade Federal do Ceará, Universidade Federal Fluminense and Yaşar Üniversitesi of Izmir. He currently directs the research projects “Pensamento nas Margens: Artes Indígena e Afro-Brasileira” funded by the Thyssen Foundation, and “Cultural Contacts in Portuguese Language: Negotiations of Coexistence”, co-coordinated with Universidade de Coimbra and funded by the DAAD.

Schütze, Stephanie

Mecila Principal Investigator Stephanie Schütze is Professor for Cultural and Social Anthropology at the Lateinamerika-Institut of Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). She is also co-speaker of the International Research Training Group “Temporalities of Future in Latin America: Dynamics of Aspiration and Anticipation”, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). She is a social and cultural anthropologist with a strong interdisciplinary research profile. She studied ethnology and social anthropology at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Iztapalapa and at the FU Berlin, where she also obtained her PhD in Sociology. Her main areas of interest are: migration studies and political transnationalism as well as gender studies in the Americas. She has conducted research on political culture, social movements and migration in diverse contexts and regions including the Mexican states of Guerrero and Michoacán, Mexico City, Chicago in the United States and São Paulo in Brazil. Her current DFG funded research project is: “Stay, return, or move on: Comparing the life strategies of forced migrants in the transit countries of Colombia, Jordan, Mexico, and Turkey” (co-directed with Prof. Dr. Ludger Pries, Universität Bochum).

Segura, Ramiro

Mecila Associated Investigator Ramiro Segura is Adjunct Professor of Social Urban Studies at Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Associated Investigator (investigador asociado) at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet). He holds a degree in Anthropology from Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) and a PhD in Social Sciences from Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento. He was a Postdoctoral Researcher within the *desiguALdades.net* network at Freie Universität Berlin and a Visiting Researcher at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Brown University. Additionally, he is a Professor of Social Theory and Cultural Studies at UNLP. Ramiro Segura specializes in urban studies, focusing on socio-spatial segregation, urban insecurity and fears, urban cartographies, inequalities in Latin American cities, urban fragmentation and mobilities, as well as conviviality in unequal contexts.

Seidel, Philipp

He is a Mecila Invited Doctoral Researcher 2024. Philipp Seidel holds a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish Language and Literature and a Master’s degree in Romance Literatures (Spanish and Portuguese) from Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin), where he is currently pursuing his PhD in Literatures and Cultures of Latin America. He also works as a Research Assistant at the Lateinamerika-Institut of FU Berlin. His research project focuses on queer perspectives and the artistic and cultural expressions of marginalized subjects in their struggle against injustice, oppression, and violence. He investigates selected authors and their specific appropriations of neo-baroque aesthetics as a means of authentic Latin American queer expression.

Sibaja Madera, Francisco Javier

Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2024 Javier Francisco Sibaja Madera is an advanced PhD candidate in History at the Center for Historical Studies at El Colegio de México (Colmex). He holds a degree in History from Universidad de Antioquia and a Master’s degree from Colmex. Francisco Javier Sibaja Madera is an active member of the Research Group in Social History at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at Universidad de Antioquia. Since 2014, he has been engaged in the digitization and research of historical documentation and archives in various repositories in Colombia and Mexico. His PhD research focuses on the case of agrarian change and environmental transformation in the Colombian Caribbean regions of Valle del Sinú and San Jorge between 1850 and 1970.

von Sigsfeld, Anna Julia

Mecila Junior Fellow 2024 Anna Julia von Sigsfeld completed her undergraduate studies in Political Science, Cultural Anthropology, and European Ethnology at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. She holds a Master’s degree in Gender, Development, and Globalisation from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in Sociology from the Lateinamerika-Institut at Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin). From 2016 to 2019, she was a Doctoral Fellow in the DFG funded International Research Training Group “Minor Cosmopolitanisms” at FU Berlin. Previously, she served as a Research Assistant to the director of the State Ethnographic Collections Saxony. Since 2023, she has been the Restitution Coordinator at the Ethnologisches Museum / Museum für Asiatische Kunst at the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Her research focuses on the sociology of knowledge, the handling of knowledge and artifacts, and restitution practices in the context of postcolonial reckoning in contemporary museums.

Sin, Eveline

She is a visual artist, poet, composer and lyricist. Her debut book was “Devolva Meu Lado De Dentro” (2012), followed by “Na Veste Dos Peixes As Palavras De Ontem” (2014), “Manga Espada” (2015), “Capim Santo - Eveline Sin Até Aqui” (2017), “FEVEREIRO” (2018) and “CANI-NANA” (2020). In graffiti, she has been developing her artistic research since 2007. In 2016, she created “AREIA inutensílios”, where she combined her love of trinkets and her poetry, transforming poems into necklaces.

Tavolari, Bianca

Mecila Principal Investigator Bianca Tavolari is Professor of Law at the São Paulo Law School of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas and a Researcher at the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, where she has been a member of the board of directors and coordinator of seminars since 2023. Previously, she worked at the project laboratory LabCidade of the Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Universidade de São Paulo (USP). Bianca Tavolari holds a Doctoral degree and a Master’s degree from the Faculty of Law, USP. She is a specialist in critical legal theory and democracy in the Weimar Republic, as well as the theoretical intersections between law and urban studies. Her academic publications and public interventions reflect her interest in urban conflicts and the intersections between

law, democracy, and Critical Theory. As a collaborating editor at “Quatro Cinco Um”, she reviews books on cities from a multidisciplinary perspective. She has translated several books and articles, including “The Divided West” (“O ocidente dividido”) by Jürgen Habermas (Editora Unesp, 2019).

Teixeira Marins, Cristina

Mecila Thematic Research Fellow 2024 Cristina Teixeira Marins is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Políticos at Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. She earned her Master’s and PhD degree in Anthropology from the Universidade Federal Fluminense and a Master’s degree in Social Sciences, with an emphasis on Contemporary Sociology, from the Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales at Université Paris Descartes. Cristina Teixeira Marins served as a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at University of Bath. She is a member of the working group on “Antropología Latinoamericana del Trabajo” of the Associação Latino-Americana de Antropologia and the working group “El trabajo en el capitalismo contemporáneo” of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales. Her research primarily focuses on the social impacts of digital technologies, particularly the transformations in the Brazilian wage-free labor market within the platform economy. As a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellow, she has received support from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for the completion of her forthcoming book, “Hyperconnected and Hoping for the Best: How Social Media Transformed Informal Work in Brazil”.

Ulloa, Astrid

Mecila Associated Investigator Astrid Ulloa is Professor in the Department of Geography at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá and Director of the Research Group “Cultura y Ambiente”. Astrid Ulloa is an anthropologist from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, with a Masters and PhD in Anthropology from University of California, Irvine. She has a long history of research on environmental and indigenous movements, gender and indigenous feminisms, territorial feminisms, feminist political ecology, indigenous territories and extractivisms. Her current research topics are territorial-environmental demands, medialities and just transitions.

Vilas Boas Costa Ribeiro, Pâmilla

She is a Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2024 and an advanced PhD candidate in the Postgraduate Program in Social Anthropology at Universidade de São Paulo (USP). She holds a degree in Journalism from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and a Master’s degree in Anthropology from the same institution. Her doctoral project investigates the batuque – a traditional riverside culture with a strong presence in quilombola communities in the state of Minas Gerais – as a form of collective resistance to environmental threats in the São Francisco River valley. She integrates concepts and methods from performance anthropology, visual anthropology, and ecological anthropology in her research. Pâmilla Vilas Boas Costa Ribeiro is a Researcher at the “Núcleo de Antropologia Performance e Drama” at USP and at the iDea Design Magazine Book, where she has produced 70 texts based on her research in the areas of design, anthropology, and arts.

Wink, Georg

He is Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and Latin America at Københavns Universitet (KU), where he has coordinated the Iberian and Latin American Studies Forum (formerly the Center for Latin American Studies) since 2016. Georg Wink holds a degree in Latin American Studies from Freie Universität Berlin and a Master’s degree in Teaching German as a Foreign Language from Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. He also earned a PhD in Spanish and Portuguese Language and Culture from Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and a Danish advanced Doctoral degree (doktordisputats) from KU. His work integrates cultural, literary, and sociopolitical studies, as well as history, anthropology, and communication. His primary focus is on cultural expressions and transfers, nation-building processes and constructions of collective identity, and discourses and media representations in sociopolitical contexts in Latin America and the Global South. His significant research includes studies on the Brazilian media landscape during the civil-military governments, the ideological roots of far-right extremism in Brazil, and cultural and political South-South relations. He has served as a Visiting Professor at several universities in Brazil and India.

Xavier do Monte, Izadora

Mecila Junior Fellow 2024 Izadora Xavier do Monte holds a degree in International Relations from Universidade de Brasília, a Master’s degree in Gender Studies from École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, and a Doctorate degree in Sociology from Université de Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis. She has worked as a consultant for the Frameworks Institute and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and as a Program Assistant in Brasília with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women. Her research focuses on (in)security dynamics using gender and race as analytical categories, linking macro security policies with everyday experiences. Her current project at Mecila examines the effects of the militarization of the war on drugs on Brazilian women from the peripheries, investigating how economic exploitation, political exclusion, and the restriction of fundamental rights increase women’s vulnerability.

Programme

7/10/2024	8/10/2024
Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros USP	Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros USP
09.30 – 10.30	09.30 – 11.00
Welcome Addresses	Panel III: National and Transnational Spaces of Informalities and Illegality
10.30 – 11.00	
Opening Panel: General Framing and Conceptual Introduction to the Conference	
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break	11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	11.30 – 13.00
Panel I: Urban and Cultural Spaces of Informalities, Inequality and Conviviality	Panel IV: Through the Lens of Conviviality-Inequality: Literary Perspectives on Informalities
13.00 – 14.20 Lunch Break	13.00 – 14.20 Lunch Break
14.20 – 14.30	14.20 – 14.30
Short Mecila Book Presentation I	Short Mecila Book Presentation II
14.30 – 16.00	14.30 – 16.00
Exploring Informalities through Spoken Poetry and Theatre	Breakout Groups: Informalities through the Lens of the Mecila Research Areas
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break	16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00	16.30 – 18.00
Panel II: Gender Inequalities in (In)formal Settings	Roundtable I: Experiences of Mecila and CALAS. Conviviality, Inequality, and Crisis as Critical Perspectives from the Global South

9/10/2024	10/10/2024
Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros USP	Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros USP
09.30 – 13.00	09.30 – 11.00
Informalities in Brazil from the Perspective of the Archives: Visiting the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, USP	Young Researchers Forum Panel II: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers
	11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break
	11.30 – 13.00
	Young Researchers Forum Panel III: Projects of Mecila Doctoral Researchers
13.00 – 14.20 Lunch Break	13.00 – 14.20 Lunch Break
14.20 – 14.30	14.20 – 14.30
Short Mecila Book Presentation III	Short Mecila Book Presentation IV
14.30 – 16.00	14.30 – 16.00
Panel V: Histories of Informalities. Beyond Methodological Nationalism and Eurocentrism	Roundtable II: How to Connect Formal and Informal Knowledge Productions? Strategies to Overcome Asymmetries
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break	16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00	16.30 – 18.00
Young Researchers Forum Panel I: Medialities in Transition. Between Formal and Informal Regimes	Final Panel: Wrapping Up, Lessons Learned, and Looking Forward

Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, Campus Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, 78 – SP 05508-010



Sweden Restaurante, Campus Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
Av. Prof. Lúcio Martins Rodrigues, 4 – SP 05508-020
Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros > Sweden Restaurante (walking time: app. 13 min)



Mecila – Maria Sibylla Merian Centre
Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America
Rua Morgado de Mateus, 615
São Paulo – SP, Brasil
mecila@cebrap.org.br
www.mecila.net

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Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz
Potsdamer Straße 37
D-10785 Berlin
iai@iai.spk-berlin.de
www.iai.spk-berlin.de
www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de

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