

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut October 2023

International and interdisciplinary Exchange on Asymmetries of Knowledge: The Mecila **Community met in São Paulo Hub**

In 2023 the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut was the main organizer of the Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum "Medialities of Conviviality — Inequality in Latin America", held between 2-5 October in São Paulo. Interdisciplinary panels and roundtables focused on how asymmetries of knowledge and divergent knowledge practices and representations frame conviviality (e.g. negotiations of interclass, intercultural, interethnic, inter-gender and human — non human relations). With the visit to the Museu de Arqueologia e Etnologia (MAE / Universidade de São Paulo), the participants experienced in situ the medialities of conviviality from the perspective of knowledge management and the challenges of the information infrastructures in convivial contexts. Additionally, the public roundtable "Arts for Whom? Reflections on Aesthetics Production and Social Participation" at the Goethe-Institut São Paulo opened a space of exchanges between artists, scientist and civil society actors.

The Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2023



The Mecila Annual Meeting is the central platform of the collaborative project Mecila to present and discuss the main interdisciplinary research results of the Mecila community together with invited researchers. It plays an important role for the arti-

culation 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 was the main organizer of the Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum, as this responsibility rotates among the German institutions of the Mecila consortium. The Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2023 "Medialities of Conviviality — Inequality in Latin America" was conceptually shaped by Mecila's annual theme "Medialities", with the focus on how asymmetries of knowledge and divergent knowledge practices and representations frame conviviality (e.g. negotiations of interclass, intercultural, interethnic, inter-gender and human — non human relations).

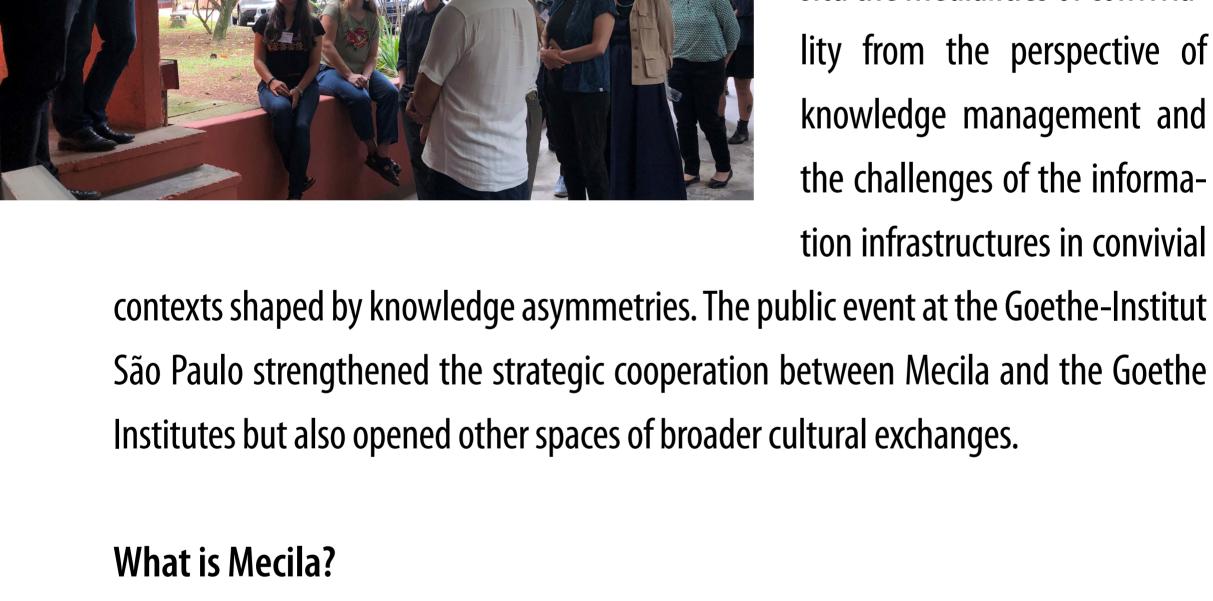
current fellows and doctoral researchers and distinguished guests, met to exchange on asymmetries of knowledge disputing over relevant social issues such as symbolic belonging, political participation, resource distribution, and access to power. In interdisciplinary panels and roundtables, questions posed by the inequalities that have contributed to shaping dynamics of marginalisa-

Participants from the Latin American and German institutions of the Consortium,

tion and exclusion of voices, especially indigenous, afro-descendant, female, and socioeconomically disadvantaged, were discussed. The digital turn is transforming and reshaping knowledge production, circusocial media can have quite divergent effects on conviviality in Latin America. Is



digital transformation able to reduce persistent knowledge inequalities, or does it create new ones? One central topic was medialities within archives in a broad sense where difference and inequalities in meanings, practices, and human-non human relations are negotiated. The relations between activism and social sciences and the challenges and opportunities of open science for young researchers were also discussed. The visit to the Museu de Arqueologia e Etnologia (MAE /



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Universidade de São Paulo) had

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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 headquarters 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: 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. Complementarily, 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).

<u>Mecila — Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America</u>

Programme of the Mecila Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum 2023

Consortiums Institutions

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