



Invitation to the 1st International Conference of RIIA: “Mobilities and Transformations: Perspectives from the Americas”

Erlangen, June, 26th - 28th, 2019

The transition from nomadic hunter-gatherers to a sedentary way of life was one of the major transformations for the first human society, the great Neolithic revolution. This supposed physical permanence has mainly been represented as lineal progress in most of the research (Deleuze and Guattari 2002). According to archeological studies this change allowed for an increase in the complexity of the structures and networks of interaction and cooperation between people and groups, a reorganization of kinship relations and the specialization of trades, occupations and craftsmanship.

However, this passage from mobility to permanence has not been stable nor rigid; instead it has been characterized by its gradualism, constituting itself as a process that is perpetuated until today. People, groups, ideas, identities and knowledge move, today more than ever, transforming themselves from these mobilities. The supposed sedentary lifestyle or immobility has been conceived in many representations as normal, but its complexity is evident when it is analyzed closely and contrasted with the processes of mobility; in all the dynamics of permanence there are processes of mobility and vice versa (Codesal 2016).

Mobility is a term that is intertwined with migration (Hannam, Sheller, Urry 2006). Both concepts share a Latin etymologic origin and although their meanings differ, their use is complementary nowadays, as they make reference to transit, movement, change and flows. To migrate, for people or things, is to change place; to move. But as studies of migration flows and processes have shown people, relations, ideas and identities are affected and transformed during the migration process. Whether or not they imply changes of place or residence, mobilities and permanence have socio-political effects.

In the Americas, the concept of “mobility” has been associated with the lexicon: “migrants,” “wetbacks,” “(il)legals,” “(i)regulars,” “expats,” “deportation,” “in transit,” “citizens of the world,” “migration flows” “chain migration” (Lara 2010), “migration networks”; these, among others, are words and schemes of meanings that go along with the ways that we see and understand the people and the things that move. The use or disuse of some of these words for the benefit of others is articulated in economic and political structures, class systems, and forms of differentiation, representation regimes and legal frameworks that express and justify meanings on different mobilities.



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This and others expressions and challenges of mobilities, migrations and their transformations would be developed during this conference. Understanding that these occur within complex social, economic, political and cultural processes, this activity looks to explore and analyze them not only through an academic discussion, but also through artistic and literary representations and expressions. This way, we will introduce the concepts of (in)mobilities and transformations in the Americas to later explore them in more detail during the following sessions. On Thursday and Friday the panels will lead us to ponder and discuss different experiences of transformation and mobilities, the tensions of different categorization and constructions of wanted and unwanted human movement, problematics and repercussions that shifts in shared spaces, social actors and social roles bring to local communities, for example in the processes of transformation occurring in Colombia due to drug-trafficking, conflict/post-conflict and border crisis between nation-states. We will explore the power dynamics and their influence on territory and the mobility of people, as well as the effects on the media and the journalistic representation of migrants. We will also discuss processes of change, readjustments and movements across the political spectrum in South America and the U.S.A as the rise of populism brings challenges new trends in the development of public policies and their connection with migration regulations.

These issues and perspectives motivate the call we make to participate in the first conference of the Interdisciplinary Research Network on the Americas (RIIA). A network that was born precisely from mobilities, encounters, work and permanence of several researchers and students interested in the Americas at FAU in the Erlangen-Nürnberg area. This research network seeks to bring together graduate and doctoral students, alumni, researchers and professors working and doing research in the American continent as well to encourage, support and facilitate academic and professional exchange and cooperation between Germany and the Americas.

We hope you will join us,

RIIA
Red de Investigación Interdisciplinaria de las Américas.



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First International Conference

Mobilities and Transformations: Perspectives from the Americas
Movilidades y transformaciones: perspectivas desde las Américas
June 26th to 28th, 2019

Wednesday, June 26th

Venue: KH Senatssaal, Universitätsstraße 15

14:00 Registration

15:00 Conference Opening

Prof. Dr. Andrea Pagni, Director at BAYLAT (Bayerisches Hochschulzentrum für Lateinamerika)

Prof. Dr. Silke Jansen, Chair of Romance Languages (Spanish) and Spokeswoman at the Center for Area Studies, Section Ibero-America, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Opening remarks by RIIA - Interdisciplinary Research Network on the Americas

Launching e-journal *americana*

16:00 Prof. Dr. Heike Paul, Chair of North American Studies, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Keynote Address: Mobility Studies Meets Affect Studies (English)

17:00 Annasophia Heintze, Guest Speaker, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

"Forced Displacement in the Americas – insights into UNHCR's response to Colombia, Venezuela and North of Central America situations" (English)

18:00 Welcome Reception

19:00 Books and Poetry (different languages)

Facilitators: Vanesa Cotroneo, M.A, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg; Ing. Rafael Mazzola: Raíces culturales en el exterior

Poets: Douglas Téllez (Nicaragua), Jamile do Carmo (Brazil), Sushmitha Mariyada (India), Andrea Collados (Argentina), Andrew Wildermuth (United States)

Presentación de libro: Dr. Juan Dukuen. *Habitus y dominación en la antropología de Pierre Bourdieu. Una crítica desde la fenomenología de Maurice Merleau-Ponty*

Thursday, 27th

Venue: KH Senatssaal, Universitätsstraße 15

09:45 First Panel: "Return of Conservative Governments in the Americas: regional governance of migrations under threat?" (English)

Chair: Juan Carlos Aguirre, M.A., Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Paloma Torres, M.A., Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez, Chile

"Ideology or pragmatism: Migration policies in Chile and Argentina"

Dania Hamdan, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy

"Seeking security? Migratory flows between Middle East – Latin America and Latin America – Europe"

Axelle Germanaz, M.A., Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

"Imagining the Border, Constructing the Nation: The Migrant in the Trump Era"

12:00 Lunch (Self-Organized) and change of venue

Venue: FAU Learning-Lab, Henkestr. 91

14:00 Taller "El Otro en medios masivos: representaciones y discursos sobre migrantes. Venezolanos en Colombia y centroamericanos en México" (Spanish)

Facilitators: Gustavo Gutiérrez, Sijé Vargas, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Gregorio Vargas, Freelance digital journalist Mexico/U.S border

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Film screening and discussion: "Chocolate of Peace", A film by Gwen Burnyeat and Pablo Mejía Trujillo about the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia (O.V. Spanish with English subtitles)

Q&A session with Gwen Burnyeat, producer and co-director of *Chocolate of Peace*, Doctoral Researcher University College London (video-conference, Spanish and English)

Facilitators: Edna Guerrero M.A. Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Paulina Martínez M.A, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Friday, 28th

Venue: KH Senatssaal, Universitätsstraße 15

09:45 Second Panel "La era del Post-acuerdo en Colombia: de la guerra a la construcción de paz territorial" (English and Spanish)

Chair: William Bastidas (Chief Editor for Latinotopia, Radio Z e. V., Community Radio Nürnberg and member of Kolko e. V.)

Natalia Velásquez, M.A., Doctoral Researcher at KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

"El vínculo entre la paz y el desarrollo en escenarios de post-acuerdo y conflictos en Colombia"

Dr. Luis Berneth Peña, Center for Reconciliation Studies, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

"Peace: rebuilding the collective functions of the territory"

Rory Alejandra Rojas, Art Director at Communic'arte Association, Paris, France

"Mediación Artística y Arteterapia como alternativas para la transformación"

12:00 Lunch (Self-Organized) and change of venue

Venue: Bismarckstr. 1, C301

13:00 Third Panel "Más allá de la nación: Transculturación y extraterritorialidad en la literatura latinoamericana" (Spanish)

Chair: Prof. Dr. Andrea Pagni, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Pablo Larreátegui, M.A., Doctoral Researcher Freie Universität Berlin

"Rolando Sánchez Mejías: escribir desde afuera con un ojo en el adentro "

Dr. Fabio Jurado, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

"La literatura Latinoamericana: una escritura de la transculturación"

14:30 Coffee-break

15:00 Fourth Panel "Motivations, contexts and consequences: The migrants of the Americas" (English and Spanish)

Chair: Jana Aresin, M.A., Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Julia Kieslinger, M.A., Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

"Spatial (im)mobilities of people, changing living conditions and everyday practices in rural Ecuador"

Dr. Juan Dukuen, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Berlin -CONICET-CIS/IDES, Universidad de Buenos Aires

"Trayectorias educativas y procesos de socialización en estudiantes universitarios argentinos en Berlín"

Dr. Carlos Mora, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

"Mexican Migration in Germany: the case of Mexican Women in Mixed Marriages in Berlin"

16:30 Testimonies and experiential workshop "Migrants as agents of change: art as a transformational tool" (English and Spanish)

Chair: Daniela Gutiérrez, M.A., Doctoral Researcher FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Video testimonies from migrant artists in the United States

Rory Alejandra Rojas, Art Director at Communic'arte

Taller experiencial de mediación artística "Paisaje interior, territorios comunes"

18:00 Final Remarks by RIIA- Red de Investigación Interdisciplinaria de las Américas