

## **Previous Visiting and Research Scholars**

*UF Center for Latin American Studies*

### **Alberto Acosta**

*Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar*

Alberto Acosta was the Spring 2018 Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar, where he taught the course Buen Vivir and Other Post-Development Pathways at the Center for Latin American Studies. He is one of the world's leading theorists on the concept and implementation of Buen Vivir. Acosta served as President of the assembly charged with drawing up Ecuador's new constitution that guarantees the Rights of Nature (2007-2008), was Ecuador's Minister for energy and mining (2007), and candidate for president (2013). He worked as professor and researcher at FLACSO-Ecuador, and was actively involved in the Yasuní initiative to leave the oil in the soil.

### **Dr. Miguel Ayarza**

*Researcher*

[Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria \(CORPOICA\)](#)

Dr. Ayarza visited UF from March 13 - 24, 2017. The main purpose of his visit was to establish collaborative linkages between CORPOICA and researchers at the University of Florida. CORPOICA is interested in strengthening its research capacity in several areas, including assessment of climate change risks and evaluation of technological and socioeconomic adaptation strategies, and to analyze impacts of agricultural intensification on soil and water resources at different spatial and temporal scales. During his stay, he met with faculty to get to know their research activities in these areas, and to identify other potential topics of collaboration.

### **Dr. Antonio Braga**

*Professor*

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology*

*Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Brazil*

Dr. Braga conducted a study on religion and Brazilian immigrant youth in the United States.

## Dr. Ernane Correa Rabelo

*Professor*

*Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Brazil*

Dr. Rabelo conducted research on Brazilian media in the US, especially the influence of new communication technologies on Brazilian immigrants in the US.

## Dr. Mariana Mora

*Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar*

*Associate Professor-Researcher*

*Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESA), Mexico City*

Dr. Mora served as the Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar at the Center in the Spring 2022 semester. She taught the course “A Sense of Justice: Afro-descendent and Indigenous anti-colonial struggles in Abya Yala” and served as the keynote speaker of the 2022 Annual Conference, “Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas: On the aesthetics of methods and crafting of claims.”

Dr. Mora holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Stanford University. Her research focuses on struggles against violence and the continued processes of colonization as part of State formation in Latin America and her scholarship is situated within critical race theories, gender studies, decoloniality and the political.

She is author of the book, *Kuxlejal Politics: Indigenous Autonomy, Race and Decolonial Research in Zapatista Communities* (2018). Her recent scholarship centers on struggles for justice against racialized forms of violence and territorial dispossession. She is part of the continental Anti-Racist Action Research Network (Red Investigación Acción Anti-Racista, RAIAR), the Collective to Eliminate Racism in Mexico (Copera) and the Decolonial Feminist Network in Mexico.

## Dr. Karsten Paerregaard

*Professor of Anthropology*

*School of Global Studies at the University Of Gothenburg, Sweden*

For the past 25 years, my research has focused on rural-urban migration in Peru and Peruvian transnational migration in the United States, Spain, Italy, Japan, Argentina, and Chile. This work includes studies in migrant networks, remittances, illegality, fiestas, religious practices, political mobilization, family organization, social conflict, and other themes. Analytically, my research is inspired by recent theories of transnationalism and diaspora and, methodologically, I have used a multi-sited research strategy.

Theoretically, I want to understand how physical and social mobility are conceived and practiced in a globalized world. My current research is focused on climate change and its environmental effect on Peru's rural and urban population. Of particular interest is how Peru's growing water scarcity due to global warming and the melting glaciers generate new conflicts and how local, regional and national institutions respond to these conflicts. I also explore how rural and urban communities create new strategies and forge new alliances to adapt to the changing environment and examine the role that family households, communal organizations, migrant associations, international tourists, development agencies, small-scale industries, mining companies and state institutions play in the struggle to adjust to the growing water scarcity. My ambition is to create a comparative anthropology of mountain areas and to explore how mountain people use mobility as a strategy to adapt to climate change.

## Monica Do Nascimento Pessoa

*Ph.D. Student in History*

*Postgraduate Program in History - Udesc*

*Associate Researcher with the Nucleus of Afro-Brazilian Studies (NEAB)*

Monica is currently a doctorate student in History at the University of Santa Catarina State (UDESC), in the Post-Graduate Program in History (PPGH), linked to the research line: Political Cultures and Sociability. She is an associate researcher in the African-Brazilian Studies Center (NEAB/UDESC). She is a member of the Observatory of African-Brazilian Culture in Santa Catarina, participating in the Black Culture study group and the critical study group on whiteness. She coordinates the NEAB's International and Interinstitutional Relations Work Group. She is a member of the Black Researchers Nacional Association (ABPN) and has experience in the areas of African

History, addressing themes like Orality, Literature, Cultural Heritage, and Social Memory.

Her Research Project “Griots in contemporary Mali: The trajectory of Toumani Kouyate” aims to reflect about the oral tradition in Western Africa, starting from the way of being, thinking and living of the djelis (words masters). It seeks to set approximations and differentiations to the role of the griot (stories tellers and animators in Western Africa). The practices of the djelis are translated into knowledge and cultures from an “Africa-subject”, with initiatory rites, social relationships, cosmogonies, and teachings, which bear ancestries. The griots have the djelis as their masters, they cheer up and sing with traditional instruments. What are the history and memory meanings for the djelis and griots in Western Africa? We intended, through the memory of Toumani Kouyaté, a djéli from Mali, to understand the role of the oral tradition, interpreting, mainly, the practice of the djeli, as a word wise in the “walking” on the cultural universe of the different Africas in the past and in the present.

### Silvane Silva

*Doctoral Candidate - Ph.D. in History from Pontifícia Universidade Católica (PUC/SP)*

Silvane's research aims to analyze the political role of women in the struggles to maintain their way of life in the quilombola (former maroon) communities of the State of São Paulo, through the conquest of land titling and access to basic social rights such as health care and formal education. The research seeks to understand the ways in which quilombola women acted in the elaboration of public policies and, at the same time, were influenced by them, from the 1988 Constitution. At that historical moment, Article 68 of the Transitional Constitutional Provisions legitimized the remaining quilombolas communities rights to the recognition and ownership of land. However, the constitutional text alone did not guarantee access to these rights. The rural and urban black movement organized to enforce what was laid down in the law, and other social actors were important in this process: Anthropologists, sectors of the Catholic Church and Pentecostals. With this, new legal norms were created, bringing new fights. In this study, the leadership of quilombola women in these processes is emphasized.

## Dr. Mimi Urbanc and Dr. Mateja Smid Hribar

*Researchers*

[Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#)

*In collaboration with the UF Department of Anthropology*

Dr. Mimi Urbanc and Dr. Mateja Smid Hribar worked with Dr. Catherine Tucker on a project to assess how theoretical approaches to the study of the commons and common-pool resources are interacting with research on ecosystem services. These realms of research have important overlaps and synergies that merit assessment especially given the importance of common-pool resources (forests, savannahs, water sources, the atmosphere, etc.) and ecosystem services for global sustainability and adaptation to social-ecological and climate change processes. With a larger team of researchers in Europe and Latin America, they carried out a broad review of the current state of knowledge, trends, and future directions on research at the intersection of commons and ecosystem services.

## Mauricio Tadeu dos Santos Orosco

*Visiting Post-Doc Faculty*

*Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (ufu) – Minas Gerais, Brazil*

Mauricio performs and serves as a guitar instructor with the UF Guitar Ensemble. He is also a member of the Alachua Guitar Ensemble, where he provides exclusive arrangements. He is currently writing and preparing new research, “Revising Francisco Araújo’s Compositional Work.” From this research, Dr. Orosco is presently developing a performance repertoire and the preparation of a new album to be released.

## Dr. Rebecca (Becky) J. Williams

*Visiting Assistant Professor*

*Masters of Sustainable Development Practice Program*

*Tropical Conservation and Development Program*

Dr. Rebecca (Becky) J. Williams is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Center for Latin American Studies and she is core faculty in both the Master of Sustainable Development Practice program and the Tropical Conservation and Development program. Her research has two primary focuses including the connections between climate change, violence, and migration; and gender and participatory development with a focus on natural resources and indigenous communities. Williams' most recent research was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and took a socio-ecological systems approach to investigating how rural livelihoods in Honduras are being influenced by climate change, resulting in migration and illicit livelihood opportunities (such as gangs and narcotrafficking) becoming alternative opportunity pathways. The results of her research is being used to develop USAID-Honduras' next 5-year development strategy. She is currently working on multiple articles out of her research.

Williams' serves on many student committees (Masters and PhD) and participates in the Latin American Studies Curriculum Committee. She enjoys teaching as much as she enjoys research and she offers courses in the Fall and Spring semesters. Dr. Williams holds an M.S. from Florida State University in Instructional Systems Design and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Interdisciplinary Ecology with a focus on Tropical Conservation and Development.

#### Courses Taught:

- LAS 6291: Communication and Leadership for Development Practice
- LAS 6291: Facilitation Skills for Conservation and Development Practice
- LAS 6938: Intersectionality in Conservation and Development Research and Practice
- LAS 6938: Qualitative Data Analysis