

January 2022 marked the twentieth anniversary of the construction of the Guantánamo Bay prison camps. The anniversary of the establishment of detention operations, which began just months after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, has provided an opportunity to pause and to look back, as well as forward. What developments have resulted from the silence, contradictions, and controversies that center around this place? How can rethinking its significance impact the future? Shortly after detention operations with suspected terrorists began in Guantánamo Bay, the late American Studies scholar Amy Kaplan described the US naval base as "a place where many narratives about the Americas overlap" and speculated that it was an anomaly that might become the norm. Almost two decades later, the narratives Kaplan referred to have become more familiar and they still require careful analysis and discussion.

The international conference "Camps, (In)Justice, and Solidarity in the Americas", organized by the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz and the *Department of English* in the College of Humanities at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, included a wide range of opportunities to discuss camps, incarceration, and related issues of (in)justice in the contexts of the Americas and Europe. The aim of the conference was to provide a space for a broad discussion, in which the understanding of camps could be discussed in an interdisciplinary way. The focus was on topics such as internment camps, prisoner-of-war camps, labor camps, black sites, offshore camps, concentration and re-education camps, among others. Participants shared their research and gained new insights from exchange and dialogue. Concerns about how to understand and respond to shocking examples of dehumanizing violence and the violation of basic human rights arose, as well as debates about the concepts of solidarity and injustice.

The event made possible interdisciplinary and intersectional exchange, which allowed American and European perspectives to be juxtaposed and compared. Graz offered the ideal setting for this international conference as it is the first European City of Human Rights and a site of highly relevant academic research. The conference's diverse cross-section of speakers included Guantánamo specialists, former Guantánamo prisoners, as well as human rights experts and scholars from a wide range of fields. Poets, artists, and musicians also participated. There were 20 panels and 6 special lectures. Examples of activities included special lectures in the mornings and evenings, a large selection of panels, art presentations during the breaks, and readings from the memoirs of former Guantánamo prisoners. On the final day of the conference, attendees participated in guided tours in Graz, each of which dealt with a different theme related to human rights. Presenters will have the opportunity to publish their work in a peer-reviewed volume featuring research and creative work.

In total, around 100 people from all over the world attended the conference over the five days to hear 80 speakers from over 30 countries. In order to comply with the corresponding Covid-19 guidelines of the individual countries and the associated travel restrictions, the conference was offered as a hybrid event; however, the majority of the speakers opted for on-site participation in Graz.

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## Conference Organizers

### Academic Board

#### Roberta Maierhofer



Roberta Maierhofer is Professor of American Studies and Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) at the University of Graz, Austria. From 1999 to 2011, she held a series of Vice-Rector positions for International Relations (1999-2003), International Relations and Affirmative Action for Women (2003-2007), and International Relations and Interdisciplinary Cooperation (2007-2011). Her expertise in regional and interregional collaboration has been fundamental to her leadership role at the Center for Inter-American Studies, which she has directed since February 2007, and determined how the University of Graz established a second regional focus area in terms of North-, Central- and South America in 2012. She also acts as a co-advisor in terms of the Joint Degree in English and American Studies. Since 2004, she has been directing the Graz International Summer School Seggau, which was established as an interdisciplinary and intercultural platform in the fields of European and Inter-American Studies.

#### Don E. Walicek



Don E. Walicek is Professor of English and Linguistics at the University of Puerto Rico's Río Piedras Campus. He earned a BA in Cultural Anthropology and an MA in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He was awarded his PhD in English from the University of Puerto Rico. Much of his research has focus on issues of language, migration, and social life in the Caribbean, in particular Anguilla, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. His publications include *Guantánamo and American Empire: The Humanities Respond* (2018) and an issue of the Caribbean Studies journal *Sargasso* titled, "Guantánamo: What's Next?", both of which he co-edited with Jessica Adams. In 2019, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Graz and a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. He has acted as editor of the Caribbean studies journal *Sargasso* since 2009.

## Christian Cwik



Christian Cwik is a historian for Latin American and Caribbean. He graduated from the University of Vienna, where he earned a PhD in history and philosophy with an emphasis on African and Jewish Diaspora, Slave-trade and slavery as well as Shoa-history. Before joining the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz in 2019 he was lecturer at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, invited Professor at the University of Havana, the University of Cartagena de Indias in Colombia and Professor for Colonial Ibero-American history at the Bolivarian University of Venezuela in Caracas. In addition, he was substitute Professor at Cologne and Erfurt University in Germany. About interment and repression during the Shoa and aftermath he has published several books and articles, among them *De Vienna a Barranquilla: huida al exilio caribeno, 1938/39* (with Verena Muth 2012), *European refugees in the wider Caribbean in the context of World War II* (with Verena Muth 2017), *Las relaciones bilaterales en perspectiva histórica, 1504-2017* (2019) and *Diktaturen im Zeitalter des Kalten Krieges* (with Hans-Joachim König and Stefan Rinke 2020).

## Organizational Committee

### Nicole Haring



Nicole Haring is a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She holds two master's degrees, one in education (English & Geography) and one in English and American Studies, both from the University of Graz. Her research interests focus on feminist theory and pedagogy, gender studies, and cultural gerontology. She received a Fulbright Scholarship for the University of Oklahoma and the Elisabeth-List Fellowship for Gender Studies from the University of Graz. Currently, she holds a doctoral fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Science to work on her dissertation project on intergenerational storytelling on gender. Additionally, she is researcher in the MascAge Project ([www.mascage.eu](http://www.mascage.eu)) and part of the Erasmus+ project DigLit ([www.diglit.eu](http://www.diglit.eu)). She has published on intersectional feminist theory and is the co-editor of the transcript publication *Gender and Age/Ageing in Popular Culture* (forthcoming end of 2022).

### Frederick Reinprecht



Frederick Reinprecht is a graduate student of English and American Studies at the University of Graz who supports the Centre of Inter-American Studies in the capacity of a project assistant, mainly as the editor of the Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought publication series. His academic interests revolve around the representation of space, nature and socio-economic realities of US-American culture in literature, film, and music. He is currently finishing his master's thesis, titled "Fear and Loathing in the Anthropocene: Commodified Nature, Space, and the Role of the Journalist in the Literature of Hunter S. Thompson".

## International Advisory Board

### Jessica Adams

Jessica Adams graduated from Bryn Mawr College, where she majored in English, and Tulane University, where she earned a PhD in English with a focus on US literature, Post-Colonial Studies, and Performance. Before joining the English Department in the College of General Studies at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, she taught at Tulane University, the University of Michigan, the University of California–Berkeley, and the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas. In addition to publishing essays, short stories, and poetry, she is the coeditor, with Don E. Walicek, of *Guantánamo and American Empire: The Humanities Respond* (2018), and a special issue of the journal *Sargasso* titled, “Guantánamo: What’s Next?” She is also the author of *Wounds of Returning: Race, Memory, and Property on the Post-Slavery Plantation* (2007), and coeditor of *Just Below South: Intercultural Performance in the Caribbean and the U.S. South* (2007) and *Revolutionary Freedoms: A History of Survival, Strength, and Imagination in Haiti* (2006), among other works.

### Sergio Guerra Vilaboy

Cuban historian, Professor of History of Latin America and Director of the Department of History of the University of Havana, President of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians (ADHILAC) and Full Member of the Academy of History of Cuba and Correspondent of that of Ecuador. Ph. D. in History from the University of Leipzig (Germany). He is director of the doctoral program in History at the University of Havana. Author of more than five hundred articles, essays and books on Latin American history, among them: *Paraguay, from independence to imperialist domination* (1984), *Five centuries of Latin American historiography* (2009) and *Latin America after independence. From the Capitulation of Ayacucho to the Mexican Revolution* (2019). In 2018, he received the National Prize for Social and Humanistic Sciences of the Republic of Cuba.

### Alexandra Moore

Alexandra Moore is Professor of English and Director of the Human Rights Institute and Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls at Binghamton University. Her most recent publications include the monograph, *Vulnerability and Security in Human Rights Literature and Visual Culture* (2015) and several edited collections, including *Writing Beyond the State: Post-Sovereign Approaches to Human Rights to Literature and Culture* (with Samantha Pinto, 2020), *Witnessing Torture: Perspectives of Survivors and Human Rights Workers* (with Elizabeth Swanson, 2018), and *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Human Rights* (with Sophia A. McClennen,

2015). She publishes widely on representations of human rights violations in contemporary literature and film. Her current research is on the cultural afterlives of the Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation program in the war on terror.

### **Alma Simounet**

Alma Simounet is Professor of English and Linguistics in the College of Humanities at the Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico since 1968. She has published and still works in the areas of ethnolinguistics, bilingualism, language and identity, and discourse analysis. She was Chair of the Department of English from 2015 to 2018.

### **Esther Whitfield**

Esther Whitfield is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. She is author of *Cuban Currency: The Dollar and 'Special Period' Fiction* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008); co-editor with Jacqueline Loss of *New Short Fiction from Cuba* (2008); and co-editor with Anke Birkenmaier of a collection of essays on post-1989 Havana, *Havana Beyond the Ruins* (2011). She has published articles on literary writing in post-Soviet Cuba and borders, visibility and surveillance at the Guantánamo naval base. She is currently writing a book, "The New No-Man's Land: Guantánamo's Literary Life," which proposes reading the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo and the surrounding areas of Eastern Cuba as a borderland region that shares a natural environment, a marking of human lives by isolation, and a body of literature and art privileging survival over political hostility.

## Special Lecturers

### A. Naomi Paik



A. Naomi Paik is the author of *Bans, Walls, Raids, Sanctuary: Understanding U.S. Immigration for the 21st century* (2020, University of California press), which examines the criminalization of immigrants in the U.S. And the need for a radical, abolitionist approach to sanctuary movements. She also published her first book, *Rightlessness: Testimony and redress in U.S. Prison camps since World War II* in 2016 (UNC press; winner, best book in history, AAAS 2018; runner-up, John Hope Franklin Prize for best book in American studies, ASA, 2017), as well as articles, opinion pieces, and interviews in a range of academic and public-facing venues. As a board member of the *Radical History Review*, she has co-edited three special issues of the journal—on “ Militarism and Capitalism (winter 2019), “Radical Histories of Sanctuary” (fall 2019), and “Policing, Justice, and the Radical Imagination” (spring 2020)—and will coedit “Against the Anthropocene” with Ashley Dawson (winter 2023). Collaborating with Gerry Cadava and Cat Ramirez, she is also coediting the “Borderlands” section of public books. She is Associate Professor at the University of Illinois. Her research and teaching interests include comparative ethnic studies; U.S. Imperialism; U.S. Militarism; social and cultural approaches to legal studies; transnational and women of color feminisms; carceral spaces; and labor, race, and migration.

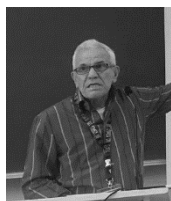
### Jana Lipman



Jana Lipman is an Associate Professor at Tulane University. Her book, *Guantánamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution, 1939-1979* (University California Press, 2009) was the 2009 Co-Winner of the Taft Prize in Labor History. This book tells the history of the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay (GTMO) from the point of view of Cuban base workers. Her second book, *In Camps: Vietnamese Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Repatriates, 1975-2005* was published by University of California Press in 2020. Lipman has also published extensively about Cuban, Haitian, and Vietnamese refugees in the late 20th century. Lipman was an adviser to the Guantánamo Public Memory Project. She has written about U.S.-Cuban relations, refugees, and asylum seekers in the *Washington Post's Made by History* series, the *Times Picayune/New Orleans Advocate*, and the *Conversation.com*. Her commentary has also appeared in numerous media outlets including NPR, the *New York Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.



## José Guerra Sánchez



José Sánchez Guerra nació en Guantánamo el 21 de diciembre de 1949. Es Académico Correspondiente de la Academia de la Historia de Cuba. Máster en Estudios Cubanos y del Caribe. Autor de más de 20 libros. Participó en varios Eventos Internacionales por la abolición de las bases militares extranjeras. Posee la Distinción por la Cultura Nacional y el Premio Nacional de Investigación “26 de Julio”.

## Julia Roth



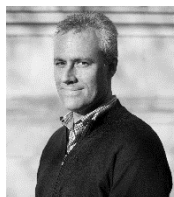
Julia Roth is Professor of American Studies with a focus on Gender Studies and Inter-American Studies at Bielefeld University, Germany. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the research project “The Americas as Space of Entanglements” in Bielefeld and in the interdisciplinary network “desiguALdades.net – Interdependent Inequalities in Latin America” at Freie Universität Berlin, as well as a lecturer at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Universität Potsdam, and Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. Her research focuses on postcolonial, decolonial, and gender approaches, intersectionality and global inequalities, anti-racist feminist knowledge from the Caribbean and the Americas, gender and citizenship, and right-wing populism and gender. In addition to her academic work, she organizes and curates cultural and political events (e.g., the theater festival “Women/Images of the Americas on the Move” in Berlin 2010; 2014 and 2016 BE.BOP – Black Europe Body Politics with Alanna Lockward, “De-Heimatize Belonging” at the Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin).

## Bernhard Docke



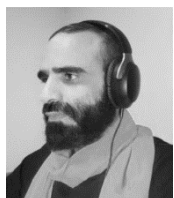
Bernhard Docke, Criminal Defense Lawyer, Partner of the Law Firm Hannover & Partner, Bremen, Germany. Member of the Human Rights Committee of the German Federal Bar Association. Awarded inter alia with the Carl von Ossietzky Medal in recognition of his dedication to human rights law, in particularly his advocacy for Guantánamo detainee Murat Kurnaz.

## Eric Jennings



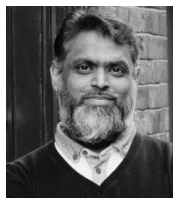
Eric Jennings is Professor of history at the University of Toronto (Victoria College). His books include *Escape from Vichy: The Refugee Exodus to the French Caribbean* (Harvard UP, 2018), *Perspectives on French Colonial Madagascar* (Palgrave, 2017); *Free French Africa in World War II* (Cambridge UP, 2015), *Imperial Heights: Dalat and the Making and Undoing of French Indochina* (California, 2011), *Curing the Colonizers* (Duke, 2006), and *Vichy in the Tropics* (Stanford, 2001). He co-edited *L'Empire colonial sous Vichy* (Odile Jacob, 2004) with Jacques Cantier. His books have all been translated into French, and one into Vietnamese.

## Mansoor Adayfi



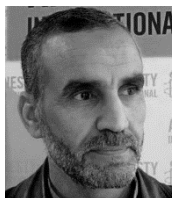
Mansoor Adayfi is a writer, advocate, and former Guantánamo Bay prisoner. He spent nearly fifteen years without charge in U.S. custody, including eight years in solitary confinement. Originally from Yemen, he was released to Serbia in 2016. Since then, he has focused on continuing his education and on writing about his experiences. Adayfi's writings have been published in *The New York Times*. These include "In Our Prison on the Sea" and "Taking Marriage Class at Guantánamo Bay." He is also author of the essay "Did We Survive Torture?", which is included in the edited volume *Witnessing Torture; Perspectives of Torture Survivors and Human Rights Workers* (2018). Hachette Books is the publisher of his 2021 memoir, *Don't Forget Us Here* (2021).

## Moazzam Begg



Moazzam Begg is a British-born Muslim, he is a former Guantanamo Bay detainee and Outreach Director for CAGE. After his release, he became one of the most prominent public-speakers and Muslim advocates for justice and dialogue. He is the author of the best-seller *Enemy Combatant* in which he recounts his experience as an innocent man detained and tortured at Guantanamo, Bagram and Kandahar. The Muslim 500 listed him as one of the 500 "most influential Muslims" in the world. The New Statesman's listed him in the top 50 "Heroes of our time". He has travelled extensively to investigate state abuses and western complicity in torture including to Tunisia, Libya, and Syria. A direct eye-witness to the conflicts in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Syria, his life has been recorded by the Columbia University Oral History Project, and the BBC Storyville documentary *The Confession*.

## Lakhdar Boumediene



Lakhdar Boumediene was born and raised in Algeria, and as an adult he worked for various humanitarian causes. Boumediene was imprisoned at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay from January 2002 to May 15, 2009. Like others, he was detained and interrogated, but not charged. He was also the lead plaintiff in *Boumediene v. Bush* (2008), a U.S. Supreme Court case that he won. The court determined that Guantánamo detainees and other foreign nationals have the right to file writs of habeas corpus in U.S. federal courts. Boumediene and Mustafa Ait Idir are the authors of *Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantánamo* (2017).

## Ahmed Errachidi



Ahmed Errachidi (also known as Ahmed Rashidi) is from Morocco. His 2013 memoir, *The General, The Ordinary Man Who Challenged Guantánamo*, was co-written by Gillian Slovo. It details how he was singled out for special attention from the guards and interrogators because he spoke English and that they forced him to serve as an unofficial leader within the community of prisoners. It also refutes many of the assertions about Guantánamo. In a 2013 interview for New Media, Errachidi explained what his hunger strikes were like and stated that they were done simply to win the captives a return to less harsh conditions. In January 2021, the New York Review of Books published an open letter from Errachidi, and six others formerly held in Guantánamo, to newly inaugurated U.S. President Biden, appealing to him to close the infamous prison.

## Mohamedou Houbeni



Mohamedou Houbeni is a writer, advocate, and former prisoner from Mauritania. He was detained at the U.S. government's Guantánamo Bay prison without charge for approximately fourteen years. Houbeni wrote a memoir during his incarceration, which the U.S. government declassified in 2012 with numerous redactions. An international bestseller and the first memoir to be published during the author's detention at the Guantánamo Bay naval base, was published as *Guantánamo Diary* in January 2015. The memoir was used as the basis for a film starring Tahar Rahim, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Jodie Foster. Titled *The Mauritanian*, it was released in February 2021. Slahi wrote four other books in detention, one of which he describes as being "about finding happiness in a hopeless place." In 2021, his novel *The Actual True Story of Ahmed & Zarga* was published by Ohio University Press in its Modern African Writers series. At the time of

this writing, Houbeini is a writer-in-residence at Noord Nederlands Toneel, a Dutch theatre company. His main publications have been published under the name Mohamedou Ould Slahi.

## Presenters

Name	First Name	Affiliation
Accilien	Cécile	Kennesaw State University, USA
Adams	Jessica	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Altagracia Fernández	Ángela	Universidad Autonoma de la República Dominicana
Altomonte	Jenna Ann	Mississippi State University, USA
Bacher	Dieter	University of Graz, BIK, Austria
Becce	Nicolangelo	Roma Tre University, Italy
Beier	Zachary	University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica
Brettas	Anderson	Instituto Federal del Triangulo Mineiro, Uberaba, Brazil
Bruquetas de Castro	Fernando	Universidad Las Palmas, Spain
Cabrera Geserick	Marco	Gustavus Adolphus College, USA
Calero	Pamela	Independent Artist
Camargo	Candice	Justice for Muslims Collective
Coleman	Diana R	Northern Arizona University, USA
Cortés Bernard	Michael Y.	Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Cortez	Jonathan	Brown University. Providence, USA
Coskan-Johnson	Gale	Brock University in Ontario, Canada
Cozett Diaz	Essah	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Crisorio	Beatriz Carolina	Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cwik	Christian	University of Graz, Austria
Eberl	Jason T.	Saint Louis University, USA
Elabd	Arwa	University of Innsbruck, Austria
Elias Caro	Jorge, Enrique	Magdalena University, Colombia

Fernandez Crisorio	Natalia	Universidad del Cine, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Flecha	Victor Jacinto	Universidad Nacional de Pilar, Paraguay
Francis-Brown	Suzanne	University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica
Gabriel	Martin	University of Klagenfurt, Austria
Geigel	Eugenio	Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Granados	Omar	University Wisconsin La Crosse, USA
Guerra Vilaboy	Sergio	Universidad of Havana, Cuba
Hilal	Maha	Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Irizarry	Jan S. Carlo	Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
Justo Fernández	Ámbar A.	Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo UASD
Krajnc	Žiga	University of Maribor, Slovenia
Lesiak	Philipp	University of Graz, Austria
Maldonado	Alejo	Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, México
Manz	Stefan	Aston University Birmingham, UK
Mercone	Maria	University Coimbra, Portugal
Mettauer	Philipp	Institute for Jewish History, Austria
Mir-Sira	Jaydy	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Moore	Alexandra	SUNY Binghamton, USA
Paz y Mini Cepeda	Juan	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito
Pensack	Miriam	New York University, USA
Perutka	Lukáš	Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic
Pinjung	Olga	University of Szeged, Hungary
Prezelj	Iztok	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Ristevska	Teodora Tea	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Sánchez Leyva	José Ramón	Casa de Cultura, Ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba
Santiago Ramos	Eyla M.	Río Piedras Campus, University of Puerto Rico

Schendl	Georg	FH Campus Wien, Austria
Scrivanek	Max	National Archives of Curacao
Simounet-Bey	Alma	Río Piedras Campus, University of Puerto Rico
Stanchich	Maritza	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Strauss	Michael	Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques, Paris, France
Strutz	Andrea	University of Graz, Austria
Takahashi Martínez	Yukyko	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Tausel	Sandra	University of Innsbruck, Austria
Tomsky	Terri	University of Alberta, Canada
Traussnig	Florian	BIK Graz, Austria
Vieira Vera	Lucia	Universidade Pontificada de São Paulo. Brazil
Villaboy Zaldivar	René	Universidad de La Habana, Cuba
Walicek	Don E.	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Wallenstorfer	Dagmar	University of Graz, Austria
Whitfield	Esther	Brown University, USA

## Conference Program at a Glance

Monday, May 23		Thursday, May 26	Friday, May 27	Saturday, May 28	Sunday, May 29
9:00 AM		REGISTRATION [Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS)]	Special Lecture: "The camps are ... little better than prisons" Refugee Camps and Detention in the U.S. Imperial Archipelago" Jana Lipman [University of Graz]	Special Lecture: "Bodies and Spaces of Exception? Thinking Intersectionalities Translocationally as Interdependent Inequalitiess" Julia Roth [University of Graz]	Special Lecture: "Interning European Anti-Nazi Refugees in Wartime Martinique, 1940-1942" Eric Jennings [University of Graz]
9:30 AM			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM			Parallel Panels [University of Graz]	Parallel Panels [University of Graz]	Parallel Panels [University of Graz]
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM			REGISTRATION [Kultum]		
1:30 PM				Special Lecture: "Guantánamo: terrorismo y usurpación (1959-1970)" José Sánchez Guerra [University of Graz]	Special Lecture "Legal Cases of Guantánamo" Bernhard Docke [University of Graz]
2:00 PM	Online Welcome & Opening: Mansoor Adayfi	Local Panel on Regional Camps in Austria [Kultum]			Graz Human Rights Walks
2:30 PM	Online Panel 1		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM		Parallel Panels [University of Graz]	Parallel Panels [University of Graz]		
4:00 PM	Online Panel 2	REGISTRATION [AULA, University of Graz]			
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM					Conference Exhibition & Closing Event [Galerie Roter Keil]
5:30 PM	Online Panel 3	Welcome Reception & Opening Lecture: A. Naomi Paik [AULA, University of Graz]	Reading Guantánamo: Mansoor Adayfi, Moazzam Begg, Lakhdar Boumediene, Ahmed Errachidi, Mohamedou Houbeini [Willi-Gaisch Lecture Hall, University of Graz]	Mayor's Reception [Graz Town Hall]	
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM					
7:30 PM					
8:00 PM					



## Conference Report

### Monday, May 23

The conference began within an online capacity on Monday, May 23, 2022. This date was added in order to accommodate presentations and contributions from presenters who were only able to participate virtually due to pandemic- and travel-related difficulties. Participants and individuals interested in the conference were able to join online.

Acting Rector Peter Riedler of University of Graz, Austria, offered opening remarks highlighting the interdisciplinary significance of the conference. Agnes M. Bosch Irizarry, Dean of College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, welcomed the participants as a representative of the collaborative effort between the University of Graz and the University of Puerto Rico. Roberta Maierhofer from the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria and Don E. Walicek from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus officially opened the conference in their function as members of the Academic Board.

Mansoor Adayfi, author of *Don't forget us here* (2021) and former detainee of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, gave a brief opening lecture on the significance of art from Guantanamo Bay.



The following presentations were held on this day:

Eyla M. Santiago Ramos (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Guantánamo's Bay Texts: Freedom that Transcends the Prison's Walls**

Cécile Accilien (Kennesaw State University, USA): **The Interpreter and Photographer as Eye/Witness to the Inhumane Treatment of Haitians at Guantánamo Bay**

Zachary J. M. Beier & Suzanne Francis-Brown (University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica): **History, Archaeology, and Global Heritage at the Gibraltar Camp, The University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica**

Juan Paz y Mini Cepeda (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito): **El Drama de la Guerra Mundial: Educación y "Listas Negras" en Ecuador**

Erazo Acosta Eduardo (University Nariño, Pasto, Colombia): **Discourse in Post-Conflict in Colombia, Regional Perspectives and Paradoxes, Approaches in International Relations**

Natalia Fernandez Crisorio (Universidad del Cine, Buenos Aires, Argentina): **Espacios, Memoria y Registro. El Registro Audiovisual y Fotográfico de los Espacios de Memoria de la Argentina en el Presente**

Anderson Brettas (Instituto Federal del Triângulo Mineiro, Uberaba, Brazil): **Las Dictaduras Militares Brasileñas (1964 / 1985) y la Paraguaya de A. Stroessner (1954 / 1989): Memorias y Representaciones en la Historia Enseñada de Brasil y Paraguay**





## Wednesday, May 25

An informal writing workshop and seminar with author and former Guantánamo detainee Mohamedou Houbeini intended for students interested in hearing directly from Houbeini and his reflections on matters of writing, restoration and human rights was held at the Center for Inter-American Studies.



## Thursday, May 26

The first event of the conference was held in cooperation with KULTUM Graz. Attendees were welcomed by Florian Traussnig as a representative of KULTUM Graz, Austria and Roberta Maierhofer from the Center for Inter-American of the University of Graz, Austria representing the academic board of the conference.

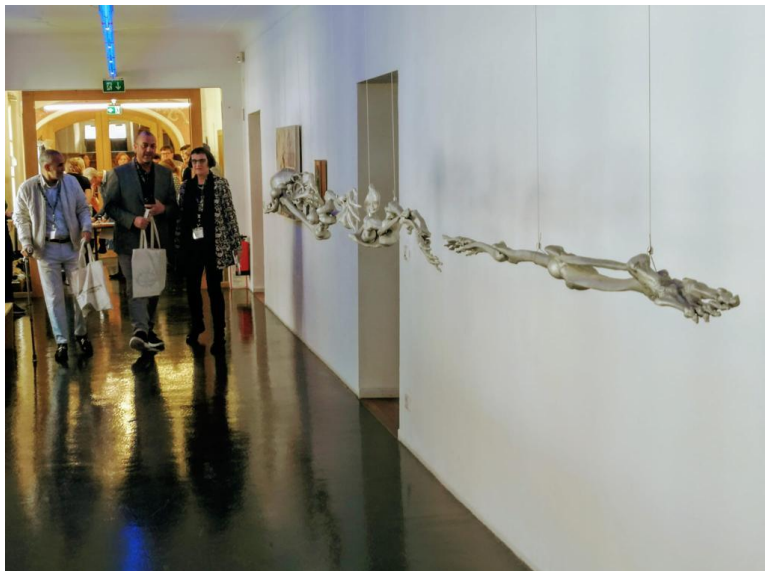
On site, a panel focusing on regional camps in Austria was held. The panel curated by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on War Consequences) was chaired by Christian Cwik from the Center for Inter-American of the University of Graz, Austria.

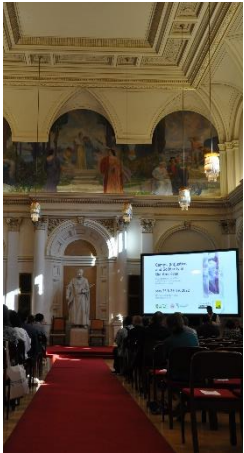
The following presentations were given:

Philipp Lesiak (BIK, University of Graz, Austria): **The Mauthausen Concentration Camp System and its Ramifications in Styria**

Dieter Bacher (BIK, University of Graz, Austria): **Encampment in the Soviet Occupation Zone in Austria. Current State of Research and New Approaches**

Philipp Mettauer (Institute for Jewish History, Austria): **The Lower Austrian Psychiatric Hospital Mauer-Öhling during the National Socialist Era**





The formal opening of the conference was held at the Aula of the University of Graz, moderated by Nicole Haring and Christian Cwik from the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria. Musical interludes were provided by the group Amaru Sunqu, composed of musicians with Latin American, Peruvian, Ecuadorian, Argentinian, Chilean and Bolivian heritage.

The conference participants were welcomed by Josef Smolle, the Representative of the National Council of Styria, and by Elke Heinrichs for Elke Kahr the Mayor of Graz. Acting Rector Peter Riedler from the University of Graz, Austria offered virtual welcome remarks. Helmut Konrad, the conference president from the University of Graz, framed the conference within the contested history of the Americas. Roberta Maierhofer, the Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz and Don E. Walicek from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus officially opened the conference in their function as members of the Academic Board.





Lakhdar Boumediene (Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, France), Ahmed Errachidi (Morocco) and Mohamedou Houbeini (Mauritania, the Netherlands), all writers and former detainees of Guantánamo Bay, offered insight into their perspectives on the significance of the conference, highlighting the importance of discussing the conference topic within an interdisciplinary and open capacity.

Jana Lipman from Tulane University, USA, gave a brief introduction of scholar Noam Chomsky from Arizona State University/MIT, USA, followed by virtual remarks on the history between Cuba, Guantánamo and the United States by Chomsky. The virtual remarks had been recorded in Summer 2021.



Poets Essah Cozett Díaz from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and José Ramón Sánchez Levya from Casa de Cultura, Ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba read poems in English and Spanish revolving around the topics of human rights, injustice and solidarity.

Artist Pamela Calero from Barcelona, Spain gave an art intervention, presenting her installation titled "InJustice"



The conference inauguration ended with an opening lecture held by A. Naomi Paik from the University of Illinois, USA, titled "Guantánamo's Travels: Empire, Imprisonment, Abolition".

The formal opening event was followed by a reception with food and drinks.



## Friday, May 27

The first full day of the conference was opened by a special lecture held by Jana Lipman from Tulane University, USA, titled “The camps are ... little better than prisons” Refugee Camps and Detention in the U.S. Imperial Archipelago”. The afternoon panels were preceded by a special lecture held by José Sánchez Guerra from the Academia de la Historia de Cuba, Cuba, titled “Guantánamo: Terrorismo y Usurpación (1959-1970)”



The following presentations were held on this day:

Jessica Adams (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Extralegal/Hyperlegal: Guantánamo and the Crisis of Empire**

José Ramón Sánchez Levya (Casa de Cultura, Ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba): **Construir Una Base de Poemas (de 'Cómo el Autor es Prisionero de sus Propias Palabras')**

Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Freedom and the Figured Worlds of Guantánamo Bay**

Esther Whitfield (Brown University, USA): **Guantánamo and the Idea of Home**

Jonathan Cortez (Brown University, USA): **The Age of Encampment: The Rise of Federally-Funded Camps in the United States, 1933-1946**

Martin Gabriel (University of Klagenfurt, Austria): **Reducciones de Indios – Imperial Rule, Religious Indoctrination, and Indigenous Resilience in Spanish America**

Florian Traussnig (BIK University of Graz, Austria): **The Machine in the Garden: Camp Hale and its “Mountain Warriors” in World War II**



Christian Cwik (C.I.A.S, University of Graz, Austria): **Austrian Enemy Aliens in Trinidadian Internment Camps, 1940-45**

Jorge Enrique Elias Caro (Universidad del Magdalena, Colombia): **Los Campos de Concentración en Colombia durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial**

Sergio Guerra Vilaboy (Universidad de La Habana, Cuba): **Historia del Reclutorio Cubano de Isla de Pinos y los Prisioneros Alemanes y Japonenses Durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial**

Gale Coskan-Johnson (Brock University in Ontario, Canada): **Posturing, Performing, and Speaking Back: Reading Detainee Resistance**

Teodora Tea Ristevska & Iztok Prezelj (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia): **Democratic Security after 9/11: A Political Discourse Analysis of the US Presidential Speeches on Guantánamo Bay**

Michael J. Strauss (Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques, Paris, France): **From Historical Anecdote to Human Rights Argument: The Dubious Legality of the Private Sector's Role in the Guantánamo Bay Prison**

Maha Hilal (Muslim Counterpublics Lab, USA): **Excluding Guantánamo: Abolition and the Question of Redeemability**

Marco Cabrera Geserick (Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota, USA): **Understanding the Cuban Reconcentración: A View from Latin America**

Fernando Bruquetas de Castro (Universidad Las Palmas, Spain): **Presencia Canaria en la Guerra del 95-98 y en los Preliminares**

Lucia Vieira Vera (Universidad Pontificada de São Paulo, Brazil): **Modalidades de los Campos de Concentración en el Brasil Republicano: el Estado del Arte de la Producción Historiográfica Sobre el Tema**

Jaydy Mir Sira (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras): **Discourses about AIDS and the Detention of HIV Positive Haitians at Camp Bulkeley**

Maritza Stanchich (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Childhood Memories of Imprisonment: Pepón Osorio's 'Badge of Honor' Echoes the Puerto Rican Diaspora's Double Dispossession**

Jan S. Carlo Irizarry (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Love Encapsuled in Walls**

Andrea Strutz (BIK, University of Graz, Austria): **"From Milano to New York by the Way of Hell": Memories of Expulsion from Fascist Italy and Internment in Canada**



## Reading Guantánamo

In the evening, an event titled “Reading Guantánamo” was held. The event, curated and moderated by Don E. Walicek from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and Frederick Reinprecht from the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria, intended to highlight the real-life experiences of former detainees and their literary works. The writers Lakhdar Boumediene (Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, France), Ahmed Errachidi (Morocco) and Mohamedou Houbeini (Mauritania, the Netherlands) attended the event in person, while Mansoor Adafyi (Yemen, Serbia) and Moazzam Begg (United Kingdom) were only able to join virtually due to persistent travel-bans being in place. Students from the University of Graz read excerpts from the writers’s book. The readings were followed by an open discussion of the realities of internment, imprisonment and Guantanamo Bay as a site of human rights violations. The event was streamed online through the conference website. To close the event, a group photo was taken with participants presenting the next poster (7500 Days) of the “GTMO Clock”-project, an initiative of the Close Guantánamo campaign and Shrieking Tree, which aims to raise awareness towards how long the Guantanamo Bay Detention camps have been open.







## Saturday, May 28

The second full day of the conference was opened by a special lecture held by Julia Roth from the University of Bielefeld, Germany, titled “Bodies and Spaces of Exception? Thinking Intersectionalities Translocationally as Interdependent Inequalities”. The afternoon panels were preceded by a special lecture held by Bernhard Docke, the lawyer of former detainee Murat Kurnaz (Germany), who offered insight in the proceedings of this legal case. The lecture was chaired by Lisa Heschl from the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz.

The writers and former detainees of Guantanamo Bay Lakhdar Boumediene (Algeria, Bosnia, France), Ahmed Errachidi (Morocco) and Mohamedou Houbeini (Mauritania, the Netherlands) held a panel together with Don E. Walicek from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus). In this panels, they discussed human rights violations and overlooked issues related to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp.



The following presentations were held on this day:

Jenna Ann Altomonte (Mississippi State University, USA): **Musings from the Cell: Creative Interventions from Spaces of Exception**

Michael Cortés Bernard (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Echoes in Sleepless Nights: Guantánamo Poets Counteract**

Olga Pinjung (University of Szeged, Hungary): **Finding a Tribe in a Hopeless Place: Mansoor Adayfi & Guantánamo Bay**

Lukáš Perutka (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic): **Crime and Punishment as Part of Czech Colonial Narrative**

Omar Granados (University of Wisconsin La Crosse, USA): **Voces Olvidadas del Mariel: Raza, Hospitalidad y Cultura Impresa en el Programa de Bases Militares y Campamentos de Refugiados del Éxodo del Mariel (1980-1982)**

Víctor-Jacinto Flecha (Universidad Nacional de Pilar, Paraguay): **Comisión de Verdad y Justicia de Paraguay (2004-2008). La Investigación de las Violaciones de los Derechos Humanos Durante la Longeva Dictadura 1954-1989**

Alejo Maldonado Gallardo (Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, México): **La Política Exterior del Presidente Lázaro Cárdenas: Derechos Humanos y Autodeterminación de los Pueblos**

Ámbar A. Justo Fernández (Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo UASD): **Amín Abel Hasbún y Sagrario Ercira Díaz: Los hijos ejemplares del Alma Mater. Héroes de la juventud.**

Terri Tomsy (University of Alberta, Canada): **Guantánamo's Future? Memory Activism in the Global War on Terror**

Alexandra Moore (Binghamton University, USA): **Rendition and Representation: Material Witnessing and Performance in the Work of Freda O'Byrne**

Eugenio Geigel (Supreme Court, U.S. Virgin Islands) & Alma Simounet-Bey (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **Puerto Rico, a Nation that Belongs to but is not a Part of: A Human Rights Dilemma for the United States, a Legal and Cultural Anomaly**

Žiga Krajnc (University of Maribor, Slovenia): **Terrorism Frames in Donald Trump's Rhetoric**

Diana Coleman (Northern Arizona University, USA): **The Barzakh Decades: Speaking While Muslim with the Wire in Mind**

Ángela Altagracia Fernández (Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo): **El Batey: De Plaza Ceremonial Indígena a Viviendas Colectivas en los Ingenios Azucareros Dominicanos**

René Villaboy Zaldivar (Universidad de La Habana, Cuba): **La Plantación y el Barracon o la Génesis de los Campos de Concentración en la Historia Atlántica**

Jason T. Eberl (Saint Louis University, USA): **Keeping "those People" off the Streets: Internment Sold as "Sanctuary"**

Patricia L. Brace (Southwest Minnesota State University, USA): **Limited Existence: The Heterotopias of Holograms and Androids in the Star Trek Universe**





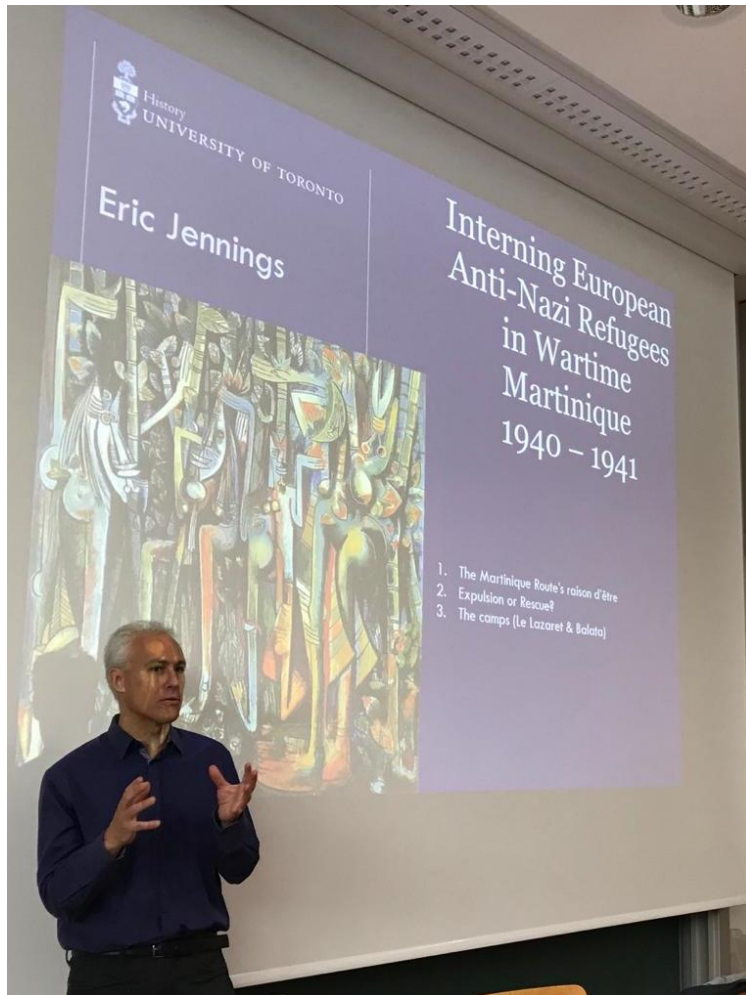
## Mayor's Reception

In the evening, the Mayor of Graz, Elke Kahr, invited the conference participants to a reception at the Graz Town Hall. The participants were greeted by Max Zirngast as the representative of the Communist Party of Graz (KPÖ Graz). As a sign and statement of support for the activities of the conference, the Office of the Mayor of Graz Elke Kahr provided a reception with food and drinks for all participants.



## Sunday, May 29

The final day of the conference was opened by a special lecture held by Eric Jennings from the University of Toronto, Canada, titled "Interning European Anti-Nazi Refugees in Wartime Martinique, 1940-1942".





The following presentations were held on this day:

Georg Schendl (FH Campus Vienna, Austria): **The Stadium, the Ship, La Venda Sexy – Camps under the Rule of Pinochet in Chile**

Mateu Cristina (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina): **Resistencia cultural durante la última dictadura militar en Argentina**

Stefan Manz (Aston University Birmingham, UK): **British Civilian Camps in the Caribbean and Bermuda during World War I**

Beatriz Carolina Crisorio (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina): **Resistencia a la Dictadura Argentina (1976-1983). El Papel de las Organizaciones de Derechos Humanos (Década 1970 Hasta el Presente)**

Sandra Tausel (University of Innsbruck, Austria): **De-Constructing the Dystopian Internment Narrative in Samira Ahmed's Internment**

Dagmar Wallenstorfer (C.IAS, University of Graz, Austria): **Young Adult Literature and Trauma: Narratives on Human Rights and Cultural Trauma of Indigenous Children in Residential Schools in the US and Canada**

Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre University, Italy): **"It's still shaping us in ways we might not realize": Queering the Japanese American Internment through Kiku Hughes' Displacement**

Arwa Elabd (University of Innsbruck, Austria): **Internment Camps Through Children's Eyes**

Yukyko Takahashi Martínez (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain): **Tortura y Contraterrorismo en el Abismo de la Humanidad: Rescatando la Voz de Abu Zubaydah y Mohamedou Ould Slahi**

Miriam Pensack (New York University, USA): **Para Salir del Infierno: Forging Sovereignty within the U.S Immigrant Detention Regime**



## Graz Human Rights Walks

After the final panels had concluded, participants of the conference had the opportunity to go on walking tours through Graz, which were curated in relation to different aspects of human rights.

The following walks were offered:

(1) "Human Rights City Graz: Challenges in Dealing with Diversity in and Uses of Public Spaces"

Guide: Joachim Hainzl (XENOS – NGO to support socio-cultural diversity)

(2) "Religion(s) and Migration in the Human Rights City Graz"

Guide: Barbara Schmiedl (University of Graz/ PPH Augustinum, independent human rights educator)

(3) "Work and Economy in the Human Rights City Graz: Female and International"

Guide: Edith Zitz (inspire – education and participation)



## Closing Event and Art Exhibition: Camps, (In)justice, and Solidarity in the Americas

The conference closing event was held at *Keil Gallery*, an art space of the *Kunstverein Roter Keil* from Graz. Part of the closing was the opening of an art installation focusing on Art from Guantanamo Bay. The exhibition included works created by former detainees Abdualmalik Abud, Mansoor Adayfi, Sabri Al Qurashi, Muhammad Ansi and Ahmed Rabbani. It was curated by *Kunstverein Roter Keil*, namely Eva Prechtel, Johannes Herster, Patrik Hämmerle and Paul Lässer. The exhibition portrayed how art functions as a vehicle for a mental escape from the circumstances of imprisonment. The art exhibited is from painters who began to paint during their imprisonment and by doing so, were able to live a freedom in the medium that was physically forbidden to them. The aim of the exhibition was to add a visual contribution to the conference and to give insight into the circumstances of their imprisonment through the spaces that the painters have created in their pictures. The art shown was created from 2010-2016. The exhibition was open from May to June 2022 at *Keil Gallery*. Mansoor Adayfi joined the closing event virtually to discuss the importance of art and individual expression for detainees and individuals imprisoned.

Poets Essah Cozett Díaz from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and José Ramón Sánchez Levya from Casa de Cultura, Ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba, read poems in English and Spanish revolving around the topics of human rights, injustice and solidarity.

Roberta Maierhofer, the Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria, and Don E. Walicek from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus officially closed the conference in their function as members of the Academic Board.

The closing was followed by a reception with food and drinks.





## Reflection: Ten Post-Conference Takeaways

1. Camps are a relatively constant feature of the landscape of the Caribbean as well as South and North America. They are a global phenomenon that includes but is not limited to military camps, labor camps, prisoner of war camps, concentration camps, migrant camps, refugee camps, and detention camps. Popular discourse links their existence to concerns about security, health, the economy, and justice, and related topics.
2. The institutionalization of camps is intimately connected to the dehumanization of the people who are forced to live in them. The violation of basic human rights can be controversial and sometimes it is covered up; but even in its extreme form it is often normalized. Members of racial minorities and people from the Global South are clearly more vulnerable to these processes than are others.
3. Literature, poetry, film, and art are powerful resources for learning about camps, the history of Guantánamo Bay, and the perspectives of former prisoners and others who are linked to the space. Literature documents abuse and violence at the same time that it preserves stories about solidarity, resistance, and community. This can be seen in a wide variety of works, including short stories in the 2001 volume *The Butterfly's Way* (edited by Edwidge Danticat) and the 2007 collection *Poems from Guantánamo* (edited by Marc Falkoff).
4. Cuban writers have made important contributions to knowledge about the history of Guantánamo Bay. Their work indicates that the many problems that cluster around the base are unlikely to be resolved without the careful contemplation of Cuban perspectives. Among these writers are some from Guantánamo Bay: the historian José Sánchez Guerra and the poet José Ramón Sánchez Levya (both of whom attended the conference) and the fiction writer Ana Luz García Calzada.
5. The five authors who participated in the conference's event 'Reading Guantánamo'—Mohamadeou Ould Slahi, Lakhdar Boumediene, Ahmed Errachidi, Mozzam Begg, and Mansoor Adayfi—repeatedly called for dialogue and reconciliation. They underscored the importance of acknowledging what has happened within the prison as well as the necessity of closing it. A total of 36 men continue to be held there at the time of this writing. Asadullah Haroon Gul, who was held for fifteen years without trial, was released shortly after the conference.

6. Effective closure of the U.S. military prison at Guantánamo requires more than just emptying the remaining camps. It requires a more humane response to the placement, physical and mental needs, and social reintegration of former prisoners as well as the dismantling of the legal and political structures that can facilitate the re-establishment of the prison or other detention facilities.
7. Specific camps sometimes inform the creation of other camps, a reminder that politicians, governments, and corporations share technologies and information about “lessons learned.” We see this at Guantánamo Bay, where the camps established after 9-11 were built out of procedures and metal used to confine tens of thousands of Haitian refugees in the 1990s. We also see it with Australia’s decision to use Guantánamo as a model for its offshore detention operations at Nauru and Manus Island.
8. Problems mirroring detention and incarceration practices at Guantánamo Bay also exist within the continental United States, where, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, almost 2 million people are imprisoned.
9. The prison at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay is often imagined as a lawless place. Lakhdar Boumediene, the lead plaintiff in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Boumediene v. Bush* (2008), positions this narrative in a somewhat different light. As we learned from his testimony, the prison’s operations and many of the violations of basic rights that have taken place there are the result of U.S. jurisprudence. They take place in complex layering of legal decisions, not within a no-man’s land or a realm that is necessarily external to justice.
10. The humanities provide powerful conceptual resources and analytic tools that dramatically bolster our ability to respond to pressing problems, including those that cluster around Guantánamo Bay. They should be used in active and sustained engagement with the public. This work can include research and other forms of analysis that culminate in collaborative public-facing works and bring together students, faculty, and non-academics. Outputs include not only conferences but also op-eds, exhibitions, oral history projects, podcasts, websites, as well as performances and readings.

**Don E. Walicek**  
for the Academic Board  
of the Conference  
“Camps, (In)justice, and Solidarity in the Americas”

## Collaborators and Sponsors

The conference organizers want to thank all of its collaborators, sponsors and supporters.

University of Graz and University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus

European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (Uni-ETC)

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute (BIK) of the University of Graz

KULTUM – Center for Contemporality, Art and Religion in Graz

Keil Gallery Graz & Kultrent

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Treffpunkt Sprachen – Centre for Language, Plurilingualism and Didactics of the University of Graz

Evidence and Imagination (EVI) of the Doctoral Academy of the University of Graz

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