

# Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, and Critical Interventions

The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Graz/Puerto Rico** International  
Conference on Human Rights  
from an Inter-American Perspective

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**May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
University of Graz, Austria

Organized by the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) of the University of Graz  
and the English Department of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus



*We work for*  
**tomorrow**





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## GREETINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dear Conference Participants, Colleagues, Friends, and Other Guests:

We are thrilled that you have joined us and extend to you a very warm welcome. When we developed the idea for this 2<sup>nd</sup> conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective, we had little idea that camps would soon come to take on even more telling roles globally, not only as sites of detention, violation, confinement, and refoulement, but also as contentious symbols of protest and anti-carceral resistance that underscore the need for understanding, dialogue, and enduring peace.

Our first conference, which took place in 2022, marked 20 years of detention at the U.S. military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Many of the discussions there concerned the abuses that made Guantánamo a global symbol of torture, violence, and US imperial power. Some unfolded hope against hope, but the participation of academics, writers, lawyers, poets, and artists assisted in putting the past and present in meaningful dialogue. Especially significant was the participation of five former Guantánamo prisoners—Mansoor Adayfi, Moazzam Begg, Lakhdar Boumedienne, Ahmed Errachidi, and Mohamedou Ould Slahi Houbeini. Their testimonies an anchor that assisted in imagining the future anew, they transformed camps into sites of reflection, learning, and transnational solidarity.

This second conference has a wider scope than the first. It considers a variety of different types of camps from various parts of the planet as well as dynamics of abolitionism, prison education projects, and debates about race, belonging, and borders, among other topics. How can the connections among these assist in mapping a way forward? What roles can an Inter-American perspective that values interdisciplinarity play in effectively responding to current challenges? What new questions deserve attention? And what should we do if we were able to do anything?

This conference underscores creativity and formulating connections as essential tools for dialogue and change. Please, join us in enriching this dialogue during our time together and in continuing it once we return to our respective homes. We are looking forward to an insightful conference!

**The Academic Board and Organizational Committee**

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

	Thursday, May 30 2024	Friday, May 31 2024	Saturday, June 1 2024	Sunday, June 2 2024
9:00 AM		Chair: Don E. Walicek <b>Lecture: Letters from...</b> Mansoor Adayfi, Moazzam Begg, Abdellatif Nasser, Barhoumi Sufyan	Parallel Panels	Parallel Panels
9:30 AM				
10:00 AM				
10:30 AM		Coffee Break/ El Tor Exhibition	Coffee Break/ Poster Presentation	Coffee Break/ Art Exhibition
11:00 AM				
11:30 AM		Parallel Panels	Parallel Panels	Parallel Panels
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM	Local Panel on Regional Camps	Chair: Nicole Haring <b>Lecture:</b> Erica Meiners	Chair: Kurt Hahn <b>Lecture:</b> María José Rubin	Parallel Panels
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM		Coffee Break/ El Tor Exhibition	Coffee Break/ Poster Presentation	Coffee Break/ Art Exhibition
3:30 PM	REGISTRATION	Parallel Panels	Creative Writing Workshop	Chair: Roberta Maierhofer <b>Lecture:</b> Elliot Young
4:00 PM				
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM				Closing of Conference
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM	Opening/Welcome Reception <b>Lecture:</b> Behrouz Boochani	Conference Reception by the Governor of Styria at Burg Graz	Chair: Don E. Walicek <b>Lecture:</b> Alexandra S. Moore	
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM			<b>Writers in Dialogue:</b> Behrouz Boochani and Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini	
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM				

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Location: Graz Museum (Sackstraße 18, 8010 Graz)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Local Panel: Confined Spaces During and After the War: Historical Perspectives on Examples of Camp Structures in Austria 1939 to 1955

Chair: Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)

Dieter Bacher (University of Graz, Austria): **Camps that Did not Exist.** Research on Encampment in the Soviet Zone of Occupation of Austria

Katharina Bergmann-Pfleger (University of Graz, Austria): **Stories of Confinement.** Dissemination Concepts for Histories of Camps in Post-War Lower Austria

Martin Sauerbrey-Almasy (University of Graz, Austria): **Forced Labor and Camps in Graz During the Second World War**



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Location: AULA Magna, University of Graz (Universitätsplatz 3, first floor)

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3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Official Registration

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Welcome Reception:

Moderators: Nicole Haring, Eva Katharina Bauer, and Christina Korak (University of Graz, Austria)

Music: Amaru Sunqu (Grupo Andino Latinoamericano, Perú, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia)

Welcome Remarks:

**Mireille van Poppel** (Vice-Rector of Internationalization, University of Graz, Austria)

**Roberta Maierhofer** (Academic Board of the Conference; University of Graz, Austria) and **Don E. Walicek** (Academic Board of the Conference; University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Opening Remarks:

Introduction: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia): Author of *Don't Forget Us Here* (2021)

Moazzam Begg (United Kingdom): Author of *Enemy Combatant: A British Muslim's Journey to Guantánamo and Back* (2006)

Abdellatif Nasser (Morocco): Creator of Guantánamo's first handwritten bilingual (Arabic-English) dictionary

### Poetry Reading:

José Ramón Sánchez Levya (Casa de Cultura Guantánamo City, Cuba): Poems from Guantánamo (Translations by Esther Whitfield, Brown University, USA)

### Opening Lecture:

Behrouz Boochani (Author of *No Friend but the Mountains*, 2019; *Freedom, Only Freedom*, 2023): **Australia's Banishment of Refugees: Dehumanization and Resistance**

### Conference Reception

FRIDAY, MAY 31

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Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

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9:00 am – 10:30 am

HS 11.01

### Keynote Lecture: Open Letters from Former Guantánamo Prisoners

Chair: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia)

Moazzam Begg (United Kingdom)

Abdellatif Nasser (Morocco)

Barhoumi Sufyian (Algeria) (online)

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee Break & Exhibition El Tor

11:00 am – 12:30 am

HS 11.01

**Panel #1 Borders / Refugees / Abolitionism**

Chair: Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria)

A. Naomi Paik (University of Illinois, USA): **Sanctuary for None: Conservation, Migration, and Border Abolition**

Seema Kazi (Center for Women's Development Studies New Delhi, India): **Assam: Contested Borders and Belonging**

Nicole Haring (University of Graz, Austria): **Abolition/Demolition: An Inter-American Feminist Perspective on Incarceration and Carceral Imaginaries**

HS 12.01

**Panel #2 Art/Writing (in Guantánamo)**

Chair: Carolyn Defrin (University of Graz, Austria)

Elizabeth Swanson (Babson College, USA): **The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath Al-Alwi: Deaf Walls Speak**

Terri Tomsy (University of Alberta, Canada): **Guantánamo Comics: Representing and Resisting Regimes of (In)Visibility**

Michael Reyes Salas (Vassar College, USA): **Subversions of Penal Spectatorship: Critical Visual Literacy to See Past Carceral Illusions**

Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia): **Art at Guantánamo**

HS 12.11

**Panel #3 The Plausible: Guantánamo & Beyond / Lo Possible: Guantánamo & Más Allá**

Chair: Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)

Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): **What Does Memory Mean? Epistemic Disobedience and Detention at Guantánamo Bay**

Diana Murtaugh Coleman (Northern Arizona University, USA): **"I Pity the Country, I Pity the State": The Encamped, the de-Camped, and the Uniformed Through Lines**

Claudia Martínez Hernández (University of Vienna, Austria): **Guantánamo in My Life**

José Ramón Sánchez Leyva (Poet from Guantánamo City, Cuba): **Dos Encierros**

**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

HS 11.01

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Nicole Haring (University of Graz, Austria)

Erica Meiners (Northeastern Illinois University, USA): **A Queer Struggle: Abolition Feminism Against Empire**

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break & Exhibition El Tor

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

HS 11.01

**Panel #4 Places of Exile, Places of Activism: Rethinking the Refugee Camp and the Politics of Empire in Cuba, Central America, and the Philippines**

Chair: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Esther Whitfield (Brown University, USA): **Activism in Cuban Refugee Journals: Guantánamo, 1994-1996**

Omar Granados (University of Wisconsin La Crosse, USA): **Forgotten Voices of Mariel: Race and Marielito Publications during the Mariel Refugee Camp Program (1980-1982)**

Tanya Harmer (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK): **Refuge in Revolution: Colonias and Camps in Cuba for Uruguayan and Chilean Exiles** (online)

Jana Lipman (Tulane University, USA): **Palawan: Vietnamese Diasporic Activism and Imaginaries** (online)

HS 12.01

**Panel #5 Hunger Strikes**

Chair: Artiola Kajtazi (University of Graz, Austria)

Michelle C. Velasquez-Potts (University of Oklahoma, USA): **Force-Feeding and the Suspended Animation of Torture**

Krista M. Turner & Bruce Pearson (Western Michigan University, USA): **Prisoner Resistance: Visualizing Strategic Hunger Strikes in Contemporary Graphic Novels**

Angelica Camacho (San Francisco State University, USA): **Unbroken Spirit: SHU Prisoner Hunger Strikes and the Promise of Rebirth**

HS 12.11

**Panel #6 Camps, Internment & Justice**

Chair: Simon Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)

Pierluigi Bolioli (University of Pisa, Italy): **The Internment of Italian Enemy Aliens in British West Indies During WWII**

Panteleimon Tsiokos (Western University Ontario, Canada): **Japanese American WWII Internment: Contemporary (Re)Examinations of the U.S. Transitional Justice** (*online*)

Christian Cwik (University of Graz, Austria): **In and Outside the Camp: Fred Fischer's Photographs from the Internment Camp in Bonaire**

Pedro Reina Pérez (University of Puerto Rico): **Building for Freedom: Thoughts on Cultural Education and Higher Education for Imprisoned Adults in Puerto Rico** (*online*)

SR 11.13

**Panel #7 Camps, WWII, & Literature**

Chair: Mirna Cobanovic (University of Graz, Austria)

Lena Leßlumer (University of Salzburg, Austria): **I Was at Peace When I Left: Reading Holocaust Survivor R. Klüger's Life Writing Landscapes of Memory (2004)**

Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre University, Italy): **Bombshells United and Japanese American Internment in Mainstream Comics**

Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria): **Camps and Refuge for the Displaced: Seeking Traces in Bad Gastein**

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Location: Burg Graz (Weißer Saal, Hofgasse 15, 8010 Graz)

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6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Conference Reception by the Governor of Styria

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

9:00 am – 10:30 am

HS 11.01

**Panel #8 Spaces, Art & Human Rights**

Chair: Carolyn Defrin (University of Graz, Austria)

Ángela Harris Sánchez (Granada University, Spain): **F(r)ictional Spaces of Historical Desires: Seeking Reparation beyond Aesthetical Narratives of History**

Jonathan Cortez (The University of Texas at Austin, USA): **How Camps Change; Or Identifying a Process of Spatial Scripts**

Olga Kajtár-Pinjung (University of Szeged, Hungary): **Enmification of Guantánamo Bay Detainees by the Bush Administration**

HS 11.02

**Panel #9 Los Campamentos y Lo Carcelario en América Latina (ARGENTINA - años 70 - LA DICTADURA)**

Chair: Norah Giraldi Dei Cas (Université de Lille, France)

Norah Giraldi Dei Cas (Université de Lille, France): **Modalidades y Sentidos del Suspenso en los Cuadernos de la Cárcel de Alicia Kozameh**

Isabelle Pouzet Michel (Universidad Littoral Côte d'Opale, France): **"Vientos de Rotación Perpendicular" y "Bosquejo de Alturas" de Alicia Kozameh Abordados Desde el Prisma de la Literatura de los Campos**



Sylvie Mongin-Algan & Gabriela Alarcón Fuentes (Theater Director; Actress/Director from France/Ecuador):

**Taller- Realización '30'**

HS 11.03

**Panel #10 Intervenciones Críticas y Recomendaciones Sobre Personas que Han Sido Encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

Chair: Tania García (University of Puerto Rico)

Yadiel López Sánchez (University of Puerto Rico): **Leyes Estatales, Federales y Políticas Sobre la Reinserción Laboral de Personas que Han Sido Encarceladas**

Aby García Ortiz (University of Puerto Rico): **Proyectos de Ley y Educativos para la Reinserción Laboral de Personas que Han Sido Encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

José D. Ayala Cruz (University of Puerto Rico): **Discrimen y Racismo por Parte de los Patronos Hacia Personas que Han Sido Encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

Tania García (University of Puerto Rico): **Recomendaciones e Intervenciones Críticas para la Reinserción Laboral de Personas que Han Sido Encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

SR 11.12

**Panel #11 Violence / Memory / Reckoning**

Chair: Chiara Pagano (University of Graz, Austria)

Catherine Lennartz (Boston University, USA): **Public Memory, Reconciliation, and Canada's Residential Schools**

Christina Korak & Rafael Schögler (University of Graz, Austria): **Civilized Christians or Victims of Ethnocide: Impacts on Identity and Territory of the Amazonian Waorani**

Malek Hardan Mohammad (American University of Kuwait): **Biopolitics, Conspiracism, and the Right-Wing “Camping” of the Quarantine/Reception Facilities**

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee Break & Poster Presentations

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

HS 11.01

**Panel #12 Guantánamo and the Arts of Resistance**

Chair: Frithjof Nungesser (University of Graz, Austria)

Frithjof Nungesser (University of Graz, Austria): **Defying Guantánamo: How Inmates Resist Indefinite Detention and Torture**

Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany): **The Symbolic Significance of the Orange Jumpsuit: Power, Meaning, and Resistance**

Sebastian Köthe (Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland): **Art from and after Guantánamo. Confronting, Criticizing and Evading Torture**

HS 11.02

**Panel #13 AI Surveillance, Prediction, and Risk Analysis in European Border Camps and Migration Governance**

Chair: Laura Jung (University of Graz, Austria)

Lydia Emmanouilidou (Independent Journalist Boston, USA): **AI and Automated Technologies at Europe's Refugee Camps and External Borders**

Alexandra Karaïskou (European University Institute, Italy): **Panopticon Revisited: Hyperion, Centaur, and the New Surveillance Practices in Greece's Refugee Camps**

Niovi Vavoula (University of Luxembourg): **Biometric Surveillance and Detention: The Dark Side of Interoperable IT Systems**

Jenna Altomonte & Todd Rowan (Mississippi State University; University of New Orleans, USA): **Atmospheric Encounters: Sousveillance, Networked Activism, and Carceral Interventions**

HS 11.03

**Panel #14 Critical Approaches to the Carceral**

Chair: Julia Prochinig (University of Graz, Austria)

Viktoria Lavriniuk (ENS de Lyon, France): **The Gendered Organizing of Carceral Liminality in a Total Institution: The Case of Belarus (online)**

Julia Roth (Bielefeld University, Germany): **"I Used to Watch Shows Like Law and Order": Camp Writing and Legal Imaginaries**

Anthony James Williams (University of California, USA) & Anthony Ammons Jr. (Juvenile Lifer, California, USA): **In/Convenience: Discretionary Power & Ethnoracism in California Solitary Confinement**

SR 11.12

**Panel #15 Bosquejo de Alturas’ – Palabra, Traducción y Memoria (ARGENTINA - años 70 - LA DICTADURA)**

Chair: Erna Pfeiffer (University of Graz, Austria)

Erna Pfeiffer (University of Graz, Austria): **Procesos de Traducción – Encierro, Movimiento y Comunicación Subterránea**

Alicia Kozameh (Chapman University, USA): **‘Bosquejo de Alturas’ – Reflejos y Experiencias**

Valerie Simbriger (University of Graz, Austria): **La Contribución de Alicia Kozameh para una Cultura de Memoria – el Ejemplo de ‘Bosquejo de Alturas’**

Sarah Kristian & Maëlys Meyer (Actress and Sound Artist from France; Documentary Filmmaker from France): **Testimonios y Germinación Múltiple**

**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

HS 11.01

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Kurt Hahn (University of Graz, Austria)

María José Rubin (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina): **Centros Universitarios en Cárceles de Argentina: Escritura, Organización y Defensa de Derechos**

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break & Poster Presentations

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

HS 11.01 / SR 11.12 / SR 11.13

Creative Writing Workshop (sign-up required)

Jacqueline Jiang Chieu (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini (Author of *Guantánamo Diary*, 2015, 2017; *The Actual True Story of Ahmmed & Zarga*, 2021)

Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

HS 11.01

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Alexandra S. Moore (Binghamton University, USA): **Witnessing Public Secrets: Guantánamo in the Global War on Terror**

7:15 pm – 7:30 pm

Break

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

HS 11.01

Writers in Dialogue

Moderators: Don E. Walicek and Alexandra S. Moore

Behrouz Boochani (Author of *No Friend but the Mountains*, 2019; *Freedom, Only Freedom*, 2023)

Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini (Author of *Guantánamo Diary*, 2015, 2017; *The Actual True Story of Ahmmed & Zarga*, 2021)

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

9:00 am – 10:30 am

HS 11.01

**Panel #16 Confinamiento, Campamentos & Migración**

Chair: Aris Douglas Chavarrias (University of Graz, Austria)

José Sánchez Guerra (Academy of History of Cuba): **Centro Especial de Rehabilitación del Oriente de Cuba (1960-1964)**

Jorge Graterole & Waldemiro Vélez Cardona (University of Puerto Rico): **Hacia la Educación Transdisciplinaria y Decolonial en el Sistema Carcelario: Pensar la Rehabilitación de la Personas Privadas de Libertad Desde la Radicalidad Socio Humanística**

Soukaina Boukhar (University Claude Bernard Lyon, France): **Exploring the Ethics and Implications of Biometric Identification in Refugee Camps**

HS 11.02

**Panel #17 Book Presentation Panel: Abolitionism, Political Violence and Solidarity: Critical Feminist Interventions from the Americas**

Chair: Julia Roth (Bielefeld University, Germany)

Sandra Heidl (Founder of Afrocubanas, Cuba/Germany)

Lígia Fabris (Yale University; Rio de Janeiro Law School of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil)

HS 11.03

**Panel #18 Freedom, Captivity, & Literary Analysis (a Focus on Guantánamo Bay)**

Chair: Eva Bauer (University of Graz, Austria)

Caroline M. Suárez Rodríguez (University of Puerto Rico): **Incarceration and Performance: An Analysis of Domination and Resistance in *The General: The Ordinary Man Who Challenged Guantánamo* by Ahmed Errachidi**

Jacqueline Jiang Chieu (University of Puerto Rico): **Confinement, Rights, and Historical Narratives: Chinese Indentured Laborers in Cristina García's *Monkey Hunting* and *The Cuba Commission Report***

Wilfredo R. Santiago Hernández (University of Puerto Rico): **Assembling the Dissimilar: A Glissantian Approach to Poetry about Guantánamo Bay**

Yoseph Villafañe Rivera (University of Puerto Rico): **For [What] God and Country: Humanity and Alterity and James Yee's Memoir**

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee Break & Guantánamo Art Exhibition



11:00 am – 12:30 pm

HS 11.01

**Panel #19 Human Rights: What To Do?**

Chair: Diana Murtaugh Coleman (Northern Arizona University, USA)

Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia)

Moazzam Begg (United Kingdom)

Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini (Mauritania, the Netherlands)

Abdellatif Nasser (Morocco)

HS 11.02

**Panel #20 Carceral Literature**

Chair: Julia Prochinig (University of Graz, Austria)

Luke Bresky (St. Mary's University, Canada): **Carceral Gaze and Emancipated Vision: Lydia Id's *Letters From New York***

Atalie Gerhard (Trier University; Saarland University, Germany): **Confining Extremism: The Role of North American Carceral Imaginaries in the Prison Memoirs of Susan Rosenberg and Ann Hansen**

Sandra Tausel (University of Innsbruck, Austria): **'All Stories in This Play Are True:' Reading France-Luce Benson's Detainment as a Living Document of Detention and Deportation**

HS 11.03

**Panel #21 Encampments in the EU: The Implementation of Hotspot Approach in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean**

Chair: Deniz Yüksek (Izmir University of Economics, Turkey)

Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria): **Migration Management as Extrastatecraft: The EU Hotspots as Infrastructure Spaces of Filtering**

Chiara Pagano (University of Graz, Austria): **The Spatiality of the Hotspot Approach in Italy: Between Facilities' Invisibilization and Migrant Persons' Mobilization**

Artemis Fyssa (University of Graz, Austria): **The Hotspot Approach in Greece: The Infrastructure Space of Filtering at the Eastern Mediterranean Borderscape**

Alaa Dia (University of Basel, Switzerland): **Shifting Border Strategies: The Carceral-Humanitarian Borders at the Aegean Island**

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

HS 11.01

**Panel #22 Confinement, Protest, & the State**

Chair: Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria)

Brendan Hornbostel (George Washington University, USA): **From Protest Camp to Labor Camp: The 1932 Bonus March as a Counterinsurgent Laboratory of New Deal Statecraft**

Teodora Tea Ristevska & Iztok Prezelj (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia): **Unlocking Justice: The Impact of Human Rights Lawyers at Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp**

Muir McCammon (Tulane University, USA): **Resisting Guantánamo Bay from Afar: Student Activists and the Shadow of the U.S. National Security State**

HS 11.02

**Panel #23 Camps and / as Prisons in the EU**

Chair: Monika Mokre (University of Vienna, Austria)

Monika Mokre (University of Vienna, Austria): **Prisons: Symbolic Politics with Human Victims**

Klaudia Wieser (University of Innsbruck, Austria): **Invisible Prison? Pre-Deportation in the Austrian Countryside**

Nidžara Ahmetašević (University of Graz, Austria): **Camps as Technologies of Exclusion by Care**

Manja Petrovska (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands): **Humanitarian Actors Legitimizing Incarceration**

HS 11.03

**Panel #24 Deconstructing The Wall / El Muro: Settler Colonialism, Border Militarization & Indigenous Peoples' Responses to Military Industrial Complex**

Chair: Margo Tamez (New York University, USA)

Margo Tamez (New York University, USA): **Narrative Ndé Poetics |||| in |||| Walled |||| Homelands ||||** (*online*)

Ramón Resendiz (University of Texas, USA): **Archival Resistance Beyond Borders, Walls & Settler Colonial Visuality**

Rosalva Resendiz (The University of British Columbia, Canada): **Critical Reflections from the Border of an Identity**

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break & Guantánamo Art Exhibition

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

HS 11.01

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)

Elliott Young (Lewis & Clark College, USA): **Resistance to Detention: Cuban Mariel Refugees Prison Uprisings**

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Closing of Conference

## KEYNOTE LECTURERS - ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

BEHROUZ BOOCHANI

### **Australia's Banishment of Refugees: Dehumanization and Resistance**

The government of Australia has banished refugees to Papua New Guinea's Manus Island and Nauru, an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, establishing prison camps designed to dehumanize detainees in both of these sites. This presentation will discuss the operation of this offshore detention system, some of my experiences as a prisoner-detainee at Manus Island, and how I and others held there have resisted it. The impact that the policies and practices associated with indefinite detention have had on political culture and Australia's role as a model for other countries, including the United Kingdom, will also be discussed.

**Behrouz Boochani** is an award-winning Kurdish-Iranian writer, journalist, scholar, cultural advocate and filmmaker. He currently serves as an Associate Professor in Social Sciences at UNSW and is a non-resident Visiting Scholar at the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMiC) at the University of Sydney. Boochani is an Honorary Member of PEN International and has received numerous awards for his contributions to journalism, including the Amnesty International Australia 2017 Media Award, the Diaspora Symposium Social Justice Award, and the Anna Politkovskaya award. His memoir *No Friend But the Mountains* (Pan Macmillan 2018, trans. Omid Tofighian) was written during his seven years of incarceration by the Australian government in Papua New Guinea's Manus Island prison. His new book, *Freedom, Only Freedom*, was published by Bloomsbury in November 2022.

## Open Letters from Former Guantánamo Prisoners

This panel will begin with the presentation of open letters or testimonies by four former Guantánamo prisoners from a variety of different backgrounds. Their presentations will be complemented by horizontal dialogue and followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

**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** is a British-born Muslim, he is a former Guantánamo 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 Guantánamo, 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 in settings such as 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*.

**Abdellatif Nasser** was born and raised in Casablanca City, Morocco. After graduating from high school in mathematical science, he studied at the University of Science. For nearly twenty years, between 2002 and 2021, he was detained at the U.S. detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He was never charged with a crime or tried, but like many others, he was repeatedly interrogated, tortured, and

force-fed. He turned to hunger strikes because they were the only means by which he could resist soldiers' harassment and arbitrary detention. He emerged as a block leader and for years pushed for educational opportunities for his fellow detainees. This led to his nickname, "the Minister of Education." His story was widely covered in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and in the 6-part NPR series "The Other Latif." As noted in some of these reports, during his incarceration he created a handwritten bilingual (Arabic-English) dictionary that consisted of about 2,000 entries. In the two and a half years since his release, he has studied independently and completed different online courses in a variety of subjects.

**Barhoumi Sufyian** is from Algeria. He was held in extrajudicial detention at the US naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba for almost twenty years. There he earned a reputation for his good humor, his empathy for those who suffered, and the strong command of English that he acquired during his incarceration. His repatriation from Guantánamo Bay was arranged during the Obama administration but then delayed for about five years. He was reunited with his family in 2022; however, his subjection to various forms of suffering that were induced by his incarceration at Guantánamo is ongoing.

ERICA MEINERS

Northeastern Illinois University, USA

### A Queer Struggle: Abolition Feminism Against Empire

Gender and sexual harm - particularly targeting women and children - continues to be a globally reliable pretext for the expansion and consolidation of empire and carcerality. Targeted for punishment, and often elimination, queer communities are at the forefront of both exposing these fictions of “state protection” and imagining and building other forms of material safety outside of policing and imprisonment. This talk flags the imperative of challenging the persistence of carceral feminism and also amplifies grassroots and global practices of abolition feminism.

Writer, educator and organizer, **Erica R. Meiners**' current books include *For the Children? Protecting Innocence in a Carceral State* (University of Minnesota 2016), a co-edited anthology *The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences, Working Towards Freedom* (Haymarket Press 2018); the co-authored *Feminist and the Sex Offender: Confronting Sexual Harm, Ending State Violence* (Verso 2020); and the co-authored *Abolition. Feminism. Now.* (Haymarket 2022). Meiners collaboratively started and works alongside others in a range of ongoing mobilizations for liberation, particularly movements that involve access to free public education for all, including people during and after incarceration, and other queer abolitionist struggles. A member of Critical Resistance, the Illinois Death in Custody Project, the Prison+Neighborhood Arts / Education Project, and the Education for Liberation Network, Erica is a sci-fi fan, an avid runner, and a lover of bees and cats.



MARÍA JOSÉ RUBIN

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **Centros Universitarios en Cárceles de Argentina: Escritura, Organización y Defensa de Derechos**

Esta presentación abrevia de mi experiencia como integrante del Programa de Extensión en Cárceles de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad de Buenos Aires, que dicta y coordina talleres extracurriculares y actividades académicas en centros universitarios en cárceles de Argentina. Quienes integramos el programa trabajamos para la defensa del acceso a derechos y consideramos que la educación puede habilitar condiciones para la construcción de espacios según lógicas diferentes de las que impone la institución penal. Nuestros talleres hacen foco en la escritura y la publicación como instancias de aprendizaje y creación colectiva. Mediante dinámicas horizontales de trabajo, buscamos favorecer la autonomía de los y las participantes, que son autores y autoras de los textos publicados, tanto como editores y editoras de las publicaciones en las que los reproducimos. Mediante la lectura de sus páginas, propongo explorar la práctica pedagógica y la vida universitaria en contextos de encierro convocando las voces de sus estudiantes.

**María José Rubin** is an editor, professor, and researcher in Literature at the University of Buenos Aires. For over ten years, she has worked as an educator at the Prison Extension Program—Programa de Extensión en Cárceles, School of Philosophy and Letters, University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. As part of this program, she coordinates the Editing Collective Workshop, a course that produces several publications dedicated to circulate the writing of incarcerated students. She is a member of the Prison Writing National Meeting organization committee and develops academic research on prison writing, publication, and education. She has published papers on these topics and is co-author of *Escribir en la cárcel. Prácticas y experiencias de lectura y escritura en contextos de encierro*, a book on reading and writing practices in prison. As part of the Prison Extension Program activities, she works at a project called “La Segunda,” which provides educational guidance to students who were formerly incarcerated.

ALEXANDRA S. MOORE

Binghamton University, USA

### Witnessing Public Secrets: Guantánamo in the Global War on Terror

In seeking to avoid legal accountability and to control the narrative of Guantánamo's ongoing role in the "war on terror," the U.S. government and its representatives have turned frequently to the language of secrecy and state privilege and their attendant devices such as censorship, redaction, and euphemism. This paper first examines theories of public secrets, of "knowing what not to know," for their window into the operations of state power. The paper then turns to forms of witnessing and cultural representation that do not so much disclose secrets as dismantle the structure of the public secret itself.

**Alexandra S. 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 seven 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.

### Resistance to Detention: Cuban Mariel Refugees Prison Uprisings

In 1987, more than 2400 Cuban refugees in indefinite detention in the Atlanta Penitentiary and an Oakdale, Louisiana detention center, seized the prisons, and demanded individual reviews of their cases and a moratorium on being deported to Cuba. These Cubans had arrived to the United States in 1980 as part of the Mariel Boatlift, and while in the United States, they had committed crimes. After serving their sentences, they were ordered deported to Cuba, but given the breakdown in relations between the two countries, they could not be sent there. Instead, they languished in indefinite detention for years with no possibility of ever gaining release. When news spread in November 1987 that they would be returned to Cuba, the detainees seized the prison facilities along with more than 100 hostages. The prison takeovers were just one dramatic moment in a longer history of Cuban detainee resistance to unjust incarceration, including lengthy hunger strikes and peaceful protests within prison walls. What can we learn from these prison uprisings and other forms of protest about the possibility and limitation of detainee organizing and resistance?

**Elliott Young** is Professor in the History Department at Lewis and Clark College. Professor Young is the author of *Forever Prisoners: How the United States Made the World's Largest Immigrant Detention System*, *Alien Nation: Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era through WWII*, and *Catarino Garza's Revolution on the Texas-Mexico Border*, as well as co-editor of *Continental Crossroads: Remapping US-Mexico Borderlands History*. He is co-founder of the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, the Migration Scholar Collaborative (MiSC) and the Migration and Asylum Lab (MAL) at Stanford University. He has also provided expert witness testimony for over 600 asylum cases.

## POETS AND WRITERS - ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

JOSÉ RAMÓN SÁNCHEZ LEVYA

### Poems from Guantánamo

**José Ramón Sánchez Leyva** es autor de los siguientes libros: *Aislada noche* (2005), *Marabú* (2012), *El derrumbe* (2012), *22* (2017) y *Talibán* (2018). Es editor de la revista *La Noria*. Compiló en 2017 la antología bilingüe (español-portugués) de poesía cubana contemporánea *Nocaute: 6 Poetas Cuba Hoje*. Trabaja como Instructor de Literatura de la Casa de Cultura Municipal. Actualmente vive en su ciudad natal, Ciudad de Guantánamo.

**José Ramón Sánchez Leyva** is the author of the following books: *Aislada noche* (2005), *Marabú* (2012), *El derrumbe* (2012), *22* (2017), and *Talibán* (2018). He is editor of the journal *La Noria*. In 2017, he compiled the bilingual (Spanish-Portuguese) of contemporary Cuban poetry *Nocaute: 6 Poetas Cuba Hoje*. He is an instructor of literature at Casa de Cultura Municipal. He currently lives in the place of his birth, Guantánamo City.

BEHROUZ BOOCHANI & MOHAMEDOU OULD SLAHI-HOUBEINI

### Writers in Dialogue

In this session, the two featured authors will respond to questions about common themes in their work, including meditations on human dignity, language, freedom, and experiences of incarceration. They will have the chance to engage one another and comment on each others' work. The session will address questions about memoir, what they are reading, as well as the relationship between Guantánamo and Manus Island.

**Behrouz Boochani** is an award-winning Kurdish-Iranian writer, journalist, scholar, cultural advocate and filmmaker. He currently serves as an Associate Professor in Social Sciences at UNSW and is a non-resident Visiting Scholar at the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMiC) at the University of Sydney. Boochani is an Honorary Member of PEN International and has received numerous awards for his contributions to journalism, including the Amnesty International Australia 2017 Media Award, the Diaspora Symposium Social Justice Award, and the Anna Politkovskaya award. His memoir *No Friend But the Mountains* (Pan Macmillan 2018, trans. Omid Tofighian) was written during his seven years of incarceration by the Australian government in Papua New Guinea's Manus Island prison. His new book, *Freedom, Only Freedom*, was published by Bloomsbury in November 2022.

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

## LIST OF PANELS, ABSTRACTS, AND BIOGRAPHIES

### LOCAL PANEL

#### **Confined Spaces During and After the War: Historical Perspectives on Examples of Camp Structures in Austria 1939 to 1955**

During the 20th century, many different forms of camps—all of which functioned as spaces of confinement—existed within the territory of what is today Austria. While they were set up and used by different state and non-state actors, they had different purposes but often isolated and interned different groups or segments of society. Such structures were usually small spaces controlled by an outside power within which inmates that shared at least one common characteristic were held. Many of them also had a development history that spans across more than one political system, making camps also, to a certain degree, a continuity in infrastructure and historical memory on a local level. Austria was during the 20th century a “land of camps”. This panel will describe examples of types of camps that existed during and after World War II, paying special attention to those that not yet been subject to in-depth research. Based on recent research projects conducted at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War in Graz, the three presentations focus on camps for forced laborers in the city of Graz and camps in the Soviet zone of occupation in post-war Austria. Martin Sauerbrey-Almasy’s presentation will show aspects of his recent research on civilian forced laborers in Graz and their accommodation and living conditions, and the roles of camp structures. Dieter Bacher will share insights into a “work in progress”, a research project on the Soviet zone of occupation after 1945 that started in 2022. Katharina Bergmann-Pfleger will focus on the role camp studies can play in connection with local memory and heritage, presenting concepts for dissemination in camp studies. Common topics will be the identification and documentation of camp structures, types and defining aspects of camps and documentation, and possible approaches for historical research. With this, the presentations will try to give answers to the question of to what extent Austria has a “historical heritage of camps”.

**Dieter Bacher (University of Graz, BLK, Austria): Camps that Did not Exist. Research on Encampment in the Soviet Zone of Occupation of Austria**

**Dieter Bacher** is a historian who studied history (with focus on Eastern and Southeastern Europe) and Slavic studies (Russian) at the University of Graz, Austria. He now is a research fellow and project coordinator at the Ludwig Boltzmann-Institute for the research of consequences of war and since 2005 also freelancer at the “Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies” in Graz. Since 2015 he also is a “Young Science-Ambassador” in the “Young Science”-project of the Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation “Österreichischer Austauschdienst” (OEAD) in Vienna as well as co-editor of the “Journal of Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies” (JIPSS). Bacher is a coordinator and researcher in the project “Activities of Czechoslovak intelligence services in Austria in the Central European context 1948–1960. networks – operations – impact,” funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and since 2022 member of the organizer’s committee of the international intelligence research network “Need to Know.” Since 2022, he has been the coordinator of the project “Encampment in the Soviet zone of occupation in Austria. Post-war history and memory” funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), with his main research topics being Soviet and Czechoslovakian intelligence services and operations in post-war Austria 1945 to 1955, intelligence services in Austria during the Cold War, forced labour in today’s Austria 1939 to 1945 and DP camps and refugee camps in post-war Austria 1945 to 1955.

**Katharina Bergmann-Pfleger (University of Graz, Austria): Stories of Confinement. Dissemination Concepts for Histories of Camps in Post-War Lower Austria**

**Katharina Bergmann-Pfleger** is a Research Associate at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War. She earned her PhD in German Philology with honors from the University of Vienna, focusing on the history of the University Library of Graz during 1938–1945. Her academic pursuits also include a diplomate with honors in German Philology from Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz. Bergmann-Pfleger’s research interests encompass Austrian institutional and corporate history, library history during the Nazi era, and provenance research. She has contributed to various research projects, publications, and presentations, demonstrating her dedication to historical scholarship.

## **Martin Sauerbrey-Almasy (University of Graz, Austria): Forced Labor and Camps in Graz During the Second World War**

**Martin Sauerbrey-Almasy**, a Research Associate at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War, specializes in Digital Humanities, forced laborers in Austria (1939–1945), Lower Styria's history (19th–20th centuries), and nationalism. Formerly at Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, he contributed to the FWF project P-28950: "Postcarding Lower Styria: Nation, Language, and Identities on Picture Postcards (1885–1920)." He co-curated the exhibition "Štajermark – Postkarten der historischen Untersteriermark / Razglednice zgodovinske Spodnje Štajerske 1890–1919." A member of the Centre for Military Studies since 2011, he has presented scholarly work at conferences and institutions such as GrazMuseum and Narodna in Univerzitetna Knjižnica Ljubljana.

### PARALLEL PANELS

#### PANEL #1

## **A. Naomi Paik (University of Illinois, USA): Sanctuary for None: Conservation, Migration, and Border Abolition**

In this presentation, I build on my previous work that called for an abolitionist approach to sanctuary, one that brings together sanctuary's radical welcome of anyone without exception to abolition's revolutionary project that seeks to tear down oppressive systems, like camps and prisons, and build "life-affirming" institutions in their place. Here, I focus on migration through the Sonoran Desert, which traverses the US-Mexico border, and where thousands of migrants have suffered injury and death as a result of US border policies, like "prevention through deterrence." Much of Sonoran Desert is demarcated as "protected areas" for conservation purposes—to preserve its fragile ecosystem and the unique other-than-human lives, some endangered, who make their homes there. I examine how US foreign, economic, and border policies have transformed these spaces of the Sonoran Desert from an ostensible sanctuary for nature into a space of injury and death—not only against migrants targeted by the state for expulsion and exclusion, but also against the very landscape protected areas seek to conserve, as border walls, surveillance technologies, and guard forces destroy the landscape and habitat. I examine how conventional, "fortress-style" approaches to conservation fail to achieve their purported goals because they not only are overridden by the US security state, but they also replicate the bordered enclosures of the territorial nation-state. Because ecological devastation and migrant oppression share root causes in capitalism and the border regimes whose main purpose is to ensure the global inequalities



essential to capitalist accumulation, they share grounds for the joint struggle to honor life—human and other-than-human, as well as the air, land, and water essential for life. I argue that an abolitionist sanctuary offers ways of connecting solidarity movements for environmental and migrant justice and building a world where sanctuary exists everywhere, for all life.

**A. Naomi Paik** is the author of *Bans, Walls, Raids, Sanctuary: Understanding U.S. Immigration for the 21st Century* (2020) and *Rightlessness: Testimony and Redress in U.S. Prison Camps since World War II* (2016; winner, Best Book in History, AAAS 2018; runner-up, John Hope Franklin prize for best book in American Studies, ASA, 2017). Her next project, "Sanctuary for All," calls for the most capacious conception of sanctuary that brings together migrant and environmental justice. She has co-edited four special issues of *Radical History Review*—"Militarism and Capitalism" (Winter 2019), "Radical Histories of Sanctuary" (Fall 2019), "Policing, Justice, and the Radical Imagination" (Spring 2020), and "Alternatives to the Anthropocene" (Winter 2023). She co-edits the "Borderlands" section of *Public Books* and "The Politics of Sanctuary" blog sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. She is an associate professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a member of the Migration Scholars Collaborative and Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine.

**Seema Kazi (Center for Women's Development Studies, India): Assam: Contested Borders and Belonging**

This presentation focuses on the politics of borders, camps and carceral imaginations in India's north-eastern state of Assam. There is substantive literature and a considerable focus on containment practices in borderland conflict zones yet relatively lesser attention has been devoted to practices of exclusion and dispossession of Assam's Bengali Muslims. I begin the presentation with a brief background of Assam's history followed by highlighting the state's attempts to identify what it terms Bangladeshis, illegal citizens or foreigners undeserving of claims to citizenship, residence or belonging. Using a combination of scholarship, independent reports and family testimonies with interned kin, the presentation foregrounds the emergence of detention and internment camps to house those it deems stateless. The presentation demonstrates the convergence between history, nationalism and carceralisation in Assam.

**Seema Kazi** is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) New Delhi. Her areas of research include gender, governance, conflict, women and politics, and cultural studies. Among her publications are *Between Democracy and Nation: Gender and Militarization in Kashmir* (Oxford University Press 2010) and an edited volume *Gender and Governance: Studies from South Asia* (Zubaan 2018).

**Nicole Haring (University of Graz, Austria): Abolition/Demolition: An Inter-American Feminist Perspective on Incarceration and Carceral Imaginaries**

Drawing on feminist abolition works from Angela Davis to Verónica Gago, this paper aims at theoretically engaging with feminist abolitionism from an Inter-American perspective, which highlights the intrinsic nature between the Americas and Europe by showcasing how our collective imagination needs to be disrupted by abolitionist and demolitionist (Bröck 2018) notions to “be able to practice authentic accountability, in communities of care” (Brown 2023, xviii). Thinking with futuristic works of writers such as Octavia Butler and Ursula Le Guin, it is an attempt to draw up a potential framework to highlight the inter-regional dependencies throughout the Americas and my locality in Europe. Zooming in on the specific localities of incarceration and the prison industrial complex, it is the impossible, yet exciting task to bring together feminist theory from the Americas and Europe to follow suit with Andrea Ritchie's demand for “practicing new worlds” (2023). In the face of rapidly growing border regimes, racialized capitalism, and extractivist and colonial projects, it is paramount to be experimental in our thoughts, theories, and approaches to be able to negotiate a feminist abolitionist framework that may contribute to better understand our interdependencies. This talk aims at contributing to that.

**Nicole Haring** is (Senior) Scientist at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests focus on feminist theory, contemporary US-American literature, Inter-American studies, aging and intergenerational studies, and critical pedagogies. She has had a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Oklahoma (2019-2020), the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship for Gender Studies at the University of Graz (2020-2021) and recently finished her DOC Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Science where she worked on intergenerational storytelling on gender and education (2021-2023).

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## PANEL #2

### **Elizabeth Swanson (Babson College, USA): The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi: Deaf Walls Speak**

Our volume (Palgrave, 2023) brings to light the voice and artwork of Guantánamo artist and detainee Moath al-Alwi along with a set of other contributors who write about their connection with Moath and his art (an attorney, curator, and former Guantánamo artist/detainee, Mansoor Adayfi) or about the artwork itself, from art historical and other disciplinary perspectives. My talk will situate the volume as part of the Guantánamo archive, arguing for the importance of that archive in light of increasing global pressure on the vanishing right to habeas corpus and exploring its contours as they intersect with the state apparatus governing this extra-judicial space (I mean this in both senses of “outside the law” and “more than the law”). After exploring our methodology of witness in creating the volume, I turn to an analysis of Moath’s artwork as personal expression, from within a space that he describes as “a grave [in which] everything alive got disconnected;” testimony, in the most material and embodied senses of that word; and human rights claim, in the absence of a court of law to hear him. Building upon Nicole Fleetwood’s category “carceral aesthetics,” “Deaf Walls Speak” concludes with an analysis of the volume itself as a way to “call forth a public” interested in Moath and his case (he has been cleared for release for two years with no movement yet) and interested in his and others’ artwork as it counters the US government narrative of Guantánamo detainees. As Moath writes, “I would like people who are biased against us, I would ask them before judging us to take a look at our art” (Deaf Walls Speak, 45).

**Elizabeth Swanson** is the Joyce and Andy Mandell Endowed Professor of Human Rights at Babson College in Wellesley, MA, USA. Author or editor of multiple volumes and articles on the subjects of literature and human rights, Dr. Swanson has worked extensively to center survivor voices in her work. Founder of Babson Venturing Out Prison Education Initiative and Jane's Way LLC, a DEI consultancy, Dr. Swanson is committed to action and advocacy to ground her scholarly research and writing. She is currently at work on a memoir chronicling gender, migration, and trauma.

### **Terri Tomsy (University of Alberta, Canada): Guantánamo Comics: Representing and Resisting Regimes of (In)Visibility**

The Guantánamo military complex, which opened twenty years ago ostensibly to imprison “high value” terrorists, remains a deeply controversial place. It symbolizes both the brokenness of the Global War on Terror as well as its lack of resolution; detainees continue to be held there in contravention of international law. In 2020, multimedia journalist Sarah Mirk released a collection of nonfiction comics, *Guantánamo Voices: True Accounts from the World’s Most Infamous Prison* that document a selection of oral testimonies, detailing the experiences of prisoners, lawyers, military personnel, and others. In doing so, Mirk’s work offers what she calls an “antidote to forgetting,” an important intervention that asks readers to confront the amnesia around the prison and to demand accountability (viii). Mirk’s work belongs to a larger, collective effort to bring the Guantánamo story to a wider public. What distinguishes Mirk’s work, however, is its comic genre. Through its visual aesthetic, *Guantánamo Voices* calls attention to the representational violence of the state. It is well known that the state tightly controls Guantánamo, limiting photography (prohibiting photos of prisoner faces), and even censoring artwork by Guantánamo prisoners. The state’s hold over representation is noted in *Guantánamo Voices*, for example, in its narrative about the CIA’s destruction of videos recording the torture of its Muslim detainees in international black sites. Revealing how the state invisibilizes its own violent operations and drawing on interdisciplinary scholarship on ideology and visibility (Butler; Deshpande; Gregory; Viterbo, etc.), this paper examines how Mirk’s use of the comic form uncovers the culture that produced Guantánamo and its racist antagonisms in the first place. Mirk herself understands the drawn stories as exposing the “communal hatred, fear, and cowardice—that allowed such a place to exist” (viii). More significant for my analysis is how this regime of (in)visibility props up the culture that facilitated Guantánamo, what we might call a dominant common sense that is oblivious (at points, willfully so) to the durability of racism, exceptionalism, and neoimperial logic of the very norms that allow Guantánamo to persist.

**Terri Tomsy** is an Associate Professor of contemporary literature in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her research examines memory politics and memory economies in postcolonial and post-socialist literatures. She is the co-editor (with Eddy Kent) of *Negative Cosmopolitanism: Culture and Politics of World Citizenship After Globalization* (2017). She has published in the areas of human rights literary studies, life writing, cultural memory, cosmopolitanism, and the Global War on Terror. She

is currently completing a book manuscript on the cultural mediations of Guantánamo, and the many forms of activism inspired by the prison's injustices.

**Michael Reyes Salas (Vassar College, USA): Subversions of Penal Spectatorship: Critical Visual Literacy to See Past Carceral Illusions**

In this presentation I explore various instances of how mass visual and material culture has indulged the demand for commodified experiences of carceral violence. According to Foucault, pre-modern systems of punishment are distinguished from modern ones, in part, by virtue of denying the public witnessing of punitive spectacles. Consequently, such restrictions on what kinds of criminal punishment the public can see has resulted in, as Brazilian Historian Marcos Luiz Bretas has observed, “the public imagination guessing what [is] happening behind the walls of prisons.” However, as modern punishment became increasingly invisibilized from public view, penal spectatorship did not perish; instead, it transformed. Writing about portrayals of US carceral violence as comedic material, literary scholar Dennis Childs has noted, “modern mass entombment remains both socially acceptable and socially pleasurable” (21). The trans-historical scope of this presentation will juxtapose early practices of penal display such as, the 1889 Paris Exposition Universelle’s exhibition spéciale pénitencier, which sought to balance both an education and entertainment purpose, alongside contemporary media representations of carcerality and prison museums. By critically looking at how public memory projects and popular media forge a carceral imagining in the cultural consciousness, I join calls to visualize prison abolition by promoting a visual literacy that helps us see beyond carceral illusions designed to promote public support for increasing imprisonment.

**Michael Reyes Salas** is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Vassar College where he advises the Prison Studies Correlate. His writing appears in *Dalhousie French Studies*, *Asymptote*, *Ethnic and Third World Literature’s Review of Books*, *El Mundo Zurdo*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *El Salto*. Before joining Vassar, he held postdoctoral positions at UT Austin and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Department of Photography. His forthcoming article “James Baldwin’s Encounter With El Caño Martín Peña in If Beale Street Could Talk” will appear in the Fall 2023 issue of *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*.

### **Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia): Art by Prisoners at Guantánamo Bay**

This talk will engage art produced at the U.S. military prison at Guantánamo to showcase the difficulty of producing art there and to highlight the importance of artistic endeavours in confined spaces and inhumane circumstances. It is the aim of this presentation to show art from Guantánamo and to open the discussion on what role does art play in the human right discourse.

**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*.

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### **PANEL #3**

### **Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus): What Does Memory Mean? Epistemic Disobedience and Detention at Guantánamo Bay**

Relying on the philosopher Sylvia Wynter's decolonial project to better understand epistemic disobedience, this paper contextualizes the origins and recent operations of the U.S. detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba in terms of various camps and camp-like enclosures that the state has relied on to control and criminalize migrants and others that it has deemed subversive to modernity. Two events that are usually left out of dominant narratives about the history of the military prison at Guantánamo Bay and explanations of why it continues to operate in flagrant violation of human rights law will be discussed: the detention of Haitian refugees in camps at Puerto Rico's Fort Allen in the 1980s and a 2019 incident in which a group of Jamaican fishermen was secretly detained on U.S. Coast Guard ships at Guantánamo Bay and other U.S.-controlled ports without due process. Special attention is given to acts of self-conceptualization and resistance by those held in these spaces—including testimony, poetry, and the creation of art—and the efforts of allies who question their

detention and work for their fair treatment, in particular acts that position freedom as an innate characteristic of the human condition and thereby enrich collective memory by reshaping our understanding of what is possible in the present.

**Don E. Walicek** is Professor of English and linguistics in the College of Humanities at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. His areas of academic interest include historical sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and semiotics. A former Fulbright Scholar and a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he is the editor (with Jessica Adams) of *Guantánamo and American Empire: The Humanities Respond* and the special issue of *Sargasso* titled *Guantánamo: What's Next?*

**Diana Murtaugh Coleman (Northern Arizona University, USA): “I Pity the Country, I Pity the State”: The Encamped, the de-Camped, and the Uniformed Through Lines**

With a nod to Mi'kmaq activist and folk singer, Willie Dunn-and to Leanne Betasamosake Simpson who honors his legacy-this paper traces the map of the Americas, sketching connections between labor camps, protest encampments, detention camps, and encampments of the displaced and unhoused plumbing the through lines of extraction, militarism, securitization, and climate change. Unfolded through interlocking case studies from Canada, the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean, including Tar Sands (Alberta, Canada), Standing Rock (South Dakota, US), LADD (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and the Roofs to Reefs program (Barbados), the snap shots afford a deeply human view of the overdetermined assemblages that turn the grinding wheel of capitalism parsing structural economic and environmental divides to highlight local and transcontinental consequences of extractive industries. These include the connections between labor camps and violence toward Indigenous women, the targeting of environmental protest encampments by both state sanctioned arbiters and private security agents, the expansion of border detention camps overflowing with those fleeing conditions directly or tangentially connected to global warming, the leveling of encampments of those who have fallen out, been forced out, or opted out of hyper-capitalism, the uneven impact of militarism's carbon footprint, and the environmental risks of the transport pipelines, themselves.

**Diana Murtaugh Coleman** is an Associate Professor of Religion and Humanities at Northern Arizona University. She brings a multi-disciplinary expertise in religion and conflict to her work on militarism. She has a chapter in Walicek and Adams 2018 edited volume, *Guantánamo and Empire: The Humanities Respond*. Her article “Suspended in al Barzakh” has been accepted for publication in *Sargasso*:

*A Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language & Culture*. Dr. Coleman recently delivered a public lecture “Climate Disaster, Militarism, and Displacement in the Americas-Dies Irae” for Coconino Center for the Arts and is currently working with student interns developing an interactive website, *Mapping Religion in Flagstaff*.

#### **Claudia Martínez Hernández (University of Vienna, Austria): Guantánamo in My Life**

This contribution amalgamates my perspectives on the United States Naval Base in Guantánamo from four different facets of my life. The first of these is as a Cuban, shedding light on how the presence of the naval base shapes the lives of those residing on the island. The second perspective stems from being a historian and my curiosity to examine the historical evolution of the USA interests surrounding the Naval Base, spanning from its negotiation, establishment, to its maintenance on Cuban territory. The third perspective emanates from my experience as a former Cuban diplomat, enabling me to present the political viewpoint of the Cuban government and its condemnation of the illegally occupied territory of Guantánamo, along with the establishment of the detention center. Lastly, my perspective as a former member of the Brigada de la Frontera, Border Brigade, a unit tasked with the custody and defense of the border perimeter occupied by the United States naval base in Guantánamo, enriches the narrative. As a result, I contend that my personal experiences, complemented with the analysis of secondary sources, afford me the capacity to offer a fairly comprehensive depiction of what the United States Naval Base in Guantánamo entails.

**Claudia Martínez Hernández** is the Director of the Research and Culture Association of Continental America and the Caribbean in Vienna. She is also a member of the Association of Historians of Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, she is a Pre-doctoral student at the Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna. Her research focuses on Cuban labor programs with East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria from 1978 to 1990. Her publications explore Cuban international relations, Cuban Internationalism, and the organizational structures of Cuban contract workers in European socialist states.

#### **José Ramón Sánchez Leyva (Poet from Guantánamo City, Cuba): Dos Encierros**

De las ajenas prisiones he podido escribir más de cien poemas; mis encierros no dan para tanto, pues no soy un “combatiente enemigo”, ni me he encontrado en un lugar de peligro suficiente para ser detenido. No obstante, recorriendo recuerdos, documentos, objetos y



poemas inéditos, he vuelto a descubrir episodios que ayudan a explicar mi interés por el tema de la prisión. “Dos encierros” es un testimonio, que narra las dos breves experiencias de reclusión que sufrí durante el cumplimiento del Servicio Militar Obligatorio, que cumplí del 4 de septiembre de 1990 hasta el 10 de agosto de 1992, en las provincias de Guantánamo y Cienfuegos, como soldado-agricultor en el Ejército Juvenil del Trabajo. “Dos encierros” trata del proceso de adaptación de un muchacho a la pobreza generalizada que vivía Cuba al inicio del Período Especial, en las unidades militares de producción a las que fue destinado. Cafetales, campos de caña de azúcar, hambre, fugas, calabozos, granja de animales, silencio, junto al recuperado deseo por la lectura. Esta serie de eventos fueron decisivos para inventar mi vocación por las palabras, y también para alcanzar un mínimo de comprensión suficiente sobre el abuso contra los prisioneros de la base naval de Guantánamo.

**José Ramón Sánchez Leyva** (Guantánamo, Cuba, 1972). Autor de los libros *Aislada noche* (Letras Cubanas, La Habana, 2005), *Marabú* (Torre de Letras, La Habana, 2012), *El derrumbe* (Letras Cubanas, La Habana, 2012), *22* (Letras Cubanas, La Habana, 2017), *Talibán* (Casa Vacía, Richmond, 2018), *The Black Arrow* (Linkgua Ediciones, Barcelona, 2023, traducido al inglés por Esther Whitfield y Katerina González Seligmann). Colaboró en el libro *Guantánamo and American Empire. The Humanities Respond* (Palgrave Macmillan, Nueva York, 2017). Editor de la revista *La Noria*.

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#### PANEL #4

##### **Esther Whitfield (Brown University, USA): Activism in Cuban Refugee Journals: Guantánamo, 1994-1996**

In late 1994, faced with the mass departure from Cuba of over thirty thousand people attempting to reach the U.S. on makeshift vessels, President Bill Clinton ordered the U.S. Coastguard to intercept them at sea and redirect them to the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base, where they were held in hastily-assembled camps. From their arrival there to the departure of the last of them in early 1996, as Elizabeth Campisi has documented in *Escape from Miami; An Oral History of the Cuban Rafter Crisis* (2016), the Cuban refugees developed well-coordinated and effective activist strategies, in many ways modeled on the organizational structures of the Cuban socialist state that they were fleeing. This paper will address the role of writing and graphic art in community activism among Cuban refugees, arguing that these media in particular articulate nuanced conceptions of the future that, on the one hand, position Cuban refugees as potential and model U.S. citizens.

On the other, however, they coincide with conceptions of an indefinite and incomplete futurity inherent to both the rhetoric of the Cuban Revolution and extrajudicial detentions at Guantánamo in the post 9/11 years. The paper will draw from two archives of the Cuban refugee experience that bring together stories and visual materials from this episode - the University of Miami's Between Despair and Hope: Cuban Rafters at the U.S Naval Bay Guantánamo Bay, 1994-1996 and the Guantánamo Public Memory Project – and from footage in the 2002 Catalan documentary *Balseros*, co-directed by Carles Bosch and Josep Maria Domènech. Its primary focus will be *El Futuro*, an illustrated journal manually produced by refugees whose articles, drawings and cartoons present a multifaceted form of advocacy for a different future.

**Esther Whitfield** is a scholar of contemporary Latin American and Caribbean literature, with a particular focus on Cuba. Her publications include: *Cuban Currency: The Dollar and "Special Period" Fiction* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), *Havana Beyond the Ruins: Cultural Mappings of the City after 1989*, co-edited with Anke Birkenmaier (Duke University Press, 2011), and *A New No-Man's Land: Writing and Art at Guantánamo, Cuba, 2002-2022* (University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming 2024). She joined the faculty of Brown's Department of Comparative Literature in 2002; as of 2012, she is jointly appointed in the Department of Hispanic Studies.

**Omar Granados (University of Wisconsin La Crosse, USA): Forgotten Voices of Mariel: Race and Marielito publications during the Mariel Refugee Camp Program (1980-1982)**

Esta presentación analiza diversas experiencias individuales y colectivas de detención militar, trauma y discriminación racial dentro del contexto del programa de campamentos para refugiados establecido por el gobierno de Estados Unidos durante el éxodo cubano del Mariel de 1980. Durante el éxodo del Mariel, quizás el conflicto migratorio entre Cuba y Estados Unidos más históricamente significativo durante la Guerra Fría, más de 55 000 emigrantes cubanos fueron detenidos durante varios meses, y hasta 1982 en algunos casos, bajo el auspicio de FEMA y el gobierno federal en bases militares en Fort McCoy (Wisconsin); Fort Chafee (Arkansas) y Fort Indiantown (Pensilvania) mientras se esperaba su clasificación médica y legal, así como su aleatorio patrocinio por parte de familias, instituciones religiosas y organizaciones no-gubernamentales norteamericanas. La presentación analiza este período de detención—en su totalidad, bastante desatendido por la vasta bibliografía dedicada al éxodo del Mariel hasta el momento—precisamente enfocándose en el análisis

de los artefactos culturales que emergieron de dichos campamentos militares. Entre ellos, resultan de particular interés dos publicaciones periódicas, *El Mercurio de McCoy* (Fort McCoy) y *La Vida Nueva* (Fort Chafee), producidas conjuntamente por los llamados “marielitos” y el personal militar de estas bases durante el prolongado confinamiento de los migrantes cubanos. Estos materiales de archivo nos permiten hoy observar el trauma colectivo que se vivió durante este oscuro período de confinamiento del Mariel, así como la narrativa cultural y política mediante la cual los “marielitos” negociaron el trauma de su desplazamiento geográfico y una nueva solidaridad e identidad racial y política. En 1980, los marielitos negros (o de raza mezclada) se vieron no solo forzados a enfrentar una nueva identidad racial en Estados Unidos, enmarcada desde un inicio por la experiencia de su criminalización y su detención, sino también una nueva identidad política como refugiados políticos del comunismo castrista. Sin embargo, los artefactos culturales que emergen del programa del campamento de refugiados del Mariel también destacan las redes de solidaridad, patrocinio y hospitalidad racial entre los marielitos, el personal del ejército norteamericano y las comunidades rurales y mayormente anglosajonas de Wisconsin y Arkansas. De esta manera, la presentación propone nuevas áreas de investigación y consideración en torno al mapa geopolítico e histórico del éxodo del Mariel, precisamente mediante una lectura cultural que recupera un período de racialización y detención militar clave para las consecuencias socioeconómicas que sufrió la comunidad cubanoamericana para su reasentamiento más allá del contexto social, racial e hispanohablante del sur de Florida.

**Omar Granados** es Profesor Asociado de Estudios Latinoamericanos en la Universidad de Wisconsin La Crosse. Su trabajo se centra en enfoques culturales sobre la migración, la memoria colectiva y la responsabilidad social de la academia en nuestras comunidades. En UW-La Crosse, el Dr. Granados es el Director del Instituto de Estudios Latinos y Latinoamericanos.

**Tanya Harmer** (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK): *Refuge in Revolution: Colonias and Camps in Cuba for Uruguayan and Chilean Exiles* (*online*)

In the mid-1970s and 1980s, Cuba became a place of refuge and training for exiles from the Southern Cone. In the context dictatorship and repression in their home countries, exiles not only sought safety on the island, but also a means of resisting. In this context, Cuba provided different levels of support for different left-wing organisations, offering tailor-made training and refuge programmes. This paper

examines some of these programmes through the prism of the ‘camps’ they created for these purposes. Drawing on oral histories and memoirs that are available, it pays particular attention on the ‘colonias’ that were created for members of the Uruguayan Movimiento de Liberación Nacional-Tupamaro (MLN-T) in and around Havana province. As self-enclosed communities, these colonias were supplied directly with food and provisions by the Cuban state. Inhabitants worked in local construction projects and factories, depending on their location by day and studied or engaged in political meetings in the evening. Some trained militarily in anticipation of returning to Uruguay, while others waited to be offered this opportunity. As an experiment in communal living, the colonias offer insight into the regulation of everyday life and militancy in revolutionary Cuba. In addition to the experience of the colonias, the paper also looks at other training programmes and smaller communal projects in Cuba to house exiles and their families, such as the Chilean Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria’s ‘Proyecto Hogares’ – a social housing experiment for children of militants training to return clandestinely to Chile during the late 1970s and 1980s.

**Tanya Harmer** is a historian of the Cold War in Latin America and the author of *Allende’s Chile and the Inter-America Cold War* (UNC Press, 2011), which won LASA’s Luciano Tomassini book award in 2013. Her second book, *Beatriz Allende: A Revolutionary Life in Cold War Latin America* (UNC Press, 2020) explored the promises and paradoxes of the revolutionary wave that swept through Latin America in the long 1960s. Together with Alfredo Riquelme, she co-edited, *Chile y la guerra fría global* (Ril, 2015) and with Alberto Martin, *Toward a Global History of Latin America’s Revolutionary Left* (UFP, 2021). Dr. Harmer has also held visiting teaching positions at Columbia University in New York (2012-13) and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2010, 2013 and 2023).

**Jana Lipman (Tulane University, USA): Palawan: Vietnamese Diasporic Activism and Imaginaries (online)**

Palawan is an island in the Philippine archipelago that was used as a model prison by U.S. colonists in the early 20th century. With a population of approximately 1 million people, it is an island to the southwest of Manila, and has historically been represented as a “frontier” and “peripheral” territory. After 1975, it also hosted a refugee camp for Vietnamese people, fleeing post-war Vietnam. Palawan offered an “open camp,” and Vietnamese men and women often found work outside its boundaries. Initially designated for 2,000 individuals, it soon expanded to hold between 5000 and 7000 people, and its peak reached a population of well over 12,000 asylum seekers. The

UNHCR and NGOs soon recognized the camp in Palawan was the most open and liberal of the Vietnamese refugee camps in Southeast Asia, and its openness and flexibility stood in stark contrast to refugee camps in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. However, despite Palawan's relative autonomy, it was still a camp. This paper analyzes the politics of activism within the camp alongside the mobilization of diasporic allies who supported the Vietnamese. This included a Vietnamese nun who championed those in the camps and who created coalitions within the Philippines and Vietnamese Americans who raised money, sent legal advisors, and lobbied US Congress on their behalf. This is a story of activism inside and outside the refugee camp. This paper raises numerous questions: How did Palawan, the most liberal and open of refugee camps, still reflect the confinement and control of detention? What role did protest play both locally within Palawan and within a broader diasporic community? And how did the legacies of the U.S. empire in the Philippines intersect with the stories of refugee camps?

**Jana Lipman** is a Professor at Tulane University. She is the author of *In Camps: Vietnamese Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Repatriates* (UC Press, 2020), *Guantánamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution* (UC Press, 2009), and co-translator with Bac Hoai Tran of *Ship of Fate: Memoir of a Vietnamese Repatriate* by Trần Đình Trụ (University of Hawaii Press, 2017). Dr. Lipman has also been involved in numerous public history initiatives including, the Guantánamo Public Memory Project and the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice's exhibit on New Orleans Black labor history. She has written essays for the Washington Post Made by History, The New Orleans Advocate/Times Picayune, and The Conversation.com.

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#### PANEL #5

##### **Michelle C. Velasquez-Potts (University of Oklahoma, USA): Force-Feeding and the Suspended Animation of Torture**

Since 2002, prisoners at Guantánamo Bay detention camp have been force-fed as punishment for hunger striking, prompting the question of how to understand the feeding tube's various uses as both a form of medical treatment and a torture instrument. By placing force-feeding practices at Guantánamo Bay within a larger history of medicalized punishment, this paper tracks how the functions of the feeding tube are altered and reimagined by the US military. The paper also explores end-of-life politics at Guantánamo Bay by investigating the recent possibility of palliative care for aging prisoners at the camps. I consider how the military's plans for hospice are made possible by

humanitarian logics of war that continue to centralize care in similar ways to force-feeding. Hospice, I argue, shifts attention away from torture techniques deployed throughout the war on terror. Thus, giving Guantánamo the semblance of being a new site of humanitarian possibilities. The paper thinks through the logics of care and cure as it relates to torture. In light of the rise of international usage of force-feeding across geopolitical sites such as US detention centers, I consider what the specificity of Guantánamo might illuminate about the interconnectedness between violence, care, and reform in prisons and detention more broadly.

**Michelle C. Velasquez-Potts** is an educator and writer working at the intersections of feminist and queer thought. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Her first book project, *Suspended Animation*, examines how state power makes specific use of the feeding tube and the practice of force-feeding to control both bodily life and death among incarcerated people.

**Krista M. Turner & Bruce Pearson (Western Michigan University, USA): Prisoner Resistance: Visualizing Strategic Hunger Strikes in Contemporary Graphic Novels**

In their monograph, *Prison Hunger Strikes in Palestine: A Strategic Perspective* (ICNC Press, 2023), Malaka Mohammed Shwaikh and Rebecca Ruth Gould emphasize that prison hunger strikes are not about escaping incarceration and its often deplorable conditions through death, as some might assume, but they are about a “means of resisting the power of the carceral state” (5) when other means are limited and the strong need for dignity in the absence of human rights. Shwaikh and Gould understand hunger strikes as “a practice in which prisoners’ lives are weaponized through starvation to achieve political goals, from demanding better imprisonment conditions to freedom” (6) and as “a resistance action” (8), noting the history of hunger strikes, from ancient and medieval Ireland to British India, the British suffragettes, US farm workers, and even prisoners in Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp. Additionally, they recognize that “hunger strikes have become the most effective means of bringing about political change within prisons compared to other means, including noncompliance” (9). Their study culminates in five key lessons for hunger strikers to maximize the effectiveness of their struggles, namely: 1) framing the strikers as political prisoners; 2) directing the public narrative of the strike away from self-harm; 3) timing strikes to maximize mobilization; 4) preparing strikers through awareness sessions; and 5) minimizing the risks to the hunger strikers. A new opportunity to

critically examine prison hunger strikes comes through an unlikely source: graphic novels. There is an increasing number of graphic novels discussing hunger strikes in a carceral context as creators delve into human rights and resistance events like British women's suffrage, Bobby Sands and the IRA, and the prison hunger strikes in California in 2013. Drawing on comics theory and civil resistance literature—including an evaluation of the representation of Shwaikh and Gould's five lessons for hunger strikers within graphic novels—we argue that graphic novels, with their popularity and accessibility to all reading levels, increase awareness and educate people on the determination, organization, planning, and public exposure that hunger strikes require. Furthermore, the formal elements of comics emphasize the lived experience of prison hunger strikers and their sense of agency and human dignity.

**Krista M. Turner** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English at Western Michigan University where she researches geopolitical conflict, war, and civil resistance in graphic narratives. Her article, "War as a Posthuman Force: Anthropomorphic and Zoomorphic Representations in Nathan Hale's Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood" was published in the Spring 2022 issue of *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*.

**Bruce Pearson** is Program Manager at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict where he supports online learning, fieldwork, and writing on the use of civil resistance tactics to secure rights, freedom, and justice. He holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from the School of International Service at American University, with an emphasis in international negotiation and conflict resolution. Bruce was a 2023 Professional Fellow with the National Council on US–China Relations.

#### **Angelica Camacho (San Francisco State University, USA): Unbroken Spirit: SHU Prisoner Hunger Strikes and the Promise of Rebirth**

Building on Geographer and Black studies scholar Clyde Woods, I bring our attention to the multi-scaled and layered dimensions of "asset stripping" deployed by California State prisons, specifically through the development of the SHU. I argue that Pelican Bay State Prison's (PBSP) Security Housing Unit (SHU) was designed to fully strip incarcerated men of all assets, and specifically target and break their spirit, in order to eliminate any threat of prisoner's collective organizational power. Nonetheless, despite the SHU's highly developed forms surveillance and psychological torture, many prisoners refused to concede and be broken. In 2011 and 2013 thousands of incarcerated people rose in protest and launched a series of hunger strikes that would disrupt the California Department of Corrections' (CDC) business

as usual. Nurtured by their collective resistance and camaraderie, they refused to succumb to CDCR and persevered unbroken in spirit. I highlight the Pelican Bay California prisoner hunger strikes as they reveal the wealth and power of this insurrectionary spirit, where even after years of being submitted to one of the most repressive sites in the world, prisoners still refused to collaborate with their captors. Instead, they chose to stand together, reclaim their bodies, and weaponize their words to open alternative possibilities.

**Angelica Camacho** is an Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice Studies at San Francisco State. Her current research documents the 2011–2013 Pelican Bay California Prisoner Hunger Strikes and the subsequent uprising of their families in opposition to the conditions of confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU). Angelica also explores how the War on Drugs, Gangs, and the criminalization of Latinx communities has contributed to the rise of the prison industrial complex in California. Her intellectual work aims to shift the dominant narratives of criminality that target and scapegoat communities of color into counter-hegemonic narratives that highlight social struggles for life and liberation.

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#### PANEL #6

##### **Pierluigi Bolioli (University of Pisa, Italy): The Internment of Italian Enemy Aliens in British West Indies During WWII**

The internment of enemy aliens in the British Caribbean during World War II was a controversial policy that has been the subject of much debate. Proponents of the policy argued that it was necessary to protect the region from Axis espionage and sabotage. The internment of enemy aliens in Caribbean, an area far from the actual conflict is particularly controversial. The policy was implemented in 1940, shortly after the outbreak of war. Initially, it only applied to German and Italian nationals, but it was later expanded to include other nationalities. The internees were held in a variety of camps throughout the Caribbean, including Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana. The conditions in the internment camps varied widely. Some camps were relatively well-maintained, while others were overcrowded and unsanitary. The internees were often subjected to harsh treatment and were denied basic human rights. Alongside the already studied internment of German and Austrian nationals also Italians were interned in British Internment camps for civilians and POW. This article presents a comprehensive exploration of the internment of Italians in the British Caribbean during World War II, contributing to our understanding of this overlooked aspect of history. A central focus of this work are the experiences of the internees themselves. It uncovers the conditions



within the internment camps, the daily lives of those detained, and the emotional and psychological toll exacted by their confinement. Drawing on archival materials, the article provides a nuanced portrayal of the internees' resilience, agency, and coping mechanisms amidst adversity.

**Pierluigi Bolioli** earned his MA with merit in Modern history with a thesis on internment of enemy aliens during WWII in Italy: a little studied topic but closely connected with the history of European racism and the extermination of Jews. For his master thesis he received the Grazia Di Veroli scholarship awarded by the Union of Italian Jewish Community and the Italian national association of deported in Nazi camps and the Tralerighe storia prize which includes the publication of thesis. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Pisa in his final year. He speaks Italian (Native), English (C2), Spanish (B1), French (A2), Portuguese (A2) and is learning German to continue his studies on Holocaust and expand his knowledge to the extensive literature in German on this topic. For this reason, and to research about Swiss "good offices" during WWII at the Federal Swiss Archives, he spent three months of research in Bern. To complete his thesis, he also spent period of research at King's College London and in the archives of London, Isle of Man, Rome and Geneva. His research interests include Fascism, Imperialism, Holocaust studies, international relations.

### **Panteleimon Tsiokos (Western University Ontario, Canada): Japanese American WWII Internment: Contemporary (Re)Examinations of the U.S. Transitional Justice**

While the US has traditionally been considered to be the positive outcome of a multicultural experiment, a "city upon a hill" utopia exemplifying peaceful coexistence, mass scale violations of human rights have abounded throughout the nation's history. To mention but a few, African American slavery and its ongoing repercussions, Indigenous land theft and settler colonialism-related consequences, immigrant discriminatory practices in domestic policies, or the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII combine into a nightmarish blend. Such human rights violations showcase protracted, multifaceted, and systemic violence against targeted groups, and constitute complex cases of trauma to be addressed by the US state. My paper will, thus, consider the literary imaginary of Julie Otsuka's *The Buddha in the Attic* (2011) which sheds light in the trajectory of systemic and systematic violence against Asian immigrants of Japanese ancestry, and its impact on ensuing generations prior to, during, following WWII and after the adoption of Civil Liberties Act legislation. In so doing,

I will examine the extent of the trauma based on which I will assess the efficacy of the US transitional justice response relating to Japanese American WWII internment. By the end of my paper, I expect to show that anti-Japanese American sentiment in the US society unfortunately remains even though this has been a relatively recent, easily traceable, and theoretically a resolved case of past human rights violations. Lastly, the examination above will take place within the framework of contemporary Japanese American WWII internment public memory projects and the “politically correct” phenomenon.

**Panteleimon Tsiokos** is a PhD candidate (collaborative specialization) in English -Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction at Western University, ON, Canada. He holds a B.A. (Honors, with Distinction) in English and an MA in English and American Studies from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. His research interests include issues of identity politics, (post)nationalism, migration, mass human rights violence, and transitional justice as those unfold in works of ethnic, and minority literatures and or political administration. He is a member of MESEA (Multi-Ethnic Society Europe and the Americas) and EAAS (European Association of American Studies) and his research has been part of numerous international research dissemination fora.

**Christian Cwik (University of Graz, Austria): In and Outside the Camp: Fred Fischer's Photographs from the Internment Camp in Bonaire**

Fred Fischer was born 1905 in Grinzig on the slopes of the Kahlenberg in Vienna. Fascinated by photography and films he worked already in the 1920s as an assistant to the well-known German cinematographer, Eugen Schüfftan, who experimented with “special effects” by using mirrors. As an Austrian Jew, Fischer had to escape from Austria in 1938 and fled to Amsterdam and from there he travelled by ship to the West, where he ended up in Curaçao, never wanting to leave. In Willemstad Fischer started his own photography studio in the center of Curaçao's capital. On 10 May 1940, when the Netherlands were occupied by Hitler's army, all German and Austrian nationals became enemy aliens and were deported to the neighbor island Bonaire. Persons classified as a “danger to the peace and security in the Territory” were detained under the law PB 1940, no 38, to be interned during the war period or part of it. Among them Fred Fischer - still with an Austrian passport. Fischer ended up in the main and largest camp, “Playa Pariba”, just south of Kralendijk, which has been completed in October 1940. Playa Pariba was the most heavily guarded camp. Because of many troubles between German and Dutch Nazis on the one hand and Jews on the other, the Jews were transferred to Camp Guatemala, a plantation of the same name on Bonaire

from March 1941 to May 1945. Fred Fischer stayed at this Camp Guatemala where the the manor house itself served as accommodation for the internees. On 7 June 1941, German Jews from Guatemala submitted a petition to Governor G.J.J. Wouters requesting an end to their internment, wich was given to them as “limited liberty” in August 1941. Fischer left the camp but could not leave the desert island until August 1942 when he returned to Curacao. The lecture focusses on the photographs Fred Fischer took inside and outside the camp during his imprisonment on Bonaire. They show a reality of the Second World War that is largely unknown in this country.

**Christian Cwik** has worked as a historian at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz since 2019. He was previously Professor of Atlantic and European History at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago and a visiting professor at various universities in Latin America. He has been Executive Secretary of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians since 2022. He is the author of more than 100 academic publications.

**Pedro Reina Pérez (University of Puerto Rico): Building for Freedom: Thoughts on Cultural Education and Higher Education for Imprisoned Adults in Puerto Rico**

This presentation will expound on the experience of enrolling a thirteen-member cohort of incarcerated students in a master’s degree program in Cultural Agency and Administration at the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras. Students in this cohort attend classes on campus once a week. As will be discussed, they have unique challenges, both personal and institutional, as they are the first group to experience in-person college instruction while incarcerated in a minimum-security prison.

**Pedro Reina Pérez** is an award-winning historian and journalist specializing in contemporary Spanish Caribbean history. He is a Professor of Humanities, and Arts and Cultural Agency Administration at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. He teaches in an innovative program that allows incarcerated people to pursue graduate education. In addition, he is a contributing writer for *El Nuevo Día* (Puerto Rico), *El País* (Spain) and *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America* (US). Among his eleven books and edited volumes are *Poeta del Paisaje* (2013), *El Arco Prodigioso* (2009), and *La Semilla Que Sembramos* (2003).

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PANEL #7

**Lena Leßlhuber (University of Salzburg, Austria): I Was at Peace When I Left: Reading Holocaust Survivor R. Klüger's Life Writing Landscapes of Memory (2004)**

The autobiographical texts by Holocaust survivor and former professor of German studies at the University of California, Irving, Ruth Klüger (1931-2020) are more than memoirs of a Jewish woman, who spent three traumatic years (1942-1945) in varying concentration camps during WWII and then later emigrated to the United States as a young woman. On the contrary, especially in her autobiographical book *Landscapes of Memory: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered* (2004), Klüger advocates for an open discussion about the Shoah by writing frankly and in minute detail about her childhood spent in three different Nazi camps and her refusal to leave the past behind when she emigrated to the US as a young woman. This presentation is aimed at investigating how, despite the atrocities Klüger experienced as a little girl in three concentration camps during WWII, she never lost neither her voice nor her agency as so many Jewish Shoah survivors have due to the multiple traumas (cf. Caruth 1996; Luckhurst 2008) they have lived through (e.g. losing their family and/or relatives, being treated as less than human and being incarcerated under inhumane conditions). In order to address the initially proposed question, specific incidences presented in *Landscapes of Memory*, in which Klüger's agency becomes significant, are identified and closely analyzed. Regarding the analytical category of agency, it will be discussed how Klüger creates meaning of the experienced trauma for herself, the people in her life and her readers as well as how she engages with the world around her (cf. Smith 2001). In this context it will be argued that the genre of life writing is particularly well-suited to support arguments by people, such as members of the Jewish community like Klüger, who have been oppressed or traditionally silenced in public and academic discourses. Furthermore, by specifically focusing on Klüger's agency, Eve Tuck's article "Suspending Damage" is respected, in which she urges researchers to not solely focus on received and experienced trauma (damage-centered research) by marginalized groups, but also on their agency (desire-based research).

**Lena Leßlhuber** is a doctoral student and university assistant at the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Salzburg. In her four-year dissertation project, which is located in the field of cultural and literary studies, she examines how trauma, complexities of lived experiences and recapture of agency are depicted in marginalized Black life writing in the US and UK from the 19th

to the 21st century. Her research interests are within Black studies, intersectionality studies perspectives, life writing, transatlantic and migration studies.

### **Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre University, Italy): Bombshells United and Japanese American Internment in Mainstream Comics**

Japanese Americans have appeared in US mainstream comics ever since World War II, with Superman and Captain America committed to fighting the evil plans concocted by the Axis enemies with the goal of subduing the US democracy. At that time, Japanese (and Japanese Americans alike) were regularly caricaturized as deformed and non-human beings set against tall and proud American superheroes. Over the decades, representations of Japanese Americans and the internment ordeal have changed following the different political environment during which they were produced: for example, at the end of the 1970s, which was when the redress movement was finally gaining full steam, Captain America harshly criticizes the Japanese American internment in *Marvel The Invaders* (1978); conversely, the more recent *Marvel Civil War* (2006), inspired by the US Patriot Act, offers a more apologetic view of the incarceration of the Japanese Americans. In 2018, ample space to the Japanese American internment has been dedicated by Marguerite Bennett in her DC Comics *Bombshells* saga, a revisitation of World War II in which female superheroes fight the enemies of the Allied forces both at home and abroad. If, on one hand, Bennett's goal is to offer a politically correct representation of the internment experience, at the same time the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans in *Bombshells United* is inscribed in a utopian context in which Wonder woman and other female superheroes prevent the internment from happening altogether. The paper will analyze the choices made by Bennet in representing the Japanese American internment, focusing on how the story told in *Bombshells* can be interpreted as an exercise in wishful thinking, a fantasy which ends up saving Americans' face during the war without allowing contemporary readers—who often learn about the internment for the first time through mainstream comics—to develop prosthetic memories (Landsberg 2004) about one of the most dramatic events in US history.

**Nicolangelo Becce** is an Associate Professor of American Literature at Roma Tre University. He has published essays on American literature, corpus linguistics, the CEFR, American TV series and graphic novels, and is the author of two books, *Apparizioni spiritiche e fantasmi letterari. Il Modern Spiritualism e lo sviluppo della ghost story* ("Spiritualistic Apparitions and Literary Ghosts. Modern Spiritualism

and the Development of the Ghost Story”, 2016) and Positive Outcomes. A Corpus-Based Analysis of a Placement Interview System for EFL Students in Higher Education (2019). His current research focuses on literary and media representations of the Japanese American internment experience.

### **Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria): Camps and Refuge for the Displaced: Seeking Traces in Bad Gastein**

For survivors of the Shoah, *Displaced Person Camps* in Allied-occupied Germany, Austria, and Italy offered temporary refuge, as a return to former homes was impossible and legal immigration options were highly restricted and drawn-out processes. At the end of 1946, the number of Jewish DPs was estimated at 250,000, of whom 185,000 were in Germany, 45,000 in Austria, and 20,000 in Italy. Between 1945 and 1951, such camps offered an opportunity for rebuilding European Jewish life while waiting for permits for immigration. Rose Labor, for example, who in 1945, came to Bad Gastein with her mother as a five-year-old, remembers the two years in the camp as a place, where she “learned to enjoy life again.” Nevertheless, there are few traces of these transitory spaces and hardly any cultural representations of Austrian DP camps despite their importance as a (temporary) space for rebuilding democratic structures. In this presentation, I will discuss this omission and explore the lack of official and unofficial recognition as an “aftermath” (Harald Jähner) easily forgotten and leaving few traces, and suggest a repositioning of Austrian DP camps as part of Austrian *Erinnerungskultur*.

**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.

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## PANEL #8

### **Ángela Harris Sánchez (Granada University, Spain): F(r)ictional Spaces of Historical Desires: Seeking Reparation beyond Aesthetical Narratives of History**

Juggling with epistemological resistance and artistic activism, in this presentation I intend to think critically about processes of historization through the liminalities between the late refugee camp of Moria and the archaeological site of Thermí. Both sharing a similar location on the island of Lesbos, the discursivities of each one of these places make us think about taken-for-granted concepts such as corporeal vibrancy, heritage claims and/or linear temporalities in History. The two places are entangled through a performative opposition in which the visibility, founding, abstraction and historicity of Thermí are strategic terms from where to examine the signification of Moria as an ephemeral archive of loss. Drawing away from the delusionary image of Moria as a transitional space, I enter the potentiality of disentangling it from these misconceptions which reduce and simplify it to a vanishing material space. Using trans studies for these epistemological transitions, I analyze the “Now you see me Moria” activist initiative, which uses art in order to reclaim basic human rights under a conception of refugee camps as non-transitory places. I will end by presenting some acts of re-existence coming both from inside and outside of Moria to conclude with a reflection on the meaning of resistance when contextualized from these examples.

**Ángela Harris Sánchez** holds a BA in Art history (Granada University), an MPhil in Art Therapy (Complutense University), the GEMMA double Erasmus Mundus Master and a double International PhD in Women's Studies, Discourses and Gender Practices (UGR) and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (University of Bologna). She has been a National Research Fellow (FPU) and is now UGR-Postdoc and lecturer in the Archaeology Department. Recent publications are “Artherapy, Queer Failure and Horizontal Learning Experience in Students' Postmemory Family Narratives” (co-author), “Beyond Being: Dissident(ificatory) Responses towards a Heritage of Becoming” and “Contesting power in public art spaces. Liminal p(l)aces, diverting methodologies and observant participation in *Valor y Cambio*”.

### **Jonathan Cortez (The University of Texas at Austin, USA): How Camps Change; Or Identifying a Process of Spatial Scripts**

One of the issues most concerning to immigration scholars and activists in our current day is how spaces of immigrant detention and carceral prison spaces get used interchangeably. What are the processes that facilitate the transfer and reactivation of the built

environment between government agencies and how does it fall largely on the lives of racialized immigrant populations? “How Camps Change; Or, Identifying a process of Spatial Scripts” offers an example of this historical phenomenon by identifying three guiding principles for better understanding the role of camps in the United States. Through one case study in Crystal City, Texas during the 1940s, this paper argues that the federal government has been incredibly agile when it comes to transferring carceral spaces of the built environment for the purposes of cheaply and quickly relocating racialized populations. Spatial scripts, an analytical framework developed by the author in their in-progress manuscript *The Age of Encampment*, refers to the systematic and institutional relaying of land, the built environment, and the knowledge networks of encampment between government agencies even as specific missions at hand changed. Finally, the key principles of spatial scripts laid out in this paper do not only apply to historical inquiry, but can also be used to evaluate trends in current-day practices of immigrant detention as spaces of encampment are continuously being reused for multiple racialized im/migrant populations.

**Jonathan Cortez** is at present the Early Career Provost Postdoctoral Fellow of Borderlands History in the Department of History at The University of Texas at Austin. Previously, they held the title of César Chávez Provosts’ Postdoctoral Fellow (2021-2023) in the Department of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies at Dartmouth College. Their current manuscript, *The Age of Encampment*, details the history of vernacular and federally-funded camps along the U.S.-Mexico border from the late 19th century to the late 20th century. Dr. Cortez’s work has been funded by the Ford Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Mellon Foundation. Further, their work has received high recognition from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, the Western Historical Association, and the American Historical Association.

#### **Olga Kajtár-Pinjung (University of Szeged, Hungary): Enmification of Guantánamo Bay Detainees by the Bush Administration**

In my dissertation project, I am analyzing the elements of self-fashioning and enemy image construction in the memoirs of former Guantánamo Bay detainees, *Guantánamo Diary* (2015) written by Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini and Mansoor Adayfi’s *Don’t Forget Us Here* (2021). The argument for America to be different from the rest of the world can be traced back to 1776, when Thomas Paine published his work *Common Sense*. This claim to specialness, i.e., American exceptionalism, was one of the central features of the Bush



administration. This presentation aims to contextualize the topic of enmification and analyze political and legal discourse with the purpose of identifying the trends and changes in the enemy image construction of Guantánamo Bay detainees carried out by the Bush administration. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the notion of the United States being the leader of the world has become even more emphasized and it assumed an even stronger sense of responsibility in leadership on the global stage. The research examines presidential speeches, executive orders, legal decisions, and laws to establish the timeline of enemy image constructing methods used by the government in order to get a better understanding of the role of legislative measures in the enmification of the detainees.

**Olga Kajtár-Pinjung** is a PhD student in the English and American Literatures and Cultures doctoral program at the University of Szeged. Her dissertation focuses on the elements of self-fashioning and enemy image construction of former Guantánamo Bay detainees. Her areas of interest include American history, culture, life writing and enmification.

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#### PANEL #9

**Norah Giraldi Dei Cas (Université de Lille, France): Modalidades y Sentidos del Suspenso en los Cuadernos de la Cárcel de Alicia Kozameh**

Los dos Cuadernos que Alicia Kozameh salva de la cárcel, de estructura proteica, representan movimientos y pasajes continuos que habitan el sujeto que los escribe, que responden a sentimientos y sensaciones que experimenta frente al encierro y las prohibiciones inherentes a la vida en la cárcel. Dichas representaciones construyen paisajes con perfiles de realidades diferentes (vividas, imaginadas, soñadas) que oponen dos universos, el de los afectos que A. Kozameh mantiene y consolida con sus compañeras presas políticas y con familiares y amigos con quienes pudo mantenerse en contacto durante su reclusión, y el de la cárcel, caracterizado por agresiones e inseguridades de todo tipo. Un ir y venir entre esos dos universos contrarios se percibe en la totalidad del discurso que consideramos como una unidad que da cuenta de un no lugar (A. Nouss ), compuesto de muchos lugares que el sujeto habita física y mentalmente, que se va construyendo en forma de patchwork. Los escritos están ordenados cronológicamente, pero sus contenidos y temporalidades son diversos, así como sus motivaciones y las modalidades de expresión (poemas, dibujos, cuentos, cartas, apuntes, citas). Para sortear la censura, Alicia Kozameh inventa un lenguaje figurado, que denominará más tarde “trampitas” , con el que disimula el verdadero sentido

de lo que expresa. Analizaremos por qué, en la mayoría de los casos, las digresiones, omisiones, dilaciones, suspensiones (pausas, anáforas, analepsis, prolepsis) son también formas de lidiar contra la censura, toreándola. Demostraremos que estos mecanismos de defensa crean suspenso cada vez que la escritora piensa o siente que no puede decir lo que se busca decir y, por lo tanto, son determinantes en la lucha que Alicia Kozameh lleva a cabo, y que su escritura fragua, entre Eros y Thanatos.

**Norah Giraldi Dei Cas** Profesora emérita de la Universidad de Lille, cursó la Licenciatura de Letras en la UDELAR (Uruguay) y se doctoró en U. de La Sorbonne. Sus trabajos actuales se centran en la violencia política representada en la obra de Juan Gelman, Saúl Ibargoyen, Carlos Liscano, Edda Fabbri y Alicia Kozameh. Fundó la red NEOS (Nortes-Estes-Oestes-Sures) sobre los flujos migratorios actuales y las políticas de migración. Coordinó y codirigió: Juan Gelman, *écriture, mémoire et politique*; *Lugares y figuras de la barbarie*; Fernando Aínsa, *escritor e intelectual entre dos mundos*; *Navegaciones y regresos*; *Migrantes, encuentros con el otro*; *Les Amériques au fil du devenir* y el capítulo “Exilios, migraciones y diásporas en Hispanoamérica” para el libro *Trauma y memoria cultural*. Dirigió, hasta 2023, la colección Trans-Atlántico de las Ediciones Peter Lang.

**Isabelle Pouzet Michel (Universidad Littoral Côte d'Opale, France): “Vientos de Rotación Perpendicular” y “Bosquejo de Alturas” de Alicia Kozameh Abordados Desde el Prisma de la Literatura de los Campos**

En el marco de este congreso cuyo objetivo es llevar a cabo una reflexión crítica sobre los campos de concentración y la cárcel, propondremos una comunicación que compare ambos temas, plasmándolos en el ámbito de la literatura. Partiendo de las características propias de la literatura de los campos (de concentración nazis o de trabajo soviéticos) e apoyándonos en ejemplos literarios relevantes de este género, trataremos de acercarnos a dos cuentos de Alicia Kozameh en los que la autora recoge su propia experiencia carcelaria : « Bosquejo de alturas » y « Vientos de rotación perpendicular » ambos publicados en 2004 en *Ofrenda de propia piel*. Abordar estos dos textos de ficción desde el prisma de la literatura de los campos nos permitirá descubrir tanto sus puntos comunes como sus diferencias. Aunque la literatura de los campos y los textos de Alicia Kozameh pertenezcan a dos géneros de naturaleza diferente, es decir, el testimonio por un lado, y la literatura de ficción inspirada en la experiencia carcelaria por otro, nos parece que el análisis comparado estos textos así como de los códigos que los permiten apreciar mejor la universalidad del mensaje de Alicia Kozameh. Por otro lado, si bien es

evidente que los objetivos no son idénticos, sin embargo podemos identificar características comunes en la manera de percibir los acontecimientos y de traducirlos a través de la escritura. Finalmente, estas observaciones nos ayudarán a entender cómo la escritura — de testimonio o de ficción — es capaz de transmitir con las herramientas propias de cada género un aspecto fundamental : el carácter inenarrable de la experiencia de la extrema violencia.

**Isabelle Pouzet Michel** es profesora asociada de literatura latinoamericana en la Universidad Littoral Côte d'Opale, en Boulogne-sur-Mer, Francia, desde 2016. Es autora de una tesis de doctorado sobre la obra del poeta mexicano Efraín Huerta. Desde 2019, es responsable del proyecto de investigación « Manuscritos de la cárcel » cuyo objetivo es recuperar y analizar manuscritos de autores, poetas y dramaturgos expresos políticos que estuvieron en la cárcel durante las dictaduras latinoamericanas de los años 1970, en Cuba en los años 2000 o en España durante la dictadura franquista. De este proyecto nacieron tres fondos de archivos de manuscritos catalogados y en línea : el del poeta español Marcos Ana, del periodista cubano Manuel Vázquez Portal y del poeta chileno Luis Contreras Jara.

#### **Sylvie Mongin-Algan & Gabriela Alarcón Fuentes (Theater Director; Actress/Director from France/Equador): Taller- Realización '30'**

Treinta mujeres recluidas en el sótano de la Alcaidía de Mujeres de la Jefatura de Policía de Rosario, Argentina, en los años 70 durante la dictadura militar. Treinta mujeres que resisten y para las que la desobediencia es la mejor manera de seguir vivas. A partir del cuento de la escritora argentina Alicia Kozameh, “Bosquejo de altura” (“Esquisse des hauteurs”, “Impression of Heights”, “Höhenlinien, flüchtig hingeworfen”), que dio origen a “30”, un proceso de creación teatral que ya ha reunido a más de 200 mujeres artistas, Sylvie Mongin-Algan, Gabriela Alarcón Fuentes y Sarah Kristian propondrán a las participantes que hagan suya esta historia comparándola con otros relatos de experiencias carcelarias, pasadas y presentes, en diferentes idiomas y en distintas partes del mundo.

Inicialmente actriz, **Sylvie Mongin-Algan** pasó a la dirección teatral para explorar, en un constante ir y venir, textos clásicos y contemporáneos, principalmente franceses. En 1992, fue la impulsora de la creación del colectivo “Les Trois-Huit”, primero establecido en un descampado antes de crear un nuevo teatro en Lyon. Desde esta base inició una aventura de creación teatral que la llevó a América Latina, inicialmente a México con la dramaturga y maestra mexicana Ximena Escalante, y posteriormente siguiendo la exploración y la creación en Francia de obras de teatro hispánico contemporáneo. Al mismo tiempo -desde 2012- dirige el proyecto “30”, basado en el

cuento de Alicia Kozameh (Argentina) “Bosquejo de Alturas”. Basado en un taller creativo itinerante en el que participan 30 mujeres, ya ha hecho escala en Francia, México, Chile, Uruguay, Brasil, Argentina, España, Francia y Ecuador. Paralelamente a su carrera de directora, se dedica a la transmisión y la formación teatral tanto en el contexto profesional como en el ámbito universitario.

**Gabriela Alarcón Fuentes** es actriz y directora, formada en la escuela Arts en Scène de Lyon y en la ENM en danza-performance. Ha trabajado como actriz desde 2013 con Sylvie Mongin-Algan, y participó en la creación de “30” en Francia y en España. En 2020, creó la compañía Argoti con la cual hizo su primer montaje en octubre del 2021: “El amor es un francotirador” de la autora argentina Lola Arias. 5 Propuso un festival de creación femenina para la apertura de la temporada 2022-2023 del Teatro Les Clochards Célestes. Para el evento, dirigió Le Bad Bitches, inspirado en el juego del mismo nombre creado por Gender Game. En 2023, fue co-organizadora y co-creadora de “30” en Quito, Ecuador.

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#### PANEL #10

**Yadiel López Sánchez (University of Puerto Rico): Leyes estatales, federales y políticas sobre la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas**

En este panel discutimos retos, beneficios y recomendaciones para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico. El panel integra cuatro objetivos a discutirse por los ponentes. Primero, expondré leyes estatales, federales, y políticas organizacionales implementadas sobre la inserción laboral de esta población. Segundo, Aby García discutirá proyectos de ley y educativos dirigidos a esta reinserción. Tercero, José D. Ayala discutirá el discrimen y estigma de patronos en la reinserción laboral de estas personas y la educación como alternativa. Por último, la Dra. Tania García presentará recomendaciones y conclusiones para esta reinserción en nuestro país. Puerto Rico no cuenta con una ley que proteja los derechos de esta población. Durante los últimos cinco años personas legisladoras presentaron en el Senado de Puerto Rico proyectos de ley para proteger los derechos de estas personas, sin lograr su aprobación. Discutiremos estos proyectos mas adelante. En esta primera ponencia expondré leyes estatales, federales y políticas organizacionales para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas. Algunas de estas leyes reconocen y protegen a personas por razón de edad, raza, color, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, origen social o nacional, condición social, víctima

de violencia doméstica y veterano, entre otros. Sin embargo, excluyen la condición de haber sido una persona previamente encarcelada. En Estados Unidos se ha establecido en estados la eliminación inmediata de delitos luego de un periodo determinado de tiempo. Sin embargo, en otros estados, como Alabama, Florida, Hawái, Idaho, Massachusetts, Virginia y Texas no se permite modificar el récord criminal. En Puerto Rico mediante la Ley 254 de 1974, la persona solicitante puede pedir a la Superintendencia de Policía eliminar los delitos menos graves. Discutiré opciones que incluyen el Ban the Box, dirigidas a la reinserción laboral de personas previamente encarceladas.

**Yadiel López Sánchez** completó un bachillerato en Psicología con una segunda concentración en Recursos Humanos en la Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Río Piedras (UPRRP). Actualmente, está terminando una maestría en Psicología Industrial-Organizacional en la UPRRP. Cuenta con experiencia práctica en consultoría de pequeñas y medianas empresas como también en Recursos Humanos en empresas internacionales. Esta es su primera publicación científica y participación en un congreso internacional. Presentó una ponencia sobre el tema de este panel en la 68va. Convención Anual de la Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico (APPR, 2021) titulada: Psicología como Vínculo y Conexión.

#### **Aby García Ortiz (University of Puerto Rico): Proyectos de ley y educativos para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

En esta segunda ponencia del panel presentaré de forma general los proyectos de ley y proyectos educativos para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico. Entre los proyectos se encuentran” la “Ley contra el discrimen por condición social de ex convicto”, sometido por el Sen. José Vargas-Vidot. El senado Vargas Vidot propuso enmendar la constitución de Puerto Rico, de modo que la condición social de exconvicto esté protegida. Dos años más tarde, los senadores Miguel Romero, Vargas-Vidot y José Nadal presentaron el proyecto “Ley contra el discrimen en el empleo por condición de exconvicto”. El propósito de este proyecto era prohibir el discrimen por condición de exconvicto para aumentar las probabilidades de empleo de estas personas. Ambos proyectos quedaron sobre la mesa, sin embargo, en 2021 se presentaron dos proyectos adicionales. El primero, “Ley contra el discrimen en el empleo por razón de haber resultado culpable de un delito”, por los senadores Vargas-Vidot y Henry Neumann; el segundo, “Ley para prohibir el discrimen por

razón de tener antecedentes penales”, por la Sen. Joanne Rodríguez-Veve. Ambos proyectos fueron consolidados bajo la “Ley para prohibir el discrimen laboral por razón de tener antecedentes penales”, en el que se incluyeron los aspectos más relevantes de ambos. Sin embargo, este fue vetado por el Gob. Pierluisi al no atenderse algunas de sus recomendaciones. Con respecto a proyectos educativos, la Facultad de Estudios Generales de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras en colaboración con el Departamento de Corrección de Puerto Rico, crearon el Proyecto de Estudios Universitarios para Personas Confinadas. Este proyecto apoya la rehabilitación de personas confinadas a través de la educación universitaria. Este programa ha conferido el grado de Bachillerato en Artes con Concentración en Estudios Generales a 16 personas, desde el 2022.

Bachillerato en Artes en Psicología en la Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Recinto Metro, 2016. **Aby García Ortiz** obtuvo el Premio de Excelencia en 2015 otorgado por el Hotel Condado Vanderbilt. Desde agosto 2020 es estudiante del programa graduado en Psicología, Área de Psicología Industrial Organizacional en la UPRRP para completar el doctorado. Este grado ha sido clave para diversas experiencias como internados en el sector salud, presentación en la Convención Anual de la APPR (2021) y colaborar en proyectos de investigación. Trabaja en Banco Popular desde 2022 como *HR Associate* en el área de *Learning and Development Strategy*.

### **José D. Ayala Cruz (University of Puerto Rico): Discrimen y racismo por parte de los patronos hacia personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

En esta tercera ponencia del panel presentaré lo que hemos encontrado en la literatura con relación a la realidad que viven muchas personas previamente encarceladas. Uno de los fenómenos que hemos encontrado quizás predecible, es el discrimen por condición previa de encarcelamiento. El otro fenómeno que la literatura nos presentó podría pasar desapercibido. Este segundo fenómeno que resaltamos es el de discrimen por color de piel o racismo. Este discrimen mostró tener un impacto significativo en la reinserción laboral de personas previamente encarceladas. Lo cual limita las oportunidades de reinserción y rehabilitación social, y, fomenta indirectamente la reinserción criminal de las personas previamente encarceladas. De acuerdo con la literatura revisada, ambos fenómenos ejercen un impacto negativo tanto en hombres como en mujeres. Sin embargo, según estudios recientes hemos podido constatar que no existe una base empírica que sustente el rechazo patronal hacia personas previamente encarceladas. De hecho, es todo lo contrario a lo que se percibe; estudios

estadísticos han demostrado que personas previamente encarceladas rinden igual o por encima del nivel esperado una vez se les otorga una oportunidad de empleo. Lo que nos permite demostrar que las personas previamente encarceladas están siendo marginadas injustamente. Ya que no existen argumentos científicos que sustenten el comportamiento patronal.

Bachillerato en Artes con concentración en Psicología de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras. Desde 2020 **José D. Ayala Cruz** cursa el grado doctoral en Psicología de la UPRRP, área de Psicología Industrial/Organizacional. Cuenta con experiencia laboral en el campo de la consultoría, recursos humanos, investigación científica, asistencia de cátedra, y dirección técnica de equipos deportivos. Presentó una ponencia sobre el tema de este panel en la 68va. Convención Anual de la Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico (2021) titulada: Psicología como Vínculo y Conexión.

#### **Tania García (University of Puerto Rico): Recomendaciones e intervenciones críticas para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico**

En la ponencia final del panel presento las recomendaciones, intervenciones críticas y conclusiones para la reinserción laboral de personas que han sido encarceladas en Puerto Rico. Las recomendaciones e intervenciones incluyen: 1) La reducción de términos para eliminar delitos del certificado de buena conducta. 2) La creación e implementación de leyes que promuevan la obtención de empleo. 3) La derogación de leyes y estatutos que fomenten el discrimen e intromisión indebida de patronos a la privacidad personal. 4) La identificación de incentivos para organizaciones que recluten personas exconvictas y desarrollen capacitaciones posencarcelamiento. 5) El fortalecimiento de proyectos educativos para personas encarceladas, como el de Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras. En las conclusiones se destacan los beneficios de la reinserción laboral de esta población. Entre estos: su desarrollo y contribución a la sociedad. Esta población puede desarrollar destrezas en sus puestos de trabajo aportando su aprendizaje al país. Además, demostrar su capacidad para recapacitarse y sostenerse por sí misma. Destacamos el valor de estas personas para las organizaciones y su cultura, y caracterizando una sociedad inclusiva, productiva y justa. Desde la academia, recomendamos consolidar esfuerzos para incrementar el bienestar de estas y otras poblaciones marginadas. Este panel contribuye a la psicología del trabajo y las organizaciones, ampliando y democratizando su radio de acción con poblaciones vulnerables, como las personas que han sido encarceladas. Los profesionales de este

y otros campos podemos hacer una diferencia en las organizaciones. La inclusión de esta población en procesos de reclutamiento y selección en Puerto Rico mediante leyes, políticas y prácticas organizacionales puede convertir este país en un modelo para otras regiones del mundo. Esta es una oportunidad para mejorar nuestro quehacer como profesionales, contribuyendo a la construcción de contextos de trabajo justos y equitativos.

Posee un doctorado de Psicología Social de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid, España. **Tania García** es catedrática en el Departamento de Psicología de la UPR-RP. Desde hace 25 años enseña, investiga y publica de forma principal en el área de Psicología del Trabajo y las Organizaciones (PTO), desde una perspectiva histórica, psico-social y crítica. Ha co-editado 4 libros y publicado más de 50 artículos en revistas académicas y libros arbitrados por pares. Ha presentado ponencias, seminarios y talleres en más de 90 congresos académicos y foros profesionales internacionales y locales. Ha dirigido unas 60 tesis de maestría y disertaciones principalmente en PTO.

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#### PANEL #11

##### **Catherine Lennartz (Boston University, USA): Public Memory, Reconciliation, and Canada's Residential Schools**

This research looks at the ongoing and incomplete memorialization of Canada's residential school system for Indigenous children and argues that a national memorial is necessary for progress towards reconciliation. In its 2015 report, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) stated that around 150,000 children were compelled to attend residential schools. These institutions had the objective of assimilating Indigenous children into the dominant culture and religion, often summarized as the aim to “kill the Indian in the Child.” Many children endured physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, leading to numerous deaths due to illness, neglect, or suicide. The TRC has officially labeled the impact of the residential school internment in Canada as cultural genocide, which they define as “the destruction of those structures and practices that allow the group to continue as a group.” Building on the insights of scholars like Giorgio Agamben, Nasser Abourahme, and George Carr, this project interprets residential schools as a type of camp. It contends that these institutions employed biopolitical methods of detention, reeducation, and separation to exert control over Indigenous people and strip them of their sovereignty. While community-based healing practices remain crucial, a national memorial serves an additional purpose. It fosters public memory within non-Indigenous audiences, serving as a reminder of past mistakes, a recognition of ongoing injustices, and



an impetus for action toward a better future. This paper advocates for the establishment of a national memorial for residential schools while focusing on the practical aspects of “how to do so.” It considers the Canadian context, stakeholders, relevant literature on memorialization, case studies, and the role of artistic practices. This study sheds light on the complexity of creating a memorial and offers guidance for taking this critical step in addressing Canada’s historical and contemporary human rights violations.

**Catherine Lennartz** is a Boston University PhD Art History student with extensive museum industry experience. She holds a BFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University (Canada), a Graduate diploma in Conservation Studies from the University of Lincoln (UK), and an MA in World Heritage from Brandenburg University of Technology (Germany). Her diverse studies in Studio Arts, Philosophy, Conservation, and World Heritage, inform her multidisciplinary approach to contemporary art. Her MA research explored memorialization in video games, German counter-memorials, and intercultural online communication. Catherine’s current research centers on the intersection of exhibitions, memory-focused art, and remembrance, with a focus on human rights violations and Indigenous issues.

#### **Christina Korak & Rafael Schögler (University of Graz, Austria): Civilized Christians or Victims of Ethnocide: Impacts on Identity and Territory of the Amazonian Waorani**

The forced contact to the indigenous Waorani people by the evangelical missionary organization Summer Institute of Linguistic (SIL) marked a social, economic and political turning point in the Ecuadorian Amazon region. The different Waorani family groups had managed to successfully defend their vast territory of roughly 2 mio hectares through the rubber boom (late 1800s through the 1920s) against the guerrilla enslavement squads, when the majority society discovered a new commodity in the centre of their ancestral land in the 1930s: oil. As a consequence, beginning in 1956 and until the 1980s, the SIL launched a highly financed “pacification process” which was greatly aided by efforts to master the Waorani’s language Waoterero and bible translations. The move of different family groups into a camp – called “protectorate” or “ethnic reserve” by the State and the SIL – was accompanied by uniting groups that had engaged in warfare against each other, the prohibition of traditional festivities as well as the geographical reduction and sedentarization of formerly seminomadic hunters and gatherers and led to profound changes in cosmovision. By contrasting archival data from the Official Registry (presidential decrees and agreements with the missionaries) and the SIL’s publications with (recorded) testimonies of elders who had

lived through the contact process we will show how life limited to the margins of the reserve impacted on the Waorani's relation with their territory and their identity. These two narratives trace representations of the Waorani by themselves, the SIL and NGOs to critically engage with their portrayal as civilized Christians or victims of ethnocide.

**Christina Korak** is community interpreter and PostDoc researcher. In the project *Towards a Cosmovision Turn* she explores to which extent study programmes for interpreting and translating in indigenous languages contribute to a decolonisation of translation theories. In-between worlds of capitalism and indigenous cosmovisions were the focus of her study on interpreting and translating between the Waorani hunters and gatherers of the Ecuadorian Amazon, oil companies, missionaries and NGOs. In 2024, Promedia published her book *Den Jaguar dolmetschen. Sprachgebrauch und Rechte der Waorani Ecuadors* (Interpreting the Jaguar. Language use and Rights of Ecuador's Waorani people).

**Rafael Schögler** is associate professor of Translation Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. His current research endeavours address knowledge-transforming potentials of translation, spanning from the translation of concepts to translation by missionaries in the Amazon region in the project *Towards a Cosmovision Turn: Challenging Basic Translation Theory*. He is associate editor of the journal *Translation in Society* and published *Die Politik der Buchübersetzung. Entwicklungslinien in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften nach 1945* (The Politics of Book Translation. Trajectories in the Humanities and Social Sciences after 1945) with Campus in open access format in 2023.

**Malek Hardan Mohammad (American University of Kuwait): Biopolitics, Conspiracism, and the Right-Wing "Camping" of the Quarantine/Reception Facilities**

Without elaborate judgement on the difference between fake conspiracy theories and reasonable weariness regarding conspiratorial politics; and not dwelling extensively on the controversy surrounding Giorgio Agamben's opposition to the Covid-19 measures, this paper examines how the right-wring media's conspiracy narratives, as cultural texts, seized upon the Covid-19 quarantine centers and on the refugee reception centers to co-opt the left-leaning academic discourse on biopolitics, the camp, and the state of exception. In "Conspiracy Theories as Opportunistic Attributions of Power" (2022), Nera Berting, and Klein note that, while conspiracy theories are often perceived as "power-challenging" narratives, they also "may target powerless groups for conservative reasons." This paper explores the sleight-of-

hand performed by right-wing narratives in collapsing narratives about immigrant-reception centers and Covid-19 quarantine facilities into one imaginary locus of metaphorical threat to the “people.” So, in terms of identity politics, while the camp was originally studied and theorized as a figurative site of fascistic exclusion, now it emerges in conspiracy narratives as the “inclusive” source of contamination and extinction. This reversal, after all, might be further confirmation of Agamben’s exclusion-inclusion model of the relation between bare life and sovereign power.

**Malek Hardan Mohammad**, PhD in English from Texas A&M University, teaches at the American University of Kuwait. He researches ethics, human rights, biopolitics, conspiracism and literature. He recently authored *Dignity and Power: Biopolitics in Contemporary Literature and Philosophy* (Ethics International Press, 2024). His article “Bill Gates and the ‘new normal’ Covid-19 Conspiracy Theories: ‘it’s a new thing’ or Nothing New Under the Sun?” appeared in *Journal for Cultural Research* in 2023. His chapter “No Big Conspiracy: Poetic Humanity and the Fiction of Resistance in *Never Let Me Go* and *Klara and the Sun*” appeared in the collection *Critical Perspectives on Resistance in 21st-Century British Literature*.

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## PANEL #12

### **Frithjof Nungesser (University of Graz, Austria): Defying Guantánamo: How Inmates Resist Indefinite Detention and Torture**

Through analyzing biographical accounts of and interviews with former Guantánamo inmates, the paper reconstructs how they dealt with indefinite detention and torture. Based on a dialogue between existing theories of resistance and adaptation and the materials from Guantánamo, a systematic and empirically saturated framework of resistance is developed that demonstrates and highlights the broad and diverse spectrum of resistant practices. The proposed framework operates on three conceptual axes. 1) By looking into the perceptual structure of the inmates’ activities, four basic modes of resistance are identified: internal resistance, concealed resistance, disguised resistance, and confrontational resistance. These modes vary with respect to whether they can be observed by the camp administration and whether they can be recognized as acts of resistance. 2) By analyzing the situational dynamic of acts of resistance, different degrees of radicalness can be distinguished within each mode. While circular acts seek to alleviate the harmful effects of the environment, transgressive acts seek to end imprisonment. 3) Finally, because circular acts of resistance mitigate specific violations, it is instructive to

identify the dimensions of vulnerability that these acts primarily address (corporality, sociality, meaning). Analyzing Guantánamo in such a way does not only open up a nuanced perspective on the variegated and creative character of resistance in the camp but also reveals more general implications for current debates on violence, vulnerability, agency, and resistance in camp studies, violence research, and social theory.

**Frithjof Nungesser** received his PhD in sociology from the University of Erfurt and the University of Graz in 2017 and completed his habilitation at the University of Graz in 2021. Currently, he is lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Graz and visiting researcher at the Hamburg Institute of Social Research. Until September 2023 he carried out a three-year research project on “The Sociology of Vulnerability” funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He has published on various topics in sociological theory, cultural and political sociology, including studies on violence, vulnerability, and resistance in torture institutions.

**Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany): The Symbolic Significance of the Orange Jumpsuit: Power, Meaning, and Resistance**

Color not only advances a particular idea, but is a medium through which something becomes contestable and contested (Elliott 2007: 521, 526). The color orange, especially in the form of clothing, functions as a central and efficient semiotic vehicle, since colors are used in, and become a part of, the (re-)enactment of security. The orange jumpsuits served to strip detainees in Guantánamo of their individuality, reducing them to nameless, numbered “enemy combatants” and perpetuating negative stereotypes of Muslims. This categorization allowed the United States government to justify their detention without charge or trial, effectively rendering them stateless and subject to torture and abuse. Our perception and interaction with the world are profoundly influenced by objects like the orange jumpsuit, and the language, ideas, spaces, and bodies they intersect with (Van Veeren 2016: 134). The orange jumpsuit, beyond its material form, has transcended into a symbol, assigning specific meanings to those who wear or appropriate it through other visual forms. These meanings differ greatly for Guantánamo detainees, individuals detained by Daesh, artists and protestors who choose to utilize it in for instance a performative gesture. The global adoption of the orange prison jumpsuit became a widespread phenomenon, effectively connecting protest, artistic works, individuals, spaces, and ideas (Van Veeren 2016: 133). Originating as a visual metaphor for those

labeled as criminals and terrorists, it has morphed into a concise visual shorthand for violence and a representation of a deeply tormented subject position (Van Veen 2016: 133) enduring as a symbol in protest. Relevant examples in the context are the (performative) use of the colour orange by Guantánamo survivor Mansour Adayfi, the paintings of Guantánamo survivor Sabry Alquraishi and appropriations by creatives such as Syrian multidisciplinary artist Hiba Alansari and Sudanese cartoonist Khalid Albaih. Through an examination of its history, various appropriations, and diverse contexts, this paper seeks to uncover the underlying dynamics of power and how materiality aids in the creation and transformation of meaning.

**Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann** has been a post-doctoral researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt since 2023. In combination with her academic pursuits, she operates as a curator at the juncture of art and political activism. Following the completion of her BA and MA in African and Islamic Studies, she worked at the Goethe-Institut Sudan. Subsequently, she pursued her PhD, delving into the artistic appropriation of political violence. Her research interests lie in the theoretical and artistic examination of political violence, with a focus on decolonial perspectives. Her work is characterized by a dedication to critical action and collaborative exploration.

**Sebastian Köthe (Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland): Art from and after Guantánamo. Confronting, Criticizing and Evading Torture**

The term “Art from Guantánamo” encompasses a diverse range of practices, artefacts, and purposes. It includes scratchings, drawings, paintings, or sculptures. Some of these works have been exhibited in various contexts, serving different functions. For example, they have been used as a propaganda tool, such as in Guantánamo’s library, to underscore the artists’ humanity, as demonstrated at John Jay College, or as epistemic and affective objects linking scenes of violence, as seen at the DePaul Museum. The artists come from diverse backgrounds, with varying sensibilities and educational experiences. Some of the earlier, more ephemeral pieces were produced during the Camp’s initial days, while more recent works, such as those by Abu Zubaydah or Sabri al-Qurashi, have only been released recently. I’d like to direct our attention to two strands of work that appear almost in contrast. Abu Zubaydah’s drawings have recently been compiled by Mark Denbeaux (Denbeaux et al., 2023). Abu Zubaydah, the initial prisoner of the CIA’s torture program, remains incarcerated in Guantánamo to this day. His drawings serve as a visual argument that explores the grammar of torture, emphasizing how it contorts the human body. This form of abuse exploits the body’s inherent openness to the world to inflict harm (Hajjar/Viterbo, 2020; Velasquez-

Potts, 2021). At the same time, these drawings also underline Abu Zubaydah's enduring capacity for expression and affection. Through the inclusion of explanatory speech bubbles, the use of colors, arrows, and montage techniques, they construct a didactic visuality, enabling us to recognize and fathom torture. Sabri al-Qurashi's work spans a wide range of motifs. His satirical paintings blend the Statue of Liberty with symbols of extrajudicial rendition. Other paintings dramatize the relationship between incarceration and liberty in poignant juxtapositions. Having endured 13 years of torture in Guantánamo, Sabri al-Qurashi now resides in Kazakhstan under precarious circumstances, which he describes as "another Guantánamo" (al-Qurashi, 2023). While he continues to produce paintings of landscapes and still life, he avoids revisiting the subject of Guantánamo in his artwork. It appears that, in this context, the dynamics of survival and immediate artistic resistance are mutually exclusive.

**Sebastian Köthe** studied Screenwriting at German Film and Television Academy Berlin as well as Cultural History and Theory and Philosophy at Humboldt University Berlin. He was a member of the Research Training Group "Knowledge in the Arts" at Berlin University of the Arts. His PhD thesis "Witnessing Guantánamo" received the prize for the best dissertation by the German Association for Cultural Studies (KWG). He edited the poem collection "Gedichte aus Guantánamo". Today he is postdoc researcher at the Research Focus in Aesthetics at Zurich University of the Arts. His postdoc project centers on aesthetics of solace and inconsolability.

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#### PANEL #13

#### **Lydia Emmanouilidou (Independent Journalist Boston, USA): AI and Automated Technologies at Europe's Refugee Camps and External Borders**

In recent years, the European Union and member states have invested hundreds of millions of euros to test and deploy AI and automated technologies aimed at securing borders and monitoring those who cross them. In Greece - described by EU officials as "Europe's shield" in regard to migration management - European and Greek authorities have taken extraordinary steps to incorporate such technologies into refugee accommodations and centres, deploying multi-million-euro AI security and surveillance systems at several new, EU-funded refugee camps on the Aegean islands. Greek authorities have lauded the surveillance apparatus as a silver-bullet solution to the dangers that plagued previous makeshift migrant camps and surrounding communities. But are these systems working as intended? What,

precisely, is their impact on asylum-seekers and vulnerable people on the move? Are such undertakings effective, legal, and proportional? And what lessons can be learned from Greece's seemingly haphazard implementation of the surveillance programme?

**Lydia Emmanouilidou** is an award-winning freelance journalist based between Boston, MA and Athens, Greece. She regularly appears on National Public Radio in the US, and has published work in the New York Times, the Guardian, Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle and other outlets. Lydia began her journalism career at NPR's Investigative Unit in Washington, D.C. where she contributed reporting and research to several award-winning projects, including a series on the debilitating injuries nurses endure on the job. Most recently she was a Greece-based foreign correspondent for WGBH's *The World*, a daily international news program and former BBC co-production that airs on 300+ public radio stations across the US. Prior to that she was the show's technology reporter. This past summer Lydia contributed to a multimedia investigation into one of the deadliest migrant shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. The investigation was awarded a European Parliament journalism prize in October.

#### **Alexandra Karaiskou (European University Institute, Italy): Panopticon Revisited: Hyperion, Centaur, and the New Surveillance Practices in Greece's Refugee Camps**

In recent years, Greece has been investing significant funds and effort to modernize its migration management policy as part of the digitalization of its public sector. This modernization comes in a techno-solutionist shape and form which entails an enormous trust in technological solutions for long-standing and complex problems. In the field of asylum governance, Greece is eagerly developing and testing new advanced surveillance systems at its refugee camps and beyond with the aim of monitoring unauthorized mobility, detecting threats, and alerting authorities for rapid intervention. This includes, among others, Hyperion and Centaur, two new surveillance systems currently being tested in Greek refugee camps. On the one hand, Hyperion will register asylum seekers' personal data, both biographic and biometric, as well as most services provided to them (incl. food, clothing, etc.) in order to control their entry in and exit from the camp, as well as their compliance with internal camp regulations. On the other hand, Centaur constitutes the new high-tech security management system of the camps that will automatically detect security breaches (via the use of drones, optical and thermal cameras, microphones, metal detectors, motion detectors, etc.) and will alert authorities for intervention in real-time. These developments raise

alarming concerns regarding the protection of asylum seekers' fundamental rights, including inter alia the right to privacy and data protection, which are obviously seriously restricted; as well as the rights to non-discrimination and due process, in cases where the use of these systems may lead to biased decisions or summary rejections of asylum applications. Against this background, this contribution sheds light on the technical and institutional framework of Hyperion and Centaur, explores the paradigm shift their deployment leads to and assesses its fundamental rights implications under European and national law.

**Alexandra Karaïskou** is a PhD researcher at the European University Institute (EUI) and a lawyer practising in Greece. Her PhD project examines the human rights implications of artificial intelligence (AI) tools embedded in EU large-scale systems used for security and migration purposes with a focus on algorithmic profiling and the right to non-discrimination. Her research interests lie on the interactions between technology, society and law in areas of public governance. Before starting her PhD, she was a practising lawyer in Greece, specialising in European and international human rights law. She holds a LL.M. in Comparative, European and International Laws from the EUI, a LL.M. in Human Rights Litigation from the University of Grenoble Alpes (IDEX Grenoble Scholar) and a LL.B. in Law from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece).

#### **Niovi Vavoula (University of Luxembourg): Biometric Surveillance and Detention: The Dark Side of Interoperable IT Systems**

Since the past three decades, the landscape of EU immigration law has been marked by increased digitalisation leading to data-based surveillance of various groups of third-country nationals. Biometry in particular has been championed as a tool that can be deployed to reliably determine whether a third-country national is who they claim to be, or to identify an unknown third-country national. This contribution aims to shed light into the conditions under which asylum seekers and irregular migrants are subject to biometric registration and identification. To do so, it will look into the case of Eurodac, which has been subject to a profound legislative transformation following two legislative proposals in 2016 and 2020. The contribution will stress the correlation between fingerprinting as an integral component of registration and the placement of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in detention facilities, and the fundamental rights concerns stemming by the (lack of) corresponding safeguards, particularly for minors and other groups of vulnerable people.



**Niovi Vavoula** is Associate Professor and Chair in Cyber Policy at the University of Luxembourg. Prior to her appointment in 2024, she was Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Migration and Security at Queen Mary University of London. Her research interests lie in the fields of Immigration law, IT law, including data protection, artificial intelligence and cyber law as well as EU Criminal law.

**Jenna Altomonte & Todd Rowan (Mississippi State University; University of New Orleans, USA): Atmospheric Encounters: Sousveillance, Networked Activism, and Carceral Interventions**

Steve Mann, Jason Nolan, and Barry Wellman define sousveillance, or inverse surveillance, as a “form of reflectionism,” or a means of using “tools against the organization, holding a mirror up to the establishment, and creating a symmetrical self-bureaucratization of the wearer.” Mann outlines how individuals can invert the state apparatus by using personal devices, like cellphones, to document and survey atrocities committed by police, military, et. al. Considering the role of sousveillance, our contribution to *Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, & Critical Interventions* centers on artistic “interventions.” We contextualize how carceral injustices are exposed through works created by four sousveillant artists/activists: Cassils and rafa esparza, Trevor Paglen, and Laura Poitras. Cassils and esparza, Paglen, and Poitras use multivalent, creative interventions to critically expose carceral injustices by repurposing “panoptic technologies” in their works. Titled *In Plain Sight* from 2020, Cassils and esparza, alongside with 80 other artists and activists, commissioned skywriters to fly over carceral facilities across the United States. Using water vapor, they released messages such as CARE NOT CAGES and FREE THEM ALL. To complement the skywriters, users could access xmap.us to locate carceral sites and remotely participate using the 4thWallApp. The app permitted participants to write virtual messages and upload them to the *In Plain Sight* Instagram account. To complement Cassils, we unpack Trevor Paglen’s *Black Sites* series. Starting in 2006, Paglen travelled to Kabul to expose clandestine CIA prisons. Using telescopic lenses, open-sourced satellite images, and testimony from former detainees, Paglen photographed the exterior of alleged “dark sites” to affirm both the existence of said sites and to expose the location of US-led torture programs. Lastly, we analyze Poitras’ dual-channel diptych, *O’Say Can You See* (2011/2016). Poitras’ first channel captures slow-motion reactions of people at Ground Zero on 9.11. The second channel consists of actual footage depicting CIA interrogators torturing two men at a dark site in Afghanistan. Poitras’ second channel reinterprets how the surveyed apparatus becomes the sous-veyed subject. Though extraordinary in their exposure of clandestine

and carceral sites, we argue that sousveillant practices require multi-tiered participation/cooperation from the viewer to activate the content. How do these works go beyond just exposing and affirming these carceral spaces?

**Jenna Ann Altomonte** is an Associate Professor of Art History at Mississippi State University. She received her Master of Arts in Art History (2009) and PhD in Interdisciplinary Arts (2017) from Ohio University. Her primary area of research centers on global contemporary art and digital performance studies with a specialization in political and social intervention practices. Her current research endeavors examine responses to contested, occupied, and conflicted spaces in the post-9/11 era. She is a current Charles E. Scheidt Faculty Fellow in Atrocity Prevention through Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

**Todd Michael Rowan** is an interdisciplinary artist, musician, and provocateur. Currently a PhD student in Social Justice at the University of New Orleans, his work critiques contemporary social and political issues using a diverse array of visual media forms. Inspired by street and socially engaged art movements and styles, he positions his research as a form of new journalism. His work has appeared in a variety of media forms, including albums covers, galleries, and public art spaces across the American South and Scotland.

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#### PANEL #14

**Viktoria Lavriniuk (ENS de Lyon, France): The Gendered Organizing of Carceral Liminality in a Total Institution: The Case of Belarus (online)**

The notion of total institution coined by Erving Goffman to describe prisons suggests ways in which coercive control operates in the space isolated from the outer world. However, central to recent discussions of total institutions is the idea that they are “not-that-total”. In this article, drawing on the concept of liminality elaborated by the carceral geographers, I demonstrate how women political prisoners in Belarus blur prison walls symbolically and physically. In this context, empirical data has been generated during fieldtrips to Lithuania, Poland, Georgia, countries which host political refugees from Belarus. In-depth interviews (not once) with 11 women political prisoners who served their sentence or managed to flee from the dictatorial regime in Belarus were juxtaposed by the context analysis of prison diaries, interviews in various media, and ethnographic notes done during participation in the human-rights defenders discussions of the

situation with political repressions in Belarus. This paper is deeply informed by feminist theory to illuminate ways in which embodied experience of incarceration is framed by gender and class, categories often overlooked by those who theorize total institutions.

**Viktoria Lavriniuk** is a PhD candidate at EmLyon and ENS de Lyon which host her within the Pause programme for scholars and artists in exile. Viktoria, being a refugee herself due to the violent totalitarian regime in Belarus, does her research using auto\_ethnographic approach to demonstrate women's contribution to the Belarusian revolution often called as Revolution with women face. Her particular interest is in lived and embodied experiences of women political prisoners. Viktoria is also an activist and human rights defender who strives to draw attention of policy makers and other stakeholders to ways in which women's experience differs from men's and requires different approach to policies and interventions.

**Julia Roth (Bielefeld University, Germany): "I Used to Watch Shows Like Law and Order": Camp Writing and Legal Imaginaries**

The 'US War on Terror' following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 has evoked manifold literary responses. Life writing texts narrating the experience of former detainees from the Guantánamo camp or from refugee camps question and challenge hegemonic legal imaginaries. By delineating the realities in modern-day camps these texts reveal the ways in which such institutions stand in a long tradition of creating spaces of exclusion from legal protection and of human rights violation, inviting readers to reflect assumptions such as the US or asylum, border and immigration regimes as a haven of human rights. From a "Law and Literature" perspective, the talk discusses the role of life writing and literary/poetic texts/interventions in relation to their functions for imaginations and interrogations of the law/legal to examine the ways in which legal and cultural orders are closely entangled. Poetic, life writing and filmic practices provide a means of shedding light on experiences and injustices that are usually rendered invisible and have no voice in public discourse. Implicitly, such texts point to the importance of cultural imaginaries for people to trust a legal system. The talk will examine how claims for representation and for legal recognition have historically been interrogating hegemonic archives of who (can) represent(s) and counts as a full citizen protected by (US) law. Finally, it traces recent literary interventions with regard to their literary strategies and to their function of making rights claims in a context in which notions of representation and equal rights are being starkly disputed and the language of law is being appropriated for authoritarian and anti-plural means.

**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).

**Anthony James Williams (University of California, USA) & Anthony Ammons Jr. (Juvenile Lifer, California, USA): In/Convenience: Discretionary Power & Ethnoracism in California Solitary Confinement**

This paper provides an empirical and historical investigation into the use of restricted housing units in California state prisons, linking the qualitative literature on race and quantitative literature on prisons to provide an understanding of solitary confinement as institutionalized racism. I draw on over 3,000 pages of archival documents, unpublished administrative data, and case study interviews with Black, non-Black Latinx, and Cambodian men survivors of solitary confinement. I argue that California state prisons and their staff use the torturous practice of solitary confinement to discipline and control people as a strategy of carceral convenience. Prisons and their staff justify this practice through notions of safety, security, and punishment while enacting a racist logic of in/convenience. They exercise this logic through individual solitary confinement, institutionalized gang validation, and lockdowns of entire ethnoracial groups. Anthony Ammons Jr., a survivor of California solitary confinement and research participant, will also contribute his story in his own words.

**Anthony James Williams** is an abolitionist sociologist. Their work examines racism and the carceral continuum across prisons and public spaces. Dr. Williams is currently preparing journal articles and a book manuscript. Their work details the dangerous consequences of the discretionary power that California state prison staff wield over incarcerated people through the use and threat of solitary confinement.

They earned their B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley as well as their MA, M.Phil, and PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Anthony Ammons Jr.** went to prison at age 16 to serve a life sentence. While incarcerated, he co-starred in an Emmy nominated documentary called Q-Ball. He was released early after proving to be rehabilitated. Since his release, he has been a major contributor to the Reentry community and prison reform. He is the first formerly incarcerated individual to be employed by the California State Attorney General.

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#### PANEL #15

#### **Erna Pfeiffer (University of Graz, Austria): Procesos de Traducción – Encierro, Movimiento y Comunicación Subterránea**

Cuando Erna Pfeiffer estaba preparando su antología *Torturada* (publicada en 1993 en Viena, en alemán), Alicia Kozameh escribió para ella el cuento “Bosquejo de alturas” (en marzo de 1992). Desde aquel entonces, su texto ha viajado no solamente por diferentes idiomas y medios de publicación, sino también ha atravesado los límites de los géneros literarios: de un texto en prosa se convirtió en pieza de teatro, bajo el título de “30”. En la ponencia, vamos a tratar de bosquejar algunos momentos del proceso de comunicación, traducción, publicación y recepción. Al mismo tiempo, intentaremos un análisis tanto del texto de partida como de la traducción, incluyendo las diferencias entre ambas y su motivo. Para este fin emplearemos un tipo de close reading, o sea, una interpretación que va siguiendo desde muy cerca, como con lupa, los elementos básicos del texto, sus estructuras y movimientos internos. Entre los motivos más interesantes a interpretar se ofrecen, por ejemplo: el espacio cerrado, subterráneo del sótano de la Alcaidía de Mujeres de la Policía de Rosario, donde las presas políticas se mueven continuamente, aunque están confinadas, detrás de unas rejas de hierro; los treinta personajes femeninos, que al final dieron origen al título francés de la obra de teatro; los tipos de comunicación entre las mujeres y las diversas maneras en que resisten al régimen autoritario impuesto sobre ellas; la función de la creatividad para superar la opresión; el simbolismo de la luz y los fulgores; el papel del cuerpo y sus treinta partes mencionadas en “Bosquejo de alturas”; el “Somos” colectivo y la solidaridad entre las compañeras de celda.

De 1997 hasta 2014 **Erna Pfeiffer** fue Profesora Titular de Literatura Hispánica en la Universidad de Graz. A raíz de un congreso en Puerto Rico en 1987, empezó a trabajar sobre literatura de mujeres en Latinoamérica. En este ámbito, publicó varios libros: *EntreVistas*, *Exiliadas*, *emigrantes*, *viajeras*, *Territorium Frau*, *Aus der Rolle geFallen!* También editó un volumen colectivo, *Alicia Kozameh: Ética, estética, y las acrobacias de la palabra escrita* (2013). Como traductora literaria ha publicado varios libros de autorxs españoles y latinoamericanxs en alemán. También editó y tradujo varias antologías con textos literarios de autorxs latinoamericanxs, a quienes se ha dedicado en numerosos viajes de lecturas, conferencias y simposios internacionales. En el año 2020 recibió el Premio Europeo de Tolerancia y en 2021 el Premio Nacional de Traducción en Austria. Su novela *Eine Widerrede* se publicó en 2019. Mateu Cristina (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina): *Resistencia Cultural Durante la Última Dictadura Militar en Argentina*.

#### **Alicia Kozameh (Chapman University, USA): ‘Bosquejo de Alturas’ – Reflejos y Experiencias**

En el panel que estamos proponiendo, como autora del cuento “Bosquejo de alturas”, que describe la situación carcelaria de treinta mujeres detenidas políticas en el sótano de la Alcaldía de Mujeres de la Jefatura de Policía de Rosario, Argentina, voy a hacer una lectura de fragmentos significativos del cuento. Me interesa exponer la vida que llevábamos y las estrategias cotidianas que nos dieron la posibilidad de no morir, literalmente, y de mantenernos lúcidas y alerta a pesar de los catorce meses de encierro sin ver un solo día la luz del sol, y resistir la constante amenaza a que estábamos sometidas día y noche. La memoria es un ejercicio que no debe tener fin, y mostrar la realidad que se vivió en Argentina, en toda Latinoamérica, y que sigue existiendo en tantos otros países del mundo incluso hoy, es un deber y un derecho. También voy a hablar de mis experiencias como presa política y sobre cómo el cuento se convirtió en obra de teatro hace más de once años, sin haber dejado, desde ese momento, de viajar de un país a otro. La obra, titulada “30, Bosquejo de alturas”, se inició en la ciudad de Lyon, Francia, bajo la dirección de Sylvie Mongin-Algan, que tiene esta actividad como “proyecto de vida”.

**Alicia Kozameh** es autora de ocho novelas, seis colecciones de poesía y dos colecciones de cuentos, entre muchos otros textos. De todos sus libros al menos cinco (*Pasos bajo el agua*, *259 saltos*, *uno inmortal*, *Bruno regresa descalzo*, *Ofrenda de propia piel*, *Ofrenda de propia piel 2*, *Sal de sangres en sangre*) abordan el tema de la experiencia carcelaria propia y de su generación durante los años previos a la última dictadura cívico-militar-eclesiástica, durante la dictadura misma, y durante los años de exilio. Sus libros están traducidos a varios

idiomas. Alicia es frecuentemente invitada a dar charlas y a hacer lecturas de su obra en Europa, Latinoamérica y Estados Unidos, además de enseñar creación literaria en el Creative Writing Program del Departamento de Inglés de Chapman University, en el sur de California.

### **Valerie Simbriger (University of Graz, Austria): La Contribución de Alicia Kozameh para una Cultura de Memoria – el Ejemplo de ‘Bosquejo de Alturas’**

Para contar gran parte de las experiencias que sufrió la autora argentina Alicia Kozameh en la cárcel junto con 29 mujeres más, la escritora eligió una estructura experimental al escribir su texto “Bosquejo de alturas”. Los recuerdos, que aparecen como escenas sueltas, pero reunidos en un texto intenso y conmovedor, no solo son importantes para documentar su experiencia personal, narrar su memoria individual, trabajar el trauma que dejaron los primeros 14 meses de encarcelamiento, estos en un sótano, sin luz. Además, tiene una indispensable importancia para nutrir una memoria colectiva, tanto la de las ‘compañeras’ como la del pueblo argentino – la base para crear una cultura de memoria (*Erinnerungskultur*). De gran ayuda para mi análisis textual serán las antologías editadas por Erna Pfeiffer, en específico, los artículos de Chiara Bolognese, María A. Semilla Durán, María del Carmen Sillato y los de Erna Pfeiffer mismos. Haciendo hincapié en las teorías establecidas por Aleida Assmann, quiero estudiar y analizar el texto “Bosquejo de alturas” respecto a los recuerdos y memoria(s) para posteriormente argumentar por qué el formato del texto elegido por la escritora me parece no solo fundamental sino también decisivo para transmitir un mensaje que se nos graba en la memoria, a cada una y uno de nosotras y nosotros.

**Valerie Simbriger** estudió Filología Hispánica en la Universidad de Innsbruck. En su tesis de máster trabajó con las teorías de memoria de A. Assmann y analizó la posibilidad de narrar recuerdos en la novela histórica-ficcional *El color del silencio* de Elia Barceló. Desde septiembre de 2021, trabaja como asistente PraeDoc en la Universidad de Graz. Su investigación se centra en la ciencia ficción española, desarrollando su proyecto de tesis doctoral en este ámbito. Entretejiendo las teorías de género, biopolítica, posthumanismo y ecofeminismo, en su proyecto Valerie persigue analizar la ficción especulativa de la escritora Elia Barceló de forma transversal (título provisional: “Visiones fluidas: deconstrucción de imaginarios no\_humanos en la narrativa de ciencia ficción de Elia Barceló”).

## **Sarah Kristian & Maëlys Meyer (Actress and Sound Artist from France; Documentary Filmmaker from France): Testimonios y Germinación Múltiple**

Para visibilizar el proyecto “30” podemos presentar un video realizado por Maëlys Meyer contando las experiencias cruzadas de los talleres Lyon y de Madrid en marzo 2023. Este material hace parte del archivo tentacular de la experiencia “30”, colectado por la artista visual Maëlys Meyer y la artista sonora Sarah Kristian. En una muestra visual y sonora en curso de concepción, tienen el proyecto de visibilizar la constelación formada por “30”, como una memoria viva de las luchas de sus participantes. En este simposio, la realizadora sonora Sarah Kristian propone la escucha de una creación documental dedicada a las entrevistas cruzadas de las ex-detenidas Alicia Kozameh, Gladys Baratce, Lelia Ferrarese y Sylvia Lopresti, encarceladas de la dictadura argentina. Desde sus relatos de las luchas previas a sus detenciones hasta años después de sus liberaciones, este documental explora el vínculo entre estas mujeres, sus fuerzas colectivas y solidarias, lo que les permitió nunca dejarse encerrar totalmente. Este episodio impulsa búsquedas para la creación de una serie documental, explorando las resistencias, reflexiones y experiencias sensibles de mujeres en situación de encierro, atravesando espacios y tiempos.

**Sarah Kristian** actriz y directora de reportajes proteicos, la trayectoria teatral de Sarah Kristian está vinculada con su amor por el proceso documental. Residiendo regularmente en Argentina desde 2010, experimenta un teatro físico y militante. A partir de testimonios recogidos ahí, crea reportajes teatrales y fotográficos con la cie Olca. En la línea de estos puentes trasatlánticos, colabora especialmente con Sylvie Mongin-Algan para la obra colectiva “30” (co-realización en Buenos Aires). La creación sonora siempre le acompaña, desde la edición hasta la colaboración en emisiones radiofónicas, con un enfoque sobre las texturas de sonidos, la oralidad y la noción de colectivo. Se formó en Phonurgia Nova. Ella interviene regularmente en estructuras sociales y culturales. Es asistente de L. Vignaud y P. Laidet en la dirección de óperas. Como actriz, trabajó con M. Barthès, M. Boudenia, A. Fourcade, F. Henry, O. Maurin, P. Picot y S. Mongin-Algan.

**Maëlys Meyer** realizadora de documentales y responsable de proyectos artísticos y culturales con el internacional, Maëlys Meyer realiza documentales y objetos audiovisuales en colaboración con artistas del cuerpo, del teatro y de la actuación. Paralelamente, trabaja en proyectos mezclando arte y prácticas sociales. Titular de un Master 2 en cine/audiovisual en la Universidad Lumières Lyon II que termina



en Brasil en 2012. Entre Francia y Brasil, su trabajo audiovisual tiene su origen en este movimiento constante, cuestionando las relaciones visibles e invisibles entre cuerpos, espacios y lenguajes. En sus películas aborda los temas de la memoria, los cuerpos, el género y la traducción, en búsqueda de relatos nuevos que provocan un desplazamiento de las miradas. Como artista visual, colabora con el NTH8, Comedia de Valencia, Teatro del Amanecer, Ballet Cósmico, Dynamo Production, JPL Productions etc. Co-fundadora de la plataforma internacional de arte y cultura PLUS. Cofundadora del FACT Festival de Artes y Creación Trans.

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#### PANEL #16

##### **José Sánchez Guerra (Academy of History of Cuba): Centro Especial de Rehabilitación del Oriente de Cuba (1960-1964)**

Los servicios de inteligencia estadounidenses desarrollaron contra Cuba una campaña de propaganda anticomunista, que logró confundir a miles de campesinos. Promovieron ideas falsas, entre ellas, que a las familias el estado les arrebataría sus propiedades, la Patria Potestad y que los niños serían separados de sus padres y enviados a Siberia. En la labor desestabilizadora tuvieron en cuenta el bajo nivel cultural de los pobladores, sumado a la labor proselitista de líderes religiosos y la débil atención que recibían del estado los habitantes de estas zonas, en las cuales elementos reclutados por la CIA desempeñaban responsabilidades administrativas. Las bandas armadas impusieron la violencia e inseguridad: asesinaron campesinos, quemaron escuelas e instituciones públicas, los maestros fueron amenazados, algunos torturados, incluyendo profesoras que fueron violadas. En estos años miles de campesinos se alzaron o cooperaron con las bandas. Ante esta situación, la jefatura del DMPO, decidió crear el CEROC en Palma Soriano. En las operaciones militares de las FAR, fueron detenidos la mayor parte de ellos y remitidos a los tribunales. Los campesinos que no habían cometido crímenes fueron condenados a cumplir las sanciones en el CEROC. Por este centro pasaron más de cuatro mil sancionados (65 % jóvenes), la mayor parte de los cuales, por vez primera tomaban un lápiz en sus manos y conocían el himno nacional. Los cursos se extendieron durante cinco meses. El centro, que no tenía barrotes, era atendido por oficiales y profesores escogidos. La investigación aborda los programas de alfabetización y reeducación, actividades culturales, deportivas y los trabajos que desempeñaban en las áreas agrícolas. Al culminar la sanción, ya alfabetizados, se les restituía a la sociedad con los mismos deberes y derechos que los restantes ciudadanos. La mayor parte de los ex reclusos mantuvieron una buena conducta social y algunos desempeñaron responsabilidades en cooperativas campesinas o funciones administrativas. La

dirección del país no dio la espalda a los hombres que de manera inconsciente se enrolaron con la contrarrevolución. Les brindaron la oportunidad de rectificar los errores contra el poder establecido, evitando traumas psicológicos de incalculables consecuencias para sus familias. El poder revolucionario ratificaba su política humanista.

**José Sánchez Guerra.** Licenciado en Historia y Ciencias Sociales, Máster Estudios Cubanos y del Caribe. Académico Correspondiente de la Academia de la Historia de Cuba. Historiador de la Ciudad de Guantánamo. Autor de más de veinte libros. Ha participado en talleres internacionales sobre las bases militares extranjeras. Impartió conferencias en España, Austria y Venezuela. Tiene dos Premios Nacionales en Investigación del concurso 26 de Julio. Posee la Distinción por la Cultura Cubana. Participó como delegado y conferencista en el evento Camps, (In)justice, and Solidarity in the Américas, Graz, Austria, 2022. Reside en la ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba.

### **Jorge Graterole & Waldermiro Vélez Cardona (University of Puerto Rico): Hacia la Educación Transdisciplinaria y Decolonial en el Sistema Carcelario: Pensar la Rehabilitación de la Personas Privadas de Libertad Desde la Radicalidad Socio Humanística**

Con el objetivo de alcanzar óptimos resultados en la rehabilitación de la población privada de libertad proponemos que el sistema penitenciario debe redirigir sus recursos y esfuerzos en la implementación de un currículo educativo de carácter transdisciplinario. Mediante este artículo primero expondremos la ineficacia de lo que tradicionalmente ha sido el sistema penitenciario y sus métodos basados en el encierro, la penalidad y el castigo como falsas formas de rehabilitación. Platearemos como Las tecnologías disciplinarias de control, unidas a las discursividades fundamentalistas, tan solo institucionalizan la violencia maximizando el sentimiento de culpa expiatoria con sus consabidas prácticas autodestructivas redundando en conductas delictivas. En cambio, en segundo lugar, nos fundamentaremos en las incipientes experiencias con el *Proyecto de Educación Universitaria para Confinados y Confinadas* en Puerto Rico para afirmar que una educación superior de carácter transdisciplinaria es la mejor opción para una facilitar la integración de las personas privadas de libertad a la llamada libre comunidad. La transdisciplinariedad puede integrar diversos saberes de manera inclusiva gracias a que los presupuestos epistemológicos y metodológicos transdisciplinarios se fundamentan en un multi perspectivismo que integra prácticas y conocimientos que emergen de diversas realidades. Tales realidades, de las cuales provienen muchos de las personas privadas de libertad, sobrepasan los limitados marcos de conocimientos y conceptos propios de los saberes de las disciplinas aisladas que caracterizan a la academia

tradicional. Así La educación transdisciplinaria posibilita que cada persona privada de libertad ponga en función sus propias capacidades y potencialidades en la construcción proactiva de eso que tradicionalmente se denomina “visión de mundo” y que compone los esquemas perceptuales, valorativos y afectivos. Mediante una interpretación transdisciplinaria de las realidades múltiples la persona privada de libertad alcanza una comprensión integral de su propio ser como una prolongación de toda forma de existencia así como toda forma merecedora de respeto y afecto.

**Jorge Graterole** es profesor adjunto colaborando en diversas instituciones universitarias en Puerto Rico incluyendo el recinto de Humacao de la UPR, la Escuela de Artes Plásticas y el Conservatorio de Música. Posee un grado de maestría en Filosofía y actualmente se encuentra realizando el doctorado en Historia. Desde el 2014 ha sido parte del *Proyecto de Educación Universitaria para Confinados y Confinadas* mediante el cual la Universidad de Puerto Rico ha posibilitado que un grupo de estudiantes privados de libertad hayan obtenido un bachillerato en Estudios Generales y actualmente se encuentren realizando maestría en Humanidades con énfasis en Gestión Cultural.

**Waldemiro Vélez Cardona** es Catedrático en el Departamento de Ciencias Sociales de la Facultad de Estudios Generales, del Recinto de Río Piedras de la UPR. Ha publicado sobre los temas de educación superior, globalización, negociación colectiva docente, economía de Puerto Rico, educación general, entre otros. Sus libros incluyen *El financiamiento de la educación superior en Puerto Rico*; y (junto a Manuel Maldonado Rivera y Carlos Sánchez Zambrana) *Historia crítica de la Educación General en Puerto Rico: Antecedentes y etapa fundacional*.

### **Soukaina Boukhar (University Claude Bernard Lyon, France): Exploring the Ethics and Implications of Biometric Identification in Refugee Camps**

There are significant ethical and policy considerations around the growing use of biometric identification in refugee camps. These technologies have become increasingly incorporated over the past two decades into humanitarian activities, especially in the management and assistance of displaced populations in refugee camps. Several factors have contributed to the recent emphasis on biometrics in refugee contexts. From a logistical aspect, registering and validating the identities of massive influxes of refugees is typically difficult for humanitarian groups and host governments, especially when documentation is missing or destroyed. Biometrics provides an answer to

these problems by giving people a way to identify themselves that is both reliable and impossible to fake. This could facilitate the reuniting of divided families, reduce instances of aid fraud, and streamline the provision of help. This research examines the pros and cons of introducing such technology into the fragile ecosystem of refugee camps. We use an approach based on the study of secondary data to look at the potential advantages, such as better assistance distribution and increased security, in different refugee camps. Concerns about data breaches, misuse, and the accidental exclusion of certain refugees owing to technological flaws are addressed simultaneously. Our investigation demonstrates a conflict between effectiveness and moral concerns. Certain data handling and the possible marginalization of refugees are two areas where biometrics presents hazards despite the fact that they may improve certain logistical aspects of camp management. Based on these results, the study stresses the importance of strict ethical standards, thorough data protection procedures, and constant refugee participation in decision-making. The study recommends that international organizations work together to develop policies that would ensure refugees' right to privacy and dignity when biometric data is collected and used.

**Soukaina Boukhar** is an ambitious Master's student in Data and Intelligence for Smart Systems at Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France. With a solid foundation in computer science, Soukaina holds an Engineering Diploma from ENSA, Morocco, reflecting a robust technical skill set and a passion for innovation in the digital realm.

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#### PANEL #17

**Julia Roth (Bielefeld University, Germany), Sandra Heidl (Founder of Afrocubanas, Cuba/Germany) and Lgia Fabris (Yale University; Rio de Janeiro Law School of the Getulio Vargas Foundation): Book Presentation Panel: Abolitionism, Political Violence and Solidarity: Critical Feminist Interventions from the Americas**

Feminist movements from the Americas provide some of the most innovative, visible, and all-encompassing forms of organizing and resistance. With their diverse backgrounds, these movements address sexism, sexualized violence, misogyny, racism, homo- and transphobia, coloniality, extractivism, climate crisis, and neoliberal capitalist exploitation as well as the interrelations of these systems. Fighting interlocking axes of oppression, feminists from the Americas represent, practice, and theorize a truly »intersectional« politics. *Feminisms in Movement: Theories and Practices from the Americas* brings together a wide variety of perspectives and formats,

spanning from the realms of arts and activism to academia. Black and decolonial feminist voices and queer/cuir perspectives, ecofeminist approaches and indigenous women's mobilizations inspire future feminist practices and inform social and cohabitation projects.

**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).

**Sandra Heidl** is a psychologist, journalist, editor of gender issues, and researcher. Sandra holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Havana (1996), a Diploma in Gender and Communication from José Martí International Institute of Journalism (2005), and an MA in Gender Studies from the University of Havana (2008). Sandra is the author of *Negra cubana tenía que ser* (Ediciones Wanafrica, 2020) as well as the founder of *Afrocubanas* afrocubanas.com and of the online dictionary and archive *Directorio de Afrocubanas* directoriodeafrocubanas.com.

**Lígia Fabris** is a professor at the Rio de Janeiro Law School of the Getulio Vargas Foundation and coordinator of the Diversity and Inclusion Program. She is a PhD candidate at the Humboldt University Berlin and holds a Master of Law from PUC-Rio. She is also a co-founder of the Rio de Janeiro State Forum for More Women in Politics. Currently, she is a member of the National Observatory of Women in Politics, which is operated by the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies. Her main research and teaching focus are Gender and Law, Feminist Legal Theory, Women's Political Representation, Gender-Based Political Violence, and Rights of LGBTQ+ persons.

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PANEL #18

**Caroline M. Suárez Rodríguez (University of Puerto Rico): Incarceration and Performance: An Analysis of Domination and Resistance in *The General: The Ordinary Man Who Challenged Guantánamo* by Ahmed Errachidi**

Ahmed Errachidi's memoir, *The General: The Ordinary Man Who Challenged Guantánamo* (2013), presents the detention center at the US naval base at Guantánamo Bay as a site that maintains practices and roles of domination and control like those present during the Caribbean's colonial period. This analysis begins by asking whether Errachidi's work can be considered a neo-slave narrative, engaging Yogita Goyal's (2017) examination of Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini's *Guantánamo Diary* (2015), while identifying and contextualizing characteristics of this genre in terms of Errachidi's work. This research also asks how oppressive systems and figures control certain narratives and spaces to uphold hierarchical structures while considering some of the ways in which said structures of oppression persist and manifest in contemporary contexts. It will pay special attention to literary representations of the experience of imprisonment and torture in the Guantánamo Bay detention center. As will be discussed, Errachidi's memoir provides insight into the ways in which narratives are constructed and controlled within the confines of the detention center whilst offering a powerful counter-narrative. This will be shown by pulling from the relevant theoretical work of Birgit Wiens (2010) on spatiality to offer a close analysis of the theatrical and performative elements of interactions and dynamics that the author uses to tell his story, including: scripted dialogues, choreographed forms of intimidation, symbolism involving uniforms and other insignia, the presence of cameras, and the construction of a setting and audience. This analysis will suggest the metaphor of the Guantánamo Bay detention center as a stage, in which military members assume roles as performers, while Muslim detainees are cast as villains by the same military intelligence.

**Caroline M. Suárez Rodríguez** is a PhD student in the English department at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus, specializing in Caribbean Literature. Her research interests center around the intersection of space and gender within literary discourse. Suárez holds a bachelor's degree in Education with a concentration in Hispanic Studies from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus, and a master's degree in Peninsular Literature and Culture from Illinois State University. Her master's thesis examined *La Sección Femenina* and the portrayal of spaces occupied by women within the post-Franco era as represented in Spanish literature and films. Her poems have been published in the magazine *Cronopio* and *Latino Book Review*.

**Jacqueline Jiang Chieu (University of Puerto Rico): Confinement, Rights, and Historical Narratives: Chinese Indentured Laborers in Cristina García's *Monkey Hunting* and The Cuba Commission Report**

This research delves into the history of Chinese indentured laborers in Cuba during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with particular attention to their experiences in camp-like enclosures, such as Cuba's barracoons. Drawing from archival records, historical documentation, Cristina García's *Monkey Hunting* (2003), and The Cuba Commission Report (1876), this study seeks to amplify the voices of Chinese laborers, oftentimes kidnapped and transported to Cuba. This work discusses the violation of rights, drawing attention to parallels between barracoons and similar spaces in Guantánamo Bay's history where rights have been systematically compromised. Jennifer Ann Ho's "The Place of Transgressive Texts in Asian American Epistemology" points to *Monkey Hunting* as a novel that shows García's concerns with globalization and the Chinese diaspora in the Americas. My work considers these general concerns in terms of the novel's representation of a fictional family's genealogical journey after their patriarch Chen Pan leaves China in 1857 responds and testimonies about abuse and violations of the law found in The Cuba Commission Report. As will be explained, barracoons, served as sites for temporary confinement and accommodation; their descriptions are comparable to representations of the plantation. This inquiry delves into the ethical dimensions of confinement, critically examining living conditions, social dynamics, and psychological impacts on Chinese laborers in the barracoons. It delves into questions of agency, resistance, and social adaptation within constrained environments. Using historical and literary analysis, critical fabulation, and postcolonial perspectives, this study endeavors to give voice to the Chinese diaspora in Cuba and to better understand commonalities and differences that characterize divergent manifestations of carcerality and their relationship to contemporary understandings of human rights.

**Jacqueline Jiang Chieu** is a multifaceted scholar pursuing her PhD in English literature. Her academic journey encompasses diverse interests such as space, gender relations, identity poetics, and the history of the Chinese in the Caribbean. Jacqueline's intellectual curiosity has led her to engage in various conferences, enriching her scholarly pursuits. Beyond academia, she expresses her creativity as a poet, with her published work *Water Ripples* in 2023 with La Impresora receiving immensely positive feedback from the Puerto Rican and diaspora community. Jiang looks forward to continuing her research on rewriting Caribbean literature with the Chinese in mind.

**Wilfredo R. Santiago Hernández (University of Puerto Rico): Assembling the Dissimilar: A Glissantian Approach to Poetry about Guantánamo Bay**

Poetry breaks away from the straightforward storytelling approach common in narratives, opting instead for ambiguity and openness, thus avoiding the quest for absolute certainty. Thinking of poetics in this manner shows that a dialogic relationship connects the dissimilar and opens a space of relation, as shown by Edouard Glissant's concept of Poetics of Relation (1990), which moves beyond the oppositional discourse of the same and the other to an innovative vision of difference as an assembler of the "dissimilars." This work, which consists of two main parts, considers the poems from *Poems From Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak* (2007) and the poetic oeuvre of Cuban poet José Ramón Sánchez Leyva, among other poets. The first part examines fluidity of relation beyond the closed doors of systems of discrimination, segregation, and rejection, one that builds bonds of solidarity and conciliation across differences of language, nationality, politics, and culture. The second part revisits Carolyn Forché's "poetry of witness" (1993) to better understand how poets navigate their identities, preserve memories, and assert humanity despite dehumanizing conditions to reveal a language in itself "Poem as trace, poem as evidence" (31). Assembling the dissimilar, this research argues that poets can tap the unconscious to provide forms of memory capable of transcending "nonhistory" and affirming truth.

**Wilfredo R. Santiago Hernández** is a PhD candidate and instructor at the University of Puerto Rico, Cayey Campus and University of Sacred Heart in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He is currently completing a PhD with a concentration in Caribbean diaspora and performance studies, from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. He teaches first-year honors and intermediate English as well as Puerto Rican diasporic literature for the English Department in the Cayey Campus of the UPR. He also offers second-year interdisciplinary courses on literary genres in the University of Sacred Heart. His research is centered around Puerto Rican and Caribbean cultural studies, and decolonized perspectives of Caribbean history. He is a native of Puerto Rico and currently lives in San Juan.

**Yoseph Villafañe Rivera (University of Puerto Rico): For [What] God and Country: Humanity and Alterity and James Yee's Memoir**

Scholars from the Humanities who research writing, cultural production, and the dynamics of detention in the camps that form part of the US naval base at Guantánamo Bay rarely focus on the impressions and accounts of its servicemembers, interrogators, and guards.



Nevertheless, these are important for understanding the topics that they describe. What are the perspectives and points of view of members of the military who have written about their experiences at the base? What moved some of these individuals to act in ways that make detainees and others see them as humane figures? According to some accounts, such as Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini's *Guantánamo Diary*, not all of the guards and servicemembers treated the detainees inhumanely. Looking at his memoir and other works through the lens of alterity, it is possible to better understand the actions of the prison guards and servicemembers. With this in mind, this paper positions accounts found in texts by former prisoners, such as Slahi-Houbeini, with James Yee's *For God and Country: Patriotism under Fire*. Yee is a Muslim who was discharged servicemember from the United States Army's Chaplain Corps after his deployment to Guantánamo. In terms of research method, the accounts of servicemember and detainee will be compared to establish the link between the sentiments of the "other" in the creation of bonds between the two groups often imagined and described as oppositional. Special attention will be given to Yee's religion, the trauma of the 9/11 attacks, soldiers' "general orders," and the emergence of Islam as a symbol of "terrorism" for some Americans.

**Yoseph Villafaña Rivera** is a PhD student focusing on the Caribbean literature in the Department of English in the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras. He holds a MA in English with a focus in British literature from Southern New Hampshire University and a B.A. in English Education from the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. He has published a poetry book titled, *Stanza of the Storms* which focuses on his experiences after Hurricane María and his service in the United States Army. His interests involve reading and writing about Caribbean speculative fiction and military memoirs and poetry.

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#### PANEL #19

##### **Human Rights: What To Do?**

This panel is a working session and open forum that considers what conference participants who are interested in responding to human rights abuses at Guantánamo might do following the conference. It will include the participation of four former Guantánamo prisoners. They will answer questions about advocacy and activism and share details about different initiatives that have taken place before and

after their release. Those who attend will have the opportunity to brainstorm about future initiatives that build on the conference, including those to which graduate students and academics might contribute.

**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*.

**Moazzam Begg** is a British-born Muslim, he is a former Guantánamo 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 Guantánamo, 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*.

**Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini** 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. Slahi-Houbeini 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-Houbeini 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, Slahi-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-Houbeini.

**Abdellatif Nasser** was born and raised in Casablanca City, Morocco. After graduating from high school in mathematical science, he studied at the University of Science. For nearly twenty years, between 2002 and 2021, he was detained at the U.S. detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He was never charged with a crime or tried, but like many others, he was repeatedly interrogated, tortured, and force-fed. He turned to hunger strikes because they were the only means by which he could resist soldiers' harassment and arbitrary detention. He emerged as a block leader and for years pushed for educational opportunities for his fellow detainees. This led to his nickname, "the Minister of Education." His story was widely covered in the New York Times, the Guardian, and in the 6-part NPR series "The Other Latif." As noted in some of these reports, during his incarceration he created a handwritten bilingual (Arabic-English) dictionary that consisted of about 2,000 entries. In the two and a half years since his release, he has studied independently and completed different online courses in a variety of subjects.

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#### PANEL #20

##### **Luke Bresky (St. Mary's University, Canada): Carceral Gaze and Emancipated Vision: Lydia Maria Child's Letters From New York**

Published in the National Antislavery Standard between 1841 and 1844, Lydia Maria Child's Letters from New York occupy and map the discursive confluence of travel literature and reform literature, contemplating New York both as a visitable setting for the literary sketch-artist and a central case-study for social diagnoses of American poverty, criminality, and human exploitation. While the latter perspective indicates most clearly the relevance of this writer, and this text, to the conference theme, my presentation highlights Child's apologetic but insistent case for compassionate ways of looking and seeing that, without averting the gaze from human suffering and its material causes, refuse to enclose vision within a concrete sociopathology—a hopeless city "hewn from prison," as Child puts it. At a very literal level, several letters narrate Child's visits to diverse carceral institutions—asylums, orphanages, watch-houses, and hospitals as well as prisons, suggesting a reformist itinerary in the sociological tradition of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose study of democratic institutions grew out of his original inspection of America's penal and public relief systems. By the 1840s, tours of the kinds of institutions Child was

describing had become a standard component in accounts of American travel. This convention of travel writing, however, does not fully explain the way Child alternates between the perspectives of reformist and traveller, even in the many letters that feature no direct account of social ills or reform initiatives. Even the letters describing scenes of primarily aesthetic or cultural interest feature pervasive metaphorical references to walls and prisons, and restless critical reflections on the boundaries between the actual and the imaginary. Utopian, millennial, transcendental, and allegorical by turns, the reformist traveler's gaze ultimately seeks hopeful vistas that look beyond the carceral city, exploring its possibilities and temporalities as well as its localities.

Associate Professor of English at St. Mary's University, Calgary, **Luke Bresky** specializes in 19<sup>th</sup> Century American literature and the politics of reform. He co-edited (with Michael Colacurcio) the Broadview Press edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel of Utopian disillusionment, *The Blithedale Romance*; his work appears in *ESQ*, *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, and the *Canadian Review of American Studies*. For CRAS, he guest-edited an "Alternative/Mainstream" issue (August 2022) featuring papers from the 2018 conference he organized with the Canadian Association for American Studies. His current book project concerns the intermediations of political civility, social etiquette, and literary decorum in Antebellum U.S. print culture.

**Atalie Gerhard (Trier University; Saarland University, Germany): Confining Extremism: The Role of North American Carceral Imaginaries in the Prison Memoirs of Susan Rosenberg and Ann Hansen**

This paper analyzes how the two prison memoirs *An American Radical: Political Prisoner in My Own Country* (2011) by the Communist Susan Rosenberg from the U.S. and *Taking the Rap: Women Doing Time for Society's Crimes* (2018) by the anarchist Ann Hansen from Canada negotiate their countries' histories of settler colonialism and plantation slavery. Both authors are queer white women who were convicted of participating in armed conspiracies to overthrow their governments and military industries. The fame of Rosenberg and Hansen has increased since their releases, as their memoirs, academic speaking engagements, and ongoing activism construct them as martyrs for liberation struggles across the Americas. At a first glance, the Jewish Rosenberg from New York could appear to follow in the footsteps of the formerly incarcerated prison abolitionist feminist Angela Y. Davis when she indicts how the legacy of slavery shapes prison conditions for her black fellow inmates analogously to the antisemitism of Nazi Germany. Meanwhile, in her narrative of a romantic

relationship with a Cree fellow inmate, Hansen from the Vancouver chapter of Direct Action could be seen to echo the observations of the former Cree prisoner Yvonne Johnson regarding how carceral experiences connect the present to historical fights of First Nations for territorial sovereignty. On the one hand, the prison narratives of Rosenberg and Hansen could claim social statuses as *homini sacri* in Giorgio Agamben's definition of political outcasts who are legally marked for exclusion, but not rehabilitation in their societies. On the other hand, the decolonial theorists Eve Tuck (Unangax̂) and K. Wayne Yang distinctly connected the North American history of carceral spaces with the white settler colonial agenda of obtaining forced labor for lands they had violently usurped from Indigenous nations. Against this backdrop, I interrogate how the discursive poetics of Rosenberg's and Hansen's performed advocacy for black and Indigenous prisoners negotiate their own white and class privileges. Further, I base my readings of Rosenberg's and Hansen's expressed far-left extremist politics through the lens of Ayn Rand's criticism of collectivism in the cultural context that allowed the ex-incarcerated authors' rise to celebrity in the first place.

**Atalie Gerhard** is an adjunct lecturer at Trier University and a doctoral candidate at Saarland University. She was a doctoral researcher in the International Research Training Group "Diversity: Mediations of Difference in Transcultural Spaces". She joined the Emerging Scholars' Forum of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-Speaking Countries. Her interests include Black and Indigenous resistance and self-representations of women in North American art and literature. She holds a Master of Arts degree in North American Studies as well as as a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and American Studies and French Studies from the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

#### **Sandra Tausel (University of Innsbruck, Austria): 'All Stories in This Play Are True:' Reading France-Luce Benson's Detainment as a Living Document of Detention and Deportation**

In 2023, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) celebrated its twentieth anniversary and, by publishing its Annual Report, restated the commitment to "rebuild a humane and orderly immigration system" ("2023 Year in Review"). The 2023 report details that ICE detained 36,845 noncitizens in 150 detention facilities across the US, removed 142,580 citizens to a total of 180 countries, expelled an additional 60,000 noncitizens under the Title 42 public health order, and, finally, removed 212 unaccompanied children and

17,946 members of family units (18, 26, 29). ICE reports on a “successful” year by consistently avoiding the use of “deportation” and emphasizing the criminal histories of those removed (69,906 out of 142,580). However, the report ignores the lived experiences of migrants and their families, many of whom hold green cards, served in the military, and have lived, worked, and paid taxes in the US for years before being arrested, detained, and deported. To create visibility for the migrants in these volatile processes, Judy Rabinovitz, an ACLU Immigrant’s Rights Project lawyer, collaborated with France-Luce Benson and director Mark Valdez to bring several of these stories to the theater stage. Benson calls *Detained*, the play that resulted from Rabinovitz and Benson’s collection of stories and interviews, a “living document [that she is] constantly updating” (“*Detained*”). *Detained* premiered at The Fountain Theatre in LA in 2022 and is a documentary drama that gives voice to people rather than policies and abstract data. The play, akin to what Ryan Claycomb calls “an oral history performance” (41-42), compels viewers to emphasize with what it means to live through month-long detention at government facilities, deportation processes fraught with intricate legal complexities, and the pain of family separation. In this paper, I will argue that *Detained*, as a documentary drama with its concomitant claim that “all [portrayed] stories . . . are true” (Gordon), allows a look at how ordinary family lives are forcefully impacted by US immigration policies, while also exposing the abject power and inhumanity undergirding the industrial complex of immigration, imprisonment, and detention.

**Sandra Tausel** is a university assistant and PhD candidate in the American Studies Department at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Her dissertation project titled *Reproductive Agism: Narratives of Age-Based Reproductive Control* aims to delineate ageist reproductive discourses that create controlling narratives affecting women, trans, and nonbinary characters’ reproductive choices during different life phases in contemporary US-American fiction. Her research interests include issues within women’s, gender, and sexuality studies in the context of US-American literature and culture. Tausel has published articles in *libri liberorum* (Journal of the Austrian Society for Research on Children’s and Youth Literature), in *WiN: The EAAS Women’s Network Journal*, and in the Routledge anthology *The Disfigured Face in American Literature, Film, and Television*.

**Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria): Migration Management as Extrastatecraft: The EU Hotspots as Infrastructure Spaces of Filtering**

This paper will present the background, context and conceptual framework of a multidisciplinary research in Greece, Italy, Tunisia, Libya and Turkey on the role of infrastructure in the EU's policies to control migration to Europe. In May 2015, the EU announced the introduction of the so-called Hotspot approach that enables EU agencies such as Frontex and Europol to intervene in the migration governance of EU member states such as Italy and Greece which asylum seekers are trying to reach via deadly crossings of the Mediterranean. The Hotspot approach entails a heavy militarization and fortification of the sea and land through new infrastructures, which entails not only physical but also procedural components. The paper will first discuss the cornerstones of the Hotspot approach and then analyze its implementation by employing the concepts of extrastatecraft and infrastructure space as coined by Keller Easterling (2014). Officially presented as assistance and support for member states, the EU Hotspot approach has to be rather understood as the creation of special zones, in which EU agencies, international organizations (such as IOM and UNHCR), national and local governments are coalescing to enforce extreme and unlawful measures of migration control. We conceptualize this novel form of migration management as extrastatecraft which enables the involved actors to circumvent existing laws and routinizes violence and violations in the hotspots. The Hotspots themselves are infrastructure spaces in which this extrastatecraft operates to implement the processes of filtering and sorting out.

**Bilgin Ayata**, formerly a professor for political sociology at the University of Basel, is currently affiliated with Graz University's Centre for Southeast European Studies. With a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and an MA from York University, her research focuses on migration, borders, citizenship, affect, and postcolonial studies, particularly in Europe and the MENA region. She's a DFG-Mercator Fellow at the SFB Affective Societies in Berlin, co-speaker of the migration, borders, and mobility research cluster, and co-president of the Research Association Switzerland-Turkey. Ayata leads interdisciplinary projects exploring contemporary borders and emotion in authoritarianism, fostering knowledge exchange beyond academia.

## **Chiara Pagano (University of Graz, Austria): The Spatiality of the Hotspot Approach in Italy: Between Facilities' Invisibilization and Migrant Persons' Mobilization**

The paper explores the implementation of the hotspot approach in Italy as an unprecedented form of multilevel governance of migration attesting for the coalescence of national actors, EU agencies, International Organizations and Non-governmental organizations with the ultimate goal of sorting out third-country nationals into groups of “protection seekers” and so-called “economic migrants” already from the moment they enter the territory. Building on the results of fieldwork conducted during 2019 in a number of Italian hotspot locations, the paper presents a genealogy of the hotspots in Italy and discusses the unforeseen forms of territorially scattered carcerality underpinned by it. The adoption of the Italian Interior Ministry's Roadmap (28 September 2015) for the implementation of the New European Agenda on Migration (May 2015) inaugurated the implementation of the hotspot approach in Italy. Few already existing facilities nearby or right at ports of landing were adapted as closed hotspot facilities. Yet, unlike what happened in Greece, the introduction of new procedures was prioritized over the set-up of new facilities in the Italian case. Starting from February 2016, the Standard Operating Procedures regulating the functioning of Italian hotspots were implemented in all landing sites, regardless of the presence of actual hotspot facilities. This attested for the high mobility and liquidity characterizing the hotspot approach in the Italian case, which is also strictly connected to practices of migrants' coerced mobilization throughout, and out of the peninsula. In order to better understand these aspects as part of new EU bordering practices, the paper will assess how implementing the hotspot approach in Italy also entailed complementary policies that exceeded the EU space, such as the suspension of search and rescue activities in international waters, and the most recent renewals of bilateral agreements with Libya and Tunisia. Moreover, it will be argued that the implementation of the hotspot approach in Italy resulted in postponing protection of potential asylum seekers while systematizing violations against all third-country nationals irregularly reaching the Italian territory, namely by conducting summary vulnerability assessments and proceeding to nationality attribution aimed at biometric registration so as to contain and control newly arrived persons' mobilities.

**Chiara Pagano** is postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Southeast European Studies within the research project “Elastic Borders: Rethinking Borders in the 21st century”. She works at the intersection of African Studies, Critical borderlands studies, and Critical Migration Studies to explore the historical constructions and contemporary (re)configurations of geographical, political, and identity-based



frontiers in North Africa and the Mediterranean, as well as the palimpsestic evolution of mobilities along and across these frontiers, with a focus on the Libyan-Tunisian borderscape. There, she has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Medenine governorate, which has been at the forefront of the post-2011 and partially EU-led reconfiguration of Tunisian border practices.

**Artemis Fyssa (University of Graz, Austria): The Hotspot Approach in Greece: The Infrastructure Space of Filtering at the Eastern Mediterranean Borderscape**

By 2019 the Greek version of the Hotspot approach had become a synonym of congestion and liminal infrastructure. What was initially designed as fast-track processing facilities for border control ended up creating some of the largest refugee camps in Europe that emerge as a distinct infrastructure space. In my paper I analyze the collaborations of state, supra-state and international actors within the Hotspot's infrastructure space that allow for the emergence of an extrastatecraft zone along and across the Eastern Mediterranean. I argue that the key aim in this process is filtering by way of a narrowly conceived right to asylum. The prioritization of filtering remains evident across the 5 hotspots' facilities, regardless of the adaptable improvisations that are evident in terms of the built environment as well as in the institutional actors' collaborations. With a comparative analysis of the implementation on 5 Islands I will focus on how the hotspots' filtering process adds yet another layer to the necropolitical dimension of the EU migration management politics, that consists of the creation and maintaining of deserving and undeserving migrants both of whom are nevertheless obliged to endure the inhumane conditions of the hotspots' facilities. The paper is based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted on the 5 islands by employing semi-structured interviews with key actors in 2019, while it contributes to the critical migration scholarship, borders and bordering and the scholarship on migration infrastructure.

**Artemis Fyssa**, a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Basel, is the principal researcher for Subproject 4 of the "Elastic Borders: Rethinking the Borders of the 21st Century" project. Her research focuses on the socio-political impact of the EU and Greek migration policies on the Eastern Aegean islandic borderzones since 2015. Artemis holds a joint Master of Science in Urban Studies (Onassis Foundation scholarship); an interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Music Culture and Communication; and a Bachelor Diploma in Sociology. She has worked as a web editor for media outlets and an NGO project coordinator and proposal writer.

### **Alaa Dia (University of Basel, Switzerland): Shifting Border Strategies: The Carceral-Humanitarian Borders at the Aegean Island**

This paper explores the transformation of post-island-arrival sites into carceral-humanitarian borders in the Mediterranean, with a main focus on the Aegean islands. Initially conceived as mechanisms for controlling migrant mobility, these sites have materialised into hybrid spaces that combine punitive and humanitarian functions. This evolution is critically evaluated through a series of time-bound and geographically specific case studies, highlighting a constant shift from carceral spaces to ones with humanitarian extensions. The analysis starts with the carceral origins of these borders, where infrastructures were designed to detain and manage migrant flows. It then transitions to examining the phase where overpopulation and management failures prompted the introduction of humanitarian interventions, such as emergency shelters and aid provisions. Utilising empirical evidence, including the deployment of various emergency shelter devices across the Greek islands and the EU, this study traces the materiality of these carceral spaces into ones with humanitarian facades. The interplay between control mechanisms and humanitarian aid is scrutinised, revealing the landscape of negotiation where the provision of care often coexists with restrictive practices, creating hybrid spaces that simultaneously restrict, filter, and contain migratory movements while providing some level of humanitarian support. By examining the built environment and operational strategies of these hybrid spaces, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play in contemporary border management. This transformation raises critical questions about the effectiveness, ethics, and implications of such dual-function borders. The paper is based on ethnographic fieldwork in 2019 and 2022, document analysis, satellite images, architectural surveys, and interviews. The paper engages with and contributes to scholarship on migration, border infrastructure, and architecture.

**Alaa Dia** is a PhD candidate in Urban Studies at the University of Basel. He is currently working as a researcher for the project “Infrastructure space and the future of migration management: the EU Hotspots in the Mediterranean borderscape”, addressing the power of infrastructure in transforming borders, handling the spatial and architectural aspect of the project. Alaa’s studies interest lies in the intersection between Architecture and Migration studies. He has received both his Bachelor and Master in Architecture at the Lebanese University and his postgraduate Master in Urban Design from ETH Zürich, where he studied the influx of refugee communities in Germany. Prior to joining the project, Alaa worked as a researcher and teaching assistant in ETH Zürich, Department of Architecture (D-ARCH).

**Brendan Hornbostel (George Washington University, USA): From Protest Camp to Labor Camp: The 1932 Bonus March as a Counterinsurgent Laboratory of New Deal Statecraft**

The 1932 Bonus March in Washington, D.C., is often remembered as a singularly horrific episode of U.S. state violence. Indeed, many have confined the story to one of downtrodden veterans demanding relief with one of the first “marches on Washington” at the height of the Great Depression before General Douglas MacArthur burned their Hooverville camps. While the infamous “Bonus War” dramatically altered the future of U.S. riot control, this presentation argues that the greater legacy of the Bonus March belongs with the camps themselves as a laboratory of protest policing at the height of the Great Depression. In an era of mass protests and police riots, the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department responded to the grassroots movement of twenty thousand unemployed veterans by politically organizing the marchers in protest camps. In order to isolate and control the veterans, the police chief built what he called “a concentration camp” across the river from downtown Washington as part of an unprecedented campaign of counterinsurgent protest policing. When the veterans instead left the police-controlled camps to squat in abandoned federal buildings and create solidarity with local residents as an integrated multitude in the heart of American empire, MacArthur and the U.S. Army were forced to war against all of D.C. As the smoke cleared, the story of veterans and local residents battling together against the D.C. police became a haunting legacy in the carceral technology of the New Deal labor camp. By renarrating the 1932 Bonus March as a counterinsurgent laboratory of New Deal statecraft, this presentation highlights the foundational role of protest policing in the transformations of the U.S. warfare-welfare state of the mid-twentieth century. As a critical example of imperial feedback, the D.C. police’s protest camps domesticated the strategies of U.S. warfare in the Pacific and Caribbean in an attempt to solve the political-economic and social crises of the Great Depression. In this way, I argue that the (counter)insurgent legacy of the Bonus March protest camps reminds us that the carceral state remains the gravitational center in the maintenance of racial capitalism and U.S. empire.

**Brendan Hornbostel** is a PhD candidate at George Washington University studying histories of U.S. policing through the lenses of counterinsurgency, political economy, race, gender, and colonialism. Their dissertation research traces the development of law enforcement in Washington, D.C., as simultaneously a domestic model for post-emancipation racial order and the capital of a nascent

U.S. empire. Since 2020, they have worked with other abolitionist researchers on the Cops Off Campus Research Project, a crowdsourced, nationwide study of the interrelations of universities and policing from Abolition University. They live, struggle, and organize to build abolitionist spaces in Washington, D.C.

**Teodora Tea Ristevska & Iztok Prezelj (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia): Unlocking Justice: The Impact of Human Rights Lawyers at Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp**

The Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp has been a focal point of intense debate for over two decades. Since its establishment in stages starting in 2002, this U.S. military detention facility has housed Muslim militants and suspected terrorists. The camp's existence raises enduring questions about national security, human rights, and justice. Over the years, hundreds of detainees from various countries have passed through its gates, with a few dozen still remaining. In our research, we conducted in-depth interviews with a diverse group of human rights lawyers operating at Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp. These interviews aimed to explore their strategies and experiences in advocating for detainee rights. Engaging in open-ended conversations, we allowed lawyers to share their perspectives, challenges, and success stories. Our findings reveal that human rights lawyers at Guantánamo Bay employ a multilayered approach to address the complexities of detainee rights. These approaches encompass legal arguments in military commissions, habeas corpus petitions, advocacy for detainee transfers, and negotiations with camp authorities. Notably, these lawyers deal with a landscape troubled with intricate legal procedures and ethical dilemmas. The complex legal matters necessitate a thorough understanding of international human rights law, as well as military law, given the unique jurisdiction of Guantánamo Bay. The impact of these legal actions is evident. Detainees' rights have been strengthened through legal victories, leading to improved conditions within the camp. For instance, legal interventions have resulted in better healthcare, living conditions, and access to legal representation for detainees. This progress has provided a shine of hope to individuals held in prolonged detention. In terms of recommendations and implications, our research advocates for a reassessment of the role of the legal community in advancing human rights within Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp. It calls for a strengthened commitment to justice within these challenging circumstances. Recognizing the substantial influence of legal efforts on detainees' rights, we encourage the legal community to continue advocating for detainee rights, supporting transparency, and contributing to the ongoing improvement of conditions at the camp.

**Teodora Tea Ristevska** holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, as well as two Master's degrees in Political Science and European Studies. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Defense at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. As a Researcher at the Defence Research Centre, she looks into critical areas such as the relationship between liberty and security, human rights, terrorism, and counter-terrorism measures post-9/11. Her expertise extends to topics like migration and intelligence scandals. Notably, Teodora was a Research Fellow at the American University in Washington DC in 2022 and served as a Visiting Scholar at the College of Europe in Belgium.

**Iztok Prezelj** is a professor and Dean at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. His expertise extends beyond academia, as he has actively contributed to Slovenian governmental interagency working groups in the critical domains of counterterrorism and crisis management. Dr. Prezelj's international engagement includes his role as an Adjunct Professor in the prestigious Program on Terrorism (PTSS) at the George C. Marshall Centre in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Prezelj is the author of (1) Improving Inter-organizational Cooperation in Counterterrorism based on a Quantitative SWOT Assessment, Public Management Review, 2015; and (2) Inter-organizational Cooperation and Coordination in the Fight against Terrorism: From Undisputable Necessity to Paradoxical Challenges, Comparative Strategy, 2014.

### **Muir McCammon (Tulane University, USA): Resisting Guantánamo Bay from Afar: Student Activists and the Shadow of the U.S. National Security State**

This research seeks to trouble the concept of "military homecoming" in order to understand the information-seeking practices of students, who encounter veterans, who have previously served at Guantánamo Bay, a detention facility run by the U.S. military. It asks three questions in tandem. First, what assemblages of people develop around returning soldiers, as they negotiate liminality? Second, what types of online knowledge contestation does a military homecomer provoke within a civilian community? Lastly, what online information-seeking practices do university students leverage in order to unearth and contend with contested knowledge related to the U.S. national security state? Between January 2020 and April 2021, I conducted semi-structured interviews with individuals (n = 15) affiliated with an on-campus activist group at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. The group, which has largely since disassembled, has been calling

for the UNCC campus administration to fire a veteran, who previously served as the warden at Guantánamo Bay and now works as the associate vice chancellor for safety and security at UNCC. Each interview was recorded and lasted between 1 – 2 hours. For many interviewees, it was apparent that physically encountering a veteran on-campus provoked online information searches, and that this process of searching for information led to the circulation and amplification of contested knowledge about the U.S. national security state. This research argues that the arrival of a military homecomer can in fact provoke civilians to engage in online information-seeking practices that subsequently unearths contested knowledge about U.S. national security. It posits that homecoming can also bring civilian information-seekers into a state of informational liminality, wherein student journalists question and become betwixt by their military's politics, practices, and paradoxes.

**Maira McCammon** is an Assistant Professor in Tulane's Department of Communication, where she researches government speech, digital culture, and the carceral infrastructure. She holds a PhD in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication as well as a Master's in Law from the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School. Her words on Guantánamo Bay have appeared in a variety of places, including public-facing outlets like *Logic*, *Slate*, and *On the Media* as well as academic journals, such as *Information, Communication, and Society*. A former national security reporter, she is particularly focused on journalistic practice and the politics of return, repatriation, and reckoning.

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#### PANEL #23

##### **Monika Mokre (University of Vienna, Austria): Prisons: Symbolic Politics with Human Victims**

This definition of prisons by the sociologist Heinz Steinert is based on the empirically proven fact that prisons do not fulfil their official function of rehabilitation but, in fact, increase the multiple problems that frequently lead to criminal acts and, thus, to prison sentences. The main function of prisons is therefore a symbolic one towards the population outside of prisons: On the one hand, they should be deterred from criminal acts, on the other one, the state wants to show that it protects “good citizens” from “dangerous ones”. But, obviously, not only the “just” punishment for deviating behaviour is stipulated by the state but also how deviating behaviour is defined. In their seminal work on prisons, Rusche/Kirchheimer (1961/1969) upheld that systems of punishment follow the logic of the dominant

economic system. In this vein, the end of spectacles of suffering and the introduction of disciplining practices and detention as described by Foucault (1975/1992) correspond to the needs of early industrial capitalism, i.e., a large workforce. Simultaneously, the “great lockup” of sex workers, vagrants, and beggars also contributed to the creation of an industrial workforce by restricting ways to earn one’s living as well as mobility. Thus, prisons have always had a clear classist character. The classist bias of prisons is nowadays closely related to migration and racism – migration usually leads to social outclassing. Closed camps, detention centres, and prisons, furthermore, still fulfil the function of showing to the population at large what is understood as deviant behaviour by the state – namely, mobility as such. At the same time, large parts of the detained population are no longer seen as necessary industrial proletariat but as “surplus population”. These continuities and ruptures of the functions and practices of detention shall be discussed in the paper.

**Monika Mokre** is a political scientist and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Culture Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She did her doctorate at the University of Vienna and her habilitation at the University of Innsbruck. Her fields of interest as a researcher and a political activist are asylum and migration and prison studies. She is also doing research in theory of democracy, gender studies, and cultural politics.

#### **Klaudia Wieser (University of Innsbruck, Austria): Invisible Prison? Pre-Deportation in the Austrian Countryside**

A beautiful, wooded valley in the heart of Styria, high mountains, and an outflow of locals in the small village of Vordernberg: a perfect place to build a pre-deportation camp far off the capital. Sports areas, visiting rooms, glass facades, and light-flooded community compounds. In these words, the architecture bureau that built the pre-detention facility in 2014 advertises its award-winning project on their webpage. “Concepts of punishment or degradation have no place here at all” they further comment in their portfolio; it is time to engage in “complex social discussions” with creative design and space. In May 2023, nine people held in Vordernberg climbed the inner fence of the detention facility and attempted to overcome a concrete wall surrounding their prison. Although none of the nine men from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Iraq broke free, they sent a strong message to the authorities who can detain ppl at the facility for up to 18 months without any charge or conviction and support to appeal. In most cases, Austria does not have return agreements with the states of those concerned, making the deportations of those imprisoned impossible. Yet, the state tries to break people’s will through

detention and let them sign agreements of voluntary return. Further, as the detention facility is located in a remote area of the country, people rarely get visits and/or can make phone calls or contact independent lawyers. This paper investigates the pre-deportation facility as a place of (in)visibility of violence against people held in pre-deportation jails such as Vordernberg and discusses activist strategies to resist the status quo.

**Klaudia Wieser** is a PhD candidate based at the University of Vienna. Her work focuses on the historical entanglements of liberation movements with a special focus on Palestine, as well as on war, conflict, and migration studies. She is a founding member of the border monitoring initiative Push-Back Alarm Austria, a 24-hour hotline for people on the move crossing into Austria, and a board member of Dokustelle, a documentation and counseling center on Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism in Austria.

#### **Nidžara Ahmetašević (University of Graz, Austria): Camps as Technologies of Exclusion by Care**

Poor living conditions, deprivation of freedoms and rights, dehumanisation are just some of the characteristics of life in refugee camps across Europe. Access to most of these camps in Europe is limited for the media, researchers, and the public. Those who are running the places claim the reason is the protection of the privacy of residents. Occasionally, when reports and images find their way to the public, people can see places with little to no privacy, with unhappy people who are waiting the moment to leave. For decades, academics and activists, human rights organisations, debating the very purpose of these centres. In 2014, the UN agency for refugees (UNHCR) issued a critical stance (UNHCR 2014) recommending that their very existence “creates refugee dependence, distorting local economies, and harbouring security threats”, while calling for alternatives to be created. People on the move, in general, do not mind using these centres but only as emergency accommodation, a place to stop and rest and to leave as soon as it is possible. But the system creates obstacles that keep people endlessly. While providing basic assistance, those who are running centres give little to no attention to the integration of people in the life of the host country. Achili (2020) calls this approach “technology of care” historically used in connection with various forms of confinement, including concentration camps. This paper aims to look into the system of the refugee camps across Europe, focusing on the connections and comparisons to concentration camps.



**Nidžara Ahmetašević** is a researcher, journalist, and editor from Sarajevo. She holds a PhD from the University of Graz, Austria. Her fields of interest are democratisation and media development in a post-conflict society, hate speech, transitional justice, media and political propaganda, human rights and migrations. Her PhD Thesis “The Media as a Tool of International Intervention: House of Cards” was recently published by Routledge.

#### **Manja Petrovska (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands): Humanitarian Actors Legitimizing Incarceration**

Migration and border policies are often perceived as primarily state-driven, which neglects the significant influence of humanitarian actors, such as international organizations and NGOs, in supporting carceral aspects of violent border regimes. The financing of camp structures and detention centres, through EU 'development' funds and their endorsement by “humanitarian” actors, will be studied as an indispensable tool in the legitimization of these structures. Specifically, the historical evolution of humanitarianism and its contemporary role within camps, encampments, and the EU border regime in the Balkans will be discussed.

**Manja Petrovska** is a PhD researcher based between the University of Amsterdam and researching the Balkans, studying the intersections of border control, neocolonialism, and humanitarian imperialism. Her work focuses on the border security industry and the neoliberal rationalities shaping border and migration policies.

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#### **PANEL #24**

#### **Margo Tamez (New York University, USA): Narrative Ndé Poetics |||| in |||| Walled |||| Homelands ||||**

On October 22, 2008, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights/Organization of American States held a public hearing to examine the U.S. government’s human rights violations against politically, socially, and economically oppressed Indigenous, migrants, and minoritized communities affected by the border wall presented by the University of Texas border wall working group and community representatives. We urged the Commission to recommend that the U.S. immediately halt the wall construction amidst numerous violations of the American Declaration on Human Rights. In the Commission’s formal response, on October 31, 2008, the jurists related grave concerns regarding the human rights violations on Indigenous and poor communities and the severe constraints on legal resistance under

a heavily militarized bordered system. In the very next sentence, the Commission emphasized “the situation of detainees in Guantánamo” and called on the U.S. “to shut down the detention center.” Dr. Tamez, will present and discuss Ndé poetics in walled homelands, Indigenous witness, memory, and critiques developed that draw on her 2008 testimony at the Inter-American hearing. Highlighting print and oral history archives, she juxtaposes the history of settler colonial violence against Ndé-Dene decolonial resistances, and the current affective-psychological impacts of living the militarizedbordered-carceral system, tuned in to the originary genocidal intent of the US/MX border to unalive Apache peoples’ belonging. Tamez’ inter-textual approaches emerge from a 17-year Indigenous, decolonial, feminist, herstorical inquiry into the architecting and architectures of Ndé-Dene abjection in the shadows of actors, states, nations and corporations that normalize settler state impunity.

**Margo Tamez** (Ndé-Dene) is a poet, herstorian, and an Associate Professor appointed in the faculty of Indigenous Studies in the Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. She is the author of *Alleys and Allies* (1992), *Naked Wanting* (2003), *Raven Eye* (2007), *FATHER | GENOCIDE* (2021), and most recently, “SOVERYEMPTY: narrative DeneNdé poetics ||| in |||| walled |||| homelands,” in *Indigenous Women and Violence: Feminist Activist Research in Heightened States of Injustice*, edited by Lynn Stephen and Shannon Speed (University of Arizona Press, 2021). Since 2007, she has been the Ndé-Dene Peoples’ mandated representative at the UN-CERD, UN-ICCPR, and relative international law bodies on Ndé selfdetermination, truth and justice.

### **Ramón Resendiz (University of Texas, USA): Archival Resistance Beyond Borders, Walls & Settler Colonial Visuality**

Ramon Resendiz presents a critical ethnographic reflection on the material and visual settler colonial conditions of the south Texas/U.S.-Mexico borderlands. He foregrounds the potential to enact transnational Indigenous resistance, refusals, and solidarities to settler colonial occupation, erasure, and militarization across the Americas. He draws on the Chicana feminist testimonio tradition to articulate his thoughts and standpoint as a Chicanx documentary media producer by discussing the conception of *El Muro | The Wall* (2017) and the broader hemispheric effects of U.S. imperialism, visually rendered through the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

**Ramón Resendiz** is a Chicax researcher, educator, and documentary media producer from the Texas U.S.-Mexico borderlands. He holds a PhD in Media, Culture, and Communication from New York University where his research interrogates the material and imaginary intersections of national borders, memory, visual culture, systemic violence, and settler colonialism. His dissertation, *Landscapes of Violence: Documentary Media, Countervisualities, and Archival Resistance on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*, investigates the historic violence, erasures, and undocumentation of critical Latinx Indigeneities in the national constructions of Texas, Mexico, and the U.S. He critically studies how these settler colonial nation states are visualized by archival institutions.

### **Rosalva Resendiz (The University of British Columbia, Canada): Critical Reflections from the Border of an Identity**

The concept of post-coloniality and decoloniality can be a romantic notion for those who live on the U.S./Mexico border, where militarization and colonialism are everyday social facts. The border is a place where settler colonialism is not a distant memory but continues as an ongoing historical process. Those in the border have continued to suffer the effects of colonization, which has attempted to subjugate the indigenous, the Spanish, the Mexican, the Chicax and the “undocumented.” Gloria Anzaldua’s (1987) borderlands have been romanticized as a place where the roots of consciousness grows, but for the Chicax/indigenous/mestizos/as that live on the border, we struggle planting/growing the seeds, as military checkpoints cut our growth. For those of us that live on the border of identities, understanding ourselves becomes a theoretical nightmare of contradictions and conflict, yet in emerging ourselves in how our brown bodies navigate the landscapes of white supremacy and indigenous erasure, our flesh situates us in a position to create theory. Moraga’s “realist” theory of Chicax identity focuses on the “theory of the flesh,” taking into account the social and physical locations of our brown bodies, and as such, it provides a framework from which we can explore the process of decolonization within militarized zones and colonialist structures. The border is not a place where Chicano/a consciousness thrives; it is a place where Chicano/a consciousness survives/resists.

**Rosalva Resendiz** is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, previously known as the University of Texas-Pan American. Dr. Resendiz identifies as Chicax indigenous, focusing on social justice, critical criminology, critical race theory, decoloniality, Chicax feminism, Mexican American/Border Studies and organized crime. Most

recently, she co-edited *Criminology Throughout History: Critical Readings* (2021) and *Gender, Crime & Justice: Critical and Feminist Perspectives* (2021). She also has a co-authored book chapter in *BIPOC Alliances: Building Communities and Curricula* (2022): "Reclaiming Our Indigeneity: Deconstructing Settler Myths within Our Family."

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Location: Heinrichstraße 36, ground floor

Time: Saturday, June 1 (during coffee breaks)

Name	Title
Kamal Tasiu Abdullahi	The Role of NGOs and Grassroots Movements in Challenging Detention Practices and Advocating for Prisoners' Rights
Eva Katharina Bauer	Community, Poetry, and the Self: A Thematic Analysis of Assata Shakur's Autobiography
Mirna Cobanovic	Frames of Injustices: Human Rights Violations through Joe Sacco's Graphic Narratives
Ferhart Guel	Empowering Afghan Women: Addressing Gender Inequality in Education Through US Intervention (2001-2021)
Lisa Marie Hirt	Intersecting Injustices in Kathryn Stockett's <i>The Help</i>
Laura Hochsteiner	Ableism, Agency and Resistance in Jeremy Woody's "The Isolation of Being Deaf in Prison"
Klejtia Hoxha	Reclaiming Freedom: Teenagers in Prison and the Journey to Redemption
Anna-May Moody	Assimilation and Reconciliation: Residential Schools in Canada
Sarah Sophia Paul	The Poet's Cell: Writing Incarceration in Etheridge Knight's Poetry
Katharina Pritz	Defining and Delimiting Punishment: An Analysis of Article 3 of the ECHR
Thomas Quelle	Portrayal of Poverty and Inequalities in Brazilian Favelas in the Movie <i>City of God</i>
Ivan Rašić	Challenges of Transgender Inmates in US Prisons
Jasmin Sert	Crime Should not Pay: Prison Labour in the U.S. as a Form of Modern Slavery
Anamari Slemensek	The Aftermath of the Trojan War: Narratives of Enslaved Trojan Women in Post-War Camps
Sofya Smirnova	From Enclosure to Disclosure: Diary Writing as a Mechanism for Trauma Processing in Prisons
Sophie Strohmaier	NS – Camps on the Doorstep: The Satellite Camp Wagna/Leibnitz

Sava Szankovich	The Japanese Internment in the U.S. during WWII – Historical Insights and Impacts
Flora Marie Unterberger	The Reality of Maternity Behind Bars: Challenges and Outcomes for Pregnant Women in U.S. Prisons
Pauline Maxima Wolf	Power Dynamics: Sexual Assault in Prisons of the United States of America

## NON-ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### ART EXHIBITION: THE QUARANTINE CAMP OF EL TOR

**Location:** Heinrichstraße 36, ground floor

**Time:** Friday, May 31 (during coffee breaks)

This exhibition showcases photographs of Muslim pilgrims returning from Mecca in the year of 1902 with a special focus on Hajjis from Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 1878, this formerly Ottoman province came under Austro-Hungarian administration. Jakob Saidenfeld, an Austrian physician working in Sarajevo, took the photos in 1902 at the Egyptian quarantine camp of El Tor. The Austro-Hungarian authorities, as well as those of the other European powers at the time feared the introduction of the plague and cholera from the Islamic holy sites, where Muslim pilgrims from the Balkans, Crimea, and the Caucasus met their peers from the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, where the two diseases were endemic.

In displaying these photographs, the exhibition seeks to document the intricate and unequal relationship between the “West” and Islam on the basis of how pilgrims to Mecca pilgrims were treated. Furthermore, it intends to offer a critical insight into the historical roots of the current debate between “Western values” and Islam as well as on the integration of Islam in European societies. All too often, this relationship has been dominated by the notion of a “civilizing mission”. In this particular case, Western medicine and the idea of disease prevention, apart from being a powerful weapon against contagion, also served as “tools” for disciplining Muslims.

This exhibition arose from the findings of the project P 25929 Infectious diseases and Public Health in Southeast Europe which was funded 2013-17 by the Austrian Science Fund FWF. It was furthermore funded as project No. 142/2020 by the Austrian Society for Political Education (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Politische Bildung), the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Graz, and the Center for the Study of Balkan Societies and Cultures at the SEEHA (Southeast European History and Anthropology).

Exhibition concept: Christian Promitzer (University of Graz, Austria)

Graphic Design: Bert Preiss

#### ART EXHIBITION: GUANTÁNAMO ART EXHIBITION

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**Location:** Heinrichstraße 36, ground floor

**Time:** Sunday, June 2 (during coffee breaks)

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The exhibition, curated by Mansoor Adayfi, includes numerous paintings which demonstrate some of the diverse functions of art: a vehicle for memory, testimony to pain and suffering, as well as mental escape from the circumstances of incarceration. The pieces were created by prisoners at the US naval base at Guantánamo Bay, most of whom began to paint after years of imprisonment. They were made in conjunction with the offering of art classes that began at the prison in 2010. While they invigorated their creators and often were a source of pride, these paintings and others like them were also included in exhibits which prison authorities used to cultivate the illusion that the detainees were treated humanely. The art was created between 2010 and 2016.

## LOCAL INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE

### Buy your books here!

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Location: Heinrichstraße 36, ground floor, May 30 – June 2, 2024

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Bibliobox, founded by Arwa Elabd, offers curated book packages to engage the Insta Generation in reading. As a former teacher, Arwa noticed the lack of literature that resonated with students, particularly those with diverse backgrounds. In response, she launched Bibliobox during the Covid lockdown, providing not only books but also online recommendations. Arwa believes novels are key to understanding the world, offering historical insights through relatable protagonists. She emphasizes the importance of literature reflecting cultural heritage and addressing current issues. Through workshops, Arwa guides educators in selecting appropriate literature. Her bookstore in Ottakring, Vienna (Austria) provides not only books but also a welcoming space for readers. Arwa's mission is to empower youth through literature, promoting diverse voices and narratives. She challenges the dominance of the white, male-centric literary canon, advocating for more inclusive representation in education.





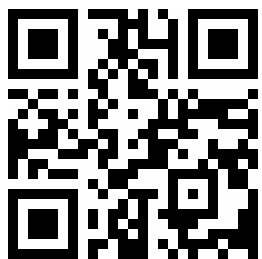
## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATIONS

#### Center for Inter-American Studies

Elisabethstr. 59/II

8010 Graz



#### Graz Museum

Schloßberg 5

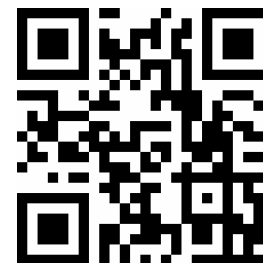
8010 Graz



#### AULA of the University of Graz

Universitätsplatz 3

8010 Graz



#### Burg Graz

Hofgasse 15

8010 Graz



#### University of Graz (Mathematics / English/ Geography Department)

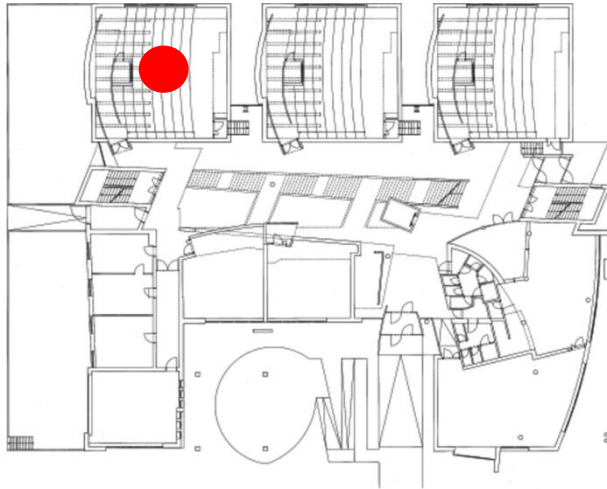
Heinrichstraße 36

8010 Graz

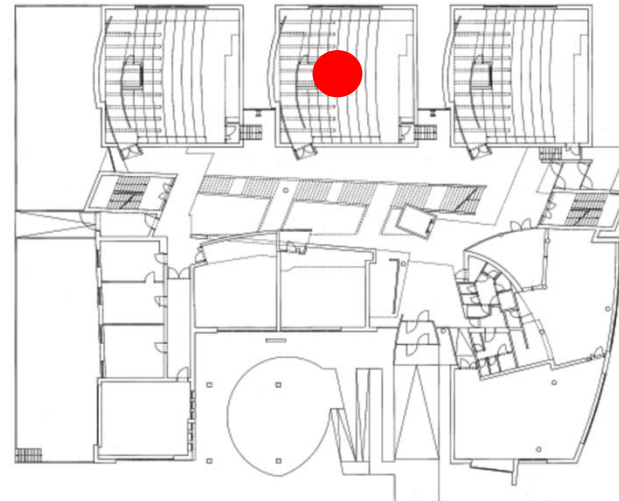


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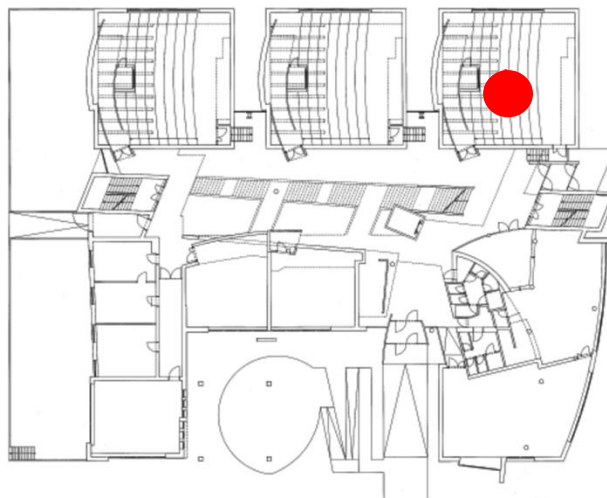
HS 11.01 (ground floor)



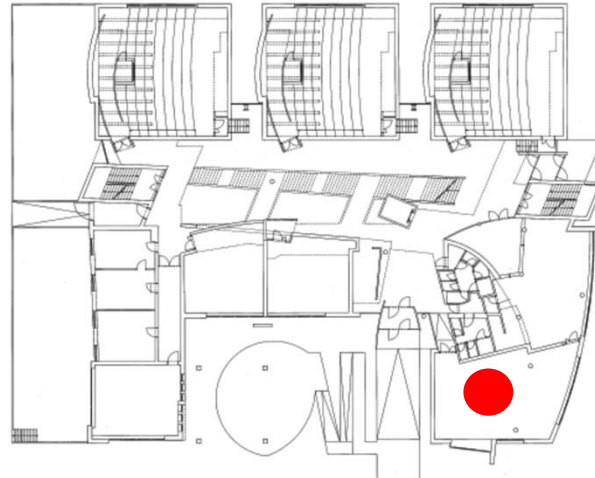
HS 11.02 (ground floor)



HS 11.03 (ground floor)



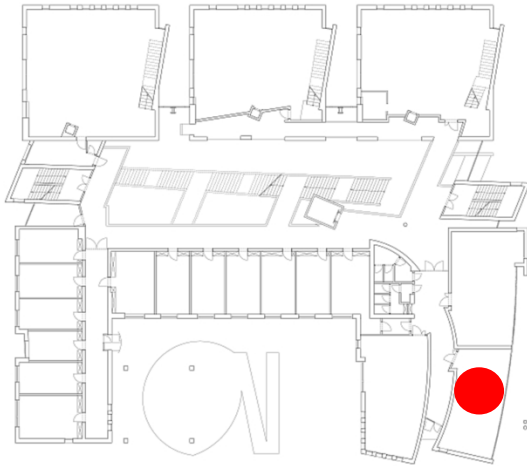
UR 11.04 (ground floor)



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SR 11.12 (first floor)

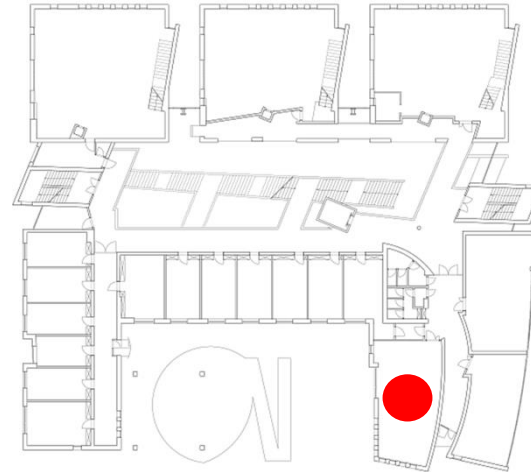
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SR 11.13 (first floor)

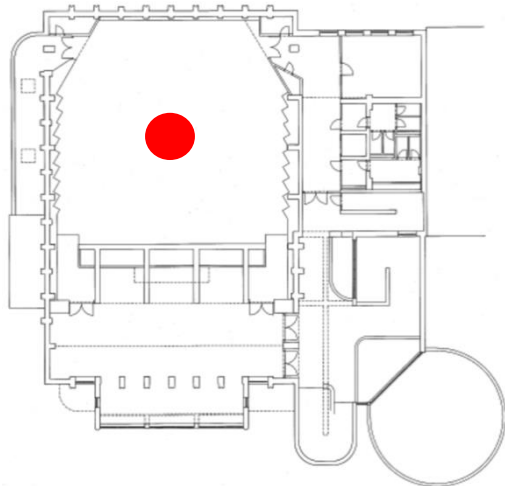
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HS 12.11 (first floor)

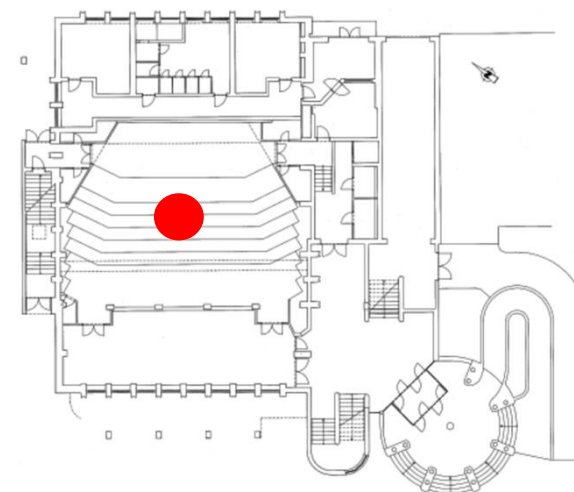
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HS 12.01 (ground floor)

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## RECEPTION, LUNCH, AND COFFEE BREAKS

Opening reception, lunches, coffee breaks, and the conference reception at the Burg Graz are included in the conference fees.

**Opening Reception** *(Thursday, May 30, Universitätsplatz 3, first floor, 8:00 p.m.)*

A warm buffet and drinks will be served outside of the AULA Magna after the Opening Ceremony of the conference.

**Conference Reception by the Governor of Styria** *(Friday, May 31, Burg Graz, Hofgasse 15, 6:00 p.m.)*

A warm buffet and drinks will be served at the Burg Graz sponsored by the Governor of Styria.

**Lunches** *(Friday-Sunday, Heinrichstraße 36)*

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, hot lunches will be served at the conference venue outside of the seminar rooms at Heinrichstr. 36 on the ground floor; this will take place during the lunch breaks indicated in the program.

**Coffee Breaks** *(Friday-Sunday, Heinrichstraße 36)*

Coffee, tea, and other drinks will be served with snacks at the conference venue outside of the seminar rooms at Heinrichstr. 36 on the ground floor during the coffee breaks indicated in the program.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TAXI

Public Transport Graz: [www.holding-graz.at](http://www.holding-graz.at)

### From Jakominiplatz/ Motel One (central transfer point)

Bus: Line 30 direction Geidorf to stop “Mozartgasse” and Line 31 direction Uni- Resowi to stop “Uni Mensa”

### From main train station (Hauptbahnhof)

#### Bus

- line 58 direction Mariagrün to stop “Mozartgasse”
- line 63 direction St. Peter Schulzentrum to stop “Universität”

#### Taxi Graz

- Graz Taxi 24: +43 (0) 316 812 190
- Graz Taxi 878: +43 (0) 316 878
- Taxi Graz: +43 (0) 676 510 1993



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App Store

## RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

**Uni Café** (at the conference venue)

Heinrichstraße 36

8010 Graz

**Parks Café** (vegetarian/vegan Coffeeshop)

Zinzendorfgasse 4

8010 Graz

**Galliano** (Pizza/Italian)

Harrachgasse 22

8010 Graz

**Dean & David** (Salad and Bowl Bar)

Zinzendorfgasse 30

8010 Graz

**Beanery Speciality Coffee Bar** (Coffeeshop)

Zinzendorfgasse 20

8010 Graz

**Auer Café & Bakery**

Zinzendorfgasse 29

8010 Graz

## CONTACT

General Contact: **Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS)**



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8010 Graz

Email: [camps2024@uni-graz.at](mailto:camps2024@uni-graz.at)

### Local Conference Organizers' Contact Info:

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## 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 directed the Graz International Summer School Seggau, which was established as an interdisciplinary and intercultural platform in 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 and was awarded his PhD in English from the University of Puerto Rico. More recently he completed his MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) at New York University. Much of his scholarship has focused on issues of language, migration, and social life in the Caribbean. In addition, he has completed work on Guantánamo. 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. The founder of the Guantánamo-Puerto Rico Project, he has been a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Graz, a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, and a Research Fellow at the University of Bayreuth. He has acted as editor of the Caribbean studies journal *Sargasso* since 2009.



## Nicole Haring



Nicole Haring is (Senior) Scientist at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests focus on feminist theory, contemporary US-American literature, Inter-American studies, aging and intergenerational studies, and critical pedagogies. She has had a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Oklahoma (2019-2020), the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship for Gender Studies at the University of Graz (2020-2021) and recently finished her DOC Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Science where she worked on intergenerational storytelling on gender and education (2021-2023). Currently, her research focuses on social reproduction theory, eco-criticism and environmental humanities. She is the lead researcher in the Erasmus+ project “Eco-Storytelling” and has been the academic assistant of the Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG) since 2022. Additionally, she was the co-organizer of the 2022 Graz camps conference.

## Bilgin Ayata



Bilgin Ayata is a professor for Southeastern European Studies at the Center for Southeastern European Studies at the University of Graz. Her research centers on socio-political transformation processes with a focus on migration, borders, affect and emotions. She is project leader of the NOMIS Research project "Elastic Borders- Rethinking the borders of the 21st Century". She has published widely on affective politics, displacement, diasporas, citizenship, memory and genocide denial and foreign policy. Her SNF Funded research project on “Affective Citizenship: Religion, Migration and Belonging in Europe” examined the relationship between religious incorporation and belonging. Her SNIS funded project “Infrastructure space and the future of Migration Management” explored the infrastructure of migration control. Ayata is co-speaker of the Cluster "Migration, Borders and Mobility" at the Field of Excellence "Dimensions of Europe" at the University of Graz and has been DFG-Mercator Fellow of the SFB 1171 "Affective Societies" at the FU Berlin (2019-2023).

## Laura Jung



Laura Jung is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Graz. She earned a PhD in International Relations from the University of Sussex and holds an MA in Political Science and a BA in History and Sociology. Her research focuses on the interactions of science, technology and medicine with political orders. She is currently a member of the NOMIS-funded research project “Elastic Borders” at the University of Graz, where she is researching the use of advanced technologies in the EUropean border regime. Her thesis research focused on the trauma diagnosis as a means of nation-building in Germany, and she has published on themes of sovereignty, biopolitics, psychiatric diagnosis, welfare, compensation claims, and eugenic politics. She was recently awarded a grant by the Zukunftsfond Styria to research the impact of AI technologies on asylum processing in Austria.

## 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. 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

### Eva Katharina Bauer



Eva Katharina Bauer earned her Joint Master's degree in English and American Studies from the University of Graz (Austria) and the Université Paris Cité (France). Currently active as the project coordinator for the Erasmus+ project "Eco-Stories" ([www.ecostories.org](http://www.ecostories.org)), coordinated by the Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz, she is engaged in the intersection of language, culture, and environmental issues. Her academic interests mainly revolve around socio- and psycholinguistics as well as feminist and African American literature. Her ongoing research investigates the temporal aspects of environmental concerns in the field of ecolinguistics and environmental humanities.

### Anamari Slemenšek



Anamari Slemenšek, a student at the University of Graz, is pursuing her majors in English and American Studies alongside minors in economics, languages, and law. Her academic journey is distinguished by active participation in two international conferences. Ana's scholarly passions intersect at the junction of intersectionality and feminist literature, as well as human rights violations. Her current research delves into the narratives surrounding war crimes, with a particular emphasis on those perpetrated against women.

## Artiola Kajtazi



Artiola Kajtazi is a dedicated MA student at the University of Graz, specializing in English and American studies. Alongside her academic commitments, Artiola serves as a student assistant at CIAS Graz. She previously worked as ESL teacher and executive assistant. Beyond her academic and professional endeavors, she is a passionate human rights activist. Her commitment to this cause has led her to collaborate with various local and international non-governmental organizations operating in Kosovo, focusing on raising awareness and supporting women's rights, including organizing impactful events to address the issue of rape victims from the 1999 war in Kosovo.

## Mirna Cobanovic



Mirna Cobanovic is currently enrolled in the Master's Degree in English and American studies at the University of Graz. She is currently employed at the Center for Inter-American Studies as a student assistant, as part of which she was tasked with helping the first CAMPS conference in 2022. As a self-proclaimed "person interested in anything and everything", she finds no difficulty participating in any discourse, debate or even conversation.

## 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.

## 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.

## DETAINEES IN GUANTÁNAMO

Moath Hamza Ahmed Al-Alwi

Khalid Qasim

Ridah Al-Yazidi

Muieen Abd Al-Sattar

Tawfiq Al-Bihani

Hani Saleh Rashid Abdullah

Uthman Abd Rahim Mohammed Uthman

Sharqawi Abdul Ali Al-Hajj

Abdulsalam Al-Hela

Sanad Al-Kazimi

Suhayl Abdul Anam Al-Sharabi

Gouled Hassan Dourad

Zakaria al-Baidany

Mohammed Abdul Malik Bajabu

Hassan Bin Attash

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Ismael Al Bakush  
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Abu Faraj Al Libi  
Ali Abd Al Aziz Ali  
Riduan Isamuddin  
Mohammed Farik Bin Amin  
Mohammed Nazir Bin Lep  
Khalid Sheikh Mohammed  
Abd Al Hadi Al Iraqi  
Muhammad Rah



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MEN APPROVED FOR RELEASE AS OF MAY 30, 2024

Tawfiq Al-Bihani (since Jan 22, 2010: 5,242 days)

Ridah Al-Yazidi (since Jan 22, 2010: 5,242 days)

Muieen Abd Al-Sattar (since Jan 22, 2010: 5,242 days)

Hani Saleh Rashid Abdullah (since Oct 29, 2020: 1,309 days)

Uthman Abd Rahim Mohammed Uthman (since May 13, 2021: 1,113 days)

Sharqawi Abdul Ali Al-Hajj (since Jun 8 2021: 1,087 days)

Abdulsalam Al-Hela (since Jun 8 2021: 1,087 days)

Sanad Al-Kazimi (since Oct 7, 2021: 966 days)

Suhayl Abdul Anam Al-Sharabi (since Nov 10, 2021: 932 days)

Gouled Hassan Dourad (since Nov 10, 2021: 932 days)

Moath Hamza Ahmed Al-Alwi (since Dec 27, 2021: 885 days)

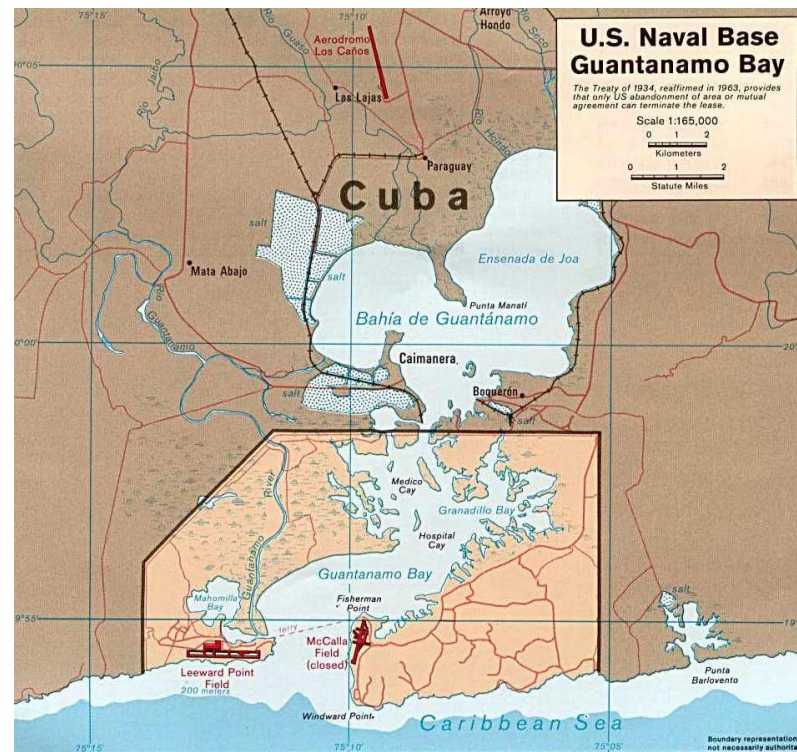
Zakaria al-Baidany (since Dec 27, 2021: 885 days)

Mohammed Abdul Malik Bajabu (since Dec 27, 2021: 885 days)

Hassan Bin Attash (since Apr 13, 2022: 778 days)

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NOMIS research project Elastic Borders: Rethinking the Borders of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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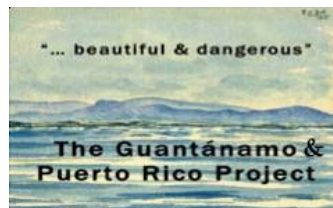


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