

EXTENDED NEWSLETTER 2023



Center For Inter-American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Center for Inter-American Studies



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INTRODUCTION

Dear all,

The Center for Inter-American Studies is filled with joy and pride as we reflect on the past year. We've seen significant progress in 2023, with interesting developments and outstanding accomplishments demonstrating our dedication, efforts, and passion.

Throughout the year 2023, we arranged and hosted a number of significant events that drew notice not just within academic circles but also internationally on social media. Each event, from thought-provoking panel discussions to informative lectures, has demonstrated our commitment to providing a forum for vibrant intellectual exchange.

We are filled with excitement and expectation as we approach the start of a new academic year. We are committed to advancing our purpose of supporting interdisciplinary research and fostering cross-cultural conversation, building on our work over the past 15 years as an interdisciplinary center.

We are grateful to each member of the Center for Inter-American Studies for their vital contributions as we navigate the exciting route ahead. We shall continue to carve out new paths in research, education, and cultural understanding by working together.

Here's to many more years of growth, collaboration, and success.
All the best from 2024!

The C.IAS Team



Scan it for more information

The Center for Inter-American Studies

The Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS), under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer, was established by the Rectorate of the University of Graz as a platform for interdisciplinary and inter-regional communication and collaboration in the Americas in 2006 and was officially founded in 2007.

This new interest in Inter-American relationships was sparked by processes such as globalization and transnational migration – developments that transform cultural identities and challenge conceptions of “self” and “other.” Especially in Europe, which itself is in the midst of negotiating a “European identity” in addition to national and regional ones, changing reference points demand a re-conceptualization of academic perspectives. For European scholars of Inter-American Studies, the “Americanness” of the Americas and the changing qualities of “self” and “other” are of particular interest, encouraging a re-definition of positions and mental frameworks.

By establishing intra-regional cooperations in international education based on teaching and research, new possibilities of collaboration and mobility are created and a wide variety of research projects in the field of collective identities are made possible, re-conceptualizing traditional approaches not only in terms of transnational and trans-regional, but also in terms of Euro-American relations. International summer schools, multifaceted lecture series, and publications all contribute to the establishment of Inter-American Studies on a national and also international level.

The university's declaration of North, Central, and South America as the second regional focus alongside the already established focus on South-Eastern Europe in 2012 highlights the commitment of the University of Graz to the study of the Americas.

C.IAS research and teaching focus areas:

- (1) Inter-American Histories, Cultures, and Literatures
- (2) Inter-American and Intersectional Approaches of Gender and Generations



Roberta Maierhofer
Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies



Kurt Hahn
Co-Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies

Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS)

Elisabethstr. 59/ 2
8010 Graz

Contact:

Julia Prochinig
Office manager

centeramericas@uni-graz.at
+43 (0) 316 380 8213

www.interamerikanistik.uni-graz.at

EVENTS

Martin Luther King Day– Black Writing Matters

January 17, 2023

Marking Martin Luther King day, students from the University of Graz gathered at Kultum on January 17th, 2023 in order to present and read selected works of African American authors. The event titled “Hear the Voices” aimed at providing a platform for the Afro-American experience, mediated through the literature of Black writers that not only reflects struggles with racism, exclusion, and inequality but also the richness and diversity of a culture often only viewed from a distance.



KinderKunstHochschule Closing Event at Aula Uni Graz

February 9, 2023

Dr. Barbara Ratzenböck, a representative of the Center for Inter-American Studies, as well as Theres Hinterleitner, the project coordinator, gave a speech at the final event in the auditorium of the University of Graz. Rector Peter Riedler welcomed the children and all attendees, opening the event.



AYA Writing Workshop and Climate Change as System Change: Inter-American Perspectives Conference

March 2-4, 2023

As part of both the AYA (Austria's Young Americanists) Workshop series and the Inter-American Perspectives Conference, the writing workshop was designed for PhD and high-level masters' students in American studies (and closely related fields) to receive feedback on their writing from peers and senior researchers, to give feedback to their peer's writing, to exchange writing strategies with each other, and to improve their overall writing skills. The workshop was held by Sandra Tausel from the University of Innsbruck, a certified writing trainer experienced with giving writing workshops.



ÖAG & C.IAS Oscar's Night

March 6, 2023

C.IAS organized an “Oscar’s Night”– an informal discussion of the upcoming Academy Awards Ceremony. The discussion was held as a hybrid event. The attendees were joined by two guests: James Forsher and Simon Maierhofer.

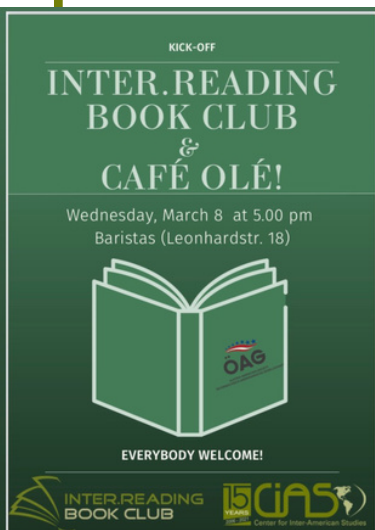


Semester Kick-Off Café Olé & Inter.Reading Book Club Kick-Off

March 8, 2023

Once again, C.IAS reintroduced the Inter.Reading Book Club in the summer semester of 2023 with the Book Club Kick-Off. 35 attendees, including students, ÖAG members, and book club members, came to the get-together at Barista's.

For the new term two new books were chosen, Afropessimism by Frank Wilderson as well as Corazon tan blanco by Javier Marias.



GUSEGG Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought Book Presentation & Fulbright Alumn Chapter Styria Event

March 16, 2023

On March 16th, the C.IAS team welcomed GUSEGG alumni for a celebration of the publication of the newest addition in the Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought series. Stability, Security and Happiness was edited by Lea Pesec, Martina Braunegger, and Cheryl Lester. The event was also co-sponsored by the Fulbright Austria Alumn Chapter for Styria.



Exile and the Canadian Experience by Andrea Strutz

March 22, 2023

Andrea Strutz joined us for her lecture on “Exile and the Canadian Experience” as part of the C.IAS lecture series. In her talk, Andrea Strutz presented her long-term project concerning refugees and their experiences during the First and Second World Wars.



Multilingualism in the Americas by Eva Eckkrammer

March 23, 2023

In her lecture, Eckkrammer talked about the long-distance slave trade and its consequences on the development of pigeon languages. In addition, Eckkrammer discussed the assimilation of slaves and their descendants.



Arqus R & I Bridging Workshop in Lyon: The Twin Transition

March 28-29, 2023

Nicole Haring took part in the Arqus Research and Innovation Bridging Workshop at Université Claude Bernard Lyon (France) on the topic of “The Twin Transition (Green and Digital Future)”.



European Association for American Studies' (EAAS) Women's Network 5th Biennial Conference

March 30–April 2, 2023 (University of Debrecen)

Roberta Maierhofer and Nicole Haring presented their research at the 5th Biennial Conference of the EAAS Women's Network at the University of Debrecen. With American Studies scholars from Europe and the United States our researchers engaged in wide-ranging discussions, including pressing contemporary issues such as the question of reproductive justice in a post-Roe v. Wade environment.



Global History of Slavery by Tamis Parron

April 17,19,20, 2023

The lecture series, which focused on a theoretically informed approach to the history of slavery, comprised not only of a guest talk but also of fruitful conversations and discussions that reframed slavery in terms of social change, capitalism, marketing, and other fresh perspectives, in accordance with the wide reach and innovative spirit of Dr. Parron's work.

Future of Gender Studies by Andrea Petö

April 21, 2023

In a talk organized by the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) in cooperation with the Coordination Centre for Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities, the Graduate Program Gender Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Gender Cluster in the interdisciplinary research network Heterogeneity and Cohesion (HUK), Andrea Petö discussed the institutionalization of gender studies in post-communist Europe.



Autobiography, Life Writing, and Illness Narratives by Heike Hartung

April 25-27, 2023

On April 25-27th, the Center for Inter-American Studies was pleased to welcome Dr.habil. Heike Hartung, who facilitated the "Autobiography, Life Writing, and Illness Narratives" workshop.



Dementia in Data? with Heike Hartung, Annette Leibing, and Andjelka Zecevic

April 28, 2023

On April 28th, the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted Dr.habil. Heike Hartung, Prof. Annette Leibing, and Andjelka Zecevic, who led workshops related to the ACT Cross-National Longitudinal Study, an interinstitutional, interdisciplinary project.

Various perspectives on dementia studies were presented, spanning the humanities, the social sciences, and computer science.



Mediating Social Challenges: Art, Storytelling, and Teaching Practices

May 5–6, 2023

From May 5th to May 6th, C.IAS invited guests from around the world to discuss art, storytelling, and teaching practices for a conference that included participants from the UK, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Germany, the USA, Kosovo, and the Bahamas. In a vibrantly diverse environment, ideas were exchanged, discussions were engaged in, and, finally, a strong sense of community emerged. The aim was to present the topic in its full complexity, which also meant that social issues came up in relation to questions of narrative and aesthetic forms and their didactic potential. Besides lectures and discussions, participants also had the opportunity to continue with their conversations over

coffee and pastries in the breaks inbetween panels. Bibliobox, an Austrian online book retailer, lured away from conversations and coffee with a book table representing their diverse portfolio. At the end of the first day, all conference participants along with the organizers were invited to the city hall, where a mayor's reception was held, extending a warm formal welcome on behalf of the city of Graz. At the end of the second day, a visit to the Graz Museum on top of the Schlossberg capped off the conference, allowing participants, especially from abroad, to learn about the city that hosted them for two days. Organizers, including voluntary student helpers, were able to look back at two succesful and highly engaging days as they closed the conference and bid farewell to their guests from around the world.



Field Trip with Students from Pittsburgh

May 24, 2023

Departing from Graz, a group of medical students from the University of Pittsburgh headed to Piber, where the famous federal stud farm is located, in a field trip organized by C.IAS. In a guided tour, students were able to see the world-renowned Lipizzan horses up close. After the visit with the future stars of the Spanish Riding School, the students explored a nearby church designed by the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Later, the students visited a pharmacy in order to get an impression of the differences to the American pharmacy system. The day ended with a meal at a traditional Austrian Buschenschank.

TRIBUNA ¡Viva España!

May 24/25, 2023

On the 24th and 25th of May the fourth edition of TRIBUNA-Festival took place. The festival featured lectures, discussions, workshops, an exhibition, a city tour, a concert, and an intercultural market, examining Spanish-Austrian relations and celebrating Spanish-language culture.



Intergenerationality in Digital Landscapes Workshop

June 1, 2023

Together, Nicole Haring and Stephanie Hatzifilalithis led this workshop exploring the various definitions of the term 'intergenerational' and positing it in a contemporary context, marked by the digital transformation. Starting with thorough theoretical groundwork, the workshop then moved on to the practical and interactive, allowing participants to create 'digital stories' that reflect their experience with and understanding of intergenerationality.

Intergenerationality in Digital Landscapes

A workshop by **Nicole Haring** (University of Graz) and **Stephanie Hatzifilalithis** (McMaster University and Women's Age Lab)

Thursday, June 1, 2023
12:00-1:30pm EDT
Online via Zoom

Register at <https://actlab.ca/events/intergenerationality/>

Nicole Haring is a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, working on gender and aging studies, feminist theory and pedagogy. Currently, she holds the DOC Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2021-2024) to work on her dissertation project on intergenerational mentoring.

Stephanie Hatzifilalithis earned her PhD in Social Gerontology at McMaster University and is currently a Researcher with the Women's Age Center's College thought and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging. Alongside Dr. Nicole Dalmer, Stephanie Hatzifilalithis work looks at how older people's digital landscapes changed, experienced, and embodied.

Contact: sthephaniehatzifilalithis@uoi.mcmaster.ca or nicole.haring@uni-graz.at

Project: **Intergenerational Digital Storytelling with Educators**
Teacher, Academic, Intergenerational, Digital Storytelling Workshop
Mentoring, Didactics Research Group

ActLab | Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada | Canada

Unexpected Encounters: Jewish Women Writers From the Balkans and Latin America

June 26 2023

For this event, four women scholars – Marjorie Agosin, Jelena Filipović, Ivana Vučina Simović, and Roberta Maierhofer – were invited to reflect upon what it means to be placed in the periphery and write from a marginalized perspective. What does it mean to be a female Jewish writer from either Latin America or the Balkans? What links these places and identities? The Styrian Klezmore Orchestra complemented the discussion with musical interludes.

treffpunkt sprachen - Center for Language, Plurilingualism and Didactics in cooperation with the Center for Inter-American Studies | University of Graz



Round-table discussion, with
Marjorie Agosin, Wellesley College, USA
Jelena Filipović & Ivana Vučina Simović, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Roberta Maierhofer, University of Graz

Concept and moderation: Oana Hergenrother, University of Graz

treffpunkt sprachen
ZENTRUM FÜR
PLURILINGUALISME UND DIDAKTIK
C.I.A.S.
Center for Inter-American Studies

Dimensions
of Europe
Field of Excellence
University of Graz
With the support of the European Union's Horizon
and their interaction" of the Field of Excellence

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP with Marjorie Agosin

June 30, 2023

C.IAS invited renowned poet, human rights activist, and professor at Wellesley College (USA) Marjorie Agosin to work with students to practice their poetic and literary skills, to engage with a well-known poet, and to eventually produce their own writing. 10 students attended the workshop and had the opportunity to learn from Marjorie Agosin about what it means to write not just as an activity but as a way of life.

Aging in Data Meeting

September 23–25, 2023

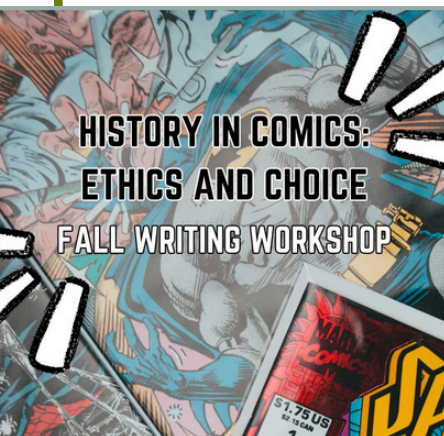
In September, collaborators from around the world gathered in Graz for a meeting of the interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international project Aging in Data. The purpose of the meeting, organized by C.IAS, was to review all the work that had been done already, to present and share current research efforts, and to discuss the future of the project. The meeting not only offered the opportunity of colleagues to catch up with each other and to fulfill administrative duties required by the project structure, but also included lectures and discussions.



History in Comics Workshop

October 2–6, 2023 (Palacky University)

The University of Graz helped organize an engaging workshop on “History in Comics” at Palacky University in the Czech Republic. This workshop aimed to enhance students' writing skills across three key areas: academic writing, creative writing, encompassing prose and poetry, and the art of comics. The C.IAS played a pivotal role in the areas of promotion and student recruitment.



Mini Lecture Series by Heike Hartung

October 10–12, 2023

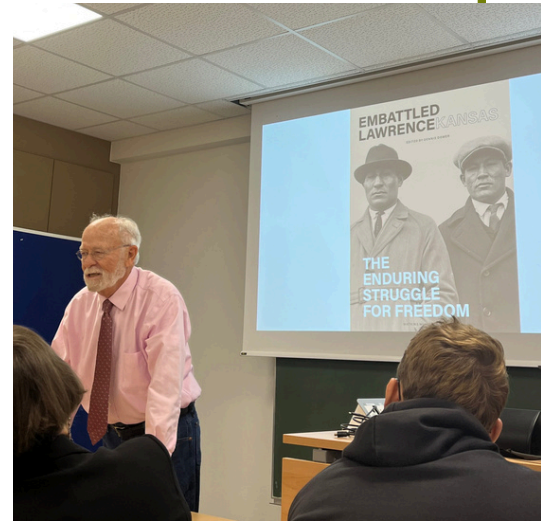
Heike Hartung, a professor at the University of Potsdam and a project collaborator at the University of Graz, presented a series of lectures on the role of narratives in different literary genres. The first of the lectures was on autobiographies and illness narratives, the second lecture focused on detective fiction, while the third lecture was concerned with the relation between gender and narrative.



Embattled Lawrence: The Enduring Struggle for Freedom by Dennis Domer

October 10, 2023

For this lecture, C.IAS welcomed Dennis Domer, a professor in architectural history at the University of Kansas. He is the chief editor of a series of books of oral history entitled Embattled Lawrence. In his talk, Prof. Domer presented his efforts and some of the stories he gathered in the process of putting together the newest volume of Embattled Lawrence. He emphasized the importance and significance of local history and the inclusion of stories that might not fit into a romanticized version of the past.



Round Table Discussion on Places & Spaces: Inter-American Perspectives

October 11, 2023

“Places & Spaces: Inter-American Perspectives” was the title given to a roundtable discussion in which Roberta Maierhofer, Christian Cwik, Dennis Domer, and Rüdiger Kunow engaged in a dynamic debate, moderated by Nicole Haring, pondering the cultural meanings assigned to place and space. What turns a space into a place? Is the human urge to ‘place-ify’ spaces destructive or a basic need of human beings? Could it be both?



Age as Cultural Form and Norm by Rüdiger Kunow

October 12, 2023

Professor Rüdiger Kunow from Potsdam University delivered an engaging lecture titled "Age as Cultural Form and Norm." The event, hosted by the Center of Inter-American Studies as part of the “Media, Culture, Society (Gender & Generations in a Digital World)” proseminar, provided a thought-provoking exploration of age from cultural and normative perspectives.



The Monroe Doctrine's Vigilance Over Guantánamo by Claudia Martinez Hernandez

October 12, 2023

Claudia Martinez Hernandez, from the University of Vienna, presented "The Monroe Doctrine's Vigilance Over Guantánamo" as part of the Monroe Doctrine Series at the Center for Inter-American Studies. Her talk delved into the historical context surrounding the establishment of Guantánamo Bay and examined the extent of US influence in Cuba, specifically focusing on Guantánamo. Martinez Hernandez provided insights into the reasons behind the continued existence of Guantánamo and explored the level of political influence and presence that the US maintains in this region.



EMA Film Screening

October 18, 2023

In the context of the annual CEEPUS week, the film *Ema* (2019) by the Chilean film maker Pablo Larrain was screened at the C.IAS for students and visiting professors from Central, South, and Eastern Europe. The screening was followed by a lively discussion among students and professors.

INTER-AMERICAN
FILM SCREENING



CEEPUS Inter-American Studies Network Week

October 17-20, 2023

Each fall, scholars in the field of Inter-American studies who are part of the CEEPUS network visit the C.IAS and present their work over the course of a week. This year's topic was "Voices of Diversity: Inclusion & Exclusion in Inter-American Literature, Culture, and History". The center welcomed guest professors from Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Slovakia. The diverse group presented their research to students and colleagues in Graz. The talks included literary analysis of Toni Morrison's work, engagement with popular culture in terms of music and film, as well as reflections on the history of the Americas.



Round Table Discussion: How to Survive a PhD without Going Crazy

October 20, 2023 (University of Klagenfurt)

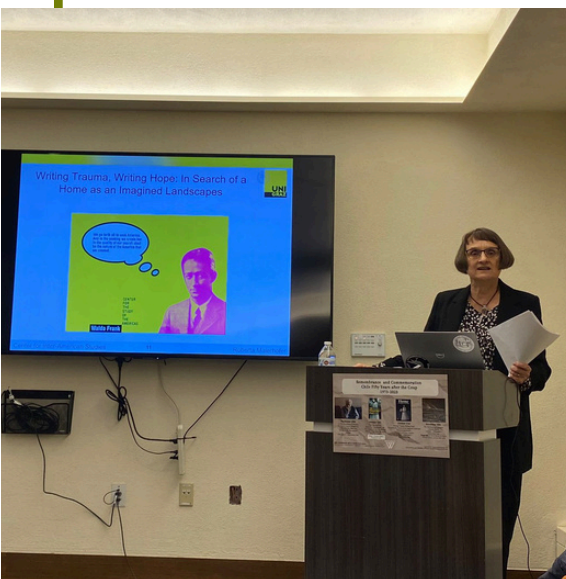
Nicole Haring, in collaboration with Austria's Young Americanists (AYA), co-organized and moderated a round table discussion titled "How to Navigate a PhD Without Losing Your Mind – Insights on Academic Wellbeing." This event took place at the University of Klagenfurt during the Austrian Association for American Studies annual conference. Dr. Haring took the opportunity to contribute valuable insights drawn from her recent experience as a PhD graduate.



Writing Trauma, Writing Hope: A European Perspective on the Americas by Roberta Maierhofer

October 31, 2023 (Wellesley College)

Roberta Maierhofer, the director of our center, delivered an engaging talk at Wellesley College in Massachusetts titled "Writing Trauma, Writing Hope: In Search of a Home as an Imagined Landscape." During her presentation, she focused on the remarkable work of acclaimed poet and writer Marjorie Agosín, paying tribute to her literary contributions. She explored Agosín's writing and offered insights into interpreting it through a European lens, providing a unique perspective on the Americas.



Meeting with the Provost of the Humanities at Wellesley College

October 31, 2023

Nicole Haring, Roberta Maierhofer, and Marjorie Agosín gathered for a collaborative meeting with Andrew Shennan, the Provost of the Humanities at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Together, they introduced the Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSSEG) 2024, highlighting the importance of the program and its numerous benefits. Their discussion focused on encouraging academic staff to actively promote the program and motivate students to consider applying.



Tinted Trails Book Presentation and Panel Discussion

November 10, 2023

This November, Tinted Trails held their first ever book publishing event. Mirna Cobanovic, as a representative of C.IAS, was there to deliver a speech on behalf of Roberta Maierhofer. In the name of the C.IAS she affirmed its long-standing support of the project, expressing hope for future cooperation, and congratulated Tinted Trails on its great success.



Revolutions in Leipzig – International Colloquium

November 23–24, 2023

The Center for Inter-American Studies, in collaboration with the Association for Studies of Continental America and the Caribbean (KonaK) and the Association of Historians of Latin America and the Caribbean (ADHILAC), coordinated an international colloquium entitled "Revolutions in Leipzig" on the 30th anniversary of the passing of the renowned Austrian historian Walter Markov. Dr. Christian Cwik organized and moderated the event. It featured 16 speakers from both Europe and Latin America, who delivered presentations focusing on the dichotomy between revolutions from the left and revolutions from the right. In addition to the lectures, the colloquium included extensive discussions and a presentation of the documentary "The Historian Walter Markov: A Life with Revolutions."



IntersectionalLabs Workshop

November 30, December 4 and 5, 2023

This three-day interdisciplinary workshop, organized as an Arqus Student Co-Project of the University of Graz and the University of Granada was titled "Transgressive Pedagogies, Transnational Literatures and Cinematic Representations." The center's own Nicole Haring and Mirna Cobanovic were among the presenters for this event.

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP IntersectionalLabs: Transgressive Pedagogies, Transnational Literatures and Cinematic Representations

Arqus Student Co-Project of University of Graz and
University of Granada



November 30
December 4
December 5
14:00–17:15

Center for Inter-American Studies
Elisabethstr. 59/II, 8010 Graz

We work for
tomorrow

www.uni-graz.at



PRESENTER
Adelina Sánchez Espinosa (University of Granada)
Ehira Aguilera García (University of Granada)
Ángela Harris Sánchez (University of Granada)
Nicole Haring (University of Graz)
Mirna Cobanovic (University of Graz)
Anjeana Hans (Wellesley College)

PROJECTS

01

Comparative Healthcare of Austria, Slovenia, and the US

Comparative Healthcare of Austria, Slovenia, and the US is a program offered by the Center for Inter-American Studies in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maribor. In the course of this program, the University of Graz annually welcomes students from the University of Pittsburgh who are interested in healthcare and in studying medicine. In Graz they get the opportunity to study and experience various aspects of the Austrian and the Slovenian healthcare systems in contrast with the healthcare system of the United States. This year, 24 students and one professor participated in the program from May 14, 2023 until June 10, 2023.



Graz International Summer School 2023

GUSEGG 2023 offered a discussion on how conflict, challenge, and change determine our lives as individuals and as a society. Our times are marked by various conflicts and antagonisms arising from challenging circumstances: climate change, war, inequality, poverty, hunger, pandemics. The problems faced today are conceived of in different ways: as unexpected tragedies, as predictable outcomes of past behavior, as the result of systematic and structural processes, or as the consequence of individual actions or even chance. It is a constant challenge to attempt to resolve tensions and antagonisms without multiplying and escalating them. If conflict is a challenge and a question, change is the answer.

In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the challenges of our times, this summer school suggested engaging in academic contemplation and interdisciplinary exchange. Such investigations offer us the opportunity of developing disruptive intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into the many forces that make us believe that the challenges we face are essential, natural, or inevitable.

This year, the Graz International Summer School welcomed 70 students from all around the world for the two-week program. Participants from North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia met to negotiate their differences and find commonalities, creating a community in the process that transcends geographical, cultural, and mental borders.



Inter.Reading Book Club



The Inter.Reading Book Club (IRBC) was founded in 2020 as a cooperation project between the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) at the University of Graz and the Austrian-American Society for Styria (ÖAC-Styria). The Inter.Reading Book Club (IRBC) unites voracious readers who are looking for an intersectional, international, and inter-American book club to share their passion. Meeting on a regular basis, the three branches of the book club read and discuss fictional and nonfictional American and Latin American literature connected to current global issues.

In 2023, the book club read the following books:

- Afropessimism by Frank B. Wilderson III (SS 2023)
- Travesuras de la niña mala by Mario Vargas Llosa (SS 2023)
- The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai (WS 2023)
- Los Afectos by Rodrigo Hasbun (WS 2023)
- La Carne by Rosa Montero (WS 2023)



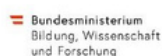


The KinderKunstHochschule offers children and young people the opportunity to get to know and deepen their knowledge of various art forms in workshops. Artists show them various techniques, from painting, illustration, and ceramics to dance, theater, and creative writing as well as cooking, puppet making, and sewing.

In 2023, the KinderKunstHochschule once again offered numerous creative art workshops - both during the vacations and throughout the year. Workshops were also held in many Styrian schools. The courses are always science-based and have a practical-artistic focus. The aim is to contribute to the sustainable development of children and young people and their active and creative participation in an innovative and equal society.

Together with our cooperation partners, we strive to bring the arts and culture into the sphere of experience and everyday life of children and young people.

Homepage: www.kinder.kunsthochschule.at



#100

Another question with an eye to the future:

Where are Nazis still exerting their in- fluence?



Photo: Tzivanopoulos/Uni Graz

Christian Cwik is deconstructing the myth of the Nazi refugee who emigrated to the Americas: "It wasn't old men who came to Latin America, but rather young and agile people."

It has been historically verified that many Nazi criminals found shelter in Latin America after the Second World War. The NSDAP had been active there since the 1930s and was able to draw in many *native Austrians* who had immigrated as economic refugees at the beginning of the 20th century or who had emigrated because of Austrofascism. These self-professed Nazis later served as political advisors to dictators or went on to set up influential companies. With his research, historian Christian Cwik from the Center for Inter-American Studies shows that their descendants continue to hold *influential positions in politics and business*, thus shaping the continent's fate with their ideology to this day.

Christian Cwik
Center of Inter-American Studies



interamerikanistik.uni-graz.at/de/

We work for
tomorrow



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THIRD - PARTY FUNDING

• Dementia in Data (2022–2023)

International research project on the question of how datafication influences the area of dementia research from a cultural studies, sociological, and anthropological perspective.

Funding party: Aging in Data Project funded by Social Science and Humanities Research Council Canada



• Eco-Storytelling: A Digital Toolkit for the English Classroom for Building a Climate-Just Future (2023–2026)

International research and educational project in cooperation with Ca'Foscari University Venice and the University of Malaga to develop a digital toolkit for the English classroom to address the pressing questions of climate change through a socially-just lens.

Funding party: Erasmus+



• Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, and Critical Interventions (2023–2025)

Aligning with the research focus of C.IAS on camps and incarceration, this project will continue the pivotal work of the 2022 Camps Conference by conducting research with cooperation partners in the Americas (e.g. University of Puerto Rico, University of Havana) and organizing an international conference in spring 2024 (www.campsconference-graz.com).

Funding parties: Province of Styria, Dimensions of Europe, U.S. Embassy, Chile Embassy, Cuba Embassy, KO-Stelle University of Graz, City of Graz



• Climate Change as System Change (2023–2024)

Within the research area Inter-American Cultures, Histories, and Literatures, this research project aims at developing inter-American approaches to the climate crises and to continuous global environmental destruction. Highlighting European entanglements in the exploitation and degradation of the environment in the Americas is the main focus of the project.

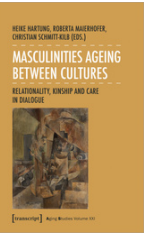
Funding party: Province of Styria



- **Aging Masculinities Between Cultures (2021–2024)**

This project is a follow-up initiative to the MASCAGE Gender Net+ research project, which C.IAS was part of until 2023. It continues the discussion on aging masculinities through an intersectional lens drawing on cultural studies, aging studies, gender studies, and sociological approaches.

Funding party: FWF



- **Mediating Social Challenges: Art, Storytelling, and Critical Pedagogies (2023–2024)**

Continuing the Erasmus+ project DigLit objectives, this follow-up project engages with the development of methods and approaches for critical pedagogies for addressing our current challenges of digitalization, climate change, unequal power dynamics, and growing inequalities. Researchers from different universities in Europe, including Granada, Venice, City College London, and Goldsmith University, are determined to develop new trajectories for educational and cultural studies.

Funding party: Province of Styria



- **IntersectionalLabs: Transgressive Pedagogies and Transnational Literature (2023–2024)**

This Arqus student project aims at investigating transgressive pedagogies through the development of IntersectionalLabs for university students that create explorative methods for engaging with transnational literatures. These labs will be conducted in Graz and Granada.

Funding party: Arqus



- **Leipzig Revolution (2023–2024)**

This international research project with academics from Europe and the Americas investigates through a historical lens the life and work of Walter Markov to better understand the complex dynamics of historical revolutions from 'the left' and 'the right' and to gain insights for our contemporary times.

Funding parties: Province of Styria, City of Graz, KONAK, Adhilac



INTER-AMERICAN STUDIES CERTIFICATE

The certificate in "Inter-American Cultural Studies" is aimed at students enrolled in all fields of study within the humanities or social sciences at the University of Graz as an additional qualification in the form of a free elective focus.

The relevance of inter-American studies as a subject area becomes particularly relevant in the context of current developments on a global level such as transnational migration. In the course of such developments, cultural identities are transformed, questioning common conceptualizations of the "self" and the "other". Also, in a European context, the reference points are shifted in the course of the negotiation of a "European identity" (in addition to national and regional identities), which means that academic perspectives have to be recast as well. Therefore, for European students in the field of inter-American studies, the "Americanness" of the Americas and changing conceptions of the "self" and the "other" are of great interest, as they might encourage the reconsideration of established categories. The certified free elective subject "Inter-American Cultural Studies" offers an overview of relevant topics of this new research area and aims at strengthening the reflective skills of students.

In 2023, the following students received the certificate:

- Anamari Slemensek
- Artiola Kajtazi
- Florent Haxhnikaj
- Julia Prochinig
- Karolína CrhÁková
- Rabija Osmanagic



ACHIEVEMENTS

C.IAS Peer Evaluation 2022

In 2022, C.IAS went through a peer evaluation process of its research paradigms and was evaluated by two external experts in the field of inter-American studies. The evaluation brought forth that the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) is **one of the leading centers for inter-American studies in Europe** and the only inter-American studies center in Austria. The field under consideration in this review was brought into the spotlight with the foundation of the International Association of Inter-American Studies (IAS) in 2009. Since C.IAS was founded three years earlier, it has always been and still is one of the **avantgarde institutions** in this area internationally. The center is pivotal to the performance of the university in internationally funded research initiatives. Thus, C.IAS is a **place for the enhancement of academic excellence**, which is internationally highly visible, and it provides an important academic node for further individual and institutional collaboration among European and American regions. Furthermore, the evaluators identified a **coherent strategy in promoting talent and young scientists**, clearly matching the university's motto of working "for the future". C.IAS also plays a pioneering role with regard to the promotion of women in science and, thus, also contributes to raising the proportion of women within academic staff.

Mobility Semester in Paris

Between January and July 2023, **Eva Katharina Bauer**, our student assistant, was on a productive six-month stay at the University of Paris (France) as part of the Joint Master's Program, which was developed, pioneered, and promoted in part by **Roberta Maierhofer**. Throughout her stay, Eva delved into research on Anglo-American and Inter-American history and culture, engaging with the French perspective on the field. We want to thank Erasmus for facilitating unique intercultural experiences for students like Eva, enriching their academic endeavors within the broader context of humanities-based educational experiences.



Archival Research in Uruguay

Christian Cwik spent a total of six weeks in Uruguay between January and March 2023, where he continued his research on the topics of "Nazi criminals in Latin America after 1945" (Zukunftsfonds der Republik Österreich und Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich für die Opfer des Nationalsozialismus) and "Burgenland Emigration" (Land Burgenland) at the National Archives in Montevideo. He also managed to conduct several interviews with contemporary witnesses together with his colleague Verena Muth (University of Cologne). Cwik has published the results of his research in various renowned journals. He also accepted an invitation from the Institute of History at the University of the Republic of Uruguay in Montevideo to teach as a visiting professor.

Nicole Haring's Rigorosum

We are elated to share the outstanding news of Dr. Nicole Haring's triumphant defense of her PhD dissertation, titled "Coming Together: A Critical Narrative Analysis of Intergenerational Stories of Education and Gender." As an integral part of our esteemed team at the Center for Inter-American Studies, Nicole has not only showcased exceptional academic prowess but has significantly contributed to our collective scholarly endeavors.

Nicole's research revealed the power of life-narrative techniques, specifically digital storytelling, in fostering intergenerational co-creation of knowledge. Through the lens of intergenerationality, the analysis detected progress, change, and stagnancy in societal and educational systems concerning gender norms. Drawing on Inter-American studies, her project brought forth new interdisciplinary insights into the intersections of cultural, gender, and educational studies.



Erasmus Blended Intensive Program: History in Comics (Olomouc, Czechia)

In collaboration with Comenius University, Bratislava, and the University of Graz, Palacky University in the Czech Republic organized an engaging "History in Comics" Workshop from October 2–6, 2023. This workshop, funded by Erasmus +, aimed to enhance students' writing skills across three key areas: academic writing, creative writing encompassing prose and poetry, and the art of comics.

Artiola Kajtazi, our student assistant, distinguished herself as one of the ten recipients of a coveted scholarship from the University of Graz. Throughout the event, Artiola actively engaged in all three classes provided by the workshop and fulfilled all the necessary criteria to qualify for academic credits.



Our director, Roberta Maierhofer, played a pivotal role in the workshop's organization and promotion. The Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) made significant contributions in promoting the workshop and motivating students to apply. Notably, 5 out of the 10 University of Graz students who attended the workshop were introduced to it through one of the classes organized by C.IAS.

Alumni Talk



Our student assistant Artiola Kajtazi was honored as a distinguished alumna by AAB College, the institution where she pursued her bachelor's degree in Kosovo. She graciously accepted an invitation to deliver an alumni talk, sharing insights into her academic journey and professional endeavors at C.IAS. Artiola also provided valuable advice on excelling in studies and navigating the intricacies of student life.

Emphasizing the significance of active involvement in student-centric activities, Artiola highlighted the importance of attending events, conferences, and workshops. Moreover, she seized this opportunity to extend a heartfelt invitation to AAB College students, encouraging their participation in C.IAS's events, such as the Inter-Reading Book Club, Camps Conference 2024, and GUSSEG 2024.

GUSSEG Presentations Abroad



Artiola Kajtazi, our student assistant and GUSSEG ambassador, received the prestigious opportunity to present GUSSEG Summer School 2024 at both UBT College and AAB College in Kosovo. She delivered a comprehensive presentation, outlining all essential details about the Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSSEG) and shared her personal experiences and valuable insights gained from the program.

Nicole Haring, our postdoctorial fellow, and our director Roberta Maierhofer presented the Graz Interantional Summer School program 2024 during their cooperation and research trip to Wellesley College, USA, and led the foundation for future institutional cooperation with the prestigious college in Greater Boston.



C.IAS in Berlin at International Peace Congress

From September 22nd to 24th, our student assistant Mirna Cobanovic was invited to participate at the first International Peace Congress in Berlin, organized by the German War Graves Commission. During the course of the congress, 150 participants from multiple countries took part in workshops, lectures, and discussions. On the final day of the congress, participants were given the opportunity to present an organization or project they believe contributes to peacebuilding, educating, and bettering communities. Our assistant took the opportunity to inform the attendees of the activities, goals, and achievements of C.IAS.

Excursion to Cuba

CUBA EXCURSION
HAVANNA GRANDE
FROM THE CONQUISTA TO THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA

Hard Facts
Duration: December 7-19, 2023 (12 days)
Leadership: Michael Zeuske (U. Bonn) and Christian Cwik (U. Graz)
Lessons: 14 lessons (230 min.), 4 lessons (60 min.)
Organization: KonaK Vienna
Team of professors: Michael Zeuske, Christian Cwik, Claudia Martínez Hernández, Sergio Osuna Vilaboy (U. La Habana), Orlando García Martínez (UNEAC)
All lessons will be held in German!

Program
Havana, Matanzas, Limonar, Coliseo, Cárdenas, San Cristóbal, Cayababo/Artemisa, Bejucal, Mariel, Cabañas, Balise Honda, Batubano, Isla de la Juventud, Sagunera, Playa Baya, Nueva Guanisa, Santa Fe, Casadillo, Güines, Australia, Bay of Pigs, Carolina, Cienfuegos, Jagua, Havana
(Individual extension possible over Christmas/New Year!)

Price EUR 2.860,-
Includes all teaching units, learning materials, city and country tours, all bus rides, ferry rides, 12 nights in a single room in a hotel with breakfast in the period from 7.12. to 19.12.2023.
Including transatlantic flights*, food and beverages, taxes, fees, vaccinations, admissions, gratuities.
*Students can apply for a travel grant

BOOK NOW Deadline for application: 15. September 2023
Contact: christian.cwik@uni-graz.at

C.IAS **KONA K** We work for tomorrow **UH**

In December 2023, participants from across Austria and Europe will embark on a C.IAS-organized excursion to Cuba, titled “HAVANNA GRANDE: FROM THE CONQUISTA TO THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA”.

The excursion will take place from December 7th to December 19th, and will be led by Michael Zeuske (University of Bonn) and Christian Cwik.

The program consists of visiting several cities while attending lessons on the topic, enabling a multi-layered experience for all participants.

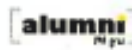
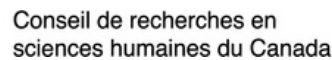
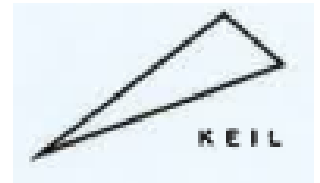
Next year, the center (in collaboration with KonaK) hopes to organize another successful excursion, this time to Colombia!

C.IAS at the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin

On December 7th, our student assistant Eva Bauer will participate in an event focused on the situation of Latin American and Caribbean research in the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. The event will take place at the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin, where Bauer will talk about the Center’s perspective and engage in questions that concern important institutional changes, the significance of area studies in Austria, as well as the challenges that come with it.

COOPERATIONS

We would like to thank our cooperation partners for a successful and inspiring 2023 and are looking forward to continuing the work in 2024.



Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der Stadt Graz





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