

C.IAS Report 2025

Events, Publications, Projects



University of Graz

Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational
Studies



We work for
tomorrow



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C.IAS Report 2025

Events, Publications, Projects

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Introduction

Dear all,

As we reflect on 2025, the Center for Inter-American Studies is pleased to share updates on this year's developments. It has been a special year for our center as we merged forces with the Center for Southeast European Studies and are now the newly founded unit of the **Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies (GITS)**. Structural changes were also accompanied by personal changes and our director Prof. Roberta Maierhofer has retired with October 2025 and is followed by Dr. Nicole Haring as the Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies and the Co-Director of the Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies under the leadership of Prof. Florian Bieber.

2025 has been a productive and engaging year for our center. Through our teaching and research efforts, we've made steady contributions to the field of Inter-American Studies. These achievements highlight the ongoing dedication of our team and collaborators, and we look forward to building on this work in the future.

We organized and hosted a variety of events that fostered international and interdisciplinary collaborations. From engaging panel discussions to insightful lectures, these gatherings provided valuable opportunities for intellectual exchange and highlighted our efforts to connect diverse perspectives within and beyond academic circles.

As we approach the start of a new academic year, we look forward to continuing our work in supporting interdisciplinary research and fostering cross-cultural dialogue. Building on over 15 years as an interdisciplinary center, we remain committed to these goals and are more than excited to merge forces now in our new entity.

We are grateful to each member, student, and friend of the Center for Inter-American Studies for their contributions and collaboration. Together, we aim to continue making meaningful progress in research, education, and cultural understanding.

Here's to many more years of growth, collaboration, and solidarity.

All the best for 2026.

The C.IAS Team

The Center for Inter-American Studies

The Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS), under the leadership of Dr. Nicole Haring, 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. From March 2025 on, C.IAS is part of the Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies directed by Prof. Florian Bieber as an interdisciplinary unit of the University of Graz.

The 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 cooperation 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
- (3) Inter-American Environmental Perspectives: Media, Society, and Culture

Team

Nicole Haring

(Senior) Scientist: American and Gender Studies

Director of the Center of Inter-American Studies (C.IAS)

Co-Director Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies



Roberta Maierhofer



Professor of American Studies

Director of Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG)

Christina Korak

(Senior) Scientist: Translation and Latin American Studies



Eva Bauer



University Assistant: American Studies and Eco-Linguistics

Project Assistant

Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership: "Eco-Storytelling: A Digital Toolbox for the English Classroom for Building a Climate-Just Future"

Heike Hartung

Project Assistant: English and Aging Studies



Şeyma Yonar



Project Assistant

Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership: "Eco-Storytelling: A Digital Toolbox for the English Classroom for Building a Climate-Just Future"

Artiola Kajtazi

Student Assistant

Master Student in English and American Studies



Maria Niedermayr



Office Management

Project Assistant

"Comparative Healthcare of Austria, Slovenia, and the US"

Isabella Schwab

Fachinspektorin

Office Management and Project Assistant



Events

EcoStories Lecture Series: “Sustainability Education in a Diverse Adult Education Classroom”

February 11

TUE, FEBRUARY 11, 2025
JOKE DEWILDE & ELIN SÆTHER
 UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, NORWAY
 "SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN A DIVERSE ADULT EDUCATION CLASSROOM"

FRI, MARCH 14, 2025
SARA SHAHWAN
 THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
 "ECOLOGICAL IDENTITY IN THE MAKING: POETIC ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN YOUNG MIGRANTS AND THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE"

THU, MARCH 20, 2025
JULIA HOYDIS & ROMAN BARTOSCH
 UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ, AUSTRIA & UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, GERMANY
 "ADVANCING CLIMATE CHANGE LITERACY: THE VALUE OF THINKING TWICE"

TUE, APRIL 8, 2025
JOHN KIM, SARAH LEWISON & REBECCA SNEDEKER
 ANTHROPOCENE COMMONS / MAGALISTER COLLEGE, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY / INDEPENDENT PARTNERS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ILLINOIS
 "STORIES FROM AN ANTHROPOCENE RIVER: MISSISSIPPI RIVER OPEN SCHOOL FOR KINSHIP AND SOCIAL EXCHANGE"

TUE, MAY 13, 2025
VICKY MACLEROY
 COB COLLEGE, WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA
 "DIGITAL ECOSTORYTELLING: YOUNG ADULTS DEVELOPING AN ETHICS OF CARE"

ERASMUS+ ECO-JUSTICE SERIES INTERDISCIPLINARY ECOPELAGOGY WEBINARS
 FROM 4.30 PM TO 5.30 PM (CET) ONLINE VIA ZOOM
 MEETING ID: 694 6709 1657 CODE: 758169

EcoStories
 ECOSTORIES.ORG
 @ECOSTORIES.ERASMUS

For further inquiries about the lecture series, please contact: Eva Böcher | EcoStories Project Coordinator | eco@interamerican.org

On February 11 we began our Eco-justice lecture series as part of the EcoStories Project with a talk by Joke Dewilde and Elin Sæther from the University of Oslo, Norway, on “Sustainability Education in a Diverse Adult Education Classroom.” Their study examined sustainability education in a diverse classroom at an adult education center for students with migrant backgrounds. The talk highlighted the challenges and opportunities that arise when teaching complex sustainability issues in

linguistically and culturally diverse environments.

C.IAS Breakfast Semester Start

March 5

The Center for Inter-American Studies kicked off the new semester with a cozy breakfast gathering on March 5. Students from the University of Graz, along with exchange students, joined us to enjoy a free breakfast and coffee while learning about upcoming events and opportunities offered by the center. We were also delighted to welcome University of Graz and Graz International Summer School (GUSEGG) alumni, who had the chance to reconnect with one another and meet new students. Professor Maierhofer, together with the GUSEGG team, held an information session, sharing insights about the GUSEGG and guiding students on how to apply.

C.IAS BREAKFAST & GUSEGG INFO SESSION
 Join us for a cozy breakfast to kick off the semester with great company, fresh coffee, and delicious treats!

Wednesday
March 5, 2025
09.00 AM - 11.00 AM

- Learn about GUSEGG & how to apply
- Discover C.IAS & our academic program
- Meet fellow students & faculty
- Enjoy a free breakfast and coffee!

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

Everyone is welcome!

Alumni community
 mit freundlicher Unterstützung

C.IAS
 Center for Inter-American Studies

We work for tomorrow

UNI GUEG

HuK Forum Cluster: Lecture by Ian MacRury

March 11



The Cluster “Medien und soziale Bewegungen” in corporation with C.IAS hosted Prof. Iain MacRury from the University of Stirling, Scotland. As part of the HuK Forum, MacRury gave a talk on “Thinking after Brexit: framing psychosocial and media environments in UK politics.” Drawing on insights from changes in media ecologies and

patterns of media use, the talk introduced and recontextualized work on Brexit and polarization. In addition, Prof. MacRury discussed the influence of “failures of empathy” and the emotional dimensions of shame. As a conclusion, the talk argued for the importance of critical media/digital literacy as part of an evolving communications environment.

C.IAS Academy Awards Discussion

March 12

On March 12, the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted an open discussion on the 2025 Academy Awards, focusing on the nominees and winners of the 97th Oscars. Participants explored Zoe Saldaña's Best Supporting Actress win in the context of the controversy surrounding *Emilia Pérez* (2024). They also discussed political agendas, the quality of movie production, and issues of representation. Reflecting on *Anora* (2024), which won Best Picture and Best Actress for Mikey Madison, participants considered the impact of promotion on the Academies' decisions, noting that the marketing budget for the film exceeded its production budget by a large margin.



EcoStories Lecture Series: “Ecological Identity in the Making: Poetic Encounters between Young Migrants and the Elements of Nature”

March 14

The second lecture of Eco-justice lecture series was held on March 14. Sara Shahwan from Goldsmiths University gave an insightful talk titled “Ecological Identity in the Making: Poetic Encounters between Young Migrants and the Elements of Nature.” In this talk, Shahwan shared findings from her PhD research which investigate the value of ecopoetry for young people in diaspora as they navigate non-/belonging and the liminal in-betweens of their multiple identities. Within this context of migration, the study examined the educational process of ‘ecological identity work’ that construes the self in relationship to the environment (Thomashow, 1996).

Inter.Reading Book Club Kick-Off Meeting

March 17

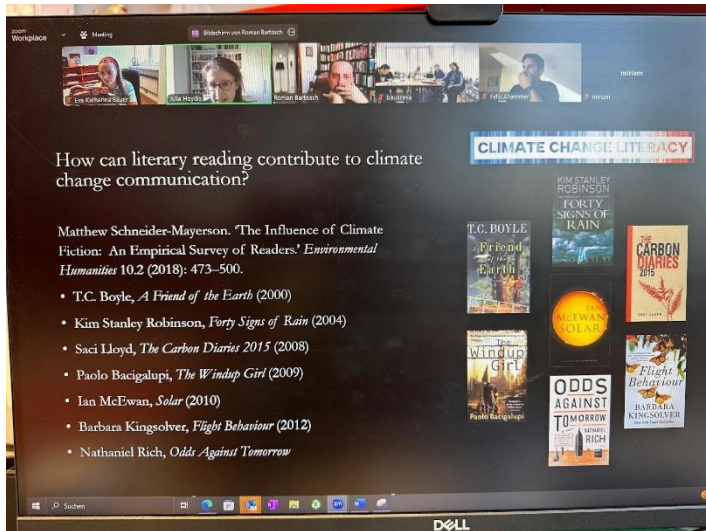
On March 17, the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted the kick-off session of the Inter.Reading Book Club for the Summer Semester of 2025. Both students and members of the broader community had the opportunity to meet one another and share their initial thoughts on the chosen book, *Strangers in Their Own Land* (2016) by U.S. sociologist



Arlie Russell Hochschild. The book explores political and cultural divisions in the United States, with a particular focus on the rise of right-wing populism, examining Tea Party supporters in Louisiana to understand the motivations behind Trump voters. The book was selected for its insights into past elections and voter attitudes, which participants found valuable for drawing connections to today’s political landscape, not only in the U.S. but worldwide.

EcoStories Lecture Series: “Advancing Climate Change Literacy: The Value of Thinking Twice” by Julia Hoydis and Roman Bartosch

March 20



For the third Eco-justice lecture we invited Prof. Julia Hoydis from the University of Graz and Prof. Roman Bartosch from the University of Cologne to give a talk on “Advancing Climate Change Literacy: The Value of Thinking Twice” on Thursday, March 20, 2025. In this talk, they critically reviewed and discussed long-standing assumptions about the

role of literary narrative in climate change communication and education. They suggested that, despite the now widely acknowledged limitations of focusing on information deficits or emotional triggers, much communication and education still centers either on cognition or emotion and thus overlooks the main potentials of literary engagements with climate change and the living world. Moreover, they claimed that climate change literacy builds on two interlinked processes of reading, one fast and affective, the other slow and reflective, and thus seek to make a case for “thinking twice” about fiction.

Guest Lecture by Judith Müller on Vienna (and Basel) in Hebrew translations

March 20

On March 20, the Center of Inter-American Studies in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz (CJS), organized a guest lecture by Judith Müller (Petra-Ernst-Fellow, CJS) titled “Wien (und Basel) in hebräischer Übersetzung.” The talk presented the literary trajectory of David Vogel (1891–1944), who arrived in Vienna in 1912 with the strong desire to become a writer. The lecture argued that Vogel’s writing did not only constitute Hebrew literary production in a European urban setting, but also revealed an ongoing act of translation embedded within the creative process itself. Through selected textual examples, the talk illustrated how Vogel translated spatial, cultural, and linguistic impressions of Vienna into Hebrew narrative forms, shaping a layered representation of the city while negotiating between languages and literary traditions.



Wien (und Basel) in hebräischer Übersetzung
Hebräische Schriftsteller:innen und deutschsprachige Stadträume um 1900 und heute

Vortrag von
Judith Müller (Petra-Ernst-Fellow, CJS)

Donnerstag 20. März 2025 | 14:00 Uhr
Bibliothek des CJS | Beethovenstraße 21 | 8010 Graz

C.IAS Lecture Series: “Getting to know the United States after 1945 - Exemplary U.S. ‘exchange of persons’ programs in postwar Austria: Fulbright and Smith-Mundt” by Lonnie Johnson

April 2



On April 2, the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted the first lecture of its C.IAS Lecture Series titled “Getting to know the United States after 1945 - Exemplary U.S. ‘exchange of persons’ programs in postwar Austria: Fulbright and Smith-Mundt” and presented by Lonnie Johnson, the executive director of the Fulbright Commission in Austria from 1997

until 2019. The lecture focused on the history and evolution of U.S. exchange programs, specifically the Fulbright and the lesser-known Smith-Mundt programs, and their impact on postwar Austria. It traced how these initiatives emerged in the aftermath of World War II, during the U.S. occupation of Austria (1945–1955), as tools of soft power intended to foster mutual understanding and counter lingering anti-American sentiment. The lecture highlighted how these “exchanges of persons”, from students and scholars to journalists and jazz musicians, not only introduced Austrian elites to American society but also had lasting influence on Austrian-American relations. At the end of the session, the attendants had the opportunity to discuss the not optimistic future of such programs under the current US administration and what this could mean for Austria-US relations and its broader worldwide implications.

C.IAS Lecture Series: “Empire's Daughters: Girls and Britain's Colonial Past” by Elizabeth Dillenburg

April 7

On April 7, in cooperation with the Department of Law and Department of History, the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted the second talk of its C.IAS Lecture Series titled “Empire’s Daughters: Girls and Britain's Colonial Past.” The lecture traced the interconnected histories of girlhood, whiteness, and British colonialism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It highlighted how, although girls are often overlooked in studies of colonialism, they nevertheless played a vital role in the empire as migrants, settlers, laborers, and creators of colonial knowledge and



were heralded as “empire builders.” This presentation used the Girls’ Friendly Society as a lens to explore the micropolitics of colonialism and argued that understandings of colonialism remain incomplete without considerations of girls and girlhood. During the discussion led by Heidrun Zettelbauer of the Department of History, questions of access to sources, power relations, and on the theoretical framework of post-colonialism were raised by the attendees.

EcoStories Lecture Series: “Stories from an Anthropocene River: Mississippi River Open School for Kinship and Social Exchange” by John Kim and Sarah Lewison

April 8



John Kim and Sarah Lewison from the Anthropocene Commons (AC) network continued our online lecture series with an insightful talk titled: “Stories from an Anthropocene River: Mississippi River Open School for Kinship and Social Exchange” on April 8. Lewison and Kim talked about Mississippi River Open School for Kinship and Social Exchange (2021-ongoing), an educational, research and art project spanning the river’s headwaters to the Gulf. With dozens

of educators, artists, activists and partner organizations, the Open School takes up a concept of the Anthropocene as a point of departure for issues at the intersections of race, environment, and resource extraction. They discussed three themes (Crossing, Welcoming and Repairing) and a method (Open School) that emerged in collaborations up and down the river.

Facilitating Europe in Styria (FACES) Kickoff Event

April 28

On April 28, we gathered to kick off the Facilitating Europe in Styria (FACES) project, an international teaching assistantship initiative that brings together students and recent graduates in education from around the world to gain practical teaching experience in primary and secondary schools across Styria, Austria.



Participants engaged in classroom teaching while benefiting from intercultural training, language courses, and academic support. As part of the program, they also participated in the Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG) as a certified teaching course. FACES was supported by the Directorate of Education of Styria, the University of Graz (Center for Inter-American Studies and GUSEGG), the University College of Teacher Education Styria (PH Steiermark), and various Styrian primary and secondary schools.



C.IAS Lecture Series: “Democracy in Times of Change: Has Donald Trump Changed the Future of American Society?” by James Forsher

May 7

On May 7, James Forsher (Seattle University) gave a talk titled “Democracy in Times of Change: Has Donald Trump Changed the Future of American Society?” The lecture considered the century-long history of right-wing political movements in the United States and examined the extent to which these movements foreshadowed today’s political events. The talk was followed by a Q&A session, during which students asked questions about current political events in the U.S. as well as the political impact and potential consequences of Trump’s foreign policies on an international level.



Comparative Healthcare of Austria, Slovenia, and the US (CompHealth) 2025

May 11-29



In May 2025, we welcomed 23 students from the University of Pittsburgh (USA) in Graz as part of the “Comparative Healthcare” project. In the span of four weeks, the students visited different institutions within the health sector in Graz and Maribor, allowing them to draw comparisons

between the USA the Austrian, and the Slovenian healthcare systems and policies. These visits included hospitals, (medical) universities, non-profit organizations, pharmacies, and many more. In addition to their academic trips, the students were able to explore culturally through city tours and field trips to Piber, Salzburg, and Vienna.

It was a pleasure for us to meet and host our Pitt students again this year, sharing our experiences and creating memories together! We wish them all the best for their future and hope they will remember their time in Graz fondly.



EcoStories Lecture Series: “Digital EcoStorytelling: Young Adults developing an Ethics of Care” by Vicky Macleroy

May 13

Vicky Macleroy from Goldsmiths, University of London, was the next guest lecturer in our online lecture series. She gave a talk titled “Digital EcoStorytelling: Young Adults Developing an Ethics of Care.” The lecture focused on how young people use digital ecostorytelling to engage with environmental issues and develop an ethical, globally-minded way of thinking. Using examples from the Critical Connections project (2012–ongoing), Macleroy explored how student filmmakers, such as the Malaysian group Eco Pahlawan, create digital stories that question environmental destruction and promote eco justice. The discussion highlighted filmmaking as both a process and product that fosters creative expression, hope, and resilience, and demonstrated how an ethics of care can be embedded at each stage of digital storytelling.

Tribuna Festival

May 14-16

From May 14 to 16, the Iberoamerican Department in cooperation with the Department for Romance Studies, the Department of Translation Studies, and the Center for Inter-American Studies hosted the sixth TRIBUNA-festival. The festival provided concerts, lectures, workshops, theater, exhibitions, a children’s program, tastings, and dance to celebrate and acknowledge Caribbean culture, history, language and societies. The festival aimed to challenge stereotypical views of the Caribbean as merely a vacation destination, encouraging the participants to critically examine the realities of Caribbean societies and understand complex global connections between the area and international actors, such as the Austrian-Caribbean relations.



In Memoriam: Marjorie Agosín

May 19

On May 19, accompanied by the music of Amaru Sunqu (Grupo Andino Latinoamericano, Perú, Chile, and Mexico), the Center for Inter-American Studies celebrated and commemorated the poetic life of Marjorie Agosín at the Meerscheinschlössl in Graz. Contributions from Mireille van Poppel (Vice Rector for Internationalization and Equal Opportunities, University of Graz), Alex Wetzig (Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to Austria), Ulrike Taberhofer (City of Graz), and Mitch Sims (Fulbright Austria) highlighted the numerous connections Marjorie made throughout her life and the impact of her work as a poet and writer. In honor of Marjorie's Jewish heritage, Heinz Anderwald (Jewish Community Graz) read a Jewish prayer, followed by Roberta Maierhofer, Kurt Hahn, and Erna Pfeiffer, who each addressed the impact of Marjorie's poetry and writing not only on an academic but also on a personal level. Similarly, Nina Reibenschuh presented insights into Marjorie's work from her PhD thesis. Finally, Mirko Petrić offered a personal account of his relationship with Marjorie, whom he met as a colleague at the GUSEGG Summer School and became friends with over the years.



Symposium: Eco-Criticism and Democracy: Inter-American Perspectives

May 20



Following the publication of our edited volume “Entanglements, Narratives, and the Environment: Inter-American Perspectives” (Roberta Maierhofer, Nicole Haring, Eva Bauer (Eds.)), we were pleased to host a symposium and book presentation titled “Eco-Criticism and Democracy: Inter-American

Perspectives” at the University of Graz. The event brought together scholars from across the Environmental Humanities, including Lucio De Capitani (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Kirsten Fischer (University of Minnesota), Candace Goodrich (University of Giessen), Christina Korak (University of Graz), and Robert Winkler (University of Salzburg).

With interdisciplinary perspectives ranging from literature and translation to speculative fiction and environmental rhetoric, their presentations offered valuable insights into the intersections of the climate crisis, environmental literature, and democratic approaches from an Inter-American perspective.

Special Lecture by Prof. Mirko Petrić titled “Socio-Digital Inequalities: Towards a Unified Research Framework for Studying Inequalities in the Cultural Field”

May 21

Prof. Mirko Petrić, a guest from the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, gave a special lecture on Wednesday, May 21 where he discussed the socio-digital inequalities and perceptions of cultural inequalities across Europe.

Given that Prof. Petrić is a regular professor at Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG), the event also hosted many GUSEGG Alumni where they had the chance to reconnect with one another and the professor and learn more about his ongoing projects.



C.IAS Lecture Series: “Grief and Political Transformation” by Benjamin Nienass

May 28



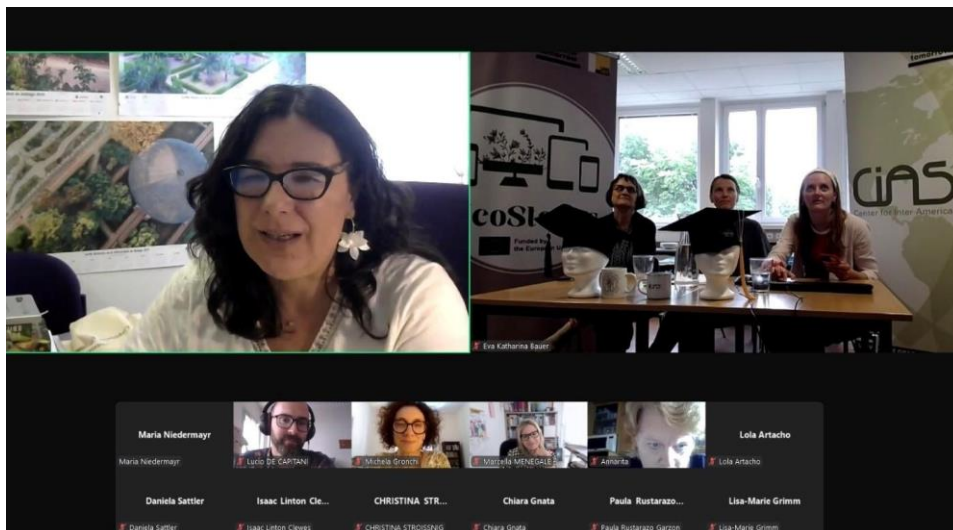
As part of C.IAS Lecture Series, the center hosted Benjamin Nienass to give a talk on “Grief and Political Transformation.” The lecture reflected on the connections of grief and politics, specifically on the role of public mourning in sustaining and confronting ideologies. Drawing on different conceptualizations of public grief, the talk considered temporal registers, melancholic attachments to the past as well as narratives of “overcoming” and progress. The lecture was followed by a series of questions by participants such as the intersection of grief with ethics, memory studies, or trauma studies.

EcoStories: International Erasmus+ EcoStories Teacher Training

June 3

Over the course of three months, the EcoStories Project offered a 40-hour program called The International Erasmus+ EcoStories Teacher Training Program. Participants engaged in a blend of synchronous and asynchronous activities across four comprehensive modules, conducted by our team members from Graz, Venice, and Malaga. The modules covered key themes such as Environmental Humanities and Ecopedagogy, CLIL Methodology, Digital Eco-Storytelling, and the design of an Eco-CLIL unit.

The program concluded on June 3, with an official graduation ceremony and a watch party featuring some of the inspiring digital eco-stories created by the participants. Nearly 40 trainees received their official certificates for completing the program and can now proudly call themselves certified Eco-Teachers.



C.IAS Lecture Series: “Donald Trump and the Crisis of American Democracy“ by Manfred Berg

June 5

On June 5, the Center of Inter-American Studies hosted the last of its C.IAS Lecture Series for the summer semester titled “Donald Trump and the Crisis of American Democracy“ presented by Manfred Berg, Professor of American History at the University of Heidelberg.

The lecture outlined the political history of Donald Trump: beginning in the 90s with the mocking remarks of newspapers, then the Tea Party and “Birthers” movement during the Obama presidency, Trump’s 2016 run and the (for some) surprising victory, to the 6th January 2021 capitol riots, the 2025 reelection and Trump’s current presidential term. The reactions (or lack of) to these events of the American Institutions have sparked reflections on the state of US democracy and what this second term might entail for its future.



During the discussion, a number of related issues and questions were raised. Among them are the relations of Trump to global politics (e.g., tariffs) and populist leaders such as Javier Milei as well as Trump’s stance towards Wolodymyr Selenskyj and Wladimir Putin. In addition, the history and direction of both the Democratic and the Republican party were considered, in particular the failings of the former and the radicalization of the latter in connection with the Tea Party and MAGA movement.

GUSEGG 2025: Time, Temporality, Transition: State-Society-Religion

July 6-19



GUSEGG 2025 offered a platform for the contributions of academics of various backgrounds and disciplines on the topic of time, temporality, and transition. This pluralism reflects the breadth and depth of the question posed by the title. Regardless of our positions, we are all

determined by time, and temporality – our relationship with time – needs to be defined not individually but in its past, present, and future contexts.

GUSEGG 2025 presented research on how time, temporality, and transition in Europe and the Americas are addressed socially, politically, culturally, and economically, and what this means for states, societies, and religions. 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 offered us the opportunity of developing intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into the many forces that make us believe that the crises, we face are essential, natural, or inevitable. Therefore, this analysis gave us not only an understanding of our own positions on an individual, a regional, national, and global level but also the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement in addressing conflict, challenge, and change, offering insights into the dynamics and structures that govern and shape us as individuals and groups. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America – this program provided a basis for discussing global and continental challenges as well as the opportunities that such academic engagement provides.

GUSEGG 2025 welcomed 67 students from 28 different countries and 43 universities. This year, the countries that sent the most participants were the USA (13 students), Germany (6 students), Austria (5 students), and Kosovo (5 students).

Semester Kick-Off and Lunch Lecture “Challenging Human Rights Violations and Racism in The Bahamas: Haitian Mobility Narratives in Karem Mortimer’s *Cargo* and Edwidge Danticat’s *Krik? Krak!*” by Saskia Fürst

October 7

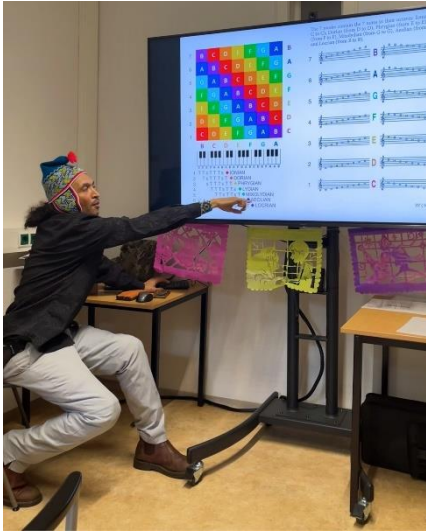
To kick off the winter semester, the Center of Inter-American Studies invited everyone to an info session and lunch lecture. Participants enjoyed drinks and bagels while our team introduced this year’s C.IAS Lectures and our certificate program. The GUSEGG Team also provided information about the international summer school, and shared details about the upcoming international program.

Our guest lecturer, Saskia Fürst from the University of The Bahamas, gave a talk titled “Challenging Human Rights Violations and Racism in The Bahamas: Haitian Mobility Narratives in Karem Mortimer’s *Cargo* and Edwidge Danticat’s *Krik? Krak!*” The lecture explored Haitian mobility narratives within the Haitian transnational community in The Bahamas, focusing on two powerful critical works: *Cargo* (2019) and Edwidge Danticat’s short story “Children of the Sea”, from the collection *Krik? Krak!*



The Days of Indigenous Resistance

October 8-12

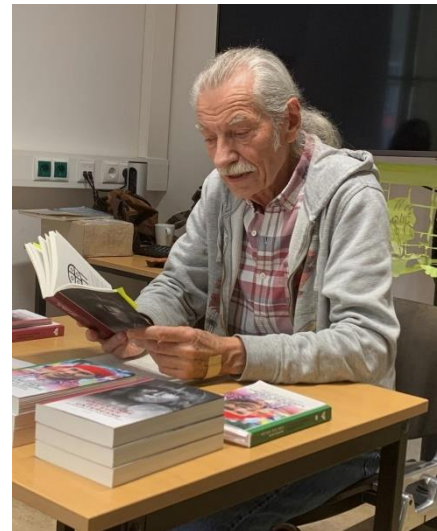


The Indigenous Rights Collective Austria organized the Days of Indigenous Resistance and invited the public to explore new perspectives on the history and contemporary realities of Indigenous communities. Participants attended a diverse on-site program featuring guests closely connected to Indigenous traditions.

On October 9, the Center for Inter-American Studies, one of the event sponsors, hosted participants on the second day of the Days of Indigenous Resistance. The program that day included three book presentations and four short films screening.

César A. Alcedo introduced “Takilka” as a music education method rooted in pre-Hispanic semiotics that combined music theory with foundational Andean ancestral symbols such as the Chakana and Wiphala. During the presentation, Alcedo outlined the development of the method, which built on his grandfather’s earlier work and included revisions, updates, and conceptual expansions led by Alcedo himself.

Alexander Buschenreiter presented readings from his two books on Hopi culture, including their spiritual concepts of the creation of Earth and humanity, as well as prophecies and warnings regarding environmental destruction.



Rita Eloranta gave a talk titled “Mochica: Grammatical Topics and External Relations”, offering an introduction to the extinct Mochica Language. She explained how grammar reflected the cosmivision of its former speakers and presented insights from language contact studies. She also introduced “Apeñ Muchik”,



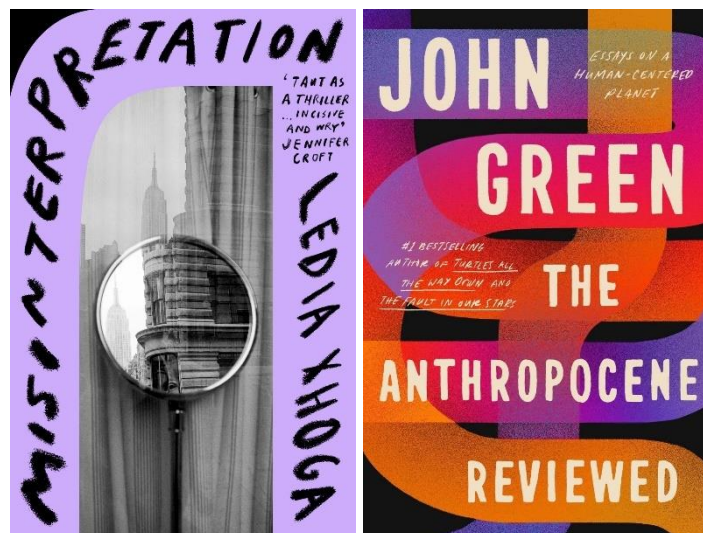
her revitalization initiative under the project name Apeñ Muchik, which aimed to support the revival of the Mochica language.

The evening concluded with a screening of short films created by the *Escuela de Cine Amazónico*. The films reflected on Amazonian communities' deep connection to their land and addressed themes such as cultural heritage protection, climate justice, and ecological respect.

Inter.Reading Book Club Kick-Off

October 14

On Tuesday, October 14, our team organized the kick-off event for the Inter.Reading Book Club for the winter semester. The event was open to students and members of the broader community. Guests had the opportunity to get to know one another and vote on key decisions regarding the book club. The following decisions were made: members agreed to read two books during the semester. The first selected book was *Misinterpretation* (2025) by Ledia Xhoga. A schedule for meetings held every two weeks on Tuesdays was also established. On November 28, members chose *The Anthropocene Reviewed* (2018) by John Green. Free snacks and drinks were provided at every meeting.



Symposium: “Age and Gender in the Humanities and Social Sciences” dedicated to Roberta Maierhofer

October 17

The Center for Inter-American Studies hosted an international surprise symposium on October 17, 2025 in honor of Roberta Maierhofer. The event brought together researchers, colleagues, and friends from across the globe to celebrate her pioneering scholarship in Aging Studies.

The symposium explored current research at the intersections of age and gender within the fields of Cultural Age/ing Studies and Critical Gerontology, and emphasized historical and intergenerational perspectives. The program included individual academic presentations, a panel discussion, and personal, anecdotal contributions reflecting on disciplinary developments as well as shared experiences and stories involving Maierhofer. Participation was offered both in person at and online, allowing for broad international engagement.

A central component of the celebration was the announcement and acknowledgement of a dedicated publication created in her honor: a special issue of the Journal of Aging Studies titled Age and Gender in the Humanities and Social Sciences edited by Nicole Haring, Barbara Zach and Heike Hartung).

Speakers of the event are listed below in order of their appearance:

- Nicole Haring (Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz, Austria)
- Florian Bieber (Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies, University of Graz, Austria)
- Sarah Zapusek (Coordination Centre for Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities, University of Graz, Austria)
- Heike Hartung (University of Potsdam, Germany)
- Elfi Bettinger (Free University Berlin, Germany)
- Núria Casado-Gual (University of Lleida, Spain, online)
- José Armengol (University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain)
- Dovrat Harel (Bar-Ilan University, Israel, online)
- Barbara Zach (ÖAG, Austria)
- Aagje Swinnen (Maastricht University, Netherlands, online)
- Ros Jennings (University of Gloucestershire, UK)
- Kim Sawchuk (Concordia University, Canada, online)
- Linn Sandberg (Södertörn University, Sweden, online)
- Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)
- Julia Henderson (Chair of NANAS, University of British Columbia, Canada)
- Peg Cruikshank (University of Maine, USA)

- Kate de Medeiros (Concordia University, Canada)
- Tom Cole (UTHealth Houston, USA)
- Marta Corezo Moreno (UNED, Spain)
- Hernando Gómez Prada (University of Murcia, Spain)
- Steve Rabitsch (University of Oslo, Norway)
- Oana Hergentröther (University of Graz, Austria)



CEEPUS Conference and Network Meeting

October 20-23

This year's CEEPUS Week welcomed European scholars from the Inter-American Studies CEEPUS Network to explore the theme "Inter-American Perspectives of Environmental Entanglements: Literatures, Cultures, and Histories." Researchers from Hungary, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Slovakia, and Kosovo presented their work on literature, culture, and history in the context of Inter-American studies.

Speakers and Presentations (in order of appearance):

- Mirna Radin-Sabadoš (University of Novi Sad)
"The Expanse as a Narrative of the Anthropocene: Environmental Transformation and Political Conflict in a Universe Driven by 'Progress'"
- István Pásztori-Kupán (Károli Gáspár University)
"The Landman Paradox: Is Global Energy Trade the Friend or Enemy of Global Environmental Protection?"
- David Livingstone (Palacky University)
"'God Bless the Grass': The Environmental Songs of Malvina Reynolds"
- Bea Tomšič Amon (Ljubljana University)
"The comic as an inclusive way of expression – The Eternaut"
- Milan Damjanoski (Blazhe Koneski, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje)
"Romantic Roots and Transcendental Branches: Literary Origins of Environmental Consciousness"
- Réka M. Cristian (University of Szeged)
"Inter-American Perspectives of Environmental Entanglements in the US of the Sixties"
- Jelena Šesnić (University of Zagreb)
"Images of Nature in H.D. Thoreau's Walden (and "Walking") and Margaret Fuller's Summer on the Lakes"
- Mónika Fodor (University of Pécs)
"Environmental perception and imagination in Joy Harjo's poetry"
- Alena Smiešková (Comenius University Bratislava)
"I Am Another You: Ecological Ontology and Hybrid Identity in Reyes and Cisneros"

- Fatmir Ramadani (AAB College)
“Evolving Representations of Racial Prejudice and Discrimination in American Literature: From Twain to Angelou”

C.IAS Lecture Series: “By Sea and by Land: Mapping European and American Borderscapes Through Art” by Carolyn Defrin

November 5



On November 5, Carolyn Defrin from the University of Graz gave a talk titled “By Sea and by Land: Mapping European and American Borderscapes through Art.” Defrin shared early research findings on art in the context of borders, based on a recent research trip along the US/Mexico border, during which she visited museums and community arts initiatives. She

compared these findings on how art responds to borders with a current project based in Samos, Greece, and Tenerife, Spain, exploring how art can shape social relationships between key border actors. As part of the lecture, students participated in interactive arts methods to explore how creative mapping of temporalities could lead to future imaginings of migration and borders.

Watch Party of the International NFL Game: Miami Dolphins vs. The Washington Commanders

November 16

On November 16, 2025, C.IAS, in collaboration with the Austrian American Society for Styria (ÖAG), the Graz Giants, and the US Embassy in Vienna, hosted a watch party for the NFL game between the Miami Dolphins and the Washington Commanders. The event brought together students, and members of the local community to enjoy an evening of sport and cultural exchange.



ÖAG Thanksgiving Dinner

November 25

On November 25, the Austro-American Society for Styria (ÖAG) in corporation with the Centre for Inter-American Studies hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Guest enjoyed turkey with cranberry sauce, a variety of side dishes, and apple pie as dessert.



C.IAS Spotlight Talk #1: “Inter-Culturality under Threat: An Analysis of Repression and the Constitutional Reform in Ecuador” by Anita Krainer and Johannes Waldmüller

November 26



On November 26, the Center for Inter-American Studies launched the C.IAS Spotlight Talks, a new series of monthly lectures aimed at shedding light on pressing sociocultural topics in the Americas. For the first round of the series, we invited Anita Krainer and Johannes Waldmüller, who delivered a joint lecture titled “Inter-Culturality under Threat: An Analysis of Repression and the Constitutional Reform in Ecuador.” The lecture explored interculturality as a key principle of coexistence rooted in Indigenous relational territoriality. The speakers examined Ecuador’s current political situation and reflected on the country’s sociopolitical trajectory, focusing on state responses in

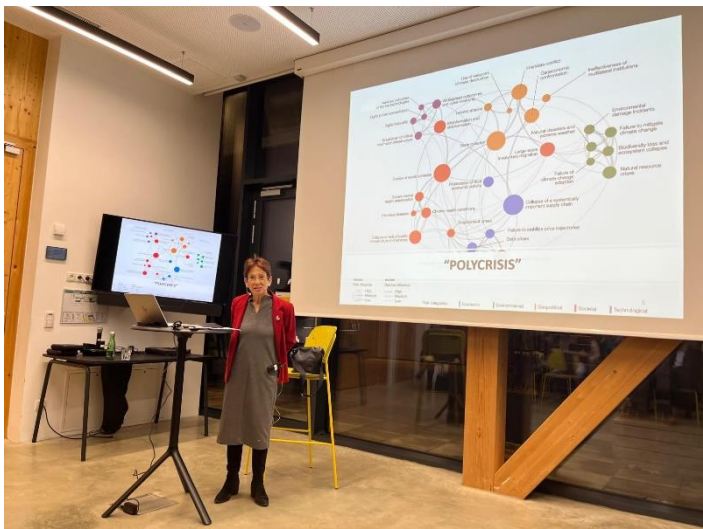
relation to intercultural governance, rights, and policy development. They traced the origins of Ecuadorian interculturality back to the streets and the demands of Indigenous and popular movements of the 1990s, highlighting the grassroots activism that shaped the country's legal and social landscape. The lecture also addressed contemporary developments, noting that planned constitutional reforms and the current sociopolitical climate have raised urgent questions about the future of interculturality in Ecuador.

GITS Kickoff Event & Lecture “Driving on the Right’: Analyzing Far-right Rhetoric” by Ruth Wodak

December 1

Since March 2025, the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) and the Centre for South East European Studies (CSEES) have become part of an umbrella institution called the Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies (GITS). The official launch of GITS was held on December 1 at the University of Graz and was attended by staff members, colleagues, and students of the university.

The launch was followed by the lecture “Driving on the Right: Analyzing Far-Right Rhetoric” by Ruth Wodak. In the lecture, Wodak spoke on how far-right actors had shifted previously taboo language into mainstream politics and described discursive strategies such as provocation, denial, victim–perpetrator reversal, and the framing of migrants as security and welfare threats. She also addressed the emergence of a “new normal” in public discourse after the COVID-19 pandemic. The lecture was followed by student questions which addressed gender representation and the role of gender in far-right movements. The event concluded with a reception hosted by GITS for all participants.



Guided Tour

December 2

In collaboration with the Austro-American Society for Styria, the Center for Inter-American Studies organized a guided tour through the exhibitions *Errores Irréales* by Diego Bianchi, and *Ofrenda* by Celina Eceiza at HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark. Argentine artists Diego Bianchi and Celina Eceiza, both of whom had begun in craft-based practices before moving to large-scale installation art, presented immersive environments that transformed the exhibition space in distinct yet complementary ways. Bianchi's intervention reshaped the upper floor into a stage-like landscape, where humorous, dystopian sculptures made from everyday objects critiqued consumer excess, waste, and the social vulnerability of the body, while also questioning the boundaries between subject and object, museum and urban space. Eceiza's "soft museum," by contrast, took the form of a walk-in textile environment composed of hundreds of meters of hand-dyed and bleached fabrics sewn into a multisensory total artwork. Her exhibition wove together references to Argentine modern art with spiritual, cosmological, and New Age elements. Her larger-than-life figures invited visitors into an interactive, almost dance-like engagement that encouraged both contemplation and sensual participation.



**DIEGO BIANCHI "ERRORES IRREALES"
AND CELINA ECEIZA "OFRENDA"**
exhibitions



GITS Christmas Party

December 5



Following the GITS Kickoff Event, the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS), together with other members of GITS, organized the open house GITS Christmas Party on December 5. The event took place at our headquarters, at Schubertstraße 21, and was open to staff and students of the university, as well as friends and family.

HuK Forum Cluster: “Serving up Politics: Effects of Political Polarization on Service Sector Workers in the United States” by Yasemin Besen-Cassino

December 9

The Americas cluster HuK Forum was delivered by Yasemin Besen-Cassino (Montclair State University) on Effects of Political Polarization on Service Sector Workers in the United States on December 9. The lecture focused on political polarization in the United States of America as it has unfolded in retail and service sector workplaces. The talk reported on how service sector workers have experienced harassment and violence in connection with politicized issues that intensified during election years. The cases discussed centered on four main topics: Pride Month displays, narratives and symbols related to the Black Lives Matter movement, attitudes toward people experiencing homelessness, and disputes surrounding public health rules during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Projects

Aging in Data (AiD)

Aging in Data (AiD) is a research project housed in the ACT Lab at Concordia University in Montreal. It brings together an interdisciplinary network of scholars from ten countries, community-based activists and organizations. The project focuses on how age studies intersect with communications, media studies and critical data studies, and explore how an era of unprecedented digital data-gathering impacts and governs how we grow old in our communities. Our shared commitment to social justice brings us to articulate an impactful, innovative, multi-methodological and collaborative agenda with communities of older adults that respond to pressing societal needs.



Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, and (In)Justices



The history of the Americas shows that camps have been used repeatedly to confine members of numerous groups. These include prisoners, inmates, detainees, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, children, racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities, activists, and victims of political persecution, among others. In public discourse, camps are often associated with short-term humanitarian operations related to the provision of shelter, food and access to legal aid. While some have functioned in this way, scholars from numerous fields - literary studies, American studies, Caribbean studies, cultural studies, and critical prison studies - signal concern about the extensive cycles of punishment and abuse that tend to characterize them, as well as their use as models by governments in other parts of the world. These and related findings prompt us to problematize camps, their operation and assumptions that they are humane, necessary or effective.

This project aims to foster interdisciplinary and intersectional exchanges that creatively navigate the space between "free society" and knowledge about warehousing and a broad typology of camps and camp-like institutions. These include "assembly points," barracks, slave camps, detention and internment camps, prisoner of war camps, labor camps, "black sites," offshore internment centers, concentration and re-education camps, and prisons, among others. Comparative work is welcome. The aim is to formulate critical interventions that help to better understand and respond to the realities of carceral detention, while at the same time exploiting opportunities for future change. This project is funded by Province of Styria, City of Graz, PBB Dimensions of Europe (University of Graz) and University of Puerto Rico

Part of this project is the upcoming "Camps, Belonging, and Abolition Democracy" Conference, the 3rd Graz/Puerto Rico International Conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective. The Conference is scheduled on 4 June- 7 June 2026, at the University of Graz, Austria and will host speakers from all around the world and from various disciplines.

International Conference
Camps, Belonging, and Abolition Democracy
 The 3rd Graz/Puerto Rico International Conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective
June 2-7, 2026
 University of Graz, Austria

Following the Camps Conference from 2021 and 2024, this third iteration "Camps, Belonging, and Abolition Democracy" continues to offer a space for graduate students, scholars, writers, practitioners, human rights advocates, as well as formerly incarcerated people to come together to consider the relationship between questions about belonging and the use of various types of camps and related sites of enclosure in conjunction with restrictions of rights and movement in light of recent events associated with the criminalization, detention, and deportation of migrants to serve political goals, along with the rise of geopolitical crises. The conference invites speakers to explore in which culturally inquiry and creative work in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Legal Studies can contribute to the formation of a political framework that problematizes carceral technologies and seeks in providing human rights and liberties.

Speakers:
 Sam Alford
 José Andrés
 José Andrés Ochoa-Albert
 Martha A. Bermúdez-Tapia
 Clara Borja-Gómez
 Abukolof Nofar
 Mahdiwan, Omid Eshaghi-Hesbani
 Rinaldo Weisheit

Registration and contact:
camp@uni-graz.at
www.campconference-graz.com

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Logos for partner organizations: UNIGRAZ, GRS, and others.

Climate Change as System Change: Inter-American Perspectives

This project is inspired by Amitav Ghosh's (2009) observation of the 'crisis of imagination' (9) when it comes to the failure of literature, history and politics to grasp the dimensions and violence of climate change and environmental degradation. This status quo is explained by the fact that the (post-)industrial world is held back by its current systems and associated patterns of behavior, which are predominantly based on fossil fuels and wasteful consumption. Certainly, the industrial world cannot easily escape the "petro-imaginary" (Banita 151) that defines a system dependent on fossil fuels. Indeed, as modernity has invested in fossil fuels for over 200 years, our dependence on petrochemicals heavily influences our collective imagination. Consequently, as historian Dipesh Chakrabarty has explained, the notion of a low-carbon future is not easy to realize, as "the fortress of modern freedoms stands on an ever-growing base of fossil fuel consumption" (208).

The human impact on the planet has increased exponentially in the 20th century, especially in terms of space and time. Because of these recent changes, it is significant to "conceptualize human action across multiple and unmeasurable scales simultaneously" (Chakrabarty 1). However, the Anthropocene and its accompanying phenomena - climate change being the most prevalent - are, according to philosopher Timothy Morton, "hyperobjects". These are phenomena that cannot be understood as a whole by the general public. With climate change, for example, we see and understand the increased melting of glaciers and abnormal weather events. Nevertheless, it is difficult to grasp climate change in its entirety. For author Amitav Ghosh, the Anthropocene represents a significant moment for narratives and storytelling because the Anthropocene challenges "what is now taken as serious fiction" (9). The complexity of individual phenomena and their interrelationships that define the Anthropocene require new narratives, approaches, and theoretical considerations. Inter-American perspectives can provide a new platform to discuss these pressing issues and offer intersectional and interregional reflections. By drawing on non-Western and conventional theoretical and methodological understandings, Inter-American Studies, with its hemispheric perspectives, opens up the possibility of looking at climate change in all its complexities and relationships. Therefore, this project deals with the following topics: (1) Intersectionality and ecofeminism in the Americas, (2) Climate change and indigenous cultures, (3) Inter-American climate fiction and popular culture, (4) Environmental humanities and (5) Inter-American critical theories and approaches.

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.



Eco-Storytelling: A Digital Toolbox for the English Classroom for Building a Climate-Just Future

The Erasmus+ Eco-Storytelling project focuses on developing an Eco-Storytelling toolbox for the English (ESL/EFL) classroom that aims at stimulating the imagination for building a climate-just and low-carbon future while also fostering teachers' and students' digital skills and competencies in the English language classroom. The toolbox is targeted at pre- and in-service teachers of English, as well as English learners (level B1+). EcoStories aims at supporting English teachers by developing a competence framework, educational materials, as well as providing them with digital training, all of which are based on the integration of English, climate, and digital literacies.

So far, the project has successfully developed and piloted an interactive digital competence framework on eco-literacy, engaging around 60 participants including students and teachers. Also, a collaborative teacher guide is in the process of being created, covering theoretical and practical aspects such as literary analysis, CLIL methodology, and arts-based digital eco-storytelling tools. Moreover, six climate-focused Eco-CLIL units are in various stages of completion. Building on these resources, a structured online teacher training program was delivered between March and June 2025, combining synchronous webinars and asynchronous activities. This training serves as the foundation for the development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which is currently being worked on. Additionally, the Erasmus+ EcoStories Online Lecture Series has been successfully completed, which featured interdisciplinary webinars that explored ecopedagogy and eco-justice from diverse perspectives. These sessions brought together educators, artists, and scholars from Europe and the US to discuss critical environmental and sustainability issues with an emphasis on storytelling, education, and ecological literacy.



Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG)

The Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG) is an interdisciplinary and international program that adds a different format to the existing range. It is designed as an educational immersive experience that offers learning on an academic as well as a personal level. In the context of a study-abroad experience, GUSEGG provides a diverse cohort of students with a rich academic curriculum, an intercultural space for learning, a chance to meet like-minded people from all over the world, and a unique opportunity for academic and professional development. The program is run by the University of Graz, Austria's second-largest comprehensive university, in cooperation with the Commission of the Bishop's Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Diocese Graz-Seckau.

The program is a carefully structured intercultural study opportunity and offers international experience to students from all disciplines at different levels of their studies. It is intended for internationally oriented, highly motivated students who wish to deepen their understanding of current European affairs with a focus on Europe and America, and who appreciate an intense, structured, and challenging academic program. It offers students multiple opportunities to approach and discuss global developments and challenges within the context of transformation processes and demographic changes that affect aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, collective, and national identities.



Remembering Resistance: Women's Translations of Territorial, Linguistic and Cultural Rights

Remembering Resistance Project foregrounds translation as a tool of resistance and epistemic transformation in struggles for indigenous rights in Ecuador. Led by Translating Cosmovisions in cooperation with Fundación Pachamama, and the Human Rights Department of Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, the project seeks to develop an experimental, decolonial methodology at the intersection of Translation and Human Rights Studies, placing indigenous cosmovisions and collective memory at the heart of translational research.

The project centers Waorani women as Citizen Scientists and collective rememberers, curating multimedia archives (press, academic, audio-visual and photographic materials) to narrate history from an indigenous perspective. Combining biographical interviews with scholars and collaborative workshops with Waorani women, the project develops an experimental, decolonial methodology at the intersection of Translation and Human Rights Studies. The project contributes to rethinking translation as a site of struggle, bridging legal pluralism, intercultural justice, and gendered knowledge-making. By doing so, it not only uncovers past strategies of resistance but also shapes future agendas for indigenous rights and academic collaboration.



Selected Publications

Monograph

Haring, Nicole. *Intergenerational Stories of Gender and Education: Identity Formation in Austria's Educational System*. Bielefeld, transcript, 2025.

Edited Volumes/Special Issues

Bauer, Eva Katharina, Satty Flaherty-Echeverría, and Simon Maierhofer, editors. *Disruptive Imagination and Resistance in Europe and the Americas State - Society - Religion*. Graz, Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought, vol. 12, 2025.

Haring, Nicole, Heike Hartung, and Barbara Zach, editors. *Age and Gender in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives*. *Journal of Aging Studies*, vol. 74, 2025.



Journal Articles

Bauer, Eva Katharina. "Shifting Temporal Perspectives in Eco-Linguistics: A Comparative Study of Future Representations in Climate Change Discourse at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences." *Diversity: Linguistic, Cultural, and Literary Perspectives; Student Conference Proceedings 2024*, edited by Susan Brähler and Kerstin-Anja Munderlein, University of Bamberg Press, 2025, pp. 155–172.

Haring, Nicole, Heike Hartung, and Barbara Zach. "Introduction: Age and gender in the humanities and social sciences: contemporary and historical perspectives dedicated to Roberta Maierhofer." *Journal in Aging Studies*, vol. 74, 2025, pp. 1-3.

Haring, Nicole. "Intergenerational co-relations and resistance: Gendered aging in Ruth Ozeki's *All Over Creation* (2002)." *Journal in Aging Studies*, vol. 74, 2025, pp. 1-6.

Hartung, Heike. "Altered Spaces of Mourning: Loss and Grief in Times of COVID-19." *Anglo Saxonica*, vol. 23, 2025, pp. 1-10.

Königshausen, Jan, Laura Mahler, and Christina Korak. Engagierte unter Druck. "Wie Menschenrechtler:innen bedroht werden." *Für Vielfalt*, vol. 349, 2025.

Korak, Christina, Jan Königshausen, and Rafael Schögler. "The Summer Institute of Linguistics: Evangelisierung im Mantel der Wissenschaft." *Für Vielfalt*, vol. 344, 2025, pp. 45-47.

Book Chapters

Hartung, Heike, and Roberta Maierhofer. "Perspektiven auf die Rede vom ‚Alter(n)‘. Von Außensichten und blinden Flecken." *Schlüsselbegriffe gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalts*, edited by Anna Pollmann and Christopher Möllmann. Wallstein Verlag, 2025, 61-72.

Hartung, Heike. "Implications of Fictional Death for Medicine: Reflections on A. J. Cronin's *The Citadel* via George Eliot's *Middlemarch*." *Imaginationen des Lebendigen*, edited by Katharina Fürholzer, Marcella Fassio, Johann-Christian Poder. Bielefeld, transcript, 2025, pp. 125-138.

Korak, Christina, and Rafael Schögler. "Translational Moments Identified. Deliberating Translation in Qualitative Research." *(Fremd-)Sprache und Qualitative Sozialforschung: Forschungsstrategien in interkulturellen Kontexten / (Foreign) Language and Qualitative Social Research: Research Strategies in Intercultural Contexts*, edited by Cornelia Bading, Kerstin Kazzazi, Jeannine Wintzer. Berlin, Springer, 2025 pp. 311-326.

Schögler, Rafael, and Christina Korak. "En nombre de Nida: la institucionalización del pensamiento evangélico a través de los estudios de traducción." *Mutatis Mutandis. Revista Latinoamericana De Traducción*, vol. 18, 2025, 344-369.

Podcasts

Moser, Walther, Indigenous Rights Collective, and Christina Korak. "Jesús Huamán & César Alcedo: Klänge der Anden." *Translating Cosmovisions*, 2025.

<https://translating-cosmo.vision/media/podcasts/>.

Moser, Walther, Indigenous Rights Collective, and Christina Korak. "Widerstand gegen das Entdecken." *Translating Cosmovisions*, 2025. [https://translating-](https://translating-cosmo.vision/media/podcasts/)

[cosmo.vision/media/podcasts/](https://translating-cosmo.vision/media/podcasts/).

Pichilingue, Eduardo, and Christina Korak. "Awe bai poneguimoni — La memoria del árbol." Facebook, 2025.

<https://www.facebook.com/cuencassagradas/videos/1217865490049063/>.

Achievements

Inter-American Cultural Studies Certificate

The certified specialization “Inter-American Cultural Studies” is aimed at students of all fields of study in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Graz as an additional qualification in the form of a free elective specialization.

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. These developments determine the construction and transformation of cultural identities and call into question common conceptualizations of the “self” and the “other.” In the European context, too, the points of reference are shifting in the course of negotiating a “European identity” (alongside national and regional identities), meaning that academic perspectives must also be redefined. Therefore, for European students of Inter-American Studies, the “Americanism” of America and changing notions of “self” and “other” are of great interest, as they could promote the rethinking of established categories. The certified free elective subject “Inter-American Cultural Studies” offers an overview of relevant topics in this new field of research and aims to strengthen students' reflective skills.

In 2025, the following students received the certificate:

Elisabeth Pöttler

Lisa Niedermayr

PhD Defenses

Halil Bashota

“Ecopoetry and Modernism: Reassessing Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, and William C. Williams”



Nina Reibenschuh

“Subversive Journeys and Resisting Voices: Latin American Women Authors Narrating the Search for the ‘I’ from a Postmodern Perspective”



Open Calls

Call for Papers

Camps Conference 2026

The international conference “Camps, Belonging, and Abolition Democracy,” which is co-sponsored by the Center of Inter-American Studies (of the Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies) at the University of Graz and the Institute of Caribbean Studies and the Department of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, offers a forum for graduate students, scholars, writers, practitioners, human rights advocates, as well as formerly incarcerated people, to come together to consider the relationship between questions about belonging and the use of various types of camps and related sites of enclosure in conjunction with restrictions of rights and movement. Special attention will be given to the ways in which scholarly inquiry and creative work in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and legal studies can contribute to the formation of a productive framework that problematizes carceral technologies and assists in protecting human rights and liberties.

Deadline: January 19, 2026

Call for Applications

Graz International Summer School Seggau 2026 (GUSEGG)

The Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG) is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated students from all disciplines, who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and international affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges within the context of transformation processes and demographic change reflecting aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, cohort and national identities. The topic of GUSEGG 2026 is “Curiosity, Concern, and Commitment in Europe and the Americas: State – Society – Religion” and will take place from July 5- July 18, 2026.

Deadline: 31.01.2026

Call for Applications

Facilitating Europe in Styria (FACES)

Are you interested in gaining insights into the challenges and potentials of intercultural teaching, expanding your knowledge of the Austrian school system and its cultural contexts, and acquiring practical work experience by teaching in an Austrian primary or secondary school in Styria?

We offer teaching assistantship periods in selected Styrian primary and secondary schools, through specific programmes, such as Erasmus+ and others.

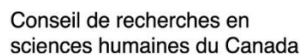
Accompanying support measures in cooperation with local partners

- German Language Courses
- Events and Courses with an Intercultural Focus
- Workshops on Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity
- Graz International Summer School Seggau as a certified teaching course

Deadline: January 12, 2026

Cooperation Partners

We would like to thank our cooperation partners for a successful and inspiring 2025 and are looking forward to continuing the work in 2026.





Instagram: [cias_graz](#), [ecostories.erasmus](#),
[gusegg_graz](#), [campsconferencegraz](#), [inter.readingbookclub](#)
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