

# Program

## INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

### **The many-faceted Independence**

### **The 1821 Independence of Central America in retrospective**

Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Central American Independence (1821-2021)

October 14-16, 2021

University of Vienna & University of Graz, Austria

On September 15, 2021, five of the seven Central American Republics will celebrate the 200th anniversary of their independence (*bicentenario*) from the Spanish Crown in 1821. The process of political emancipation was complex and had multiple effects for the historical development of this cultural and ethnic enormous heterogeneous region, the multidimensionality of the process requires a profound and interdisciplinary review.

Therefore, researchers have emphasized a profound change of perspective. New and accessible archival sources as well as interdisciplinary research methods, demand a critical reflection on the traditional historiography of the region. Recently, Global History studies have contributed to our better understanding of the Central American region which is in the center of this academic encounter.

This colloquium brings together a group of international scholars, including historians, anthropologists, and political scientists, to reflect on the global and transnational perspectives of the independence of Central America in 1821 and its impact until today. This means including Central American visions, motivations, and perspectives in the face of global changes, transcending into the 21st century. Above all, the event seeks to increase knowledge about the history of Latin America in general and Central America in particular in Austria.

**Registration:** [office@konak-wien.org](mailto:office@konak-wien.org)

## ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT

Organized by the *Forschungsschwerpunkt Globalgeschichte* (FSP Global History of the University of Vienna), the *Center for Inter-American Studies* (University of Graz) and the *Department of Romance Studies* (University of Vienna). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the colloquium is organized as hybrid event. It will be possible for the invited participants to attend on-site as well as online. The latter will be offered for those who cannot travel to Austria. In case of deteriorating circumstances and new restrictions related to the pandemic, the colloquium will be held only online. We kindly ask persons interested in participating online, to send an email to register for the event to: [office@konak-wien.org](mailto:office@konak-wien.org) (free registration).

## KINDLY SUPPORTED BY

the *Research Network Latin America* (University of Vienna), the *Department for English and American Studies* (University of Vienna), the *Dean's Office of the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies* (University of Vienna), the *Office of the Vice-Rector for Research and Career Development* (University of Graz), the *Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities* (University of Graz), the *Department of Romance Studies* (University of Graz), the *Austrian Latin America Institute* (LAI), the *City of Vienna*, the *City of Graz*, the *Embassy of Costa Rica in Austria*, the *Asociación para Investigación y Cultura de América Continental y el Caribe* (KonaK), and the *Asociación de Historiadores de América Latina y el Caribe* (ADHILAC).



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## SPONSORS



## CONCEPT AND COORDINATION

**Laurin Blecha**

FSP Global History, University of Vienna

**Christian Cwik**

Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz

**Jörg Türschmann**

Department of Romance Studies, University of Vienna

## ACADEMIC BOARD

**Rina Cáceres Gómez**

Universidad de Costa Rica

**Sergio Guerra Vilaboy**

Universidad de La Habana

**Werner Mackenbach**

Universidad de Costa Rica

**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2021 – VIENNA**

**Guided tour Vienna, 10:00-12:00, CET**

Organized by the *Austrian Latin America Institute*, the on-side participants will discover the footprints of Latin America in the city center of Vienna. The tour is organized in Spanish and guided by **Jenny Marcela Torres Heredia** (University of Vienna).

**Lunch (optional)** *Bierheuriger zum Gangl*; Alser Straße 4, 1090 Vienna (Campus)

**SITZUNGSaal, DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA**

<b>HOUR CST</b>	<b>HOUR CET</b>	
6:30-7:30AM	13:30-14:30	<b>Welcome and opening</b> <b>His excellency Alejandro Solano</b> Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica in Austria <b>Jean-Robert Tyran-tbc-</b> Vicerector for Research and International Affairs <b>Martin Polaschek -tbc-</b> Rector of the University of Graz <b>Thomas J. Resch</b> City of Vienna <b>Roberta Maierhofer</b> Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz <b>Jörg Türschmann</b> Department of Romance Studies, University of Vienna <u>Opening remarks:</u> <b>Noam Chomsky</b> University of Arizona/MIT
7:30-9:30AM	14:30-16:30	<b>Panel 1: Independency movements, restauration, and the Independence of 1821</b> <b>Chair: Patricia Zuckerhut, University of Vienna</b>  <i>Early US interests on the Mosquito Shore at the time of the American Revolution and the failed invasion of Nicaragua in 1780</i>  <i>Bodies of the polity: Territorial conceptions and ideologies in Central America from colonial roots to the modern nation state</i>  <i>La vía conservadora de la independencia centroamericana</i>  <i>¿Soberanía de quién? Indígenas en el Caribe de la actual Costa Rica al momento de la Independencia</i>
		<b>Paul Lovejoy</b> York University, Canada <b>Karl Offen</b> Oberlin College  <b>Werner Stangl</b> University of Graz  <b>Sergio Guerra Vilaboy</b> Universidad de La Habana  <b>Alejandra Boza</b> Universidad de Costa Rica
9:30-10:00AM	16:30-17:00	<b>Coffee Break</b> (sponsored by the Embassy of Costa Rica in Austria)
10:00-12:00PM	17:00-19:00	<b>Panel 2: Between separatism and unification. Socio-political Concepts and utopia during the Federal Republic of Central America (1823-1841)</b> <b>Chair: Tobias Boos, University of Vienna</b>  <i>“Lecciones de derecho”: La ciudadanía virtuosa, la esfera pública y los límites del republicanismo radical en Nicaragua tras la independencia</i>  <i>El impacto del Congreso de Panamá para el desarrollo del federalismo centroamericano</i>
		<b>Justin Wolfe</b> Tulane University  <b>Michael Zeuske</b> University of Bonn

*Centroamérica y su geopolítica durante la República Federal (1823-1840)*

**Johnathan Ordoñez Gaitán**  
UAM, Managua

*México, Colombia y Centroamérica en la independencia temprana de Cuba y Puerto Rico (1820-1827)*

**Hernán Venegas Delgado**  
Autonomous University of Coahuila, Mexico

12:00-1:00PM 19:00-20:00 **Dinner** (Catering)

1:00-2:30PM 20:00-21:30

**SPECIAL PANEL EVENT:**

**The Consolidation of the nation states in the times of imperialism (1841-1870)**

**Chair: Werner Mackenbach, Universidad de Costa Rica**

*"Laws as Old as the Creation": Manifest Destiny and Racism in U.S.: Imperialism towards Central America in the 19th Century*

**Stefan Rinke, FU Berlin**

*Independencia, disputas conceptuales e identidades en el trópico. Centroamérica, 1800-1870*

**David Díaz Arias, Universidad de Costa Rica**

**FRIDAY**

**OCTOBER 15, 2021 – GRAZ**

**Bus tour from Vienna to Graz (via Eisenstadt & Seebenstein), 8:00-13:00, CET**

**HÖRSAAL 25.11, UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ**

**HOUR  
CST**

**HOUR  
CET**

7:30-8:00AM

14:30-15:00

**Welcome and opening**

**Martin Polaschek** -*tb-*  
Rector of the University of Graz

**Michael Walter** -*tb-*  
Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Graz

**Werner Anzenberger**  
Chamber of Workers and Employees, Styria

**Roberta Maierhofer**  
Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz

8:00-8:30AM

15:00-15:30

**KEYNOTE**

*El impacto de la Historia del Canal para la independencia de Panamá*

**Marixa Lasso**

Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, Antropológicas y Culturales AIP, Panama

8:30-10:00:AM

15:30-17:00

**Panel 3: Anti-imperialism in the age of dollar diplomacy and the big stick (1870-1941)**

**Chair: David Mayer, University of Vienna**

*Gente rebelde: revuelta social y violencia colectiva en Centroamérica, 1920-1945. El futuro en el espejo del pasado*

**Héctor Pérez-Brignoli**  
Universidad de Costa Rica

*Independencia y nacionalismo (im)perfecto. Historiografía literaria y construcción de la nación en Centroamérica, siglo XIX*

**Werner Mackenbach**  
Universidad de Costa Rica

*El papel de los historiadores en la elaboración de la historiografía nacional, siglo XIX. Una perspectiva centroamericana*

**Laurin Blecha**  
University of Vienna

10:00-10:30AM 17:00-17:30

**Coffee Break**

10:30-12:00PM 17:30-19:00

**Panel 4: Dictatorship in Central America during World War II and the Cold War**

**Chair: Berthold Molden, University of Vienna**

*Las dictaduras en la novela histórica centroamericana y caribeña. Del boom económico al literario*

**Jorge Elias Caro**  
Universidad del Magdalena

*Visión e historización de la independencia centroamericana en las guías de turismo entre 1920 y 1960*

**Antonio Monte Casablanca**  
FU Berlin

*El proceso de paz en Centroamérica: ¿Responsabilidad internacional o proyecto neo-colonial?*

**Carlos Alberto Haas**  
LMU Munich

*Bailar al borde del cuchillo. Nicaragua entre el populismo derechista y teoría de la conspiración izquierdista*

**Leo Gabriel**  
IGLA Vienna

20:00

**Welcome reception by the mayor of the City of Graz**

**SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 16, 2021 – GRAZ**

**Guided tour Graz, 10:00-12:00, CET**

Organized by *KonaK Graz* in cooperation with the *Indigenous Rights Collective (InRiCo)*, the on-site participants will discover the footprints of Latin America in Graz. The tour is organized in Spanish and guided by **Fernando Espinosa (InRiCo)**.

**HÖRSAAL 25.11, UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ**

**HOUR  
CST**

**HOUR  
CET**

7:30-9:00AM

13:30-15:00

**Panel 5: Revolution, democracy, and neoliberalism (1979 - 2009)**

**Chair: Linda Erker, University of Vienna**

*Central America at the Crossroads of Climate Change and Neoliberalism: Economic Development, Migration, and Remittances in the 21st Century*

**Aviva Chomsky**  
Salem State University

*Políticas de la memoria como instrumento del neoliberalismo. La justicia transicional en Guatemala*

**Berthold Molden**  
University of Vienna

*La autonomía de la región atlántica en el contexto de la emancipación centroamericana*

**Bernadine Dixon**  
URACCAN

*Un balance de la democracia y el desarrollo en Centroamérica entre 1987 (Esquipulas I) y el 2010 con la firma del TLC con los EE. UU.*

**Edgar Solano**  
Universidad de Costa Rica

9:00-9:30AM

15:00-15:30

**Coffee Break**

9:30-11:00AM

15:30-17:00

**Panel 6: Commemoration of the 200 anniversary of the Central American independence (Part I)**

**Chair: Kurt Hahn, University of Graz**

*A 200 años de la independencia, ¿cómo hemos construido las imágenes y representaciones de las poblaciones afro descendientes en el sistema educativo escolarizado?*

**Rina Cáceres Gómez**  
University of Costa Rica

*La escritura de la Historia sobre la independencia de Centroamérica: valoraciones de una trayectoria*

**José Cal Montoya**  
USAC, Guatemala

*De La Baliza a Belice: más de 200 años de luchas independentistas en América central y el Caribe Occidental*

**Christian Cwik**  
University of Graz

*Historia e historiografía de las elecciones en Honduras, 1821-2021*

**Dario Euraque**  
Trinity College, USA

11:00-11:30AM 17:00-17:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-12:00AM 17:30-18:00

**BOOK PRESENTATION**

*1921. El Salvador en el año del centenario de la Independencia*

**Héctor Lindo-Fuentes**  
Fordham University

12:00-1:30PM 18:00-19:30

**Panel 7: Commemoration of the 200 anniversary of the Central American independence (Part II)**

**Chair: Jorge Elias Caro, Universidad del Magdalena**

*El resurgimiento indígena en las sociedades centroamericanas*

**Georg Grünberg**  
University of Vienna

*Los pueblos indígenas ante el Bicentenario de la Independencia Centroamericana: Nada que celebrar*

**Silvel Elías Gramajo**  
USAC, Guatemala

*Usos del pasado y memorias en Nicaragua: políticas, discursos, actores y artefactos*

**Juan Pablo Gómez**  
Instituto Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Sociales de la UCA, Managua

*No va a haber una generación del bicentenario. Política y memoria en Latinoamérica 2008-2021*

**Thomás Straka**  
Andrés Bello Catholic University

1:30-2:30PM 19:30-20:30

**CLOSING AND FINAL DEBATE (IN ENGLISH)**

*Challenges of Central American Independence in the 21st Century*

**Moderation: Roberta Maierhofer, University of Graz**

**Discussants: Noam Chomsky, Marixa Lasso, Paul Lovejoy, Dario Euraque, Justin Wolfe and Karl Offen**

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**ORGANIZATION TEAM (VIENNA & GRAZ):**

**Alex Kessler Abreu** (Organization Assistant)

**Katrin Dietschi** (Organization Assistant)

**Lea Stojanovic** (Technical Management)

**Ligia Namuche** (Moderation)

**Manuel A. Galván** (Coordination Cultural Program)

**Marcelo Abraham** (Coordination Catering)

**Jenny Marcela Torres Heredia** (Coordination Tourist Program Vienna)

**Fernando Espinosa** (Coordination Tourist Program Graz)

©**Laurin Blecha**, FSP Global History, University of Vienna and  
**Christian Cwik**, Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz.

Vienna & Graz, 2021