

## PROGRAM

# From the **Left Turn** to the Decolonial Option: Conceptualising Current Latin America

Copenhagen, Denmark  
May 20-23, 2008

**Organised by:**

*Centre for the Study of the Americas, Copenhagen Business School*

*Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims*

*International Development Studies and Intercultural Studies, Roskilde University*

**Funded by:**

*Danish Research Council for Society and Business*

## PROGRAM

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 09:30 am – 15:30 pm

### SYMPOSIUM: LATIN AMERICA- AN EMERGING NEW ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE?

In this symposium, the invited scholars will present the decolonial perspective from each of their areas of expertise focussing on recent political events in Latin America at various levels; the Latin American regional, the nation-state, and social movements. The decolonial perspective will additionally be presented in relation to related currents such as postcolonial studies, cultural studies, and subaltern studies.

**Place: Roskilde University, Universitetsvej 1, 4000 Roskilde (Biografen, 41.1)**

**Contact:** Julia Suárez Krabbe, [jskrabbe@ruc.dk](mailto:jskrabbe@ruc.dk)

- 09:30-10:00 Welcome and presentation.  
**Lars Jensen.** Head of Studies, Cultural Encounters, Roskilde University
- 10:00-10:45 *From Postcolonial Studies to the Decolonial Turn: Decolonizing Political-Economy Paradigms and Postcolonial Studies*  
**Ramón Grosfoguel.** Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California-Berkeley, USA and Associate Professor, Maison des Science de l'Homme, Paris, France
- 10:45-11:00 Questions and discussion
- 11:00-11:10 Break
- 11:10-11:55 *Indigenous and Afro Movements and the Decolonization of the State in Latin America*  
**Catherine Walsh.** Professor, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador
- 11:55-12:10 Questions and discussion
- 12:10-13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00-13:45 *Civil society, Democracy and Citizenship: Latin American Perspectives.*  
**Edgardo Lander.** Professor, Universidad Central de Venezuela
- 13:45-14:00 Questions and discussion
- 14:00-14:10 Break

14:10-14:55 *The Left Turn or the Decolonial Option? An Interpretation of Recent Political Events in Latin America*  
**Walter Mignolo**. Professor, Center for Global Studies and the Humanities, Duke University, USA

14:55-15:30 Questions and discussion

**Wednesday, 21st of May, 09:00 am – 13 pm**

### **WORKSHOP: CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS**

The objective of this workshop is double: on the one hand it seeks to create a deeper understanding of the current trends in Latin American politics with special regards to the so-called ‘Left Turn’ and, on the other, to discuss Danish relations with Latin America in the light of this political situation. The first part of the workshop – an analysis of current trends in Latin American politics – will focus on the differences and similarities between moderate and radical left currents and on the role of national-popular (or populist) discourse. Furthermore, the role of the nation and nation-state as economic, political and symbolic resource will be a focal point. For the last part, we invite a representative of the Danish Foreign Ministry and a representative of a Danish NGO. This part of the discussion will focus on the consequences of national politics in Latin America as well as regional and international (including inter-American) relations for Denmark’s attitude toward and relations to Latin America and the Latin American nations.

The workshop is primarily aimed at journalists, functionaries from Danish NGOs and state-institutions working on Latin America, but participants from other fields and countries are welcome.

**Place: Copenhagen Business School, Dalgas Have 15, 2000 Frederiksberg (room 1V.001)**

**Contact:** Merete Borch, [mb.iadh@cbs.dk](mailto:mb.iadh@cbs.dk), 3815 3389

09:00-09:15 Opening and welcome

09:15-09:30 Contemporary Latin American Politics – Themes for discussion  
**Jan Gustafsson**. Lecturer, CBS.

09:30-10:15 *Diversities and Conflicts in Today’s Latin American Left*  
**Edgardo Lander**. Professor, Universidad Central de Venezuela

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:00 *Denmark and Latin America*  
**Lars Bredal**, the Danish Foreign Ministry.

11:00-11:30 *The NGO perspective*  
**Finn Kjærulf**. Program manager on Latin America, RCT

- 11:30-12:15 *Latin America and the US*  
**Ramón Grosfoguel**. Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies,  
University of California-Berkeley, USA and Associate Professor, Maison des  
Science de l'Homme, Paris, France
- 12:15-13:15 Discussion

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 09:00 am – 16 pm**

**WORKSHOP: CITIZENSHIP AND GOVERNANCE AT THE MARGINS OF STATE:  
LATIN AMERICA BETWEEN POST-CONFLICT AND NEO-POPULISM?**

In this workshop, we are interested in discussing the analysis of political subjectivities, mentalities, relations and engagements and the unfolding of political processes from the vantage points of “the margins of the state”. This brings to the fore questions relating to the scale and scope of theory and methodology, and the need to draw upon and build bridges among different disciplinary traditions such as political science, anthropology, geography and history. Through what lenses and analytical frames can we best approach and make sense of “local-level” politics; how can we take a non-centrist, maybe provincial or marginal, view?

The workshop is primarily aimed at Danish scholars and students working on Latin America, but participants from other fields and countries are welcome. Lunch is not included.

**Place: Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, RCT. Borgergade 13, 1300  
KBH K. (kantinen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

**Contact:** Henrik Rønsbo, [HR@rct.dk](mailto:HR@rct.dk)

- 9:00-9:15 Welcome by RCT Director of Research **Edith Montgomery**
- 9:15-9:45 *Subsuming the political in the decolonial option: neo-populism and popular/border thinking.*  
**Walter D. Mignolo**. Professor, Center for Global Studies and the Humanities,  
Duke University, USA
- 9:45-10:15 *‘They will just spend it all on drinking’: Race and the language of trauma in Post Conflict*  
**Henrik Rønsbo**. Senior Researcher, RCT
- 10.15-10.35 *Surviving and thriving? Livelihood alterations among internally displaced people in Colombia*  
**Stine Finne Jakobsen**. PhD candidate, RCT.
- 10.35-11.0 To be announced

**Walter Paniagua.** PhD candidate, RCT and University of Barcelona,  
Department of Social Psychology, Spain

- 1100-11.15 Comments  
**Karsten Paerregaard.** Lecturer, Institute of Anthropology, Copenhagen University, Denmark
- 11.15-12.15 Discussion
- 12:15-13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00-13:30 *Interculturality and Plurinationality: Indigenous and Afro Experiences and Perspectives*  
**Catherine Walsh.** Professor, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador
- 13.30-14.0 *Land conflict, social order and the return of first measurements*  
**Finn Stepputat.** Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies
- 14.00-14.20 *What if stones are not dead? A decolonial approach to Human Rights and Development*  
**Julia Suárez Krabbe.** Part-time lecturer, Cultural Encounters, Roskilde University.
- 14.20-14.40 *Filling in Politics: On the Concept of Relleno and the Indigenous Participation in Municipality Elections in Pucallpa, Peru*  
**Mattias Borg.** Post-Graduate Student, Institute of Anthropology, Copenhagen University, Denmark
- 14.40-15.00 Comments  
**Karsten Paerregaard.** Lecturer, Institute of Anthropology, Copenhagen University, Denmark
- 15.00-16.00 Final discussion

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 10:00 am – 16 pm**

**PHD-WORKSHOP (1 ECTS):**

**Place: Roskilde University, Universitetsvej 1, 4000 Roskilde. International Development Studies, (plenum 8.1.007)**

**Contact:** Julia Suárez Krabbe, [jskrabbe@ruc.dk](mailto:jskrabbe@ruc.dk)

This PhD workshop is intended as a forum in which to present and discuss issues, problems or ideas of specific concern to the participants' work-in-progress with a group of widely recognised scholars from Latin America and the US.

- 10:00-10:30: Welcome and introduction. Short presentations by Ramon Grosfoguel and Edgardo Lander.
- 10:30-12:00 Working groups
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00-13:30 Short presentations by Catherine Walsh and Walter Mignolo
- 13:30-15:00 Working groups
- 15:00-16:00 Closing debate (informal)

**The event will be held in English. Participation in the event is free of charge, but confirmation of participation is highly appreciated. To do so, please send an e-mail to any of the contacts mentioned below, and please specify whether you intend to participate in the entire event or only in some of the activities.**

## INVITED SCHOLARS

**Catherine Walsh** (Ecuador/ US) is Professor in the Area of Social and Global Studies and Director of the Latin American Cultural Studies Doctoral Program at the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar, in Quito. Her research involves Indigenous social movements, the emergent Afro-Ecuadorian movement, alternative research/ activist methodologies, and pedagogy and interculturality.

**Edgardo Lander** (Venezuela) is Professor at Universidad Central de Venezuela, and associated to the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO). His research involves the geopolitics of knowledge, democratic theory, democracy in Latin America, science, technology and politics.

**Ramón Grosfoguel** (Puerto Rico) is Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley and as Associate Professor at Maison des Science de l'Homme, Paris. His research involves ethnic/ racial studies, Latino studies, international migration, Caribbean, international comparative development, world-systems, urban sociology, and global cities.

**Walter Mignolo** (Argentina/US) is Professor in Literature and Cultural Anthropology and director of the Center for Global Studies and the Humanities, Duke University. Mignolo's research involves global coloniality, cosmopolitanism, the world-system, and decolonial thinking.



## **HOW TO GET **THERE**:**

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 09:30 am – 15 pm**

**Place: Roskilde University, Universitetsvej 1, 4000 Roskilde (Biografen, 41.1)**

Map: <http://www.ruc.dk/ruc/omruc/ankomst/ruc-kort/>

Instructions: [http://ruc.dk/ruc\\_en/about/FindRU/](http://ruc.dk/ruc_en/about/FindRU/)

**Wednesday, 21st of May, 09:00 am – 13 pm**

**Place: Copenhagen Business School, Dalgas Have 15, 2000 Frederiksberg, (room 1V.001)**

Map: [http://uk.cbs.dk/om\\_cbs/find\\_kontakt\\_cbs/kort](http://uk.cbs.dk/om_cbs/find_kontakt_cbs/kort)

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**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 09:00 am – 16 pm**

**Place: Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, RCT. Borgergade 13, 1300 KBH K. (kantinen, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

Contact: [http://rct.dk/About\\_RCT/Contact.aspx?sc\\_lang=en](http://rct.dk/About_RCT/Contact.aspx?sc_lang=en)

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