





21ST ANNUAL TINKER SYMPOSIUM

November 5, 2026
Marshall Building Room 280
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM







Tinker Foundation

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Center for Latin American Studies

TINKER SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

8:30 AM-8:55 AM	**Registration, Coffee, and Pastries, Marshall Building, Room 280**
8:55 AM-9:00 AM	**Welcome Remarks** Dr. Elizabeth Oglesby, Interim Director, Center for Latin American Studies
9:00-10:25 AM	**Session 1 | Migration, Borders, and Spaces of Humanitarianism** **Moderator: Ariadna González Sánchez**
9:00-9:15 AM	**Edward Buck-Shannon**, (Latin American Studies, Public Administration) "Wet-Foot Dry-Foot: Enforcing Contradictory Immigration Policy"
9:15-9:30 AM	**Brenda Machado**, (Latin American Studies, Journalism) "Documenting Adaptation: Humanitarian Aid Organizations and Migrant Integration in Nogales, Sonora"
9:30-9:45 AM	**Mena Mendieta Escalante,** (Latin American Studies) "Data Justice and Climate Migration Governance: Digital Infrastructures in Mexico"
9:45-10:00 AM	**Emily Morel**, (Latin American Studies, Public Health) "Ambiguous Migration Law in U.S. Unincorporated Territories: Shifting Legal Landscapes for Dominican Migrants in Puerto Rico"
10:00-10:10 AM	**Discussant: Professor Eunice Lee (Law)**
10:10-10:25 AM	Q and A with Presenters
10:30 AM-11:55 AM	**Session 2 | Contested Pasts, Rights, and Sovereignty** **Moderator: Riqué Duhamell Escobedo**
10:30-10:45 AM	**Yecenia Andrade,** (Latin American Studies, Public Health) "Healing After the Accord? Colombian Women's Pathways to Care and Well-Being"
10:45 AM-11:00 AM	**David Blanco Gaitán**, (Law) "Socio-Legal Dynamics of Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Colombia"
11:00-11:15 AM	**Albertine Pérez-Hope,** (Latin American Studies) "Contesting the Past to Envision the Future: MAPU-Lautaro's Conjectural Analysis of the Late Pinochet Dictatorship and Transition to Democracy"
11:15-11:30 AM	**Jesus Villalobos,** (Latin American Studies) "The Labors of Memory and Politics of 'Patrimonio Cultural' in Guatemala"
11:30-11:40 AM	**Discussant: Professor Michelle Berry (History/Gender & Women's Studies)**
11:40-11:55 AM	Q and A with Presenters
12:00-12:45 PM	**Lunch Break**
12:45-2:10 PM	**Session 3 | Culture, Identity, and the Politics of Place** **Moderator: Tiffany Larsen**

12:45-1:00 PM	**Anderson Gomes Barbosa**, (Spanish and Portuguese) "Selling Culture, Displacing Bodies: Black Cultural Commodification and Resistance in Cartagena"
1:00-1:15 PM	**Margalit Katz**, (English) "Transnational Gentrification in Mexico City Through the Lens of Documentary Poetics"
1:15-1:30 PM	**Diego Meringer**, (Latin American Studies) "Youth and Gendered Participation in Inti Raymi in La Calera, Ecuador"
1:30-1:45 PM	**Caroline Scheuer Neves**, (GIDP Second Language Acquisition and Teaching) "Language and Cultural Identity in the Linguistic Landscape of Porto Alegre"
1:45-1:55 PM	**Discussant: Professor Ana Carvalho (Spanish & Portuguese)**
1:55-2:10 PM	Q and A with Presenters
2:15-3:50 PM	**Session 4 | Language, Culture, and Everyday Life** **Moderator: Daniela Agudelo**
2:15-2:30 PM	**Zcheecid Aguirre**, (Spanish and Portuguese) "Speaking to Learn: Production and Statistical Learning of Non-Adjacent Dependencies"
2:30-2:45 PM	**Omar David Molina Santos**, (Music) "Disseminating Latin American Colombian Composers Through Music for Double Bass"
2:45-3:00 PM	**Kenia Okiyama**, (Spanish and Portuguese) "From Mole to Coca-Cola: Food, Modernity, and Health in Mexico City"
3:00-3:15 PM	**Amalia Sosa Haby**, (History) "Household Spaces: Tracing Familial Relationships in Nineteenth Century Sonora"
3:15-3:25 PM	**Discussant: Professor Lillian Gorman (Spanish & Portuguese)**
3:25-3:50 PM	Q and A with Presenters
3:50-4:00 PM	**Break**
4:00-5:00 PM	**Keynote Lecture, Marshall Building, Room 490**
4:00-5:00 PM	**Keynote Lecture, "Water Governance, Community Organizing, and Resilience in Puerto Rico" by Dr. Anaís Roque, environmental social scientist and John Hope Franklin Assistant Professor of Environmental Justice at Duke University**
5:00-6:00 PM	**Keynote Reception, Marshall Building, Room 280**

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Center for Latin American Studies

1 Migration, Borders, and Spaces of Humanitarianism (9:00-10:25 am)

Moderator: Ariadna González Sánchez

Wet-Foot Dry-Foot: Enforcing Contradictory Immigration Policy

9:00am-9:15 am

Edward Buck-Shannon

Latin American Studies
Public Administration

In 1995, during a mass exodus from Cuba by raft, the Clinton administration implemented the “Wet-Foot Dry-Foot " (WFDF) policy, which allowed US authorities to repatriate Cubans they intercepted at sea if they could not prove an asylum case, while migrants who reached the US were allowed to stay as refugees. Through a series of case studies on how WFDF was enforced and how Cuban migrants and Cuban-Americans reacted to it my research shows how the first ten years of WFDF fundamentally altered the relationship between the US and Cuba and, I argue, set the stage for the current rollback of immigration protection and renewed hostilities between the US and Cuba.

Documenting Adaptation: Humanitarian Aid Organizations and Migrant Integration in Nogales, Sonora

9:15am-9:30 am

Brenda Machado

Latin American Studies
Journalism

This project examined how humanitarian organizations in Nogales, Sonora have adapted their services since January 2025, when the end of CBP One appointments and new asylum restrictions left many migrants stranded in Mexico. Through interviews, participant observation, and documentary photography at Kino Border Initiative and Casa de la Misericordia, I documented a shift from short-term respite toward longer-term, integrationoriented programs sustained by staff and volunteers. Photographs focused on shelter spaces and hands, protecting the identities of the people served. The findings inform an accompanying website that highlights participating organizations and strengthens their digital presence, while demonstrating photography’s value for communicating organizational change.

Data Justice and Climate Migration Governance: Digital Infrastructures in Mexico

9:30am-9:45 am

Mena Mendieta Escalante

Latin American Studies

This Tinker-funded research examined how digital infrastructures shape climate-related migration governance in Mexico City. Drawing on qualitative fieldwork with migrantserving shelters and organizations, the project investigated how data systems, including biometric registration, geolocation, predictive tools, and digital communication platforms, influence humanitarian assistance and migrants' experiences of privacy, consent, and surveillance. The research combined semi-structured interviews with migrants, document analysis, and digital ethnographic observation of institutional materials. Findings highlight tensions between digital tools' promise of efficient humanitarian coordination and their potential to intensify data vulnerability for displaced people. The project advances a datajustice approach to climate mobility and supports the researcher's graduate thesis development.

Ambiguous Migration Law in US Unincorporated Territories: Shifting Legal Landscapes for Dominican Migrants in Puerto Rico

9:45am-10:00 am

Emily Morel

Latin American Studies
Public Health

This research examines Puerto Rico's shifting migration legal landscape and its effects on undocumented Dominican migrants and their advocates. Drawing on participant observation at Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico San Pablo in Barrio Obrero and 13 interviews with migrants, attorneys, advocates, and community organizers, I investigate how immigration policies are enforced and how migrants navigate legal uncertainty. Fieldwork reveals increased immigration enforcement, racial profiling, detention, economic restrictions, and heightened insecurity within predominantly Dominican communities. In response, migrants and advocates have developed community-based survival strategies and support networks. This research highlights the lived experiences of Dominican migrants and contributes to scholarship on migration, territoriality, and immigration enforcement in Puerto Rico.

10:00-10:10

Faculty Discussant: Dr. Eunice Lee
James E. Rogers College of Law

2 Contested Pasts, Rights, and Sovereignty (10:30-11:55 am)

Moderator: Riqué Duhamell Escobedo

Healing After the Accord? Colombian Women's Pathways to Care and Well-Being

10:30-10:45 am

Yecenia Andrade
Latin American Studies
Public Health

I conducted field research in Santa Marta, Colombia, examining women's pathways to psychosocial well-being and care in communities affected by Colombia's armed conflict and its ongoing consequences. Through 18 semi-structured interviews and one focus group, I explored women's experiences of displacement, mental health, access to care, and the formal and informal supports shaping their well-being. Findings highlight the importance of practical mutual support and informal pathways to care, while also revealing how insecurity, limited resources, and barriers to formal services shape women's ability to seek support. This research will inform my thesis and contribute to understanding culturally responsive, community-based approaches to women's mental health.

Socio-Legal Dynamics of Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Colombia

10:45-11:00 am

David Blanco Gaitán
Law

This socio-legal study examines the emergence of Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Colombia as artificial intelligence and emerging technologies expand. Drawing on qualitative interviews with Wayúu and Pijao leaders alongside jurisprudential analysis of Constitutional Court rulings, the project evaluates mechanisms to safeguard collective heritage. Findings reveal a structural mismatch where statutory privacy regimes protect individual identifiers, leaving communal knowledge vulnerable to digital extraction. Although internal community regulations lack extraterritorial jurisdiction over foreign tech firms, they can establish crucial legal baselines within Colombia. These internal protocols could enable domestic courts and regulators to invalidate unauthorized patents, enforce constitutional injunctions, and advance collective biocultural protections.

Contesting the Past to Envision the Future: MAPU-Lautaro's Conjectural Analysis of the Late Pinochet Dictatorship and Transition to Democracy

11:00-11:15 am

Albertine Pérez-Hope

Latin American Studies

This paper examines the reasoning underlying these divergent interpretations of the recent past through a case study of MAPU-Lautaro's break from the Movimiento de Acción Popular Unitario (MAPU) and the political theory and armed strategy that emerged from that rupture. Drawing on a close reading of internal and external documents produced by both MAPU and MAPU-Lautaro between 1980 and 1994, alongside interviews conducted by the author and other researchers, the paper argues that Lautaro's trajectory illuminates the broader interpretive struggle within the Chilean left over the meaning of Popular Unity, the legitimacy of armed struggle, and the terms of a democratic future.

Socio-ecological Impacts of Environmental Education and Biomonitoring at Lake Atitlan

11:15-11:30 am

Jesus Villalobos

Latin American Studies

In 2005, investigators uncovered millions of police records in Guatemala City that became the Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional (AHPN). Until 2018, the archive served as a lively center for scholarship, human rights investigations, criminal cases, and public memory. Since then, staff reductions, leadership changes, and access limits have narrowed its capacity. Drawing on four weeks of ethnogrpahic fieldwork at the AHPN, this project examines how records remain accessible and usable as the institutional support behind Guatemala's postwar human rights gains erode. I argue that the archive's present condition reflects this broader retrenchment and has altered the conditions under which the AHPN can function as an institution of accountability.

11:30-11:40

Faculty Discussant: Dr. Michelle Berry

History

3 Culture, Identity, and the Politics of Place (12:45-2:10pm)

Moderator: Tiffany Larsen

Selling Culture, Displacing Bodies: Black Cultural Commodification and Resistance in Cartagena

12:45-1:00 pm

Anderson Gomes Barbosa

Spanish
Portuguese

Cartagena, Colombia has become a fancy destination for the Global North following a "commodification" process. Sharon Zukin explains commodification as a process in which cities compete to attract tourists and investors, and therefore, profit. Such a maneuver, led by the State and developers, usually involves the use of culture and notions of authenticity as products to catch the eyes of the public outside the city. Colombia's case shows that this process reinforces racial hierarchies, as the Afro-Colombian populations– the majority of those who cannot live in these areas anymore– are pushed to the city margins or elsewhere. The bodies that move –or are pushed away– ultimately resist by forming community among themselves, and also through art, graffiti, and public manifestations. To collect data on these issues, I spent 21 days in Cartagena, Colombia conducting field research, observation, and interviews as the first step in my PhD dissertation.

Transnational Gentrification in Mexico City Through the Lens of Documentary Poetics

1:00-1:15 pm

Margalit Katz

English

For eight weeks, I conducted ethnographic research for my documentary poetics project about transnational gentrification in Mexico City. I conducted fieldwork in coffee shops in the colonias of Roma, Condesa, and Doctores, as well as eighteen formal interviews with friends from Mexico, individuals from the global north living in Mexico City, and the legal director of the organization I volunteered with. Beyond my fieldwork, I attended the 18th International Colloquium of Geocriticism, garnering knowledge relevant to my topic of study, and volunteered with the Instituto para Mujeres en la Migración, supporting several applications for VAWA status in the U.S.

Youth and Gendered Participation in Inti Raymi in La Calera, Ecuador

1:15-1:30 pm

Diego Meringer

Latin American Studies

The research I carried out with the Tinker Field Research Grant concerned the Andean harvest festival of Inti Raymi, specifically an iteration practiced in the community of La Calera in the Ecuadorian province of Imbabura. I stayed with an indigenous community there for 6 weeks, assisting in household tasks, and conducting interviews with community members. I engaged in participant observation during the heightened ritual days of the 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th, and 1st, documenting the taking of the Cotacachi square by indigenous dancers. I examined the resistant festival themes and how different generations and gender identities understood these themes.

Language and Cultural Identity in the Linguistic Landscape of Porto Alegre

1:30-1:45 pm

Caroline Scheuer Neves

GIDP Second Language Acquisition Teaching

This study investigates how linguistic and semiotic resources in Porto Alegre's (Brazil) street art construct cultural identity and public discourse. The project has produced a locationorganized corpus of photographs collected along connected routes through the Centro Histórico, Cidade Baixa, and Bom Fim areas of the city. Ongoing coding examines language choice, sign type, authorship, recurring themes, and spatial distribution. Qualitative multimodal discourse analysis considers how linguistic forms, visual styles, and placement distinguish spontaneous, authorized, and commissioned works. The study develops an empirical basis for research on urban linguistic landscapes, cultural identity, and critical language awareness in Latin America.

1:45-1:55

Faculty Discussant: Dr. Ana Carvalho
Spanish and Portuguese

4 Language, Culture, and Everyday Life (2:15-3:50 pm)

Moderator: Daniela Agudelo

Speaking to Learn: Production and Statistical Learning of Non-Adjacent Dependencies

2:15-2:30 pm

Zcheecid Aguirre

Spanish
Portuguese

Second language learners can detect patterns in unfamiliar linguistic input, yet the role of the phonological properties of the input remains unclear. Previous studies suggest language production may engage deeper learning mechanisms that moderate this unfamiliarity. This study investigates whether priming Spanish monolinguals to anticipate production of a novel English-based artificial language induces stronger pattern learning after exposure to the language. Spanish speakers listened to and produced strings of this artificial language and were tested on their pattern recognition abilities. Preliminary results, however, do not show evidence that production mitigates speech sound unfamiliarity for Spanish monolinguals.

Disseminating Latin American Colombian Composers Through Music for Double Bass

2:30-2:45 pm

Omar David Molina Santos

Music

This music research highlights Colombian composers and their input on Latin American music through modern repertoire for the cordophone instrument, the double bass. The selection of six lesser-known works features the unique musical language of Guabina, bambuco, danza, vals, and rumba criolla, as well as their mixture with classical, jazz, and contemporary styles. I conducted historical research in Bogotá and met six composers in person. Through semi-structured interviews, journal reflections, and audio recordings, I documented the concept, influences, and significance of the works to support their research, circulation, and distribution based on the composers' personal experiences as artists in Colombia.

From Mole to Coca-Cola: Food, Modernity, and Health in Mexico City

2:45-3:00 pm

Kenia Okiyama

Spanish
Portuguese

My Tinker field research in Mexico City and San Luis Potosí investigated how food acquires meanings of civilization, modernity, and health. Beginning with mole and its associations with celebration and mestizo national identity, I examined how culinary hierarchies distinguish prestigious dishes from less celebrated Indigenous foodways. Research at Casa Doña María Pons and the Museo Nacional de las Intervenciones connected these questions to kitchens and colonial food histories. I extended my inquiry to Coca-Cola, processed foods, and diabetes, informed by the documentary "El susto". The project clarified scholarship, sharpened my research questions, and opened a doctoral direction connecting food studies with embodiment and disability studies.

Household Spaces: Tracing Familial Relationships in Nineteenth Century Sonora

3:00-3:15 pm

Amalia Sosa Haby

History

Households are built and maintained through sentimental relationships and are sites of shared production knowledge. This research project expands on my own previously conducted research on intergenerational knowledge production and affective relationships found in nineteenth century Mexican cookbook manuscripts. I conducted research at the Archivo Histórico del Estado de Sonora, analysing nineteenth-century Sonoran wills for language of sentimentality, and cultural and social values. I also sought to determine what kinds of material objects were inherited and by whom. This work seeks to contribute to understandings of family formations and relationships with an emphasis on shared material creation and aims to analyse gendered knowledge production within the household.

3:15-3:25

Faculty Discussant: Dr. Lillian Gorman
Spanish and Portuguese

21ST ANNUAL
TINKER SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE

November 5, 2026
4pm-5pm
Marshall Building, Room 490, Reception to Follow



Water Governance, Community Organizing and Resilience in Puerto Rico

Across Latin America, scholarship has shown that community water governance is a form of provision, a site of political struggle, and search for water justice. Puerto Rico is rarely included in this conversation as its status as a U.S. territory places it between Latin American and U.S. frameworks. Yet Puerto Rico is a critical case for building theory at the intersection of hazards, water systems, and collective action. Reliability is not only a technical property of infrastructure but a social struggle that aggravates quality of life and well-being. Situating Puerto Rico within Latin American and North American water scholarship, provides an opportunity to re-evaluate stopgaps for water security in a region facing compounding disasters.

Anaís Roque is an environmental social scientist and John Hope Franklin Assistant Professor of Environmental Justice at Duke University who studies resource insecurity and health in the Anthropocene. Currently, her research agenda focuses on how households and communities experience, prepare for, and respond to food, energy, and water insecurity during “normal” times and in the wake of a hazard or disaster.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

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Center for Latin American Studies

Tinker Foundation

The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of Arizona would like to acknowledge the exceptional support that has made the 21st Annual Tinker Symposium possible.

The Tinker Foundation
UArizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
UArizona College of Humanities
UArizona Graduate College
UArizona School of Government and Public Policy

Thank you to all the people at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) who worked to ensure the success of this event:

CLAS Interim Director
Dr. Elizabeth Oglesby

Tinker Committee
Dr. Katie O'Brien, Dr. Elizabeth Oglesby, and Colin Deeds, Dr. Susan Brewer-Osorio, and Dr. Stefanie Graeter

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Emily Morel, Ariadna González Sánchez, Riqué Duhamell Escobedo, Tiffany Larsen, Daniela Agudelo, Dayani Castrejon, and Rostam Cole

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Jackie Schmidt, Administrative Operations
Camila Leyva, Student Assistant
Omar Talevara, Student Assistant
Edward Buck-Shannon, Student Assistant
Liam Holton, SGS Ambassador

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Dr. Eunice Lee, Dr. Michelle Berry, Dr. Ana Carvalho, and Dr. Lilian Gorman

A special thanks to Dr. Anaís Roque for being our keynote speaker!