



Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung
Center for Interdisciplinary Research
UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD



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Center for
InterAmerican
Studies

International Workshop

Entanglements of (Il)legality & Violence

Drug Trafficking and Drug Policies in the Americas

24th-26th June 2024 - Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF, Bielefeld University)

Short Biographies Speakers

Short Biographies Speakers - *(in alphabetical order)*

Blienert, Burkhard (Federal Commissioner on Narcotic Drugs)

Britto, Lina (Northwestern University, U.S.)

Durán-Martínez, Angélica (University of Massachusetts-Lowell, U.S.)

Edbauer, Philine (Co-founder and Coordinator, mybrainmychoice initiative, Berlin)

Forero, Camilo (Bielefeld University)

Guerra, Edgar (CONAHCYT, Mexico)

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Schulte, Lito Michael (Lawyer, Lito Law Academy, Düsseldorf)

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Wolfesberger, Philipp (Bielefeld University)

Zavala, Oswaldo (CSI City University New York, U.S.)

Blienert, Burkhard (Federal Commissioner on Narcotic Drugs)
"Fluid Legalities: Cannabis Regulation in Germany and Global Challenges" (Foreword)

Burkhard Blienert has served as the Commissioner of the Federal Government for Drug and Addiction Policy since January 2022 and has worked intensively on drug and addiction policy issues for around ten years. Blienert holds an M.A. in politics, modern history, and sociology. Since 1990, he has been a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). From 2013 to 2017, he was a member of the German Bundestag, representing his parliamentary group as a regular member of the Committee on Health, the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs as well as the Budget Committee. During this time, Blienert was his parliamentary group's rapporteur for issues relating to drugs and addiction.



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Britto, Lina (Northwestern University, U.S.)

"Notes for a Countercultural History of Drug Traffic in the Caribbean"

Lina Britto is an Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University. She is a historian of modern Latin America and the Caribbean and received her PhD from New York University in 2013. Her work situates the emergence and consolidation of illegal drug smuggling networks in the Americas in the context of a growing articulation between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States during the Cold War. She has published her academic and journalistic work in *the Hispanic American Historical Review*, *the Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, *the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, *NACLA*, *El Espectador*, *The Conversation*, among others. Her book, *"Marijuana Boom: The Rise and Fall of Colombia's First Drug Paradise"* (University of California Press, 2020), won an honorable mention of Colombia's Fundación Alejandro Ángel Escobar National Awards (2021), and was published in Spanish by Planeta and Ediciones Uniandes under the title *"El boom de la marihuana: Auge y caída del primer paraíso de las drogas en Colombia"* (2022). She is co-editor of *"Histories of Solitude: Colombia, 1820s-1970s, and Histories of Perplexity: Colombia, 1970s-2010s"*, a two-volume project on cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholarship on Colombia for Routledge (2024). She is currently working on her second book project tentatively titled *"The Hippie Mafia"*.

Durán-Martínez, Angélica (University of Massachusetts-Lowell, U.S.)
"Drug and Peace Policies in Colombia"

Angélica Durán-Martínez is an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Brown University, an M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from New York University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Her research interests include the relations between organized crime, violence, and the state in Latin America, drug policy, and the interconnections between criminal and political violence. Her research has received funding from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Social Science Research Council (IDRF-SSRC), and the Open Society Foundation through the Drugs, Security, and Democracy fellowship. She is the author of *"The Politics of Drug Violence: Criminals, Cops, and Politicians in Colombia and Mexico"* (Oxford University Press, 2018), winner of the best book prize from the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime, and of the Peter Katzenstein book award for the best first book in international relations, comparative politics, or political economy.



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Edbauer, Philine (Co-founder and Coordinator, mybrainmychoice initiative, Berlin)
"Fluid Legalities: Cannabis Regulation in Germany and Global Challenges"



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Philine Edbauer has been campaigning since 2015 for a comprehensive change in drug policy towards decriminalization and legal regulation - measured against the needs of people who use drugs and pass on or sell them in small quantities. She has been the co-founder of the My Brain My Choice Initiative since 2017 and a member of the Schildower Kreis drug policy expert network. Since 2023, she has been an Expert Member of the Bundestag's Health Committee for questions on the relevance of international treaties and E.U. law for market regulation in Germany. Edbauer is the Editor of the German-language edition of the practical guide "Cannabis legalisieren" (<https://legalisierung.info>). She holds an M.A. in Regional Studies from HU Berlin. In her master's thesis, she wrote about drug policy and the war on drugs in the Philippines, considering global drug policy and its history. Edbauer did a B.A. in International Management and trained as a counselor (organization and processes) for students.

Forero, Camilo (Bielefeld University)

"Transformations in Violence Dynamics in Colombia after the Prohibition in the XX Century"

Camilo Forero has been a researcher and lecturer at the Center for InterAmerican Studies (CIAS) at Bielefeld University since 2017 and a research associate postdoc (Prime DAAD) since 2023. He received his PhD in Literature and Linguistics from Bielefeld University in 2022 and holds an M.A. in InterAmerican Studies from Bielefeld University. His doctoral thesis, *"Fragmentation of time: From media of Mass Production and Distribution to Digital Media in the Americas"* was awarded a prize for the best doctoral thesis at Bielefeld University in 2022. His main research interests and teaching fields are Media Philosophy, violence and drug trafficking, Peace and Conflict Studies, Epistemology, and discourse analysis.



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Guerra, Edgar (CONAHCYT, Mexico)

"Between Brutality and Bureaucracy: CJNG's Reign in the Shadows of Drug Prohibition"

Edgar Guerra is a researcher at the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONAHCYT) and was a researcher at the Drug Policy Program of CIDE at its headquarters in Aguascalientes. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Bielefeld and his M.A. in Political Sociology from the Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora. His research focuses on collective action, social movements, drug policy, organized crime, political violence, and security. Guerra has also studied politicization, radicalization, and political institutionalization processes of popular organizations in Mexico City, such as the 'Frente Popular Francisco Villa'. He was a research fellow at the Center for Sociological Studies at El Colegio de México and the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology of Newcastle University (U.K.).

Krusche, Jakob (Bielefeld University)

"Histories of Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime"

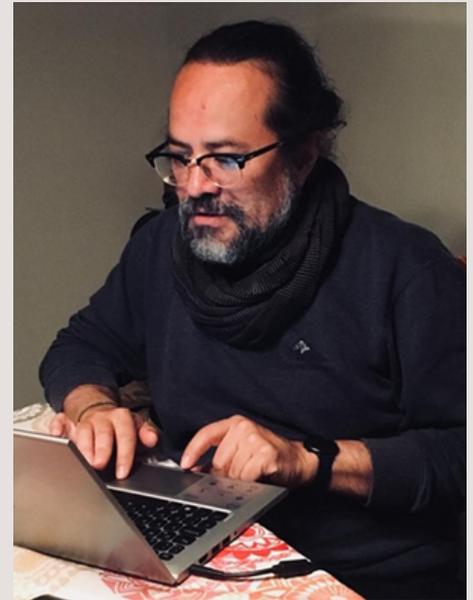
Jakob Krusche is a PhD student at the Faculty of History at Bielefeld University and a member of the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology. He holds a master's degree in Latin-American Studies (Freie Universität Berlin). His current research focuses on legitimization practices of local violent actors in rural Mexico, which builds on extensive field research in the state of Michoacán.



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Linares, Jorge (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico)
"Bioethical Arguments for the Global Legalization of Cannabis"

Jorge Enrique Linares Salgado is a full-time tenured professor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature (FFyL) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a member of the National System of Researchers (level III). From 2017 to 2021, Linares was the Director of the FFyL of UNAM. He holds a B.A., M.A., and PhD in Philosophy from UNAM. His main research interests are ethics of science and technology, bioethics, and contemporary ethics. He has received various distinctions, such as the National Philosophy Award from the Philosophical Association of Mexico, the Mexican Academy of Sciences Award for best doctoral thesis in the humanities, and the National University Distinction for Young Academics in Research in the Humanities. Since 2018, he has been a member of the Advisory Council of the National Bioethics Commission of the Federal Government of Mexico. He belongs to prestigious national and international academic associations: Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (2011), International Association of Bioethics (2012), Asociación Filosófica de México A.C. (1999), and Colegio de Bioética A.C. de México (2017). Linares is the author of the book *"Adiós a la naturaleza. La revolución bioartefactual"* (Madrid, 2019).



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Metaal, Pien (Transnational Institute Amsterdam, Netherlands)

"Reforms and Counter-Reforms: Latin America Drug Policy at a Crossroad?"

Pien Metaal is an activist and political scientist at the Transnational Institute Amsterdam (TNI). She has been part of TNI's Drugs and Democracy Program since 2002, even though her participation with the program dates further back. She holds an M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Amsterdam. Her work for TNI has focused on research, education, network and policy development on coca and cocaine, producers of crops for illicit use, fair(er) trade cannabis, and many other issues related to international drug policy. She lived in Latin America for seven years, spending most of that time in Bolivia. During those years, she dedicated most of her time and energy to the topic of drug policy, particularly in relation to coca and cocaine, and worked with local NGOs. She has written numerous articles and contributed to various books and publications on the topic of drug policy in Latin America since 1996, in and outside of TNI.



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Paladines, Jorge (Universidad Central del Ecuador, Ecuador)
"Ecuador's Central Role in Cocaine Trafficking to Europe"

Jorge Vicente Paladines Rodríguez is a professor at the Universidad Central del Ecuador and a doctoral student for drug policy and criminal law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Bremen. His dissertation deals with the topic of drugs and punishment and delayed modernity in drug sentencing in Ecuador. He holds a Bachelor in Law (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Guayaquil, a Master in Constitutional Law from the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB), and an M.A. in Political Science from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO - Ecuador). Paladines is currently an advisor to the Commission of Justice and Structure of the State at the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador and a member of the Drugs and Rights Study Collective [Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derechos (CEDD)].



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Pardal, Mafalda (RAND Drug Policy Research Center, Belgium)

"A Decade of Regulated Cannabis Social Clubs in Uruguay: Recent Developments and Future Directions"



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Mafalda Pardal is a research leader at RAND Europe and the European lead for the RAND Drug Policy Research Center. Her research interests revolve around the analysis of illicit markets and drug policy. She holds a PhD in criminology from Ghent University (Belgium) and an M.Sc. in criminology from K.U. Leuven (Belgium), and a B.A. in law from the University of Coimbra (Portugal). Prior to (re-)joining RAND, she was affiliated with Ghent University (Belgium) as an assistant professor in criminology and postdoctoral research fellow. She has also been a visiting researcher at the Catholic University of Uruguay. In recent years, her research has focused on models of cannabis regulation (including Cannabis Social Clubs) and analyses of the impacts of cannabis policies on various outcomes; the nonmedical use of prescription drugs among young populations; the environmental harms of illegal synthetic drug production; policies aimed at preventing and disrupting organized crime; drug-related corruption; and other illicit market dynamics. Her research has been published in the International Journal of Drug Policy, the European Journal of Criminology, the Journal of Drug Issues, in Methodological Innovations, among others. Pardal edited a book about Cannabis Social Clubs, published by Routledge (2023).

Schulte, Lito Michael (Lawyer, Lito Law Academy, Düsseldorf)

"Fluid Legalities: Cannabis Regulation in Germany and Global Challenges"
(Roundtable)

Lito Michael Schulte is a lawyer specializing in commercial law issues relating to cannabis legalization in Germany. He also attends to criminal law matters in court. He is an active member of the Branchenverband Cannabiswirtschaft e.V. (BvCW e.V.). Schulte is currently completing a master's degree in business law (LL.M.) at the University of Münster, with a focus on the topic of cultivation associations based on the bill for the controlled handling of cannabis (KCanG-E), in particular regarding questions of association and corporate law. Schulte is co-founder and lawyer at the Lito Law Academy, a legal consulting firm for entrepreneurs who want to operate as non-profit associations (Cannabis Social Clubs) in the emerging cannabis market in Germany.



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Voeten, Teun (Photojournalist and Writer, Netherlands)

*"From the Mexican Drug Violence to the Netherlands as a Functional Narco State: Is
Legalization the Solution or Just a Quick Fix?"*

Teun Voeten is an award-winning war photographer and author based in New York and Brussels. He studied cultural anthropology and philosophy at Leiden University. As a war photographer, he has covered conflicts worldwide since 1990, such as those in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Colombia, Afghanistan, and Syria. Voeten wrote books on the underground homeless in New York, the civil war in Sierra Leone, and drug-related crime in Belgium/Netherlands. and also organizes exhibitions, gives workshops, and is a regular lecturer at universities and cultural institutions worldwide. In 2018, he received a PhD in Anthropology from Alma Mater Leiden University with a dissertation called *'Mexican Drug Violence: Hybrid Warfare, Predatory Capitalism and the Logic of Cruelty'*. Voeten is a fellow of Small Wars Journal and is currently writing a book on global trends in the world of crystal meth. His articles have been published in Vanity Fair, The New Yorker, NY Times Magazine, National Geographic Magazine, Newsweek, Time, NRC, and Frankfurter Allgemeine. His photos are used worldwide by organizations such as the International Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, UNICEF, UNHCR, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

Wolfesberger, Philipp (Bielefeld University)

"Organized Crime as a Procrustean Bed in the Americas"

Philipp Wolfesberger is an interdisciplinary social scientist specializing in political sociology and political theory with a transregional focus on Latin America. Since 2021, he has been a research and teaching associate and executive director at the Center for InterAmerican Studies at Bielefeld University, where he is completing his habilitation with a monograph on temporalities of solidarity and violence. He is also an associated postdoctoral researcher in the international research project "Turning Land into Capital", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. He received his PhD in political science with a thesis on mechanisms of violence in the context of the drug war in Mexico (summa cum laude, University of Vienna, 2015). He extensively researched indigenous autonomy and resistance movements with a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Wolfesberger is co-editor of the series "Rethinking the Americas", published by Kipu-Verlag.



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Zavala, Oswaldo (CSI City University New York, U.S.)

"Beyond the War and the Drugs: A Critique of Global Securitarian Language."

Oswaldo Zavala is Full Professor of contemporary Latin American Literature and Culture at the College of Staten Island (CSI) and at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is the author of *'La modernidad insufrible. Roberto Bolaño en los límites de la literatura latinoamericana contemporánea'* (2015), *'Volver a la modernidad. Genealogías de la literatura mexicana de fin de siglo'* (2017), *'Drug Cartels Do Not Exist. Narcotrafficking in US and Mexican Culture'* (2018), and *'La guerra en las palabras. Una historia intelectual del "narco"'* (1975-2020) (2022). He co-edited, with Viviane Mahieux, *'Tierras de nadie: el norte en la narrativa mexicana contemporánea'* (2012); with José Ramón Ruisánchez, *'Materias dispuestas: Juan Villoro ante la crítica'* (2011); and with Magdalena Perkowska, *'Tiranías ficciones. Poética y política de la escritura en la obra de Horacio Castellanos Moya'* (2018). He has published more than fifty articles on contemporary Latin American narrative, the U.S.-Mexico border, and the link between violence, culture and late capitalism.