

Race and Climate Change

Latino/Latin American Studies Fall 2021 Series



Comunidades organizando el poder y la acción latina/
Communities Organizing Latino Power and Action: A Climate Framework

Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 PM, Upper Gorecki, CSB

COPAL (Comunidades organizando el poder y la acción latina) is an organization formed in 2018 that seeks to unite Latinos in Minnesota through community-based democratic practice that builds racial, gender, social, and economic justice. Organizers from COPAL will discuss the unique framework the group has developed for drawing connections between the climate crisis and forced migration from Central America to the United States, and for educating and empowering immigrant communities to advocate for policy change that advances justice for people of color most affected by environmental catastrophe.



Leslee Gutiérrez is an environmental justice organizer with COPAL. Born in Minneapolis, she grew up in Toronto, Canada and Puebla, Mexico. She recently graduated from Bethel University with a degree in Environmental Studies and minors in Psychology and Political Science.



Francisco Segovia is the executive director of COPAL, and has many years of experience in public service and community organizing, including 14 years as Director of Waite House Center in South Minneapolis and current participation in The Minnesota Civic Studies Initiative, a project of the University of Minnesota that seeks to encourage conversation among leaders who represent diverse viewpoints.



Marco Hernández is the public policy director at COPAL. The son of immigrants from Puebla, Mexico and San Salvador, El Salvador, Marco is originally from San Pablo, California. Marco recently graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Latin American Studies.

**Viviana Huiliñir-Curio: "Landscapes of Mapuche Mobilities
in the Andes of Southern Chile, Wallmapu"**

Tuesday, October 12, 5:00 PM, Webinar event



This presentation will discuss the production of the landscapes of the mobilities of the Mapuche in the southern Andes of Chile, Wallmapu. The Mapuche are an indigenous people of Chile with a long history of resistance to the colonization of the Southern Cone. The landscapes associated with specific routes and mobilities in the Andes, account for past and present mobilities that challenge and resist processes of territorial dispossession in the context of settler colonialism.

Viviana Huiliñir-Curio is a Mapuche geographer who has a Master's degree in Social Sciences and is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research is located at the intersection of mobility studies, human geography, and political ecology. In her work, she examines the various forms of mobility in Wallmapu, especially in the Andes of southern Chile, and their implications in the production of Mapuche landscapes, social memory and territories in the context of settler colonialism.

**Dr. Nicole Fabricant: "Imagining Socio-economic and Agro-ecological Alternatives
in a Moment of Climate Crisis: Voices from Movements in Latin America and Baltimore"**

Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 PM, Webinar event



Dr. Fabricant examines grassroots activists' envisioning, dreaming and working towards alternative land ownership, agro-ecology, and the building of land trusts in Bolivia and Baltimore. The ideas coming directly from Native and Black communities are systemic and holistic solutions to our economic, public health, and climate crisis. Her presentation incorporates the multiple voices of Black and Brown activists while also proposing some policy recommendations as we move towards a Green New Deal for Housing/Green New Deal for Education.

Dr. Nicole Fabricant is an associate professor of anthropology at Towson University in Baltimore. She teaches courses such as Resource Wars, Environmental Justice, Rethinking Indigeneity, Political Economy of Water. Her work focuses on the cultural politics of resource wars in Latin America and the US. Her most recent work as an activist/scholar centers on the history of industrial development and toxicity in South Baltimore. Her forthcoming book, *Fighting to Breathe on Baltimore's Toxic Periphery*, under contract with University of California Press (2022), narrates the rise of community-based development, through which poor people across race and class claim rights to land, affordable housing, and economic co-operatives in their neighborhoods. Her work has been published in NACLA, Jacobin, Dissent, and Catalyst among others.