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IAS

HEIDELBERG
CENTER FOR
IBERO-AMERICAN
STUDIES



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

M.A. Communication and Society in Ibero-America HCIAS-Course Catalog Summer Term 2022

1. Fundamental Competencies

Lecture: Environment and Development

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Rosa Lehmann

The nexus between development and environment has become an integral part of public and academic debates. This is largely due to environmental movements in different parts of the world, to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched by the United Nations in 2015, as well as to growing discussions on the impacts of climate change on semi-/peripheral countries, on historical debts related to industrialization and CO₂-emissions. In the meantime, development policies launched by national governments and international organizations alike integrate social, economic, and ecological goals in their agendas, and various political actors relate positively to sustainable development and a holistic understanding of sustainability to underscore claims for social inclusion, political participation, and environmental protection.

However, critical research and debates problematize the term (sustainable) 'development' itself for its Eurocentric bias. Further, they question the assumption that 'development', as it is understood since decades, can solve the contradictions inherent to the capitalist mode of production, that is the contradiction between the depletion of resources and sinks, and the need for economic growth to guarantee current forms of social and political inclusion of different social groups. Additionally, scholarly work has pointed to the importance of the division between dependent and independent countries for the global economy which reproduces multiple inequalities across scales.

In the lecture, we will depart from engaging with a theoretical controversy related to 'development', touching modernization and dependency as well as post-development and decolonial theories. We discuss various diagnosis related to the ecological crisis, the idea of sustainable development, as well as recent strategies for ecological modernization and alternative visions for a socioecological change. For the theoretical debates as well as strategies and controversies we will take into account inputs from actors from the Global South, in particular from Latin America, as well as empirical examples from the region to illustrate topics covered in the seminar.

Seminar: Gender, Politics and Communication in Latin America

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Alejandro Ecker

This course introduces students to the main theoretical concepts and the major empirical research questions in the areas of gender, politics and communication. It addresses fundamental questions in comparative politics and communication research from the perspective of gender differences in Latin America and confronts students with important questions of causal inference in quantitative empirical-analytical research.

Based on selected recent contributions students examine 1) questions of descriptive and substantive representation in Latin America (e.g., in political institutions such as parties, national and sub-national legislatures). Students also learn 2) about political participation and explore the causes and consequences of gender gaps in individual voting and communication behaviour in the macro region. Other key aspects that are discussed in the seminar include 3) political violence against women and gender dynamics in 4) policy-making, and 5) judicial decision-making.

Throughout the course, students are introduced to the relevant data sources of gender, politics and communication in Latin America, providing them with plenty of opportunities to conduct their own preliminary analyses and develop first ideas for their term paper. By the end of the course, students will have improved their knowledge and skills in the areas of research design, causal inference, and statistical analysis. They will also apply their newly acquired insights through small exercises and hands-on research.

2. Methodology

Lecture Series: HCIAS-Master's Degree Lecture Series

Prof. Dr. Francisco Moreno-Fernández

The HCIAS-Master's Degree Lecture Series presents research projects on, in, and with Ibero-America from diverse perspectives in the fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This series aims to provide an overview of current state of the art research and innovative inquiries on issues of particular relevance to Ibero-American societies, setting a special focus on methodological approaches. The lecture series includes speakers from the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) as well as from international partner universities and research institutions.

The HCIAS-Master's Degree Lecture Series is open to all interested students, doctoral candidates, and researchers of Heidelberg University. Select lectures will be open to a wider public and will be streamed online.

3. Advanced Competencies

Seminar: Cultures of Diaspora across Ibero-America

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Soledad Álvarez Velasco

Diasporas destabilize traditional fixed notions of culture, identity, belonging, home, community, territory, place and nation-state. They need to be historically and geographically located to understand how and why their cultural practices are produced and how they have shaped transnational communities and spaces that transcend and burst national borders while challenging national identities. This course proposes a conceptual, historical and thematic exploration of diasporas and their politics of cultural expression and resistance across the Americas. It is organized into two major sections. The first explores the existing interrelationship between diasporas, the history of the conquest of America, colonialism and post-colonialism, transnational spaces, and cultural hybridity; it does so by revising selected interdisciplinary contributions from Post-Colonial, Decolonial and Feminist Studies, Critical Migration and Border Latinxs and Chicano Studies and Geographies of Diaspora Studies. The second section zooms into the formation and transformation of diverse diasporas and their politics of cultural expressions and resistance in specific places and times across the Americas.

Seminar: Media Effects and Ibero-America

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Pablo Porten-Cheé

Because of individual limitations, most information about the world outside is assumed to be acquired through the media (Luhmann, 1996). Thus, many of our daily decisions and behaviors may be shaped by what we receive from them. This seminar introduces into selected media effects approaches and thus into central aspects of communication science. In order to take into account the importance of contexts in research as well as the changing media system, the seminar selectively deals with research in Ibero-America on the one hand and with the impact of digital media content on the other.

Seminar: Migration, Border Regimes and Language Identity: Theories, Methodologies and Current Debates

Prof. Dr. Francisco Moreno-Fernández, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Soledad Álvarez Velasco

Human migration, its cultural and linguist impact and the systems of governance that either impede or prompt such movements are among the most salient conflicts of our time. Past and present migrations from Africa and Asia have combined Latin American and Caribbean migrations across the hemisphere creating new opportunities for understanding how and why humans move and impede the movement of others while producing linguistic, cultural and identity transformations in the spaces where they transit or settle temporarily or permanently. This course examines diverse theories, methodologies, and the most relevant current debates

regarding human migration from an interdisciplinary and transnational approach. Students will become familiar with different discipline-based theories and methodologies to investigate human migration and central analytical concepts in migration studies. In addition to canonical and alternative readings from sociology, anthropology, history, demography, socio-legal studies, human geography, socio-linguistics and Latinx Studies, throughout the course, we will also examine qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of this complex and multi-dimensional phenomena. By studying concrete cases from the Americas, the most relevant current debates regarding the cultural and socio-linguistics transformations produced by human migration and the ways through which heterogeneous border regimes operate across the continent to control migrants' mobilities will also be covered and discussed.

Seminar: Socio-ecological inequalities in Ibero-America

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Rosa Lehmann

There is wide agreement that climate change will unevenly affect social groups according to their geographic location, to inequalities related to class, race/ethnicity, citizenship, gender, age, and formal education. In this seminar, we will depart from the assumption that society-nature relationships are characterized by (global) inequalities and that such a perspective is necessary to understand how both environmental and climate change, climate change mitigation, and environmental policies affect the political and socio-economic situations of different social groups. We will discuss conceptual work on social inequalities and inequalities related to human-environmental change in the context of asymmetric South-North relationships and transnational entanglements; and from disciplines and research fields such as human geography, environmental sociology, environmental history, development politics, peasant studies and (feminist) political ecology.

We focus empirically on Latin America and look at historical cases (e.g. the plantation system) as well as current topics such as resource extraction (e.g. copper and lithium), climate change mitigation (e.g. renewable energies) and adaption, conservation, and biodiversity. We will conclude by discussing concept of environmental, climate, and energy justice.

4. Key Transversal Skills

Practical: Digital disinformation research and Ibero-America

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Pablo Porten-Cheé

The Covid pandemic has demonstrated an increased public debate about so called 'fake news'. As disinformation can harm individual-level behavior and society-level decisions based on false premises, a comprehensive understanding about what 'fake news' are is essential as never before. This seminar firstly aims to advance the understanding about this communication phenomenon from the perspective of

communication science. The seminar secondly wants to introduce into practical research on digital disinformation. Therefore, the students will split into small research groups after an introduction phase and work on self-derived questions around disinformation in Ibero-America independently. In this second phase, the practical will link with the contents of the Master seminar “Communication and public spheres in Ibero-America” and will take into consideration selected theoretical approaches to understand the features and effects of disinformation (e.g., narratives, news factors, online civic interventions).

Seminar: Gestión de la comunicación social e intercultural

Uni Heidelberg: Prof. Dr. Óscar Loureda Lamas, Vanesa Rodríguez, Dr. Adriana Cruz Rubio;

Universidad de Chile: Prof. Dr. Lionel Brossi, Dr. Ana María Castillo;

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile: Luciana Pisolatto

El curso de máster Gestión de la comunicación social e intercultural, de naturaleza digital y desarrollado de forma colaborativa, constituye el núcleo del proyecto CS@Ibero-America. Tras el fin del mismo el curso forma parte del plan de estudios de tres titulaciones: el Máster en Communication and Society in Ibero-America del HCIAS, el Doble Máster Internacional en Traducción Especializada y Tecnologías de la Traducción de la Universidad de Heidelberg y la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile y del Máster en Comunicación Social del Instituto de la Comunicación e Imagen de la Universidad de Chile.

El curso está orientado a la enseñanza y la investigación; su concepción metódico-didáctica promueve el perfil de investigación de los estudiantes mediante la realización de trabajos individuales y proyectos en grupo. Se les enseñará a desarrollar métodos de investigación y estrategias de resolución de problemas tanto por sí mismos como de forma colaborativa en un entorno virtual.

PROGRAMA

El curso se divide en cuatro bloques de temas. Cada bloque consiste en 2 sesiones sincrónicas (presencia virtual, 90 min.) y 2 sesiones asincrónicas (ejercicios y tareas online):

Bloque de temas 1: Fundamentos de la comunicación

Docentes (Universidad de Heidelberg): Prof. Dr. Óscar Loureda / Vanesa Rodríguez / Dr. Adriana Cruz

Bloque de temas 2: Comunicación social e Inteligencia Artificial

Docentes (Universidad de Chile): Prof. Dr. Lionel Brossi / Dr. Ana María Castillo

Bloque de temas 3: Comunicación intercultural

Docentes (Universidad de Heidelberg): Dr. Adriana Cruz / Vanesa Rodríguez

Bloque de temas 4: Gestión de la comunicación

Docente (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile): Luciana Pisolatto

Seminar: Poverty and inequality in Latin America: Never-ending challenges?

Miguel Carrera Troyano

Latin America is the most unequal region on the planet, and for this reason, despite the fact that most of the countries are middle-income, it has very high levels of poverty. The course will first present the definitions and methods for measuring poverty and inequality, and then provide a quantification of the data and the main explanatory factors for the persistence of these phenomena and their socio-economic implications. Finally, it addresses the debate on the policies needed to tackle these problems.