



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS: THE EXTRACTION
OF BODIES, LAND, AND
HERITAGE FROM *LA CONQUISTA*
TO THE PRESENT**

OCTOBER 2021



"DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS"

PENN-MELLON *JUST FUTURES* INITIATIVE

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR COORDINATOR
TULIA FALLETI

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

MARGARET M. BRUCHAC
RICARDO CASTILLO-NEYRA
ANN FARNSWORTH-ALVEAR
MICHAEL G. HANCHARD
JONATHAN D. KATZ
RICHARD M. LEVENTHAL
MICHAEL Z. LEVY

GRANT MANAGER

INA HALILI



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS**

Penn-Mellon *Just Futures* Initiative

THE CONFERENCE

Systemic racism is built on historical, structural, and institutionalized dispossessions of Indigenous, Latinx, and Afro-descendant populations. From the first colonial encounters to the present-day, marginalized communities have been dispossessed of territory, natural resources, freedom, rights, and cultural patrimony. These dispossessions have been legitimized by colonial and patriarchal values and institutions that have systematically overwritten the priorities of Indigenous, Latinx, and Afro-descendants, as well as women, and Queer/Trans people. Dispossession is thus both material and ideological, traceable to historical conquest, yet marked in the present. To rectify dispossession is to look both backwards and forwards, to repair material losses and to attend to the values and ideologies that hybridize our present.

Our interdisciplinary research project has two main goals. First, we seek to document territorial, embodied, and cultural heritage dispossessions in the Americas—through the mechanisms of deceit, disease, and warfare—from 1492 to the present. Second, we aspire to collectively outline and identify models of repossession and the processes through which the restoration of land, embodiments, and cultural heritage can recover histories and promote restorative justice.

CONFERENCE GOALS

In this international conference, our main goal is to begin a conversation in the key of documentation, reclamation, restoration, and repair. It will be an introductory and extensively planning conference. The main objective is for all the collaborators across the Americas (to date) to meet and learn from each other and the work that they are developing for this project. Another objective is to create coordination and collaboration among team members across the Americas and to foster future networks and collaborations.

HYBRID CONFERENCE

- 473 McNeil Building (3718 Locust Walk Philadelphia, PA 19104)
- The Forum (second floor), The Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics (133 S. 36th Street Philadelphia, PA 19104)
- Zoom

PRESENTATIONS AND FEEDBACK

The presentations will be work-in-progress that will receive constructive criticism from the members of the team. Each presentation will be kept to 30 minutes, followed by 20 minutes of discussion and feedback



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS**

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AGENDA

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 7 • 2021
473 MCNEIL BUILDING

INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE 12:00 - 12:10

Associate Dean for the Social Sciences,
Prof. Emily Hannum

INTRODUCTIONS OF ALL TEAM MEMBERS 12:10 - 12:50

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK 12:50 - 13:10

**"DISPOSSESSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'
TERRITORIES IN LATIN AMERICA, FROM
CONTACT WITH EUROPEANS TO THE PRESENT"** 13:10 - 14:00

Principal Investigator, Prof. Tulia Falletti
Adalyn Richards
Thomas Maggiola

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 8 • 2021
PCPE FORUM

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER 12:00 - 12:50

Prof. Robert Nichols, University of Minnesota
Author of Theft is Property! Dispossession and Critical
Theory (Duke 2020).

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK 12:50 - 13:10

**HOUSING INSECURITY AND COVID-19
TRANSMISSION** 13:10 - 14:00

Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Michael Levy
Prof. Andrew Greenlee, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative

AGENDA

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 14 • 2021 PCPE FORUM

DEJUSTICIA 12:00 - 12:50
Dr. Diana Guzmán-Rodríguez
Dr. Paulo Ilich Bacca

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK 12:50 - 13:10

GRUPO ETNOHISTORIA DEL CHOCÓ 13:10 - 14:00
Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Ann Farnsworth-Alvear
and Colombia Collaborators

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 15 • 2021 PCPE FORUM

**"TRACKING AND MAPPING DISPOSSESSIONS OF
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE"** 12:00 - 12:50
Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Margaret Bruchac
Paul Wolff Mitchell

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK 12:50 - 13:10

CHILE TEAM 13:10 - 14:00
Prof. Natalia Caniguán
Dr. Francisca de la Maza

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 21 • 2021 PCPE FORUM

DOCUMENTA DESDE ABAJO 10:00 - 10:50
Dr. Maria Paula Saffon Sanín and collaborators

COFFEE BREAK 10:50 - 11:10

**AYMARA TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION AND MUSIC
INSTRUMENT COLLECTION** 11:10 - 11:50
Dr. Carmen Medeiros
Dr. Radek Sánchez



AGENDA

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 22 • 2021

PCPE FORUM

JAMAICA TEAM

10:00 - 10:50

Artist, Deborah Anzinger
Prof, Deborah Thomas

COFFEE BREAK

10:50 - 11:10

THE PHILADELPHIA MURAL PROGRAM

11:10 - 11:50

Roberto Mamani Mamani

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 28 • 2021

473 MCNEIL BUILDING

**THE ARTS REPRESENTATION OF
DISPOSSESSIONS: OVERVIEW OF ART EXHIBITS,
ART PROJECTS, AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES IN
THE AMERICAS**

12:00 - 12:50

Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Jonathan Katz

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK

12:50 - 13:10

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS: PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
BY VISUAL ARTISTS**

13:10 - 14:00

Tania Bruguera

Carlos Motta

Las Nietas de Nonó

Eduardo Carrera, curator

Moderated by: Co-Principal Investigator, Prof.

Jonathan Katz and Arts Coordinator, Jorge Sánchez

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 29 • 2021

PCPE FORUM

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

12:00 - 12:50

Luiz Henrique Eloy Amado Terena, Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil. The Ways of Resistance: Challenges Regarding the Enforcement of the Indigenous Rights in Brazil.

COFFEE & LUNCH BREAK

12:50 - 13:10

OPEN DISCUSSIONS AND WRAP-UP CONCLUSIONS

13:10 - 14:00



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS**

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Deborah M. Carroll Anzinger

Artist, Independent; Executive Director, New Local Space,
Kingston, Jamaica

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Immunology and
Microbiology, Rush
University Medical Center,
Chicago (2005)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Opacity and Inhospitability:
developing a liberative
aesthetic syntax of Black
female embodiment with
land

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Training Stations: Towards an
earthen monument and
archive through reforestation
of historical familial land -
King, D. R. (2021), Deborah
Anzinger: An Unlikely Birth,
University of Pennsylvania,
Institute of Contemporary Art

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Anzinger will conduct interviews within a small group in the community Maroon Town, Jamaica who are working with her on the building of a sculpture work titled Training Station (an earthen monument and listening booth undertaken as part of the Soros Arts Fellowship). Interviews address themes of trust and truth [1]; land [2,3]; economic, cultural and familial dispossession [1, 4] and the psychosocial journey of the group with respect to the aforementioned themes since beginning the sculpture work. The interviews will form the basis of a new video work for the Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative in "Dispossessions in the Americas: The Extraction of Bodies, Land, and Heritage from the Conquest to the Present". Concurrently, the working group will engage in leading workshops aimed at bequeathing the knowledge in traditional building technologies regained through the fellowship project to a younger generation.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Paulo Ilich Bacca

Director of the Ethnic and Racial Discrimination Area
Dejusticia - Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Honors), University of Kent (2019); Advanced Degree in Human Rights, WCL American University (2014); Master in Philosophy of Law (Honors), National University of Colombia (2010); Postgraduate Specialization in Constitutional Law, National University of Colombia (2005), J.D. National University of Colombia (2004)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Indigenous Peoples Rights, Legal Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Comparative Historical and Ethnographic Methods

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Ilich's research proposes the idea of indigenizing international law by considering Indigenous law as law, recognizing at the same time, the constitutive relationship between Western and Indigenous accounts.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Bacca and Dr. Guzmán-Rodríguez propose to take advantage of Dejusticia's previous and current work with Indigenous and raizal peoples to explore the way in which constitutional law and administrative law can bring justice to the communities most affected by environmental degradation in Colombia. Our analysis will allow us to write down, as the main output of this project, a policy paper informed by a theoretical framework promoting the indigenization and decolonization of state law.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Margaret M. Bruchac

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Coordinator of Native American and Indigenous Studies, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

2007 PhD at University of Massachusetts Amherst; 2003 MA at University of Massachusetts Amherst; 1999 BA and Smith Scholar at Smith College

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Museum anthropology with an emphasis on material culture, cultural heritage, living history interpretation, and repatriation. Native American studies, including a focus on Indigenous oral traditions, colonial encounters, cultural recovery, and language revitalization. Indigenous Archaeologies, including historical memory, material analysis, decolonizing theory, and cultural resource management.

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Bruchac's current research examines early collaborations among Indigenous informants and anthropological collectors that influenced the collection, distribution and interpretation of cultural heritage in museums. Some of this research is summarized in her 2018 book – Savage Kin: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists (University of Arizona Press) – which received the inaugural Council for Museum Anthropology Book Award.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Bruchac's research team is focusing on 19th, 20th, and 21st century museological impacts on Indigenous lands, bodies, and cultural heritage in North America (the United States and Canada). She will also be collaborating with the Association on American Indian Affairs and others to survey best practices for the identification and recovery of cultural heritage. This work includes: identifying moments of cultural dispossession (e.g., through salvage anthropology); tracking the movements of cultural heritage (from tribal nations to museums, art galleries, and other collectors); and conceptualizing processes of recovery (studying emerging protocols for restoring object histories, repatriating objects and human remains, and otherwise decolonizing collections).



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Tania Bruguera

Artist, Cuba

For over 25 years, Tania Bruguera has created socially engaged performances and installations that examine the nature of political power structures and their effect on the lives of its constituency. Her research focuses on ways in which art can be applied to everyday political life; on the transformation of social affect into political effectiveness. Her long term projects are intensive interventions on the institutional structure of collective memory, education and politics. Her works often expose the social effects of political forces and present global issues of power, migration, censorship, repression, dispossession through participatory works that turn "viewers" into "citizens." As part of the "Dispossessions in the Americas" Just Futures Initiative, Estudio Bruguera will organize a series of performances in different countries in Latin America with workshops on political timing specific art.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Natalia Caniguan

Director of the Institute of Indigenous and Intercultural Studies,
Universidad de La Frontera

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Mg. Desarrollo Humano,
Local y Regional,
Universidad de La Frontera
(2016); Antropóloga,
Universidad Academia de
Humanismo Cristiano
(2007)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Anthropology of the State,
local governments and
Indigenous peoples

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Local Indigenous governments,
Covid and Indigenous and
Afro-descendant Peoples,
ethnography and monitoring
of the Constitutional
Convention in Chile.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

The Covid 19 pandemic has made visible and deepened the inequalities experienced by Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Chile, revealing the lack of reliable statistics regarding the health of PPII and Afro-descendants, as well as an absence of relevant public policies to face this pandemic.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Ricardo Castillo-Neyra

Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

BSc Veterinary Medicine, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (2006); DVM Veterinary Medicine, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (2007); Ph.D. Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2014); MSPH International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2014)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Eco-epidemiology of tropical diseases, infectious disease epidemiology

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

My research focuses on urban epidemics of zoonotic diseases. I use dog rabies outbreaks as a model system to understand the impact of human behavior, dog ecology, and public health measures on the persistence and emergence of diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Castillo-Neyra has focused on the inequality that poor Latin American communities experience when trying to access healthcare. Recently, Dr. Castillo-Neyra has been evaluating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on neglected tropical diseases, a group of diseases that affect the poorest of the poor, using dog-mediated human rabies elimination programs as a model.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



Tulia G. Falletti

**Class of 1965 Endowed Term Professor of Political Science;
Director of Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies; Senior
Fellow Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics**

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Political Science,
Northwestern University
(2003); B.A. Sociology,
University of Buenos Aires
(1994)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Comparative Politics, Latin
American Politics,
Democratization, Federalism
and Decentralization,
Community Participation,
Qualitative Research
Methods, Historical
Institutionalism

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Falletti is researching the articulation of Indigenous peoples' demands regarding territorial claims, rights to prior consultation, living well, and plurinationality; and collaborating with two non-governmental health organizations to assess the effectiveness of mobile health care for Indigenous women and children in remote rural areas.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

As the principal investigator of the Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" Just Futures Project, Dr. Falletti meets with all of the country sub-teams to organize the scope of work and project timelines. She leads the Maps-IT team, which is researching geographic location over time, population over time, migration patterns, and merging or mixing with other Indigenous groups. The information derived from this research will be used to create a map that shows the territorial realities for the entire Western Hemisphere, including the island nations, denoting current reservation lands, ancestral territories, and connections to other tribal nations today. The map will capture and narrate the territorial dispossession changes taking place from 1492 to the present and the resulting restorative justice demands.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS**

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Ann Farnsworth-Alvear

Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D., Duke University (1994);
M.A., Duke University (1989);
B.A., College of William and
Mary (1986)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

After a book that focused on gender as lived by working-class women in Medellín, Colombia ([Dulcinea in the Factory](#)), Dr. Farnsworth-Alvear was part of a team that compiled [The Colombia Reader](#), currently being produced in a Spanish-language edition.

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

She is currently working on a book about the enclave economy built by the South American Gold and Platinum company in the Colombian Chocó, with a focus on harms caused by the industrial mining of alluvial gravels in the 1910s-1960s and the ironies of nationalization in the 1970s, which resulted in more rather than less impoverishment for local people.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Farnsworth-Alvear is part of the Grupo Ethnohistoria del Chocó, an initiative of the Fundación Muntú-Bantú (FMB). Building on the community-level museum maintained by the FMB, this group will develop a curated online exhibition (digital) of the ethnohistory of the Colombian Chocó. This digital exhibition showcase our research on land titling conflicts in the 19th and 20th centuries and will produce a downloadable, book-length narrative history of the region, as outlined below. Both the digital exhibition and the land conflicts data set will be archived within the larger Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" project.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Daniela Fernandes Alarcon

Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" Postdoctoral
Researcher, 2021-2022

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Social Anthropology,
National Museum, Federal
University of Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil, 2020; M.A. Social
Sciences, University of
Brasília, Brazil, 2013

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Indigenous peoples and
territorial rights,
dispossession and territorial
recovery, socio-
environmental conflicts,
Indigenous diasporas,
collective action and socio-
territorial dynamics, policies
for Indigenous peoples and
traditional communities,
environmental policies

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

The violations of Indigenous
rights under the Bolsonaro
government and the strategies
developed by the Tupinambá of
Serra do Padeiro (southern
Bahia), among other peoples,
to defend their territory, while
sustaining and deepening their
project of living well

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Daniela is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the "Dispossessions in the Americas" project. She is focusing on territorial dispossessions of Indigenous peoples in Brazil from the colonial encounter until the present.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Andrew J. Greenlee

Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

B.A. Grinnell College, 2004
M.S. University of Iowa, 2006
Ph.D. University of Illinois at Chicago, 2012

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Dr. Greenlee's research examines residential mobility and neighborhood change processes, with a focus on equity implications of moves. Past work has examined mobility patterns within the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, the relationship between long-run neighborhood change trajectories and mobility, and the consequences of environmental gentrification on low-income neighborhoods.

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Greenlee's current research examines neighborhood and metropolitan opportunity structures through residential mobility processes. Recent work has examined lessons learned for covid-19 recovery from the Great Recession and housing crisis, and estimating the relationship between eviction moratoria and prevention of the spread of covid.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Greenlee is working with Prof. Michael Levy (U Penn) to examine housing instability related to primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Diana E. Guzmán-Rodríguez

Deputy Director at Dejusticia - Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society; Associate Professor at Universidad Nacional (Colombia)

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD), Stanford University (2020); Master in International Legal Studies (JSM), Stanford University (2015); Master in Philosophy of Law, National University of Colombia (2010) Postgraduate Specialization in Constitutional Law, National University of Colombia (2005); J.D., National University of Colombia (2004)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Dr. Guzmán's research has focused on Gender Studies, Legal reforms, Transitional Justice in Latin America, Latin American Studies, and sociology of law. My activism has been largely oriented to fight gender inequality and promote LGBTQ+ and women's rights

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Guzmán's research explores the ways in which social and economic inequalities are re-shaping transitional justice interventions in Latin America, pushing for the expansion of the transitional justice field.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Guzmán-Rodríguez and Dr. Paulo Ilich Bacca propose to take advantage of Dejusticia's previous and current work with Indigenous and raizal peoples to explore the way in which constitutional law and administrative law can bring justice to the communities most affected by environmental degradation in Colombia. Our analysis will allow us to write down, as the main output of this project, a policy paper informed by a theoretical framework promoting the indigenization and decolonization of state law.



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Michael G. Hanchard

Gustav C. Kuemmerle Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Marginalized Populations Project

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Politics, Princeton University (1991); M.A. International Relations, New School for Social Research (1985); A.B. International Relations, Tufts University (1981)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Comparative Politics (Nationalism, Race and Ethnicity, Social Movements, Political Culture), Africana Studies, Latin American Studies, and Political Theory

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Examining the relationship between dispossession, inequality and quilombos

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

As part of a larger Brazil team, Paulo César Ramos, Marcia Lima and Prof. Hanchard are examining the relationship between dispossession, inequality and quilombos. They are in partnership with several activist organizations and research universities in Brazil (specifically the state of São Paulo) to research and render more visible how the debate over quilombos resonates with issues of reparations, historical legacy and landownership, and how enslavement was the first stage in two related processes of dispossession. First, in terms of bodies of Afro-descendants extracted from various Indigenous populations of Africa, and second, forced labor that produced commodities for national, local and international markets, coffee, sugar and wood being three of the most prominent examples.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Jonathan D. Katz

Associate Professor of Practice, History of Art and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D., Northwestern University (Chicago) 1995, M.A. University of Chicago, 1983, George Washington University (DC) 1981

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Queer studies, art history, cultural studies, gender studies, american studies. Katz remains a queer activist, having founded or co-founded a number of queer organizations and museums.

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Katz is currently curating an exhibition, traveling internationally, called The First Homosexuals, about the art produced immediately after the word "homosexual" was coined in 1869. He's also curating another exhibition on sexuality as a means of artistic dissidence under Latin American dictatorship, and writing a book about the role of sexuality and the body in the art of the 60s and 70s in, among other regions, Latin America.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Besides his scholarly contributions, co-PI Jonathan D. Katz will perform a curatorial role in this collaboration. Among other curatorial roles, in this project Katz will help inaugurate the arts' specific activities; the grant competitions for artists, performers, and curators throughout the hemisphere; and the national and international museum exhibitions.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Richard Leventhal

Executive Director of the Penn Cultural Heritage Center of the Penn Museum; Professor Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D., Harvard University
(1979)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Applied Archaeology, Complex Societies and Social Organization, Indigenous Studies, Material Cultures Museums, Monuments, and Heritage Studies, State Power and Political Transformation, and Violence and Social Conflict

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

- The Tihosuco Heritage Preservation and Community Development Project
- Q'eqchi' Maya of southern Belize

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Leventhal is currently working on two projects that are tied to the "Dispossessions in the Americas" project. The Tihosuco Heritage Preservation and Community Development Project (Quintana Roo, Mexico; 2011-present) is an ongoing collaboration between local partners in Tihosuco and the Penn Cultural Heritage Center of the Penn Museum. Together with the Penn CHC, the partners are committed to exploring diverse aspects of local cultural patrimony and evolving Maya identity. The second project Dr. Leventhal is leading is the Q'eqchi' Maya of southern Belize are in the process of creating, with the Government of Belize, a large-scale Maya homeland controlled collectively by the Q'eqchi' people. The Penn Cultural Heritage Center of the Penn Museum has been approached to create a community museum in the village of Indian Creek located within the proposed homeland. Indian Creek is the location of an ancient Maya site that attracts several thousand tourists each year – but this brings little benefit to the local community.



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Michael Z. Levy

Associate Professor of Epidemiology in Biostatistics and
Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

B.A. Philosophy and Biology,
Amherst College (1998);
Ph.D. Population Biology,
Ecology and Evolution,
Emory University (2007)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Insect vectors of infectious
diseases, specifically
Chagas disease,
Housing policy,
Bed bugs

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

The heart of Dr. Levy's research program is the University of Pennsylvania / Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Zoonotic disease research laboratory in Arequipa, Peru. He founded and co-directs this laboratory. Working with the Ministry of Health, they have helped control a Chagas disease epidemic in a city of one million inhabitants. and are working to stem an emerging epidemic of canine Rabies.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Prof. Levy's research aims to estimate the impact of evictions and eviction moratoria on the burden of COVID-19. I am also teaching 'Parallel Plagues: Infectious diseases and their control in Peru and the US.



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Francisca de la Maza

Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and
Assistant Director of CIIR

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Doctora en Antropología,
CIESAS México (2007);
Maestra en Antropología
Social, CIESAS México (2003);
Licenciatura en Antropología,
Universidad de Chile (1996)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Ethnography of the State,
Indigenous Tourism, Public
Policies, Interculturality

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Tourism and Indigenous
peoples, COVID and
Indigenous peoples and
Afro-descendants in Chile,
ethnography and
monitoring of the
Constitutional Convention
in Chile

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

The Covid 19 pandemic has made visible and deepened the inequalities experienced by Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Chile, revealing the lack of reliable statistics regarding the health of PPII and Afro-descendants, as well as an absence of relevant public policies to face this pandemic.



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Roberto Mamani Mamani

Artist, Bolivia

Roberto Mamani Mamani is a renowned Aymara from Bolivia. Mamani Mamani's extraordinary and beautiful artwork vividly depicts symbols and messages of the Andean cosmivision or worldview, conveying the strength and pride of the community and commitment to sustainable, peaceful and spiritual living. He also weaves in historical themes such as the impact of colonization and how the Aymara-Quechua community, after years of marginalization and oppression, have fought for an empowered collective identity in the region. For the "Dispossession in the Americas" project, Roberto will create a mural in collaboration with Mural Arts Philadelphia.



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Carmen Medeiros

Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute for Development Research (CIDES-UMSA), Traveling Faculty at the International Honors Program

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Cultural Anthropology, City University of New York (2005); Licencié en Sociologie (1981); Certificat en Etudes Théâtrales, Université Catholique de Louvain (1982)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Latin America with particular emphasis on the anthropological critique of development and modernity/coloniality, struggles for citizenship and modern discourses on race and mestizaje and feminist theory and postcolonial debates

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Medeiros divides her time between teaching as visiting professor at the graduate institute for development research (CIDES-UMSA) and continuing her research on the intersection of coloniality and development in the context of the 'proceso de cambio' in Bolivia.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Dr. Medeiros is the principal investigator and coordinator for the Bolivia Team. She is working to contribute to the examination of the "dispossession of territory, and the bodily and cultural dispossessions that followed in its wake.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

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Carlos Motta

Artist, Colombia

Carlos Motta is a Colombian-born, New York-based multi-disciplinary artist. Through his work Motta engages with the social conditions and political struggles of sexual, gender, and ethnic minority communities in order to challenge normative discourses through strategies of visibility and self-representation. An unofficial historian of untold narratives and an archivist of repressed histories, Motta is committed to in-depth research on the struggles of post-colonial subjects and societies with an emphasis on histories of queer culture, activism, and dispossession. Mott will be contributing to a two-part project with historian, Pablo Bedoya, which will be commissioned by Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá - MAMBO, for the exhibition "Carlos Motta: Stigma."



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



Paulo Ramos

Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" Postdoctoral
Researcher, 2021-2022

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

PhD in Sociology from the University of São Paulo. MA in Sociology at the Federal University of São Carlos in São Paulo, Brazil.

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Racism, Police Violence, Black Genocide, Afro-Brazilian Movements, Black Memory

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

From 2019 to 2020, Paulo was a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Africana Studies where he worked on the Marginalized Populations Project.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Paulo is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the "Dispossessions in the Americas" project. He is focusing on dispossessions of territory and bodies of Afro-descendant populations in Brazil from the colonial encounter until the present, including, but not limited to, due to police brutality or genocide.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
AMERICAS**

Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



María Paula Saffon Sanín

Researcher, IIJ-UNAM

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Ph.D. Political Science,
Columbia University (2015);
Master Political Science,
Columbia University (2011);
Law Undergraduate and
LLM, University of los Andes
(2005)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Comparative historical
institutionalism, empirical
legal studies, social
movements, ethnic and
peasant groups, transitional
and distributive justice,
violence, democracy,
constitutionalism

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

History of land dispossessions
and mobilization against them
in Latin America; mobilization
and countermobilization
against impunity in Latin
America; populism and
redistribution; extreme and
structural violences against
indigenous and Afro-Mexican
women

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Project Documenta Violencias: Building non-official narratives of violence and justice and reparation claims from the perspective of victims and survivors organizations. It seeks to propose and apply an intersectional, geographical and historical, and collaborative methodology to document the patterns of violence and their multidimensional impacts in different regions of Mexico. The project emphasizes not only extreme forms of violence but also structural, institutional and everyday forms of violence, as well as the relations amongst them. It also aims at registering not only the grievances and damages that violence generates, but also the multiple forms of resistance against them that victims and survivors develop, which render them political actors in the quest for justice, truth, reparations and deeper transformations. The project seeks to provide a general panorama of the multiple forms of violence and their interactions and impacts in particular regions of Mexico, but with a particular focus on the experience of victims, survivors and human rights defenders who are women and belong to Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. Moreover, because the Covid-19 pandemic likely added an additional layer onto extremely adverse conditions for Indigenous and Afro-Mexican populations, the project attempts to understand the ruptures and continuities of such violences and their effects on the lives of local populations resulting from the pandemic.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Jorge Sánchez

Arts Coordinator, Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas"

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

BA, Tufts University (2009);
J.D., Rutgers School of Law
(2012); MFA, Creative Writing,
New York University (2022)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Latinx, HIV/AIDS,
Queer/Cuir perspectives,
Sexual Dissidence

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

RAÍZ, an exhibition at the
Center for Contemporary Art
in Quito, Ecuador Co-curated
with Eduardo Carrera. Arts
Coordinator and organizer of
exhibitions for the Penn-Mellon
Initiative.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Jorge Sánchez is a Puerto Rican artist and writer acting as the Arts Coordinator for the Penn-Mellon initiative, "Dispossessions in the Americas." He obtained a scholarship from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona (MACBA) to participate in the Independent Studies Program (PEI) in 2019. His writings have been published in La Revista del Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico, Anomaly Journal in its edition 'Radical: Avant Garde Poets of Color', the Queens Museum, Journal of New Jersey Poets, among others. He has performed his poetry in various venues in New York including CUE and ISCP. In 2019, he managed the creative studio of visual and political artist Tania Bruguera. Last December, for Day (With)out Art, he collaborated with artist Lucia Egaña on her short film, Female Disappearance Syndrome, which was shown at the Whitney Museum as part of the programming of HIV/AIDS activist organization Visual AIDS. He is a member of the artistic collectives 'queer-crisis' in the Helix Queer Performance Network (HQPN) and 'undetected,' both facilitated by Avram Finkelstein, artist of the collective 'ACT UP' and 'Gran Fury.' He lives with HIV and his poetry, photographs, and curatorial projects address Latinx, HIV/AIDS, and Queer/Cuir perspectives, sexual dissidence.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



Radek Sánchez Patzy

Professor and researcher, Interdisciplinary Institute at Tilcara, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, University of Buenos Aires

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

Licenciado en Sociología, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (2001); Magister en Antropología Social, Universidad de Buenos Aires (2019)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Sounds, music, sacredness and ritual ceremonies in the highlands of Argentina and Bolivia; History of native jujeña music and its articulations with Bolivian music; Social stratification and hierarchies expressed in Andean music and festivals; Maps of sound and musical flows in the Andean world, in historical perspective

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

The Mtro. Sánchez participates in the UBACYT research project: "On objects, images and ontologies: an interdisciplinary approach to the role of NO plastic production. Argentine in the constitution of cosmological orders". He is part of the editorial committee of the magazine "Estudios Sociales del NOA, Nueva Serie", of the IIT, FFyL-UBA and also works as a cultural manager.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

" Antaras, pifilcas, ayarachis y sikus, los sonidos que no paran de silbar ". At the same time, he attempts to review the importance of the Andean pan flutes, from the ceramic antaras of Paracas and Nas, through the lithic antaras and pifilcas of the southern highlands, to the use of these same instruments today. It is interesting to establish a dialogue between the archaeological findings with the ethnographic record, to deepen the current practice of these instruments by indigenous and peasant communities in different geographical points of the Andean world. Is it possible to propose a link between these pre-Hispanic pan flutes with their contemporary versions? Would we be facing a case that allows us to reflect on the creative resistance to the spoils, material and symbolic, carried out by the European conquerors? Certain sound peculiarities, an aesthetic search that underlines the sound rich in harmonics that insists on the vibratory and beating, on the double sound, "cracked" and that "whistles" (whistles), allow us to propose as a working hypothesis a link that would not have been cut to this day, in phenomena such as the bands of sikus that make pilgrimage to the Abra de Punta Corral in Jujuy or Los Bailes de Chinos in the Norte Chico and central Chile.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



Deborah A. Thomas

R. Jean Brownlee Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Experimental Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania

● PROFESSIONAL DEGREES ●

MA, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, NYU (1994); Ph.D. Anthropology, NYU (2000)

● RESEARCH INTERESTS ●

Sovereignty, Cultural Politics, Imperialism's Afterlives, Transnationalism and Diaspora, Race and Gender, Performance and Popular Culture, Multi-Modality

● CURRENT RESEARCH ●

Dr. Thomas is interested in the effects of the intensified Chinese presence in Jamaica, particularly in terms of the extent to which this may herald a displacement of earlier colonial and imperial Western hemispheric relations. She also began a new film project on the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church in Jamaica.

● CONTRIBUTION TO "DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS" RESEARCH PROJECT ●

Deborah Thomas will work with Kingston-based Deborah Anzinger, artist and founder of New Local Space (NLS), on a project that documents forms of land dispossession and attempts toward restoration in two spaces in Jamaica. Through forms of artistic and ethnographic engagement, Anzinger and Thomas will create a range of text-based, web-based, and artistic materials that will elucidate the ways deceit, disease, and warfare have shaped historical and contemporary forms of dispossession and violence within the anglophone Caribbean. These materials will also highlight mechanisms of reparation and repair, toward the broader cultivation of just futures.



DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Penn-Mellon Just Futures Initiative



Charlotte Williams

**Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" Graduate Fellow,
Anthropology**

Charlotte is a Ben Franklin, Presidential Endowment, and Sundry Gifts Graduate fellow pursuing a PhD in Anthropology, with a focus on cultural heritage and the history of archaeology. She completed her undergraduate degree at Princeton University in anthropology with certificates in archaeology, Latin American studies, and urban studies. As a Gates Cambridge Scholar, she completed her master's degree at the University of Cambridge in archaeology, in the Museums and Heritage studies track. She has held internships and research positions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Penn Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. Charlotte's dissertation research investigates how American imperial projects ranging from the United Fruit Company to the Panama Canal used archaeology as a way to manage territory in the early 20th century, and seeks to show how both harvests and heritage were extracted using the same people, labor regimes, and infrastructural systems. Her research has been supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the Summer Institute for Museum Anthropology at the Smithsonian. As a graduate fellow, Charlotte will collaborate in the making of a map of territorial, body, and heritage dispossessions, particularly as it refers to Central America and to the effects of tools and transportation in the making of territory.



**DISPOSSESSIONS IN THE
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Erin Wrightson

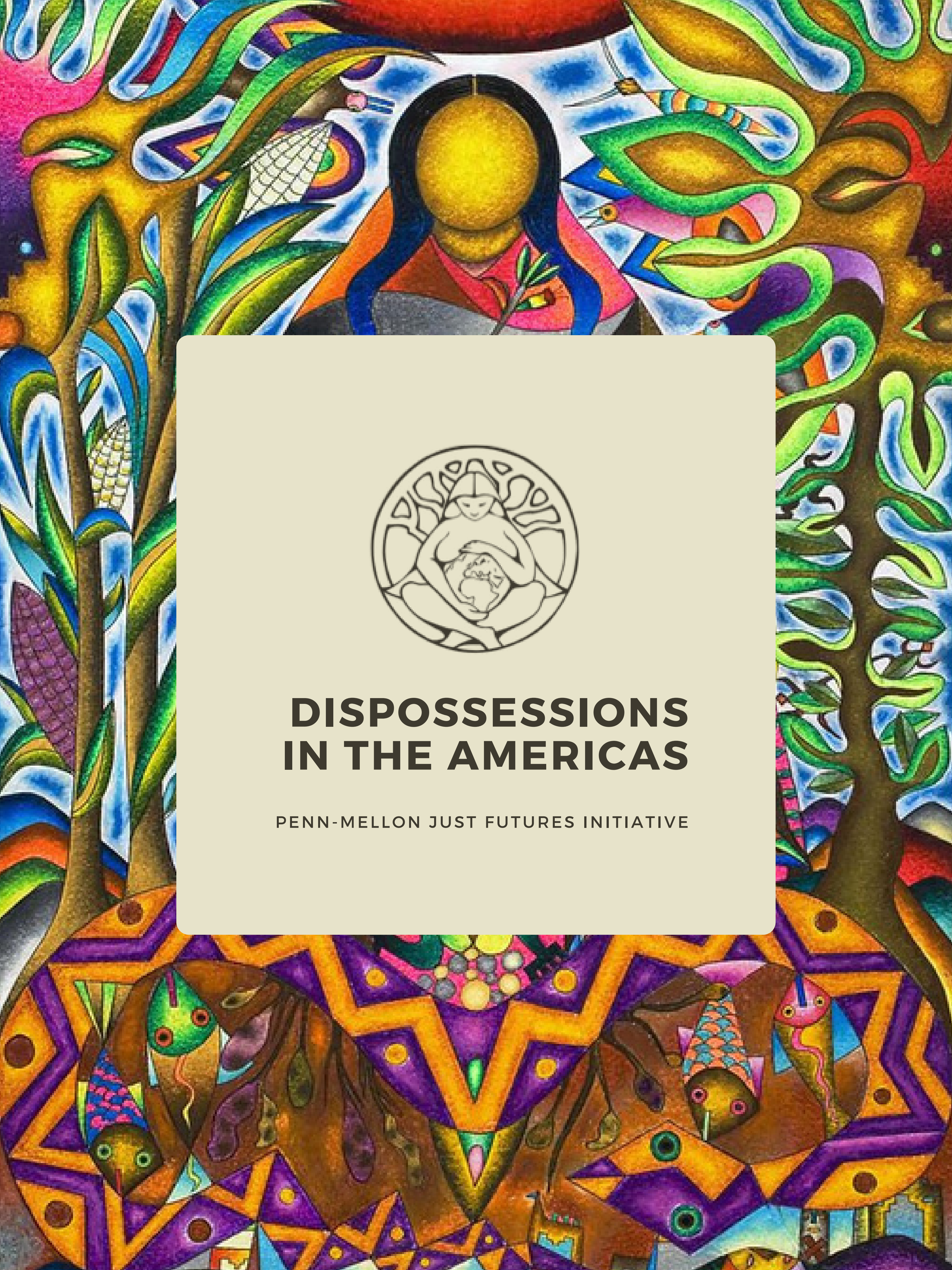
Penn-Mellon "Dispossessions in the Americas" Graduate Fellow,
History of Art

Erin Wrightson is a PhD Candidate in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania. Her doctoral work addresses representations of ecology, land, and landscape in the global early modern period, focusing particularly on networks in Brazil between Indigenous groups and Portuguese, French, and Dutch colonizers. She received a bachelor's degree in art history and French from Washington University in Saint Louis in 2013 and a master's degree in French colonial art and architecture from Williams College in 2017, where she conducted research on city planning and water management in nineteenth-century Vietnam. As a graduate fellow, Erin will collaborate in the making of a map of territorial, body, and heritage dispossessions, particularly as it refers to representations of the Americas and of the Brazilian territories and forest in during the 16th and 17th centuries.



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