The Foro

Each year, the students, faculty, and alumni of Carleton College’s Latin American Studies Program come together to share in an academic experience that brings to campus a major topic, event, and country of Latin America.

Originally designed as a capstone experience for the students of the program, we have expanded the Foro to include our alumni and the program’s entire faculty to give it a truly communal sense. The Foro also provides the Carleton community with the opportunity to participate in a major event involving Latin America. This year we highlight issues of labor across many Latin American countries.

All Events Open to the Public

*Dinner and lunch will be hosted for alumni, students, faculty, and special guests of the Latin American Studies Program at Carleton College.

Please RSVP for dinner and lunch to Mary Tatge by April 5 (email below).

For further questions, contact this year’s Foro organizers Héctor Melo, Juan Diego Prieto, and Sarah Kennedy.

Contact Us

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Thank you to our sponsors at Carleton College, including the Latin American Studies Program, the Office of the Provost, The Gary Wynia Memorial Lectureship in Latin American Political Economy, and the Spanish Department.

Foro Latinoamericano 2023

Discourses and Practices of Labor in Latin America

April 21–22, 2023

Carleton College
Foro on Labor

This year’s Foro is on labor in Latin America. How do people talk about work? What do words signal? What do they say about workers’ identity, race, gender, and social status? How have organized industrial workers and informal street vendors in Latin America described their labor? What words, frames, and discourses do they use, and what impact does this have on their organizing and collective action?

We aim to examine the evolution of labor in Latin American, from colonial times to the present, through its organization and resistances, and its representations in different media and discourse.

Foro Schedule
Alumni Guest House Meeting Room

Friday, April 21

5:00 pm  Welcome
Dr. Michelle Mattson
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carleton College

5:15 pm  "Skilled' and 'Unskilled' Labor in the Colonial Latin American Mining Industry"
Dr. Allison Bigelow
Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia

6:30 pm  Reception
Dinner to Follow*

Saturday, April 22

9:00 am  Coffee and Rolls

9:30 am  “The Strike Film: The View from South America”
Dr. Sarah Ann Wells
Associate Professor of English, University of Wisconsin, Madison

10:30 am  “Why Informal Workers Organize”
Dr. Calla Hummel
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Miami

11:30 am  Discussion
Lunch to Follow*

SPEAKERS

Allison Bigelow is Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia.

She uses language-centered methods that document the ideas and practices of marginalized actors, such as women, Indigenous, and African diasporic knowledge holders. She is the author of *Mining Language, Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World* (2020).

Sarah Ann Wells is Associate Professor of Literary Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

She specializes in Latin American literature and cinema in a global frame. She is the author of *Media Laboratories: Late Modernist Authorship in South America*, winner of the LASA Southern Cone Prize for Best Book in the Humanities. Her current book project is entitled: *The Labor of Images: The Strike Film, World Cinema, and the Collective Encounter*.

Calla Hummel (she/her/xy/xyr) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Miami. Dr. Hummel studies why and how marginalized people organize and negotiate with their governments and is the author of *Why Information Workers Organize: Contentious Politics, Enforcement, and the State* (2021).