



Cotopaxi Volcano, Ecuador



Amazon Rain Forest, Brazil



Beach, The Caribbean

DEPARTMENT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION STUDIES

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WG A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023

Denationalization and Statelessness

//Page 4

Distinguished
Speakers

//Page 5

Engaging & Learning in Ecuador Global
Practicum

//Page 7



The Latin American & The Caribbean Working Group

A year in review



Greetings from the LACWG!

As I approach the culmination of my academic journey, I am faced with the decision to step down from my role as President of the LACWG. This juncture, however, heralds the exciting establishment of a fresh leadership team poised to chart the course for the LACWG's future endeavors. Kim Thompson assumes the mantle of President, supported by Kadianne Pinard as the Treasurer.

Kim Thompson is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in CAR, emphasized by a remarkable academic background encompassing three master's degrees: Conflict Resolution, Human Resources, and Church Ministries, complemented by Pastoral Counseling. She recently completed a certificate program in Negotiation and Difficult Conversations at Harvard University. Beyond academia, she holds influential positions as the Director of Human Resources at Equity Group of Companies and as CEO of Equity Trust Bahamas Limited.

Complementing this expertise is **Kadianne Pinard**, a dedicated Ph.D. candidate in CAR with a foundational base in public administration, she possesses associate and bachelor's degrees, alongside an MBA

specializing in human resources. Accumulating over fifteen years of hands-on experience as a Human Resources Practitioner, Mrs. Pinard boasts credentials including a PHR from the Human Resources Certification Institute and a SHRM-CP from the Society of Human Resources. Her unique journey from Jamaica to the US at the age of twenty-one has endowed her with a rich perspective, guiding her commitment to effective work strategies and meaningful interpersonal connections.

In rotation with our core team, and a select group of enthusiastic students, a group of esteemed alumni now constitutes the LACWG Advisory Board. Their dedication to our shared mission is truly commendable. It is paramount to underscore that the committee's invaluable work remains under the sagacious guidance of Professor Bastidas, our valued academic advisor.

As I gracefully step away from my leadership role, I wish to extend profound gratitude to Dr. Bastidas for entrusting me with the honor of leading this exceptional group. This experience has afforded me the privilege of orchestrating events that celebrate Latin and Caribbean nations while fostering impactful partnerships, such as our collaboration with the distinguished International Center for Leadership and Conflict Studies (ICLCS). The profound growth and learning I have gleaned from this role are immeasurable. With unwavering conviction, I implore the department to sustain its resolute support for the LACWG's pursuits. Such backing empowers students to amass invaluable real-world experience, poised to indelibly shape their future endeavors.

Warm regards,

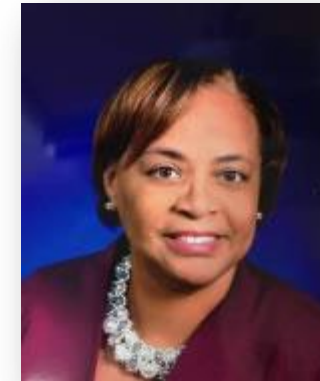
Roland

Mission of the LACWG

The Latin America and The Caribbean Working Group (LACWG) is dedicated to increasing awareness of current issues and conflicts within Latin America, including the Caribbean Nations. Our objective is to utilize the LACWG as a dynamic platform that fosters partnerships among NSU students, faculty, alumni, and individuals from diverse Latin American countries. Through these collaborations, we seek to stimulate research, initiate projects, and employ nonviolent techniques to cultivate and advance peace in the region. Embracing the richness of cultural diversity and a wide array of perspectives, the LACWG actively promotes multicultural engagement. Our unwavering commitment is to ensure that your involvement in this group becomes an exceptional and enriching experience.



The LACWG is actively seeking individuals who are eager to explore and develop partnership initiatives across several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. This student-driven endeavor is intended to align with ongoing faculty or departmental projects, ensuring the sustainability of these initiatives. Tailoring our efforts based on the specific interests of each project, LACWG members will collaboratively devise comprehensive action plans to guide our endeavors throughout the year. For more information please contact:



Kim Thompson
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President



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Treasurer

Our Goals

- ✓ Cultivate a new generation of scholars and practitioners dedicated to addressing the challenges of peace and conflict resolution in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Establish partnerships that facilitate learning, research, and the exchange of knowledge..
- ✓ Provide NSU students, faculty, and alumni with opportunities to gain practical experience through hands-on research, fieldwork, and immersive global courses in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Foster networks and encourage multicultural interaction among NSU students, faculty, alumni, and various communities across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Organize conferences centered around pertinent issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Deliver presentations on a diverse range of topics related to conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Engage in thoughtful debates concerning Latin American conflicts and the Caribbean.



Become part of our
Working Group

Denationalization and Statelessness: A Critical Look at Dominican Naturalization Law 169-14 Nine Years Later

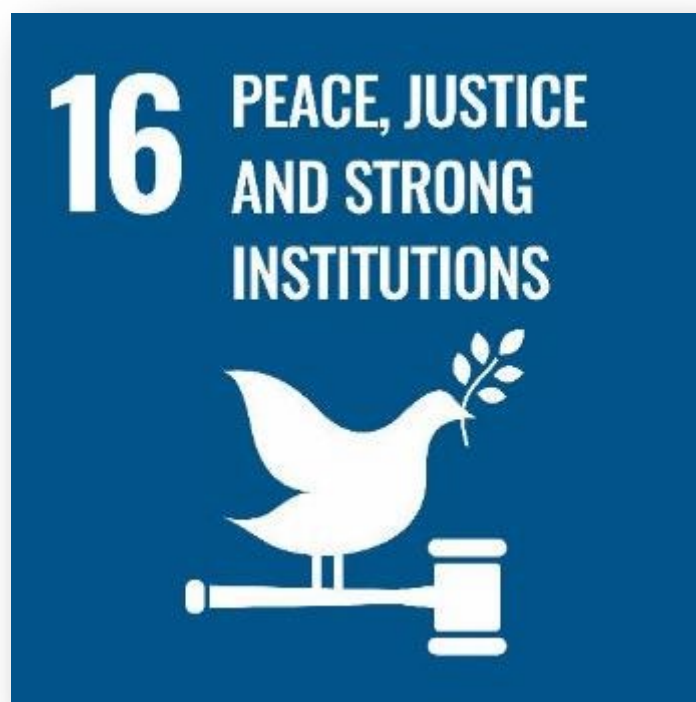
LACWG First Multilingual Webinar

LACW organized a significant webinar titled "Denationalization and Statelessness: A Critical Examination of Dominican Naturalization Law 169-14 Nine Years Later," which took place on **Friday, June 2nd, 2023**. During this seminar, a thorough analysis was conducted to identify the factors contributing to the law's shortcomings, while also shedding light on the ongoing challenges faced by stateless individuals. The sponsors and co-sponsors of this impactful event brought together a distinguished panel consisting of scholars, activists, and individuals directly affected by Judgment 168-13, as well as beneficiaries of the naturalization law.

The generous support for this webinar came from The Latin American and Caribbean Working Group, We Are All Dominican, and Reconocid.do, while The Rice University Center for African and African American

Studies (CAAAS) and the International Center for Leadership and Conflict Studies (ICLCS) were essential co-sponsors. Notably, this marked the first time that DCRS LACWG organized a seminar with simultaneous translation in English, Spanish, and Creole, highlighting their commitment to broadening accessibility and fostering inclusivity.

We had an outstanding panel and moderators, as well as a superb team of simultaneous translators.



Ana María Belique is a founding member and leader of Reconoci. do, a movement that mobilizes and empowers Dominicans of Haitian descent and campaigns for equality and citizenship rights. Her activism focuses on the fight for the restitution of the right to nationality of Dominicans of Haitian descent affected by ruling 168-13 of the Dominican Constitutional Court. She is the founder of MUÑECAS NEGRAS RD initiative, which offers a learning space to break the patterns imposed on black Dominican women.

Dr. Ernst Pierre Vincent is an expert in global conflict. He holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Resolution Studies, a Master of Science in Leadership, and a Master of Theology. He has conducted research with Dominicans of Haitian descent, human rights activists, and religious leaders in studies exploring the

persistent dilemmas of stateless people in the Dominican Republic, the role of the Church in the struggle for racial reconciliation and social justice in the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States. He is a human rights defender and member of the Conference of Haitian Pastors (COPAH) executive committee.

Dr. Amariyls Estrella is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and a faculty affiliate for the Center for African and African American Studies at Rice University. Her research interests broadly focus on the intersections of race and gender within transnational movements, Black Latin American and Latinx identity, as well as human rights and anti-racist activism. She is also a founding member of We Are All Dominican (WAAD.)

LACWG Distinguished Guest Speakers Series

Thanks to the diligent efforts and networking led by Dr. Roland Joseph, we had the privilege of hosting a distinguished group of scholars who delivered captivating lectures. Meet some of our speakers...



Structural Violence and Popular Protest in Latin America. By **Dr. Glodel Mezilas** is a distinguished scholar with a profound focus on Latin American and Caribbean studies. Holding a Ph.D. in Latin American studies from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and a master's degree in international studies from Complutense University of Madrid, his academic pedigree is impressive. With dual bachelor's degrees in political science and philosophy from Haitian universities, he brings an interdisciplinary perspective to his work. Dr. Mezilas is an accomplished educator, teaching at various Haitian universities, and serves as the Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Haitian Chancellery's Master's Program. His 18 academic articles and 12 books, mostly related to Latin American and Caribbean studies, contribute significantly to the academic discourse in this field, making him a prominent figure in international academia.



Latin America and the Caribbean in the Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. By **Dr. Lawrence Wittner**, Professor Emeritus of History at the State University of New York. Dr. Wittner is a former co-editor of the journal *Peace & Change*, he is the author or editor of thirteen books, including *Rebels Against War*, *American Intervention in Greece*, *Peace Action*, *Working for Peace*, and *Justice* (his memoirs), and the award-winning scholarly trilogy, *The Struggle Against the Bomb*, which is available in abbreviated form as *Confronting the Bomb*. His approximately four hundred published articles and book reviews have appeared in journals, magazines, newspapers, and online publications around the world. He has given lectures about peace, war, and nuclear disarmament in dozens of nations and has delivered addresses about such issues at the Norwegian Nobel Institute and at the United Nations.



The Nonkilling Approach within Peace Studies: Human Nature and the Yanomami of the Amazon. By **Dr. Leslie E. Sponsel**, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, University of Hawai'i. Dr. Sponsel was one of the founding members of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute of Peace at UHM and a contributor to the development of the independent Center for Global Nonkilling. Also, he was a founding member and the first chair of the Committee for Human Rights of the American Anthropological Association. He studied the behavioral ecology of animal predation by Yanomami and other Indigenes in the Venezuelan Amazon. Thereafter he turned to Thailand for research on Buddhist ecology and environmentalism, more recently on sacred caves. Among his books are *The Anthropology of Peace and Nonviolence*, *Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution*, *Nonkilling Anthropology: A New Approach to the Study of Human Nature, War, and Peace*, and *Yanomami in the Amazon: Toward a More Ethical Anthropology Beyond Othering*.



The Origin of the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict, the Negotiation Process, and the Cuban Missiles Crisis. By **Dr. Joseph Gerson**, who has recently participated in Track II discussions about possible diplomatic solutions to prevent and end this conflict. Dr. Gerson has briefed Congressional staff, written articles, organized webinars, and given numerous talks and interviews related to this war. Dr. Gerson is President of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security (CPDCS), Vice-President of the International Peace Bureau, Co-chair of the Committee for a Sane U.S.-China Policy, Co-Convener of the International Peace and Planet Network and a member of the No to War/No to NATO Steering Committee. He educates and organizes at local, national, and international levels for peaceful and just alternatives to U.S. foreign and military policies, concentrating on great power tensions, nuclear weapons, the impacts of U.S. foreign military bases, and Pentagon spending.

Fun and Interesting Facts about Latin America and The Caribbean



- ✓ There are 77 uncontacted tribes living in the Amazon Jungle.
- ✓ Colombia produces more than 90% of the world's emeralds.
- ✓ Mexico is sinking between 10 and 20 inches every year.
- ✓ Fish raining from the sky! Weird as it may sound, this phenomenon exists in Yoro, Honduras.
- ✓ Rio de Janeiro Carnival is the world's largest street festival.
- ✓ Lake Titicaca is the largest lake in South America and straddles both Peru and Bolivia.
- ✓ Costa Rica has been ranked as the happiest country in the world.
- ✓ Ecuador was the first country in the world to give nature constitutional rights that can be defended in court.
- ✓ Darwin came up with his theory of evolution while visiting the Galapagos Islands.
- ✓ The Uyuni in Bolivia is the world's largest salt flats.
- ✓ Jamaica has the highest concentration of churches in the world.
- ✓ The Bahamas were British colony from 1783 - 1973 when they gained independence.
- ✓ The world's deepest blue hole is found in the Bahamas and the world's third largest barrier reef around Andros Island.
- ✓ Lake Nicaragua is the home to sweet water sharks.
- ✓ Panama is the only country in the world you can see sunrise in the Pacific and sunset in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ✓ Haiti was the first postcolonial country to be officially run by former slaves.

Ecuador Global Practicum



Global Practicum Ecuador 2022

The Summer 2022 Ecuador Global Practicum equipped students with both theoretical and practical skills to understand the intricate interplay between sustainable development and conflict transformation. The course was firmly rooted in the principles of interdisciplinary conflict resolution, promoting engagement through research, learning, and real-world implementation. The journey was particularly exceptional as our itinerary underwent multiple changes due to unforeseen upheavals in the country. In times of conflict, we demonstrated our expertise by assessing the situation, identifying potential risks, devising alternative plans with precautions, and persevering on our expedition.

We arrived in the serene Vilcabamba Valley, where students fully immersed themselves in the local community and interacted with its residents. The course objectives were successfully achieved, and the students had an exceptional experience!



