

WORKSHOP
(Online)

SocioEnvironmental Histories and interdisciplinary perspectives on resilience in the tropical Andes

2-3
June
2021

Invitation to think the Andes socio-environmental history beyond divisions

Global environmental changes present unprecedented challenges to nature and humanity. It results in the need for an interdisciplinary understanding of multidimensional relationships between human societies and various natural formations. Socio-Environmental history intersects human societies and their ecologies through different processes of change in time and space, to illuminate their complex stories of development. The main goal in this workshop is to bring together expertise from the natural and the social sciences to find a common language with plural perspectives to better understand these relationships in the Andes over the time. We consider that by promoting interdisciplinary dialogues, we will have a better understanding of problems currently faced by humanity. Challenges relate to changes in socio-environmental relationships, the acceleration of deforestation, trafficking of fauna, pollution and global warming. The COVID19 pandemic is an additional challenge.

The Tropical Andes are one of the top biodiversity hotspots on Earth. Long-term climate change and rapid land-use change are both threatening the integrity and functioning of Andean ecosystems and thereby the environmental goods and services they provide to humans (Herzog et al., 2011). The long history of human occupation in the northern Andean region dates back more than 12,000 years, which has influenced the landscapes we appreciate today (Correal and van der Hammen, 1977). The first occupants of the Andes were nomadic hunter-gatherers who in the Andean zone of Colombia used rocky shelters to protect themselves. Climatic seasonality and human occupation of the last 6,000 years contributed to the expansion of human settlements in the mountains, the appropriation of new territories, the intensification of agricultural activities and the domestication of numerous species (Saavedra and Freese 1986, Groot de Mahecha

1992, Aceituno and Loiza 2018). During the last century, the population concentrated mainly in the inter-Andean valleys and a large proportion of the Andes has transformed an important part of the natural vegetation cover, driven biodiversity loss (Etter 2006). In such a way, the Andes are humanized landscapes, at least during the last 12,000 years, and to think of them without humans would seem unnatural. We invite you to think, based on the socio-environmental history of the tropical Andes, what kind of socio-natural relationships could be possible and desirable for the preservation of biodiversity and its functioning, fundamental to mitigate climate change and the current environmental crisis.

A central axis of the analytical approach in this workshop is to rethink the nature-culture relationship. We propose to think beyond the nature-culture separation and to consider the flows, transits, agencies and mutual co-constitutions of these two domains which have contributed to making our planet alive over time.

This effort implies opening our disciplinary boundaries, accepting our methodological and epistemological limitations and finding in the interdisciplinary dialogue a window of opportunity to revitalize our own disciplines and generate a third common space in which we can think together new theoretical and methodological frameworks.

Welcome to the workshop, to the debate, dialogue and collective construction!

(IMPORTANT DATES)



28
May

(*Deadline
for registration*)

2
June

(*day one*)

Socio-Environmental History
to Understand Change and
Transformation in the
Colombian Andes. Dialogue
Between Biophysical Sciences
and Social Sciences

3
June

(*day two*)

How could
Socio-Environmental History
inform Contemporary Public
Environmental Policy in
Colombia?

(PROGRAM)

2 June
(day one)

Socio-Environmental History to Understand Change and Transformation in the Colombian Andes
Dialogue Between Biophysical Sciences and Social Sciences

Welcome					
08:00-08:10 Colombia	14:00-14:10 UK	08:10-08:15 Colombia	14:10-14:15 UK		
Welcome Mónica Amador-Felipe Franco		Welcome by Past Global Change (PAGES)			
Introductory Talks (open)		Chair by: Felipe Franco-Gaviria			
08:15-08:30 Colombia	14:15-14:30 UK	08:30-09:00 Colombia	14:30-15:00 UK	09:00-09:20 Colombia	15:00-15:20 UK
Biodiversity Resilience in Socio-Ecological Systems of Colombia Dunia H. Urrego		Patterns and factors of transformation of the Andean landscape in Colombia Henry Hooghiemstra		Questions and Answers with the public	
Panel Discussion (open)		Chair by: Mónica Amador			
09:30-10:40 Colombia	15:30-16:40 UK	10:50-11:30 Colombia	16:50-17:30 UK	11:30-12:00 Colombia	17:30-18:00 UK
Panel Andres Etter - Dunia Urrego - Katherine Mora -Francisco Javier Aceituno		Breakout Activity		Plenary with Experts	
				Poster Session	

(PROGRAM)

3 June
(day two)

How could Socio-Environmental History inform Contemporary Public Environmental Policy in Colombia?

Introductory Talks (open)		Chair by: Naomi Millner			
08:00-08:15 Colombia	14:00-14:15 UK	08:15-08:45 Colombia	14:15-14:45 UK	08:45-09:00 Colombia	14:45-15:00 UK
Welcome and introduction the sesion Naomi Millner		Socio-Environmental History from a Multispecies Perspective Sonia Archila		Questions and Answers with the Public	PAUSE (10 minutes)
Panel Discussion (open)		Chair by: Nicolas Loaiza - ICANH			
09:10-10:20 Colombia	15:10-16:20 UK	10:30-11:10 Colombia	16:30-17:10 UK	11:10-11:40 Colombia	17:10-17:40 UK
Panel Olga Lucia Hernandez- Sonia Archila, - Herman Amaya - Mónica Amador - Felipe Franco - Juan Carlos Berrio		PAUSE (10 minutes)	Breakout Activity	Plenary with Experts	Closing Remarks

(PEOPLE)



Dr. Dunia H. Urrego

(Palaeoecologist - University of Exeter - UK)

Dunia is a long-term ecologist with 20-years of experience in environmental change in hyper diverse ecosystems. Her research is at the interphase between the biosphere and human and social systems and transgresses disciplinary boundaries of Biology, Earth Sciences, Geography and Archaeology. She specialises on the response of vegetation to natural and human disturbances, fire activity, ecosystem resilience, and ecosystem functioning in a world before humans. She highlighted the resilience of Amazonian forests to temperature change, the role of climate-driven fires in Andean and Amazonian ecosystems, and sustainable land use practices in pre-Columbian Amazonia. She investigated the environmental backdrop that allowed the development of modern humans in Southern Africa and co-led the first rigorous analysis of climate change communication in Colombia. Currently she is leading research on resilience of Andean socio-ecological systems, causes and consequences of abrupt climate change, Megafauna extinctions and ecosystem functioning, and mangrove forest development and carbon accumulation.



Dr. Henry Hooghiemstra

(Palaeoecologist – University of Amsterdam - Netherlands)

Biologist from Amsterdam University. He reconstructed a 250-kyr history of the Western Sahara, West African rainforest and the trade winds. He published on Holocene and glacial vegetation and climate change of rainforest, dry forest, savanna, montane forest, and tropical alpine grasslands (páramo) with a main focus on Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic (Columbus story), Tanzania and Mauritius (dodo story). He studied the full Quaternary in long sediment records from the Bogotá Basin (last 2.5 Ma) and Lake Fúquene (last 284 kyr). He contributed to the Pole-Equator-Pole Transect (PEP1), International BIOME 6000 Project (climate model-data comparisons) and the update of the Latin American Pollen Database (LAPD). He published 180 papers, 19 book chapters, 30 disciplinary papers, and 13 popular papers. He is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences.



Dr. Katherine Mora Pacheco

(Historian - Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia)

MSc. in Environment and Development, and Ph.D. in History, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá. Assistant Professor at the Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, Social Sciences Scholl and M.A and Ph.D. History programs. Researcher of the groups “Ilustración en América Colonial -ILAC” e “Historia, Ambiente y Política”. Her field of work is Environmental History focused on traditional agrarian systems, weather, and climate, from the 16th century to the 19th century. She has published several chapter books and articles in specialized journals of Environmental Sciences and History about those topics. Also, she is the author of two books: Prácticas agropecuarias coloniales y degradación del suelo en el Valle de Saquencipá, Provincia de Tunja, siglos XVI y XVII and Entre sequías, heladas e inundaciones. Clima y sociedad en la Sabana de Bogotá, 1690-1870.



Dr. Andres Etter

(Ecologist, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana – Colombia)

He is a professor at Department Ecology and Territory of the Faculty of Environmental and Rural Studies. His group's research work focuses on understanding the transformations of ecosystems by human activities at different spatial and temporal scales. In particular, the manifestations of the dynamics of spatial structures of human footprint due to changes in land use, and their effects on components, ecological processes and ecosystem risk. Creative integration of multiple sources of quantitative/qualitative, spatial and non-spatial information, for the construction of multi-temporal scenarios and functional models, for land use planning and conservation applications.



Dr. Francisco Aceituno

(Archaeologist - Universidad de Antioquia - Colombia)

He is a tenured professor with 20 years of experience in Colombian archeology. His research has focused on the early settlement of Colombia, origins of food production, lithic technology and starch studies, and his work has focused on the Andean region and in recent years on the Serranía La Lindosa. Among the projects carried out are: The Role of the Middle Cauca River Valley, Colombia, in the Early Domestication and Dispersal of New World Crops (2017) granted by the National Science Foundation; and, Art Empire Conquest, Commerce, Crisis. Culture and the Panamanian Junction (1513-1671). He is Co-PI Project, ERC (Horizon 2020) Project The Last Journey: The Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene Colonization of South America.

(PEOPLE)



Dr. Naomi Millner

(Geographer – University of Bristol- UK)

Geographer who explores the politics of knowledge surrounding the creation and management of global "environments" in the changing context for sustainability. Geographically, she focuses primarily on rural contexts in Latin America, especially Colombia, Guatemala, and El Salvador. She follows the new globalizing agendas for sustainability and the emergence of new technologies for environmental monitoring (such as drones) in a historical context of coloniality and long-term conflicts. She explores how conservation has become a vehicle for the militarization of conflict areas, but also how rural communities are using conservation technologies to defend tenure rights and articulate other visions for environmental futures.



Dr. Sonia Archila

(Archaeologist – Dir. Departamento de Antropología-Universidad de los Andes - Colombia)

Sonia Archila is an Associate Professor and Director at the Department of Anthropology, University of Los Andes. She obtained a Master and a PhD in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL). Her major interests are the study of human-environmental interactions through time and social memory construction, particularly in relation to traditional knowledge of natural resource uses and archaeological heritage. She has broad experience in the archaeology of Colombia, since she has developed studies in several regions. She is a senior co-researcher of both the Historical Ecology and Social Memory and Antropohecua research groups. The later programme has been developed at the municipality of Nemocon to study long-term complex interactions between humans, biota and mineral resources. From this perspective, she highlights the important role of archaeological and historical information to understand contemporary communities. At the present, her research is focused on interpretive archaeologies, including the multispecies archaeology from an intradisciplinary perspective.



Dr. Herman Amaya

(Dir. Corpoboyaca - Colombia)

Herman is an Industrial Designer, specialist in Development and Territorial Marketing, Master in Marketing Management and PhD student in Social Studies. His professional career includes his work as a teacher in the areas of Rural Development, Development Planning, Territorial Marketing, Environmental Governance and Urban Agriculture. Secretary of Planning of the Government of Boyacá, Advisor to the office of the Governor of Boyacá. He also worked with PROCOLOMBIA, Local Development Agencies and several Chambers of Commerce in the country.



Dr. Olga Lucia Hernandez

(Biologist, Research Institute of Biological Resources Alexander von Humboldt)

Biologist from the Universidad del Valle (Colombia) with a Ph.D in Biodiversity: conservation and management of species and their habitats at the University of Alicante (Spain). Her research interests are associated with the analysis of multifunctionality, productivity and well-being in rural landscapes, under a transdisciplinary approach. She is currently part of the research line on sustainability in urban-rural landscapes of the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute in Colombia.



Dr. Nicolas Loaiza

(Dir. Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia ICANH - Colombia)

Nicolas has undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Anthropology from universities in Colombia and the United States. He taught at universities in Colombia and worked as a social analyst in different public and private institutions in the country. He led archaeobotanical and early settlement research projects in America, and received national and international recognition for his academic performance. Since September 2019 he has served as general director of the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH).

(PEOPLE)



Dr. Juan Carlos Berrio

(Palaeoecologist, University of Leicester - United Kingdom)

Dr. Juan Carlos Berrio is a palaeoecologist focussed on the Quaternary of Colombia with a particular interest in studying climate change and tropical ecosystems. Dr. Berrio has more than 20 years of research experience working in Colombian Andean and other lowland tropical environments. His research expertise covers a wide range of ecological disciplines like vegetation dynamics, ecological functioning and paleoecology. He is an internationally-recognised expert in Andean and high Andean vegetation dynamics; investigating the response of vegetation to climate change and associated driving mechanisms. His recent most research has focussed on the savannas of the Orinoco basin and the impact of fire and climate change on this tropical savanna system.



Dr. Mónica Amador-Jiménez

(Anthropologist, University of Bristol - United Kingdom)

Anthropologist trained at National University of Colombia, she is currently an Associate Researcher at the Faculty of Geographical Sciences at University of Bristol, United Kingdom. She has a PhD in Social Anthropology at University of Oslo, a Mphil in Science Policy at Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, and a Master's in Gender and Cultural Studies at University of Chile. She has been a UNHCR consultant on gender and asylum issues, and is currently part of the project "BioResilience: Resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services in post-conflict socio-ecological systems in Colombia" sponsored by NERC and AHRC, which focuses on socio-environmental resilience in forests Andes of the Colombian departments of Boyacá and Cundinamarca.



Dr. Felipe Franco

(Palaeoecologist, University of Exeter - United Kingdom)

He is a Colombian Forest Engineer, currently Associate Researcher in the Department of Geography at the University of Exeter. His research focuses on the long-term dynamics of socio-ecological systems in the tropics and aims to understand the effects of climate change and human activity on plant communities. He uses fossil pollen, charcoal, fossilized water fleas, sedimentology, and numerical analysis of paleo-records to understand the past environmental change. His research over the last 5 years has contributed to the study of the dynamics of vegetation and its main drivers in the mountain ecosystems of Mexico and Colombia. Felipe also has a B.Sc. (Hons) in Forest Engineering at National University of Colombia (Medellín) and a Master's and Doctorate (Hons) in Earth Sciences at National Autonomous University of Mexico.

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▶ (REGISTRATION) ◀