**Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies**

**CALACS Indigenous Studies Working Group Meeting**

**May 17, 2018; 8:30-10:00 a.m. (EST)**

**Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)**

**Room: SH 3320**

**AGENDA**

**Chair**: Stéphane Guimont Marceau (s.guimont.marceau@gmail.com)

**Participating:** Roberta Rice (roberta.rice@ucalgary.ca); Pascal Lupien (plupien@uoguelph.ca); Dolores Figueroa (Figueroa.lola@gmail.com); Vivian Jiménez Estrada (vivian.jimenez-estrada@algomau.ca); Grace Gomashie (ggomashi@uwo.ca); Allen Cordero Ulate (allen.cordero@ucr.ac.cr); Carola Ramos (carola.ramos@queensu.ca); Patricio Espinosa Polanco (patricioespinos@gmail.com); Ximena Cuadra Montoya (xcuadram@gmail.com); Priscilla Joca (priscyllamonteirojoca@gmail.com); Ana Lucia Mora Gonzalez (lucia.moragonzalez@gmail.com); Gabriel Nemoga (grnemogas@gmail.com); Assis da Costa Oliveira (assisdco@gmail.com); Estella Libardi de Souza (estellalibardi@gmail.com)

**1. Call to Order**

* 1. Round of introductions

Group´s themes of research interests:

* Action-research with Indigenous peoples in Costa Rica
* Knowledge production of Indigenous peoples (Amazon region in Peru)
* Identity auto-ascription and patrimonalization of Indigenous peoples´ land and culture
* (Mapuche) Indigenous mobilization against hydroelectric projects in the Chilean post-dictatorship era
* Comparative analysis of environmental conflicts and indigenous people´s defence of natural resources in Brazil and Canada
* Indigenous languages learning and teaching methods
* Comparative research of the use of TICs by indigenous organizations in Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile
* Climate change, environmental conservation and indigenous peoples in Costa Rica
* Autonomy and self-government in Nunavut and Bolivia
* Ethno and environmental mapping in Colombia

**2. History of the Group**

We are a research network that comprises academics, activists and graduate students eager to build a proper space for disseminating and sharing information on Indigenous people´s issues within the frame of CALACS´s academic endeavors. We successfully completed a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) funded project on the topic of Violence Against Indigenous Women in the Americas that included a virtual forum and two sponsored panels in 2017, one at CALACS and the other at LASA. We are actively seeking new members and ideas for future projects and initiatives.

**3. What do we want to do?**

Our objective is to develop a collaborative project. Next year we will put together panels dedicated to Indigenous issues at CALACS annual conference at York University. We hope to have funds to bring activists to join us on the panels. Please tell your colleagues and contacts about this opportunity. We are also looking for people interested in running a virtual forum on specific themes of interest for Indigenous peoples.

Potential panel and virtual forum themes: recuperation and protection of lands and territories; Indigenous education and protection of knowledge and languages; Indigenous rights and extractive industry; Indigenous women affected by extractive industry; Free, Prior and Informed Consultation and Consent Processes.

Other important element in the initial conversation was rendering more visible the academic work and personal trajectory of indigenous academics and expertise.

We should pick one issue to examine from multiple perspectives for the virtual forum and develop panels dedicated to the remaining topics.

Gabriel is interested in developing a panel on Indigenous education and knowledge production for CALACS 2019 and/or a virtual forum on the same issues. He will contact activists in Colombia to see if they are willing to participate on the panel.

Pascal is interested in putting together a Connection Grant to create a space for Indigenous leaders to meet around the theme of medias and communication technologies. He is looking for help with the application. Roberta will work with Pascal on this. The Connection Grant application could be used to bring Indigenous activists to CALACS 2019. The Connection Grant project could also include funding for a virtual forum (with paid student assistance) and a potential publication.

Publication possibilities include a special journal issue with the Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CJLACS), which is the flagship journal of CALACS or the open access Global Indigenous Issues series at the University of Calgary Press, of which Roberta is the series editor.

Dolores will set up a Dropbox folder for Indigenous Studies Network members to share ideas and publications as well as our plans and objectives. In terms of methodologies of collaboration with indigenous organizations our dropbox has to contain reading materials relevant to different contexts of social-action research.

The new CALACS website has a members’ only section for the Indigenous Studies Working Group where we can also share ideas and documents. This platform will also be used as a virtual forum amongst us to discuss different issues. We will first launch a discussion concerning the aims and objectives of our group. This conversation could serve as the introduction of special issue of CJLACS publishing some work of participants of our group.

Stéphane will e-mail the minutes to the group and coordinate the members who volunteered to organize virtual forums. She will also discuss with Alejandro who is member of CALACS’s board in charge of the new Web site to see the possibilities we could use for the group.

Future tasks:

1. Start a discussion on CALACS Web site about aims and objectives of our group
2. Planning of panels sponsored by the Indigenous Studies Working Group for May 2019 conference at York University in Toronto
3. Prepare and get the means to invite Indigenous leaders at this conference
4. Identify the topic and team of the coming virtual forum(s)
5. Special number and publication of the Indigenous Studies Working Group

To stay in touch with the Indigenous Studies Network, please email us at:

calacs.indigenous@gmail.com

Thank you!