

Call for Papers, posters & photos

Postgraduates in Latin American Studies Conference 2016

Latin America in transformation: Bridging disciplinary boundaries

Newcastle University, 29 and 30 June, 2016

Deadline for abstracts: 12 February 2016

The Postgraduates in Latin American Studies (PILAS) committee, with the support of the Society for Latin American Studies; and the Newcastle University Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, invites postgraduate researchers from diverse social, natural, and applied scientific fields as well as the arts and humanities to present their work, engage in debate, and share perspectives about their research on Latin America.

The theme of the conference is transformations in Latin America. The sub-continent's current dynamism is characterised by a wide spectrum of new initiatives to revisit the region's rich history and secure a more socially equitable future. By exploring how these transformations are occurring in the face of complicated economic, environmental, social and cultural challenges, the conference will highlight the role that research can play in understanding and explaining contexts and the processes of change in the region, and in visualizing alternatives to current lived realities.

Topics include, but are not restricted to: climate change, cultural representations, infrastructure, natural resources, migration, colonial legacies, citizenship, wellbeing, environment, indigenous communities, imaginaries, development, conflicts, economies, innovation, crisis, natural disasters, among others.

As a result, through the Conference, researchers will be encouraged to make connections and build bridges that allow for more in-depth and comprehensive understandings, joint-research opportunities, and shared methodologies. Therefore the papers submitted will be organised into coherent panels by identifying overlapping and complementary expertise. Engaging in these kinds of activities may enhance critical thinking, boost creativity, and improve communication skills for participants, which are valuable for both professional and academic careers.

The PILAS 2016 conference will be **held at Newcastle University on 29-30 June**; it is **free** to attend and will include in addition to keynote speakers, sessions on postdoctoral and other academic job opportunities; and a session on how to publish articles and book reviews. Moreover, providing there is enough interest (we will ask at the online registration), a session about the relationship between academia and public policy will be held.

PILAS welcomes postgraduates studying any topic in Latin America to submit proposals for papers or posters (please refer to the annex for details).

On a separate note, we would like to encourage everyone to **submit a photo you have taken during your fieldwork (it may depict you as well!)**, as the conference will also hold a cultural sharing space through a photography exhibition for the Conference attendants (we will not use the photos for any other purpose).

Finally, about the venue, the 2016 conference will be held in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, a city well known for its raucous nightlife and excellent cultural attractions which include: The Sage, a music venue shaped like a giant silver slug; the Baltic, an ex-flour mill that shows fascinating modern art exhibitions, and a couple of years ago, housed the Turner prize nominees; and the Newcastle Centre for Life which is a very interactive space to learn about recent scientific developments. The peaceful Northumbrian countryside is also nearby and there are many white sandy beaches to visit, as well as walking in the Cheviots, and a trip to Kielder Lake and the Dark Skies Observatory a little bit further north. Newcastle city itself is also home to many lovely real ale pubs as highlighted in this *Guardian* article <http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2014/feb/20/newcastle-top-10-craft-beer-pubs>

To propose a paper, poster or picture for the conference, please go to the abstract submission page of the conference website <http://pilasuk.wix.com/pilasconference2016> . Please consult our guidelines on writing an abstract before submitting your proposal online.

Updates and news about the PILAS conference 2016 will be posted on the PILAS conference website and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116188868479459/> .

Annex: Guidelines for submitting abstracts, posters and photographs

- You will be notified about accepted papers, posters and pictures on 16 March, 2016.
- PILAS will cover the printing costs for accepted posters and pictures.
- The presenters are encouraged to submit their presentations (in Power Point or any other desired format) by 24 June via the PILAS email.

Call for Papers

- Title of the proposed paper
- Abstract (a maximum of 250 words)
- Name(s) of the author(s)
- Keywords (four maximum)
- A bio (maximum 50 words)

Call for Posters

- Title of the proposed poster
- Abstract (a maximum of 250 words)
- Name(s) of the author(s).
- Keywords (four maximum)
- A bio (maximum 50 words)

- All posters must be portrait, size A1
- A final version of the poster will be required for its revision once accepted

Call for pictures

- Caption for the picture (including location)
- Name(s) of the author(s)
- Keywords (four maximum)
- A bio (maximum 50 words)
- At least 200 dpi in resolution