

[The many-faceted Independence. The 1821 Independence of Central America in retrospective. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Central American Independence \(1821-2021\).](#)

Announcement published by Christian Cwik on Monday, September 20, 2021

Type:

Conference

Date:

October 14, 2021 to October 16, 2021

Location:

Austria

Subject Fields:

Area Studies, Latin American and Caribbean History / Studies, Mexican History / Studies, Race / Ethnic Studies, Slavery

On September 15, 2021, five of the seven Central American Republics will celebrate the 200th anniversary of their independence (*bicentenario*) from the Spanish Crown in 1821. The process of political emancipation was complex and had multiple effects for the historical development of this cultural and ethnic enormous heterogeneous region, the multidimensionality of the process requires a profound and interdisciplinary review.

Therefore, researchers have emphasized a profound change of perspective. New and accessible archival sources as well as interdisciplinary research methods, demand a critical reflection on the traditional historiography of the region. Recently, Global History studies have contributed to our better understanding of the Central American region which is in the center of this academic encounter.

This colloquium brings together a group of international scholars, including historians, anthropologists, and political scientists, to reflect on the global and transnational perspectives of the independence of Central America in 1821 and its impact until today. This means including Central American visions, motivations, and perspectives in the face of global changes, transcending into the 21st century. Above all, the event seeks to increase knowledge about the history of Latin America in general and Central America in particular in Austria.

Organized by the *Forschungsschwerpunkt Globalgeschichte* (FSP Global History of the University of Vienna), the *Center for Inter-American Studies* (University of Graz) and the *Department of Romance Studies* (University of Vienna). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the colloquium is organized as hybrid event. It will be possible for the invited participants to attend on-site as well as online. The later will be offered for those who cannot travel to Austria. In case of deteriorating circumstances and new restrictions related to the pandemic, the colloquium will be held only online. We kindly ask persons interested in participating online, to send an email to register for the event to: office@konak-wien.org (**free registration!**).

PROGRAMM

October 14, 2021 (7.15am-2.30pm, CET)

Opening remarks:

Noam Chomsky (University of Arizona/MIT)

Panel 1: Independency movements, restauration, and the Independence of 1821

Chair: Patricia Zuckerhut, University of Vienna

Early US interests on the Mosquito Shore at the time of the American Revolution and the failed invasion of Nicaragua in 1780

Paul Lovejoy (York University, Canada), **Karl Offen** (Oberlin College)

Bodies of the polity: Territorial conceptions and ideologies in Central America from colonial roots to the modern nation state

Werner Stangl (University of Graz)

La vía conservadora de la independencia centroamericana

Sergio Guerra Vilaboy (Universidad de La Habana)

¿Soberanía de quién? Indígenas en el Caribe de la actual Costa Rica al momento de la Independencia

Alejandra Boza (Universidad de Costa Rica)

Panel 2: Between separatism and unification. Socio-political Concepts and utopia during the Federal Republic of Central America (1823-1841)

Chair: Tobias Boos, University of Vienna

“Lecciones de derecho”: La ciudadanía virtuosa, la esfera pública y los límites del republicanismo radical en Nicaragua tras la independencia

Justin Wolfe (Tulane University)

El impacto del Congreso de Panamá para el desarrollo del federalismo centroamericano

Michael Zeuske (University of Bonn)

Centroamérica y su geopolítica durante la República Federal (1823-1840)

Johnathan Ordoñez Gaitán (UAM, Managua)

México, Colombia y Centroamérica en la independencia temprana de Cuba y Puerto Rico (1820-1827)

Hernán Venegas Delgado (Autonomous University of Coahuila, Mexico)

SPECIAL PANEL EVENT:

The Consolidation of the nation states in the times of imperialism (1841-1870)

Chair: Werner Mackenbach, Universidad de Costa Rica

"Laws as Old as the Creation": Manifest Destiny and Racism in U.S.: Imperialism towards Central America in the 19th Century

Stefan Rinke (FU Berlin)

Independencia, disputas conceptuales e identidades en el trópico. Centroamérica, 1800-1870

David Díaz Arias (Universidad de Costa Rica)

October 15, 2021 (8.00am-12.00pm, CET)

KEYNOTE

El impacto de la Historia del Canal para la independencia de Panamá

Marixa Lasso (Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, Antropológicas y Culturales AIP, Panama)

Panel 3: Anti-imperialism in the age of dollar diplomacy and the big stick (1870-1941)

Chair: David Mayer, University of Vienna

Gente rebelde: revuelta social y violencia colectiva en Centroamérica, 1920-1945. El futuro en el espejo del pasado

Héctor Pérez-Brignoli (Universidad de Costa Rica)

Independencia y nacionalismo (im)perfecto. Historiografía literaria y construcción de la nación en Centroamérica, siglo XIX

Werner Mackenbach (Universidad de Costa Rica)

Panel 4: Dictatorship in Central America during World War II and the Cold War

Chair: Berthold Molden, University of Vienna

Las dictaduras en la novela histórica centroamericana y caribeña. Del boom económico al literario

Jorge Elias Caro (Universidad del Magdalena)

Visión e historización de la independencia centroamericana en las guías de turismo entre 1920 y 1960

Antonio Monte Casablanca (FU Berlin)

El proceso de paz en Centroamérica: ¿Responsabilidad internacional o proyecto neo-colonial?

Carlos Alberto Haas (LMU Munich)

Bailar al borde del cuchillo. Nicaragua entre el populismo derechista y teoría de la conspiración izquierdista

Leo Gabriel (IGLA Vienna)

October 16, 2021 (7.30am-2.30pm, CET)

Panel 5: Revolution, democracy, and neoliberalism (1979 - 2009)

Chair: Linda Erker, University of Vienna

Central America at the Crossroads of Climate Change and Neoliberalism: Economic Development, Migration, and Remittances in the 21st Century

Aviva Chomsky (Salem State University)

Políticas de la memoria como instrumento del neoliberalismo. La justicia transicional en Guatemala

Berthold Molden (University of Vienna)

La autonomía de la región atlántica en el contexto de la emancipación centroamericana

Bernadine Dixon (URACCAN)

Un balance de la democracia y el desarrollo en Centroamérica entre 1987 (Esquipulas I) y el 2010 con la firma del TLC con los EE. UU.

Edgar Solano (Universidad de Costa Rica)

Panel 6: Commemoration of the 200 anniversary of the Central American independence (Part I)

Chair: Kurt Hahn, University of Graz

A 200 años de la independencia, ¿cómo hemos construido las imágenes y representaciones de las poblaciones afro descendientes en el sistema educativo escolarizado?

Rina Cáceres Gómez (University of Costa Rica)

La escritura de la Historia sobre la independencia de Centroamérica: valoraciones de una trayectoria

José Cal Montoya (USAC, Guatemala)

De La Baliza a Belice: más de 200 años de luchas independentistas en América central y el Caribe Occidental

Christian Cwik (University of Graz)

Historia e historiografía de las elecciones en Honduras, 1821-2021

Dario Euraque (Trinity College, USA)

KEYNOTE

El Pacto de Unión de Centroamérica de 1921 como estrategia antiimperialista

Héctor Lindo Fuentes (Fordham University)

Panel 7: Commemoration of the 200 anniversary of the Central American independence (Part II)

Chair: Jorge Elias Caro, Universidad del Magdalena

El resurgimiento indígena en las sociedades centroamericanas

Georg Grünberg (University of Vienna)

Los pueblos indígenas ante el Bicentenario de la Independencia Centroamericana: Nada que celebrar

Silvel Elías Gramajo (USAC, Guatemala)

Usos del pasado y memorias en Nicaragua: políticas, discursos, actores y artefactos

Juan Pablo Gómez (Instituto Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Sociales de la UCA, Managua)

No va a haber una generación del bicentenario. Política y memoria en Latinoamérica 2008-2021

Thomás Straka (Andrés Bello Catholic University)

CLOSING AND FINAL DEBATE (IN ENGLISH)

Challenges of Central American Independence in the 21st Century

Moderation: Roberta Maierhofer, University of Graz

Discussants: Noam Chomsky (tbc), Marixa Lasso, Paul Lovejoy, Dario Euraque, Justin Wolfe and Karl Offen

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