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## Welcome

It's been a privilege to stand in for Patricia Oliart as CLACS director over the past year. The Centre continues to evolve as a key part of Newcastle University's engagement with the region in all areas of endeavour, from research and engagement to student recruitment and the development of international partnerships. All of this, however, is only possible due to CLACS' emergence as a spontaneous grouping that brings together an amazing range of research activities across a broad range of disciplines. The extraordinary years of the pandemic demanded a great deal of resourcefulness from our members in the face of travel bans and other COVID measures but in spite of the many difficulties our relationships with our partners in the region remain as strong as ever. Indeed, during the pandemic we were able to participate in a wide range of events, from workshops to conferences, with great success. CLACS affiliates are now going back into the field, and it's a pleasure to be able to document once again the research being done in the region. In the coming months we intend to add a lot more information to the CLACS website, including a series of podcasts which showcase ongoing research. In this newsletter, however, we present a small part of that work, as well as a range of events that are being put in place as part of the CLACS festival, which celebrates the rich diversity of our members' work.

Nick Morgan, Director, CLACS

## Members' Reports

**Dr Dunja Fehimović has recently returned from trips to the Dominican Republic (January/February 2022) and Puerto Rico (March/April 2022), where she developed her connections and collaborations with filmmakers, scholars, and film institutions in the region.**



*Figure 1 Dunja Fehimović and Mary Leonard at the Festival de cine global de Santo Domingo, January 2022*

In late January, Dunja was invited to attend the Festival de cine global de Santo Domingo for the second time, after having first participated in the 2020 edition, where she and Professor Mary Leonard (Universidad de Puerto Rico- Mayagüez) organised an international conference entitled Mapping New Caribbean Cinema. On this occasion, Dunja contributed to the festival's educational activities by working with Professor Leonard to create and convene, for the first time, the Caribbean Film Education Network. This two-day virtual event brought together colleagues from Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago to foster mutual support and future collaborations that would benefit students of film around the region. The multilingual conversation was facilitated by students and teachers from the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo's new translation and interpreting programme. Dunja also found time to sit on the jury for the Festival's short film competition, where she reviewed over 30 submissions from as diverse contexts as Japan, Iran, and Panama.

The trip to Puerto Rico represented the first in-person activities associated with the Caribbean Film Forum, a project created by Dunja and Professor Leonard in order to

continue and expand – in the virtual, digital sphere – the dialogues and exchanges first established at the Santo Domingo conference in 2020. The first in-person event, organised in collaboration with filmmaker Pamela Luquis and her production company Met.Fos Media, focussed on women in Puerto Rican film. Prof Leonard and Dunja invited documentarian Carmen Oquendo-Villar to share her experiences as a feminist filmmaker whose work has highlighted the experience of marginalised trans individuals and communities in Puerto Rico (*La aguja/ The Needle* 2012) and Colombia (*Todas las flores/ All the Flowers*, over 15 years in the making and forthcoming this year). The event took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Carnegie Library, the site of the first film exhibition tent ever set up in Puerta de Tierra, San Juan, and was attended by a live public and livestreamed to the Caribbean Film Forum Facebook page, where all of the livestreamed videos can still be accessed.



*Figure 2 Carmen Oquendo-Villar speaking at the Caribbean Film Forum event at the Carnegie Library, San Juan (Puerto Rico), March 2022*

The next two events aimed to decentre the understanding of cinema in the Puerto Rican archipelago by focussing on filmmakers and film-related initiatives beyond the metropolitan and/ or commercial mainstream. The first, ‘Hacer cine en, con, y para la comunidad’, involved community filmmaking projects Filmes Solidaria (Las Marías) and Casa comunitaria de medios (Aguirre), Mayagüez-based Producciones Tabaquero, and Arturo Massol, who represented the Cine Solar project of award-winning environmental organisation Casa Pueblo (Adjuntas). The final event, which focussed on film in the West of the main island, was filmed partly on the campus of UPR-Mayagüez and featured filmmaker and historian Kino García, award-winning filmmakers Experimento Lúdico (Cristian Carretero and Lorraine Jones Molina) and Raisa Bonnet, as well as representatives from the university film appreciation and production society, Cinemathèque. The videos of these two events will be available to view on the [Caribbean Film Forum Facebook](#) page very soon!

**Ana Topf and Jordi Diaz-Manera have received funding for the project: Whole exome analysis of 2000 Latin American patients affected by a neuromuscular disease (Latin-SEQ).**

The diagnosis of patients with inherited neuromuscular diseases (NMD) has changed radically in the last ten years thanks to the development and implementation of next generation sequencing (NGS) strategies such as gene panels, exomes and more recently genomes in the health systems of some selected developing countries. NGS has accelerated the genetic diagnosis, changed the diagnostic process reducing the number of tests required and increased the number of patients with a confirmed diagnosis. Moreover, NGS has allowed the identification of novel candidate genes responsible for these and new diseases and also expanded the phenotypes associated with mutations in already described genes.

An earlier and more precise diagnosis is associated with an improved patient outcome and experience, including 1) early access to personalized treatments to avoid irreversible disability, 2) improved patient journey; 3) tailored genetic counselling; 4) improved patient-centred care and well-defined follow-up strategy; 5) clear definition of expectations about clinical progression and, 6) facilitated participation in clinical trials.

In recent years, several NGS programs have sequenced large numbers of patients with different types of neuromuscular diseases including limb girdle muscular dystrophies, congenital myasthenic syndromes and inherited neuropathies, among others. Most of these studies, such as MYO-SEQ (<https://myo-seq.org>) have been performed in Caucasian populations of European origin or other groups descendent of European ancestors. These studies have informed us about the epidemiology of these diseases in Europe, have provided diagnosis to a large number of patients and have also allowed the identification of novel genes causing neuromuscular diseases. However, little is known regarding the prevalence of common neuromuscular diseases in other ethnicities, such as the Amerindians which are predominant in most of the Andean countries of South and Central America, or in the African origin population.

We aim to develop a large multinational multicentric diagnostic study using next generation sequencing in patients with neuromuscular diseases who are followed up in highly specialised units in Latin America. The implementation of a research project using NGS technologies applied to DNA samples of NMD patients from these untested areas can provide valuable epidemiological information, but will also contribute to increasing the number of patients genetically diagnosed and in turn to identifying patients to be included in new upcoming clinical trials or those who could benefit from the new treatments that are being approved and require a final undoubtful diagnosis. Moreover, these studies could identify new candidate genes and diseases; this will also result in additional diagnoses for patients in those countries but also around the world.

**As part of the broader project, Sustainable Communities: Policy making for sustainable community development in Colombia, Dr Nick Morgan, Dr Andrea Wilkinson, Dr Robert Newbery and Carlos Rangel Rueda organized a hybrid event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022,**



**between Newcastle University, Northumbria University, the Colombian Institute for Environmental Research of the Pacific (IIAP) and the University of Los Andes, Bogotá.**

The aim of the event was to explore the potential business models that might be suitable for community initiatives along the Pacific Coast and to identify funding avenues that could support such initiatives, in line with the overall aim of the project to develop a social incubator and accelerator in the region. It is vital that any project be designed and delivered in direct partnership with local communities and so attendees at the event included local entrepreneurs and community leaders from the region. Also in attendance were representatives from the Sistema General de Regalías, the OECD and the Research Funding Development Manager from Newcastle, who provided an institutional perspective on funding initiatives.



Relationships between community initiatives and such institutions can often be temporary and unstable and so one of the outcomes from the discussions was the agreed-upon need for long-lasting partnerships and funding streams that help initiatives to sustain themselves beyond the duration of special projects and to scale-up their activities. Finding and applying for funding opportunities can be complicated and time consuming, though. This is where academic partners can provide support, and participants at the event included professors, lecturers and postdoctoral fellows from a number of international universities, including the Universidad del Cauca, the Universidad Claretiana, the Co-operative College, Newcastle University, Northumbria University, the Universidad de los Andes, UC Davis and Sheffield University.

Most importantly, the discussions highlighted the clear need for projects that were socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. A clear set of criteria emerged during discussions, including the following principles for any community initiative. Firstly, it must be grounded within the community that it serves and it must benefit them directly. To do so, the agenda must be agreed upon by all involved and the initiative should be planned, managed and maintained by the community, with any training or support provided from the start by their institutional and academic partners. Secondly, the initiative must respect the

territory, meaning the social and environmental characteristics of the particular places involved in the project and ensuring that they are protected through the initiative. Thirdly, good communication must be maintained. This applies to communications between community initiatives and institutional partners, but also to communications between different community initiatives working towards a similar goal. Thus, a means of sharing experiences, best practices, recurring obstacles and resources would be beneficial to all involved.

The next steps for the project include establishing a Delphi panel and selecting a small number of key projects to pilot.

### **CLACS members contribute to EU-funded project on bottom-up alternatives to territorial development**

Members of CLACS have recently been successful in applying for Newcastle University to become a new partner in the project 'From Contested Territories to Alternatives of Development – Learning from Latin America'. The project is funded by the European Union through the Horizon 2020 programme on its Research and Innovation Staff Exchange scheme. As such, the university has joined a network of 25 institutions based in 11 countries in Europe and Latin America on a joint research programme that pursues conceptual and empirical knowledge generation on innovative and sustainable bottom-up models of territorial development. This is a four-year project running from 2022 to 2025 that facilitates staff exchanges across the network. The Newcastle team is coordinated by Gabriel Silvestre (Architecture, Planning and Landscape) with contributions from Patricia Oliart, Jorge Catalá-Carrasco, and Josep Cru (Modern Languages); Sharon Velasquez-Orta (Engineering); and Daniel Mallo and Armelle Tardiveau (Architecture, Planning and Landscape). As well as supporting visits to partner institutions, the university will receive researchers from Latin America for month-long research visits, a number of whom will be introducing themselves and their work at the first CLACS Festival event on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May (details about the event can be found below). Further details can be found on the project website [www.contested-territories.net](http://www.contested-territories.net) and on the EU website <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/873082>.

### **Water Hub Latest**

The latest in the Water Security Hub climate change webinar series is focused on Colombia and can be viewed here: <https://www.watersecurityhub.org/news-events/news/climate-change-adaptation-colombia>. The event was chaired by Associate Professor Edgar Leonairo Penué and speaking at the event were: Dr Andres Felipe Carvajal Vanegas, Dr Andrés Javier Peña, Dr Yady Tatiana Solano. They discussed a range of topics, including "methodologies for climate change projections, limitations of climate models, and considerations for resilience and risk assessments" as well as "engaging with environmental authorities and building more sustainable water policies".



The Water Hub has also contributed to an [FCDO Briefing Pack](#) on water security, published to coincide with World Water Day. Natalia Duque, one of the hub's PhD researchers at Universidad del Valle, featured as one of the expert voices in [this video](#). On the website you can also find a [news update](#) from the Colombian collaboratory (March 2022) and a [recent publication](#) on water footprint in gold extraction - findings show the environmental pressure that gold mining exerts on water resources and the environment.

**Dr Nick Morgan has just returned from Colombia, where the Screening Violence research team visited Nasa communities in Toribío, Cauca. The project explores conflict imaginaries through the medium of film but this particular visit combined focus group work with an exploration of examples of sustainable community development, being explored through CLACS.**





The visit was brief (only three days) but intense. On the first day, we showed the film made by documentary maker Pablo Burgos on the *Minga de Muralismo* which took place in November last year. The production of this film was part of the project's reciprocal work with local Nasa communities, which is developing into a strong partnership. Pablo Burgos and Ana Mercedes Panchoaga spent ten days filming and interviewing the artists involved in the Minga and the first cut we showed was the result. As well as showing the film and listening to community recommendations for future edits we looked at the integral forms of community development in and around Toribío, which are an extraordinary example of perseverance and solidarity in very difficult circumstances. During the years of the conflict, Toribío suffered more guerrilla incursions than any other town in Colombia, and armed actors, often associated with drugs trafficking, remain a constant presence in the area. Community activists who are seen as a threat to vested interests, both legal and illegal, suffer extreme violence. Undeterred, the Nasa cabildos in the area have continued to promote the self-determination of their communities, developing community enterprises producing coffee, Sacha Inchi (*plukenetia volubilis*), alcoholic and soft drinks, and yoghurt, as well as setting up a number of trout farms, with considerable success. These small businesses, community owned, sit alongside an impressive educational infrastructure which includes the CECIDIC, the Centro de Educación, Capacitación e Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral de la Comunidad. This extraordinary institution plays a key role in developing a coherent approach to the collective management of the local territory, and includes an Agro-Ecological School, where we were able to film on our final day in the area.



During the visit, we agreed on a number of shared priorities to be developed over the coming months, including a project to help fund a Nasa Museum of Memory, and the integration of the local Nasa experience into our work on sustainable development. During Dr Morgan's visit to Popayán, the communities sent a representative to learn more about



our work with the Water Hub, and we hope that this area in the north of Cauca will be able to benefit from the excellent work being done with our academic partners at the Universidad del Cauca.

## CLACS Festival



Celebrating the research and teaching related to Latin America and the Caribbean across Newcastle University, the CLACS Festival aims to showcase upcoming events, research workshops, conferences and partnerships.

### **Contested Territories - learning from Latin America**

Wednesday 4th May, 4-5pm

Zoom link: <https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/8657742764> Meeting ID: 865 774 2764

This online talk will present the EU-RISE project 'From Contested Territories to Alternatives to Development - learning from Latin America'. The aim of this project is to form an international and intersectoral network of organisations from across Europe and Latin America on a joint research programme that pursues conceptual and empirical knowledge generation on innovative and sustainable bottom-up models of territorial development. After an introduction by the coordinator at Newcastle, Dr Gabriel Silvestre, visiting researchers in the 2022/23 period will present their agendas and discuss opportunities for engagement with colleagues at CLACS.

Gabriel Silvestre - Newcastle University, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

Paola Jirón - Universidad de Chile, Instituto de Vivienda

Paula Cecchi - Universidad Nacional de Río Negro (Argentina), Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios sobre Derechos, Inclusión y Sociedad

Ayelen Fiori - Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Valentina Stella - Universidad Nacional de Río Negro (Argentina), Instituto de Investigaciones en Diversidad Cultural y Procesos del Cambio

María Consuelo Sánchez Sepúlveda - Universidad La Frontera (Chile), Departamento de Ciencias Sociales

More info at [contested-territories.net](http://contested-territories.net)

Register [here](#)

### **Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture: Professor Benjamin T. Smith**

Wednesday 11th May, 4-6pm, Barbara Strang Teaching Centre (BSTC) 1.46

We are delighted to announce that Benjamin T. Smith, Professor of Latin American History at the University of Warwick, will be giving the Vanessa Knights Memorial Lecture this year.

He will be speaking about his book *The Dope: The Real History of the Mexican Drug Trade*, looking at why it is worth studying the drug trade, how we can do it, and what it can tell us about society, politics, and the future of Latin America.

"A roiling, rambunctious trek through all that created the modern Mexican drug trade—populated by Cadillacs and barbarians, godfathers and presidents, border dope queens and chatuma kings, and, lining the way, a tawdry cavalcade of Mexican federal officials. Forget 'El Chapo'. This book makes clear that the pioneers who forged the trafficking industry were employed in the Mexican government. Really great stuff, really great reading."

— Sam Quinones, author of *Dreamland*

[www.thedope.co.uk](http://www.thedope.co.uk)

Register [here](#)

### **H.E Chad Blackman, Ambassador of Barbados visit**

Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th May

The University has a long history of working in, with and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Their combined challenges, including geographical remoteness, small-scale economies, fragile biodiversity, water scarcity, and extreme vulnerability to natural disasters resulted in a 2019 UN political declaration highlighting the growing concern about the

devastating impacts of climate change on SIDS. We are honoured to have Ambassador Blackman visit us on May 16th and 17th to share his extensive knowledge of the challenges which SIDS face and to explore further areas of collaboration.

His Excellency Chad Blackman is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva. Ambassador Blackman has worked in the international development sector for over fifteen years, and has worked as an international trade law specialist and development consultant respectively.

Join the Ambassador on Monday 16th June from 12.30-1.30pm for lunch, a short talk about the Ambassador's career to date and an insight into life as an ambassador. **Open to all students and staff, please [register in advance](#).**

### **CLACS Student Showcase**

Wednesday 25th May, 3-5pm, Armstrong Reception Rooms G69/G70

This event will showcase the range of cutting-edge research related to Latin America and the Caribbean happening at Newcastle. Students from across the university and at different stages of their career will share details about their research, present their methodologies and summarise their completed projects. Speakers include:

Al Hoyos-Twomey is a PhD student in Art History, where his research explores Latinx art and activist spaces in New York's gentrifying Lower East Side in the 1980s, with a particular emphasis on the work of the Nuyorican activist group Charas and the multidisciplinary cultural and community space El Bohío.

Grace Flerin is a Masters student in Public History who researches migrant communities, specifically the Caribbean communities who have settled in Britain. She will be speaking about her current oral history project, which aims to record the often ignored life histories of the Caribbean Community's second generation in Bradford as they manoeuvre dual identities and construct cultural identities around music and sport.

Laura Pinzón is an early career and interdisciplinary researcher with a background in Architecture and Urban Design, and professional and academic experience that spans urban and social geographies. She will be discussing her PhD thesis, which explored the possibilities and limitations of citizen participation and collective action for spatial justice across online and offline spaces of everyday life in Manizales, Colombia.

Carlos Bolomey Córdova is a rural sociologist undertaking a PhD in the Centre for Rural Economy, who has extensive experience conducting ethnographic and collaborative research within indigenous territories in southern Chile. He will be speaking about the choices faced by growers as the cash-crop fruit industry expands southwards in the context of climate change and neoliberal modes of production.

**Register [here](#)**



## **Rafael Segal on Getúlio Vargas**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1-2pm, Old Library Building 2.01

This talk will analyse quotes from political speeches, articles published in print media and texts written by the young academic Getúlio Vargas during his time on the benches of the Free Law School of Porto Alegre, between 1903 and 1907. In the administration of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in this period, the Rio Grande do Sul Republican Party (PRR) predominated in the State administration and its political ideology was strongly influenced by the writings of Augusto Comte, the “Castilism-borgism”. However, if politically Getúlio identified with the Rio Grande do Sul positivists, intellectually, his favourite authors were Emanuel Kant, Count of Saint-Simon, Herbert Spencer, Charles Baudelaire, Thomas Carlyle, Charles Darwin, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, Émile Zola, Euclides da Cunha, Raul Pompéia, among others. The central hypothesis for the interpretation of the empirical material is that this formation obliged Getúlio to acquire a critical position in relation to the official doctrine of the State.

Key words: Castilism-borgism; Getulio Vargas; Rio Grande do Sul Republican Party.

Rafael Augustus Segal was born in Curitiba (Brazil) in 1967, he is a postdoctoral graduate in Brazilian Culture and Identities at the Institute of Brazilian Studies of University of São Paulo (IEB-USP, 2016), in Sociology at Federal University of Paraná (UFPR, 2008), and holds a PhD in History at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, 2003), a masters (1996), and graduate (licensed and bachelor, 1992), both in History at UFPR. He is also specialist in Education, in the areas of Politics and Society, at Lapa Educational Faculty (FAEL, 2020). He is a Titular Professor (2014) at Professional and Technological Education Sector of UFPR. Between 1996 and 2019, he was a professor at Federal Technological University of Paraná (UTFPR). His research specialty is in Political History, with an emphasis on the History of Brazil in the First Republic, with emphasis on: Federalist Revolution, Caudillism/Coronelism, Young Getúlio Vargas and Castilism-Borgism.

Register [here](#)

## **Film Screening: Helena from Sarayaku**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Helena from Sarayaku is a film following the story of Helena Gualinga, an environmental and human rights activist whose father is Swedish and whose mother is from the Kichwa community of Sarayaku. It engages with several issues, including cross-border identities, climate change and indigenous communities, and language. Alongside a screening of the film (location to be confirmed), we will also connect with the filmmaker, Eriberto Gualinga, for an online Q&A session.

### Street Artist DJLU to visit Newcastle

DJLU will be visiting Newcastle in June 2022 to complete a mural project at Cullercoats. The collaboration began when he was keynote speaker at the conference 'La calle para tod@s: Critical creativity in the everyday of Latin American and Iberian cities', which can be viewed on our [Videos and Podcasts](#) page. DJLU is a renowned street artist from Bogotá, Colombia, whose work explores both global and local socio-political issues through intricate stencils, often based on portraits of those he encounters in the street, as well as suggestive juxtapositions in pictogram form. He will be creating a mural on the underpass at Cullercoats Bay and giving a **public talk on 16<sup>th</sup> June**, details to be confirmed.

### Latin American Geographies Away Day

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

As part of the Royal Geographic Society Annual Conference, hosted by Newcastle University this year, the Latin American Geographies group will be organising an away day for colleagues working on or in Latin America. Details to be confirmed.

### CLACS Podcasts



Keep an eye out for our podcast series, which will be available on the website and shared via social media. Our first speaker will be none other than former Director of CLACS, Emerita Professor Rosaleen Howard.

## Related Events and Networks

We are happy to share details about the exciting events and activities happening across the university and beyond.

The **Newcastle Postcolonial Research Group** is a community for researchers based in the Northeast whose work examines interdisciplinary concerns of postcolonial studies, which organises a number of events and series each year. One of the central elements of the NPRG is the Newcastle Postcolonial Reading Group, which meets monthly between February and June each year. The group is an informal, collaborative, and sociable space to discuss ideas about postcolonial texts and to meet others with shared interests. Members are primarily staff and students based at a range of universities across the Northeast, but the group is open to anyone interested: all are welcome!

Usually, participants are asked to read, in advance, an article or a book chapter related to a pre-identified area of postcolonial research. The first text each year is set in advance, after which the group can collectively decide on the following text to read at the end of each meeting. The texts selected often speak to current issues or discussions within the field of postcolonial studies and broader society. This year, for example, we have discussed the ongoing industrial struggle across the university sector in relation to Priyamvada Gopal's 2021 article 'On Decolonisation and the University' and considered Ukrainian forms of anti-imperial resistance via Barbara Törnquist-Plewa and Yuliya Yurchuk's article "Memory Politics in Contemporary Ukraine: Reflections from the Postcolonial Perspective", first published in 2017. At the same time, we also regularly return to earlier, and now canonical texts within the field, and in the past have examined work by, amongst other thinkers, Edward Said, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Gloria Anzaldúa, Homi Bhabha, bell hooks, Aníbal Quijano, Stuart Hall, Frantz Fanon and Chandra Talpade Mohanty.

The most recent meeting took place on Wednesday 27th April in the City Tavern on Northumberland Road in Newcastle. The text considered was "The Wood of the Moon" (2001) by 2021 Nobel Prize winner Abdulrazak Gurnah. All of the future and past texts discussed at the reading group can be accessed through the google folder on the NPRG [website](#). For those on Facebook, you can join the NPRG group [here](#), to stay up to date with the reading group and other events.

This year, the reading group discussion was part of a wider series on Gurnah's work, with a further event on the topic on **10<sup>th</sup> May**: 'Abdulrazak Gurnah: Colonial Traces, Exile, and the 2021 Nobel Prize'. The event, organised in collaboration with Research English at Durham, will be taking place online and in-person in Durham, and will feature a pre-recorded conversation with Gurnah, position papers by leading scholars in the field and an open discussion of Gurnah's latest novel, *Afterlives*. For more details, and if you are interested in attending the event for free, you can have a look [here](#) or follow us on our Facebook page.

We hope you will be able to join us at some of our upcoming events!



## **Bamboo in Haitian Construction Symposium, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

This is a symposium to discuss the future of bamboo in the Haitian built environment and is organised as a joint event by Newcastle University in the UK, the University of Pittsburgh, USA and the Wynne Farm Ecological Reserve, Haiti. This symposium will provide a platform for a discussion about how lightweight, sustainable bio-based construction materials can find their way into the Haitian construction sector through architectural education. The focus on architectural education is to promote long term innovation by the next generation of local architects in Haiti to enfranchise latent local bamboo resources.

For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://www.haitibamboosymposium.org/>

**The newly formed [NCL Europe Regional Interest Group](#)** will be celebrating their launch with a keynote lecture from Kate Adie, a student and researcher showcase and a mixer event on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. For further details, please contact [Alison.Clarke@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.Clarke@newcastle.ac.uk).

## **ISLE Summer School**

The International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE) has held Postgraduate and Early Career Schools since 2013 in various locations across Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. The themes have varied depending on the expertise of the host institution and have included *'Englishes in a Multilingual World'*, *'Methods in English Linguistics'*, *'Variation in World Englishes'* and *'Using the Past to Explain the Present'*. The next School will take place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. It will be hosted by [Prof. Karen Corrigan](#) (current ISLE President and member of CLACS). The venue will be Newcastle University, UK where Dr Martin Luther King received an [Honorary Degree in 1967](#) and where [Barbara Strang](#) became the University's first female professor in 1964. The Newcastle Summer School will address the theme: *'The Empire Speaks Back in a Postcolonial Dialect: Decolonising English Linguistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'*. The teaching is designed to encourage participants to rethink global Englishes from decolonising and raciolinguistic perspectives. There will be talks on Caribbean Creoles and the development of Irish English as a colonial variety in Latin America, for example. All the presentations, workshops and social activities seriously engage with the colonial and settlement histories of diverse World Englishes with a view to questioning and reshaping how they can best be modelled by the next generation of researchers.

The *'Empire Speaks Back'* is envisaged as a hybrid meeting (i.e. partially online and partially in person). This will allow speakers and participants to choose their mode of delivery or registration according to their own circumstances. It also permits the Summer School to pivot wholly online should public health guidance necessitate doing so.

Participants will be actively involved in three kinds of learning opportunity – Presentations, Workshops and Pop-Up Mentoring slots. **Presentations** will be delivered by leading scholars

in postcolonial Englishes around the world. They also have expertise in novel approaches to our understanding of these varieties as products of colonialism, empire and racism.

**Workshops** will provide opportunities to acquire practical skills and expertise for coding, transcribing, visualizing and statistically analysing linguistic data. There will also be hands-on sessions exploring manuscript materials relevant to the history of English and postcolonialism. The importance of acquiring expertise in how to exploit your research to benefit wider publics will be demonstrated in our on-site [Digital Kitchen](#) which has been used to teach languages using motion sensor technology. Every early career researcher needs to understand how to navigate the job market. As such, one of the workshops will be devoted to preparing for the next steps in your career. **Pop-Up Mentoring** slots will be offered as one-time, no strings attached, mentoring sessions that give you the chance to have an informal chat with a mentor about your career, impact or research plans outside of your official support system.

Public health guidance permitting, excursions and social activities will be built into the programme. They include visits to the [Holy Island of Lindisfarne](#) and a place name tour of Newcastle which played a key role in both the [Slave Trade and the Abolition Movement](#).

For further details on how to register and apply for bursaries, see: <https://www.isle-linguistics.org/activities/isle-summer-school/>. Please book early as places are limited.

