

Monday 11 November - 5:15pm

SG1 Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT

Open Seminar:

A Peruvian History of the Old World: José Carlos Mariátegui and Europe

Paulo Drinot (University College London)

Abstract:

José Carlos Mariátegui spent three and half years in Europe, from October 1919 to March 1923. This experience was transformative at a personal and political level. In Italy, where he spent most of his time, he met his wife, Anna Chiappe, and became a Marxist; he famously noted that he returned from Europe “un marxista convicto y confeso”. Although his biographers and other scholars have paid attention to Mariátegui’s sojourn in Europe, in this presentation I will explore in greater depth how he interpreted the Europe he experienced. Between 1920 and his death in 1930, Mariátegui wrote several hundred articles on European politics and culture and its major figures. He covered the rise of fascism in Italy and the creation of the Italian communist party as well as how expressionism and dada were changing European art. He wrote about Mussolini, Poincaré, Trotsky, and Keynes and about Pirandello, Grosz, Shaw, and Freud. He discussed the Versailles Treaty, the 1926 general strike in Britain, Trotsky’s deportation from the Soviet Union in 1929 and European feminism, colonialism, and antisemitism. In short, in this presentation, I will argue that Mariátegui produced one of the most complete and compelling accounts of Europe in the 1920s, an account that European historians have all but ignored.



Paulo Drinot

Paulo Drinot studied economic history at the London School of Economics as an undergraduate and an MPhil in Latin American Studies and a DPhil in Modern History at Oxford.

Is Professor of Latin American History at the Institute of the Americas, University College London. He is currently writing a biography of José Carlos Mariátegui.

Nuevo libro: [*José Carlos Mariátegui o el “cojito genial”: Historia y discapacidad en el Perú.*](#)

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