

CLAS Events - Easter Term 2025

Thursday 15 May - 12:30pm | Film Screening / Q&A

Room S2 - Second Floor, Alison Richard Building

Documentary: Urukurenda

[Penelope Anthias](#) (Durham University)

Chair: [Sarah A Radcliffe](#) (University of Cambridge)

Synopsis:

Urukurenda: In Search of the Land Without Evil (Ívĩ Maraëĩ) (34 minutes, in Spanish with English subtitles)

This research-based documentary film was made by Penelope Anthias in collaboration with residents of Urukurenda (Tarija Department, Southern Bolivia) in support of their struggle to gain legal personhood as a Guaraní Indigenous community. It narrates the community's foundation by Guaraní and Quechua migrants fleeing racialised labour exploitation and their struggle to build a better life for themselves and their children in a context of local landowner opposition and state abandonment. The arrival of oil companies in 2022 has created additional barriers to legal recognition, which is now linked to rights to prior consultation. The film raises broader questions around neoextractivist states, the politics of recognition, and the possibilities of film as activist method. The screening will be followed by a discussion/Q&A with Penelope.



Penelope Anthias is Associate Professor in Human Geography at Durham University, UK. She has been conducting research on Indigenous territorial claims and hydrocarbon conflicts in the Chaco region of Bolivia since 2008, beginning with a PhD in Geography at Cambridge. She is the author of *Limits to Decolonization: Indigeneity, Territory and Hydrocarbon Politics in the Bolivian Chaco* (Cornell University Press, 2018), a Spanish translation of which was published by the Bolivian press Plural Editores in 2022. Her current research focuses on conflicts over gas extraction in Bolivia's Tariquía Reserve. Penelope has recently turned to documentary film as an alternative to traditional forms of academic knowledge production. In 2023 she gained a Diploma in creative documentary filmmaking at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y Televisión in Cuba.