The decay of politics and the challenges of sustaining a dissident subjectivity: Youth activism in Peru 2000-2023

Patricia Oliart, Newcastle University

As seen elsewhere in the world, youth activism rose in Peru in this century as an expression of the scepticism and frustration about the political system and the difficulties to implement alternatives to neoliberal policies and their effects on the disadvantaged younger generations. Over several years, I have followed 16 youth collectives and about 50 individuals and their activism and reactions to specific political scenarios in Peruvian politics. In this presentation, I will first comment on my main findings until 2020 and then share my reflections on the reactions of these collectives and individuals after the coup attempt by Pedro Castillo on 7 December 2022 and the protests that ensued.

Patricia Oliart is Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies at Newcastle University. Since January 2015, she was co-coordinator of a Horizon 2020 Marie Curie project Cultural Narratives of Crisis and Renewal (CRIC). She was a recipient of the Cátedra Alberto Flores Galindo in 2017 and fellow at the Advance Collaborative Research program at the City University of New York in 2019.