

CLAS Events – Easter Term 2026

Monday 18 May - 3:30pm to 5:00pm | Talk

Room 204, Second Floor, Alison Richard Building

Garden politics: comparing experiences from Ecuador, Trinidad and Colombia

Discussants:

[Nehemías Pino](#) - PhD Candidate Anthropology University of Copenhagen

[Mika Hyman](#) - PhD Candidate HPS University of Cambridge

[Johanna Gonçalves Martín](#) - Postdoctoral Fellow MSCA Visiting Fellow at CLAS

Moderator: [Françoise Barbira Freedman](#) (University of Cambridge)

Abstract:

What is a garden? In this session, three scholars working in Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago and Colombia will reflect comparatively on the politics and relationships that make up gardens. What do some main terms used to refer to them, for example chagra/chakra forest gardens, medicinal plant gardens, house plots or plantations say or erase about local or indigenous modes of multi-species vegetable growth and mastery? How are these different gardens shaped also by encounters with colonial forest imaginaries, global economies, and agricultural, environmental, intercultural health or conservation policies? How do people, and plants, navigate through the (cosmo)politics of garden making in these three sites?

