

CLAS Open Seminars - Lent Term 2026

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

Monday 09 March - 5:15pm

Book Launch: [The Joyful Passions of Feminism: How to Shake Up Contemporary Political Imagination](#)

Nayla Luz Vacarezza (CONICET)

Abstract: Amidst a global reactionary wave against feminist movements and reproductive rights, Nayla Luz Vacarezza turns to abortion struggles in Latin America to explore their B-side—the dimension that extends beyond legal victories to examine decades of patient movement work toward the “social decriminalization of abortion.” Through research grounded in collaboration with activists, ephemeral materials, and personal archives, the book examines a rich repertoire ranging from iconic green kerchiefs and feminist chants to memes, embodied performances, and artistic interventions. These creative practices dismantle abortion stigma and reimagine reproductive rights and justice as foundational to democracy itself. Contesting dominant configurations of shame, fear, and secrecy, they cultivate alternative affective repertoires grounded in joy, solidarity, and collective care. With critical and activist sensibility, *Las pasiones alegres del feminismo* traces a political and creative language rooted in Latin American activism that speaks to global movements for reproductive justice and autonomy.



Nayla Luz Vacarezza is an Associate Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET) and a Visiting Bye-Fellow at Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge. She holds a Sociology degree and a doctoral degree in Social Sciences from the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She has held visiting appointments at the University at Albany (SUNY), Columbia University, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Most recently, she co-led a Visiting Research Group at Bielefeld University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research.

Dr. Vacarezza's research takes a transnational approach to the cultural, visual, and affective dimensions of feminist movements and abortion rights struggles in Latin America. Through this work, she forges hybrid spaces of collaboration between feminist scholarship, activism, and artistic practices.

Her publications include *Abortion and Democracy: Contentious Body Politics in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay* (Routledge, 2021) and *Affect, Gender and Sexuality in Latin America* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), both co-edited volumes. Her monograph, *Las pasiones alegres del feminismo: O cómo agitar la imaginación política contemporánea* [The Joyful Passions of Feminism: How to Shake Up Contemporary Political Imagination], was published by Siglo Veintiuno Editores in 2025. She is currently co-editing the *De Gruyter Handbook of Abortion Politics in Global Perspective* with Barbara Sutton (forthcoming 2026).

