

CLAS Open Seminars - Lent Term 2026

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

Monday 26 January - 5:15pm

Book Launch: [Plebeian Consumers. Global Connections, Local Trade, and Foreign Goods in Nineteenth-Century Colombia](#)

[Ana María Otero-Cleves](#) (University of York)

Abstract: Historian Ana María Otero-Cleves will present her most recent book *Plebeian Consumers: Global Connections, Local Trade, and Foreign Goods in Nineteenth-Century Colombia*. *Plebeian Consumers* is both a global and local study. It tells the story of how peasants, day workers, formerly enslaved people, and small landholders became the largest consumers of foreign commodities in nineteenth-century Colombia, and dynamic participants of an increasingly interconnected world. By exploring Colombians' everyday practices of consumption, Otero-Cleves also invites historians to pay close attention to the intimate relationship between the political world and the economic world in nineteenth-century Latin America. In her book, Otero-Cleves also sheds light on new methodologies and approaches for studying the material world of men and women who left little record of their own experiences.



Ana María Otero-Cleves, D. Phil Oxford in Modern History, is a Lecturer in the History of Latin America at the University of York. She joined York in 2023, having previously held the position of Associate Professor at Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia). Born and raised in Colombia, Otero-Cleves specialises in the history of nineteenth-century Latin America, with a particular interest in the history of consumption and material culture, global history and legal culture. She is the author of *Plebeian Consumers: Global Connections, Local Trade and Foreign Goods in Nineteenth-Century Colombia*, winner of the Toynbee First Book Manuscript Workshop Competition (2022), (Cambridge University Press, 2025). Her work has been published in a number of journals in English and Spanish, such as the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and *Historia Crítica*.

Ana María is also an enthusiastic public historian and co-founder of the public history initiative *Historias para lo que Viene* (Histories for what's to come). *Historias para lo que Viene* is a collaborative project in which historians, public humanists, and communities affected by the Colombian armed conflict come together to aid the process of peacebuilding in Colombia, through public history workshops and other collective projects, including #ClasealaCalle. (@clasealacalle)

CAMBRIDGE LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Plebeian Consumers

Global Connections, Local Trade, and Foreign Goods in Nineteenth-Century Colombia

ANA MARÍA OTERO-CLEVES

