Human Rights in Latin America
Fifty Years after the Chilean Coup

Cynthia Beerbower Room,
Newnham College,
Cambridge

28 October 2023
10:00am - 8:00pm

PROGRAMME

10:00 AM  Welcome speech and introductions - David Lehmann and Marcela Ríos

10:15 AM  Towards a Global History of the Unidad Popular and the Chilean coup of 1973 - Tanya Harmer

11:45 AM  Chile since the coup. Keeping the sociopolitical cleavages alive - Claudio Fuentes

1:00 PM  Lunch

2:00 PM  Justice Developments in Chile 25 years after the Pinochet case - Cath Collins

3:30 PM  Chile and Operation Condor: Old Secrets and New Developments - Francesca Lessa

4:45 PM  Break

5:00 PM  Looking Back Without Anger. Chilean refugees in Cambridge - Leonardo Castillo

6:30 PM  Drinks reception and screening of the documentary Hora chilena by Camila Iturra

Event chaired by David Lehmann and Marcela Ríos
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Leonardo Castillo
Leonardo Castillo was a Professor at the Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Nacional (CEREN) of the Catholic University of Chile from 1969 until the coup when he was dismissed on political grounds. He came to England as a refugee on a World University Service scholarship to do a PhD at Cambridge which he completed in 1982. Thereafter he was Lecturer and later Head in the History Department at Anglia Polytechnic University until his retirement.

Cath Collins
Cath Collins has coordinated the Transitional Justice Observatory at the Universidad Diego Portales, Chile since 2008, and has been Professor of Transitional Justice at Ulster University, Belfast since 2013. She has been involved with truth and justice developments in Chile since 1996, including organising exchange and training events with Chilean relatives’ associations and their regional counterparts in Uruguay and Argentina, justice system staff including judges, state human rights lawyers, and forensic personnel. She is a member of the international advisory committee to Colombia’s state unit for the search for the disappeared and has been working since 2016 on efforts to strengthen state responses to disappearance in Latin America and the North of Ireland. She is a political scientist and a member of the Royal Irish Academy’s Standing Committee on International Affairs. She currently splits her time between Chile and the North of Ireland.

Claudio Fuentes
Claudio A. Fuentes is professor at the School of Political Science at the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile. He received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2003). He is Harvard Luksic Fellow at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University (2011) and Visiting Scholar at UNC – Chapel Hill (2023). His most recent books are the edited volume El Proceso Fallido (The failed process) (Catalonia 2023), La Transición Inacabada (The Unfinished Transition) (Catalonia, 2021), and La erosión de la Democracia (The Erosion of Democracy) (Catalonia, 2019). His current research agenda involves studying dynamics of constitutional change in Chile and Latin America. His work, Contesting the Iron Fist (Routledge, 2005), received the 2003 Best Dissertation Award from the American Political Science Association (APSA-Human Rights Section). He is a former President of the Chilean Political Science Association (2004-2006) and former member of the Presidential Anti-corruption Commission (2015).
Tanya Harmer

Tanya Harmer is an Associate Professor in International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her first book, Allende’s Chile and the Inter-American Cold War (UNC, 2011), won LASA’s Luciano Tomassini prize. She is the co-editor with Alfredo Riquelme of Chile y la guerra fría global (RIL, 2014) and with Alberto Martín of Towards a Global History of Latin America’s Revolutionary Left (University Press of Florida, 2021). Her most recent monograph, Beatriz Allende: A Revolutionary Life in Cold War Latin America (UNC, 2020) will be translated and published in Spanish by LOM in 2024. In addition to teaching at LSE since 2007, Dr Harmer has held visiting teaching positions at Columbia University in New York (2012-13) and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2010, 2013 & 2023). She sits on the editorial boards of Cold War History and the Journal of Latin American Studies.

Francesca Lessa

Francesca Lessa is Associate Professor in International Relations of the Americas at University College London (UCL). She is also the Honorary President of the Observatorio Luz Ibarburu, Uruguay. Prior to joining UCL, she was a lecturer and researcher at the University of Oxford between 2011 and 2023. Her research interests encompass human rights, transitional justice, impunity, memory, international relations, and Operation Condor, with a regional expertise in South America. She has published extensively on these topics in peer-reviewed journals including Human Rights Quarterly and Latin American Research Review. Her most recent book, The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America (Yale University Press, 2022), won the 2023 Juan Méndez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America (Duke University) and received an honourable mention for the 2023 Bryce Wood Book Award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). The Condor Trials has been published in Spanish and Italian, and a French version is scheduled for release in 2024.

David Lehmann

David Lehmann is Emeritus Professor in Social Science in the Department of Sociology where he taught until his retirement in 2012. He was Director of the Centre of Latin American Studies (1990-2000, 2010-11). His PhD research was on the Land Reform in Chile From 1968 to 1973. He later worked on peasant economies in Ecuador and on religious movements, Catholic and Evangelical, particularly in Brazil. From 2000 he began to work on multiculturalism in the region as a whole, and on affirmative action in Brazil. He is currently writing a book about neo-Pentecostalism in Brazil and worldwide.
Marcela Ríos

Marcela Alejandra Ríos Tobar is a Chilean politician and sociologist. She served as Chile’s Minister of Justice from March 2022 to January 2023.

Camila Iturra

Director of Hora Chilena (2013). The film-documentary tells the story of a group of Chileans refugees, who fled the Pinochet dictatorship to settle in Cambridge.