IGU Thematic Conference: Connecting Geographies from the Global South (Quito 15-17 May 2024) <https://www.flacso.edu.ec/ugiglobalsouth2024/>

**SESSION PROPOSAL: Decolonial histories of geography [Conference Topic 5]**

Convenors: Federico Ferretti [federico.ferretti6@unibo.it](mailto:federico.ferretti6@unibo.it) (Università di Bologna) and André Reyes Novaes [andrereyesnovaes@gmail.com](mailto:andrereyesnovaes@gmail.com) (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), on behalf of the **IGU Commission History of Geography**

Contemporary scholarship in historical geography and in the histories of geography is increasingly informed by decolonial, pluriversal, feminist, antiracist and anticolonial approaches. However, we still see too many academic and non-academic historical narratives in our discipline that uncritically address past (or worse present) geographies that are strictly associated with colonialism, patriarchy, legacies of slavery or warfare. Indeed, many disciplinary accounts in the history of geography (and cartography) were characterised by a positivistic mindset, eulogising increasing accumulation of knowledge informed to growing ‘accuracy’ and progress. It is well known that these ideas paralleled Eurocentric and racist notions of European, white and male supremacy, legitimising colonialism and later neo-colonialism through ideas of ‘development’ and of what decolonial scholarship defines the coloniality of knowledge (and of power).

All attempts to critically transform geography, from the early anarchist geographers at the end of the nineteenth century to the early critical and radical geographies in the 1960s-1970s, have tried to build new and alternative disciplinary histories. Prompted by dialogues with science studies, the historical turn in the 1990s stimulated contextual and situated disciplinary historiographies. Nevertheless, even pointing out geography’s imperial links and colonial pasts, some of these approaches were recently criticised for overlooking ‘other geographical traditions’ and reinforcing geography’s exclusionary practices. In a moment when decoloniality takes centre stage in scholarly debates on geography, seeking to overtake ethnocentrism alongside provincialism and nationalism, new narrations of the history of the discipline are still needed, starting from the idea that organising the past is absolutely indispensable to make sense of the present.

Decolonising geography’s histories is not a simple task and raises a series of challenges. It is not just about repopulating the history of the discipline with authors from the ‘Global South’ and expanding the gallery of ‘great’ scientists and explorers. It is to challenge essentialist, personalist, linear and mostly male-and-white narrative structures in the histories of geography (and cartography). If decoloniality is not a metaphor but a constant challenge to avoid reproducing geopolitics of knowledge and logics of colonialism, its practices and approaches should be subject to constant scrutiny. Thus, this session aims at promoting sharing of empirical research and methodological challenges in the production of decolonial and pluriversal histories of geography.

**SESSION PRESENTERS AND PAPER TITLES**

We suggest two timeslots; Slot a) to be chaired by André Reyes Novaes; Slot b) to be chaired by Federico Ferretti

**SLOT A:**

**Mariana Lamego -** Professor of History of Geography at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Editor in chief of the Journal *Espaço e Cultura* (UERJ), [marilamego@gmail.com](mailto:marilamego@gmail.com)

**PAPER:** Beyond the national: Theodoro Sampaio (1855-1937) and the visuality of indigenous archaeology

**Deborah da Costa Fontenelle -** Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) [fontenelle.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:fontenelle.deborah@gmail.com)

**PAPER:** A broad abolitionist social movement in Brazil: black struggles for freedom and the pro-abolition scenario in 19th century Rio de Janeiro

**Federico Ferretti -** Professor of Geography, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Secretary/Treasurer of the IGU Commission History of Geography, [federico.ferretti6@unibo.it](mailto:federico.ferretti6@unibo.it)

**PAPER:** Geographical histories otherwise: anarchism and indigeneity

**Dante Guillermo Celis Galindo -** Dr. en Geografía por la UNAM. México. Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, (geografía y deportes; espacios urbanos y geografía histórica) [dantecelis@filos.unam.mx](mailto:dantecelis@filos.unam.mx)

**PAPER:** El deporte en la vida cotidiana en el capitalismo: el análisis desde la geografía.

**SLOT B:**

**André Reyes Novaes -** Professor of Geography, State University of Rio de Janeiro, Co-editor of *Geographers Biobibliographical Studies* and *Journal of Historical Geography* [andrereyesnovaes@gmail.com](mailto:andrereyesnovaes@gmail.com)

**PAPER:** A “decolonial” category? Indigenous maps in the Historiography of Brazilian Explorations

**Renan Rubert Rosas Neto -** Instituto de Geografia, Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente de la Universidade Federal de Alagoas - IGDema/Ufal. Investigador del Grupo Josué de Castro de Pesquisas Territoriais, [renan.neto@igdema.ufal.br](mailto:renan.neto@igdema.ufal.br) ; **Antônio Alfredo Teles de Carvalho -** Professor do Instituto de Geografia, Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente da Universidade Federal de Alagoas - IGDema/Ufal. Grupo Josué de Castro de Pesquisas Territoriais, [acarvalho@igdema.ufal.br](mailto:acarvalho@igdema.ufal.br)

**PAPER:** João Francisco Días Cabral y las lecturas decoloniales a partir del territorio alagoano, en el nordeste brasileño en la segunda mitad del siglo xix

**Guilherme Ribeiro -** Professor of the Department of Geography at the Rio de Janeiro Federal Rural University, chief of the Research Group Politics, Epistemology, and History of Geography, and CNPq Research Productivity Fellow, [geofilos@msn.com](mailto:geofilos@msn.com)

**PAPER:** Politics of languages and translations in times of war: the case of the *Boletim Geográfico* in the Estado Novo (1943-1945)

**Matheus S Grandi,** PhD - Rio de Janeiro State University, Sao Goncalo, Brazil, [mtsgrandi@gmail.com](mailto:mtsgrandi@gmail.com) ; **Rafael G Almeida**, PhD - Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; **Marianna F Moreira**, PhD - Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**PAPER:** Rescuing a presence: street vendors and the production of a subaltern urban historical-geography of Rio de Janeiro