



# Mecila:

## Mecila Information Infrastructure: Institutional Workshop 2026

Taking Stock and Looking Forward

Berlin, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Sponsored by



Bundesministerium  
für Forschung, Technologie  
und Raumfahrt

Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre  
Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America

## **Mecila Information Infrastructure: Institutional Workshop 2026**

**Taking Stock and Looking Forward**

Balanço e perspectivas futuras

Balance y perspectivas futuras

**Berlin, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Berlim, 18 a 20 de fevereiro de 2026

Berlín, 18 al 20 de febrero de 2026

**Coordination** | Coordenação | Coordinación

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut  
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Mecila Central Coordination Office

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut  
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz  
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Eduroam available

# **Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America**

## **What is Mecila?**

The collaborative project Mecila – Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America started in 2017. It has been investigating past and present forms of social, political, and cultural living together in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thereby, it wants to contribute to a better understanding of conviviality in diverse and unequal societies. Mecila is financed mainly by the Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space). After a three-year preliminary phase, the main phase began in April 2020 and will last until March 2026.

Mecila's headquarter is located in São Paulo (Brazil) with complementary hubs in La Plata (Argentina), Mexico City (Mexico), Cologne (Germany), and Berlin (Germany). In the consortium, German and Latin American universities and research institutions work closely together: the Freie Universität Berlin (main coordination), the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, the Universität zu Köln, the Universidade de São Paulo, the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata), and El Colegio de México.

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) coordinates within Mecila the Research Area Mediatises of Conviviality and is in charge of developing Mecila's Information Infrastructure, which includes the articulation of the libraries of the institutions that constitute the Centre. Complementarily, the Universität zu Köln coordinates the Research Area [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality and is responsible for the Research Data Management, while the Freie Universität Berlin coordinates the Research Area Politics of Conviviality and is in charge of the general coordination of the Centre.

The rationale of BMFTR's funding line Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences is to establish strong platforms to interlink knowledge production in the so-called Global South more effectively with the so-called Global North. This is why Mecila cooperates closely with the other Maria Sibylla Merian Centres: CALAS in Guadalajara (Mexico), ICAS:MP in Delhi (India), MIASA in Accra (Ghana) and MECAM in Tunis (Tunisia).

## **An Innovative Research Network**

Mecila is conceived as a transnational, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research network. It articulates pertinent research and outreach activities. Among these activities, rotating between the member institutions of the Mecila consortium, are Institutional Workshops, Thematic Workshops, Civil Society Workshops, and Public Lectures. Each Research Area of Mecila has developed complementary formats, both virtual and in presence. The Annual Meeting and Young Researchers Forum takes place in Mecila's headquarter in São Paulo. The Centre's primary research results are regularly published in Mecila's Working Papers Series, available online. Consolidated research results are published in books, edited volumes, and in articles and dossiers in indexed scientific journals. In cooperation with the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), the Mecila-CLACSO book series has been established.

[www.mecila.net](http://www.mecila.net)

## **The Institutions of the Mecila Consortium**

### **Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin)**

The Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin) owes its founding, in 1948, to international support, and international impulses have shaped the university's research activities and student life ever since. It is a full-spectrum university, comprising twelve departments and three Central Institutes which together offer more than 150 different academic programs in a broad range of disciplines. As an International Network University and part of the Berlin University Alliance, FU Berlin thrives on its many contacts with higher education institutions and organizations in Germany and abroad, which provide critical impetus for the university's research and teaching activities. Strong ties with Latin America and the Caribbean are anchored in the Lateinamerika-Institut (LAI, Institute for Latin American Studies). Founded in 1970, it is with 8 professors and about 50 research associates Germany's largest institute for research on Latin America and the Caribbean and also one of Europe's leading institutions for Latin American Studies. At the LAI, seven disciplines are represented in research and teaching in the social sciences, cultural studies and humanities. It develops in cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean institutions a broad range of research and teaching projects.

[www.fu-berlin.de](http://www.fu-berlin.de) | [www.lai.fu-berlin.de](http://www.lai.fu-berlin.de)

## **Universität zu Köln (UzK)**

Created in 1388, the Universität zu Köln (UzK) is the sixth university to be established in Central Europe. As a full-spectrum university, UzK is divided into six faculties (Management, Economics and Social Sciences; Law; Medicine, Arts and Humanities; Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Human Sciences). The research on Latin America has a long tradition at UzK and is promoted by the Centro Latinoamericano de Colonia (CLAC, Latin American Centre of Cologne), which also coordinates cross-faculty courses with focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. The Instituto de Historia Ibérica y Latinoamericana (IHILA, Department of Iberian and Latin American History) is the only major independent university institution in Germany devoted to the study of Iberian and Latin American history. Additionally, the Instituto Luso-Brasileiro (PBI, Luso-Brazilian Institute) is one of the largest and most traditional institutes of its kind in the German-speaking world. It deals with countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Angola and Mozambique from an interdisciplinary perspective. Since 2014, the Global South Studies Center (GSSC) articulates interdisciplinary research expertise in relation to Africa, Asia and Latin America, promoting cooperation among leading researchers in Germany and internationally.

[www.uni-koeln.de](http://www.uni-koeln.de) | [www.lateinamerika.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de](http://www.lateinamerika.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de)  
[www.pbi.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de](http://www.pbi.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de) | [www.gssc.uni-koeln.de](http://www.gssc.uni-koeln.de)

## **Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI)**

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute), Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) is a multi-disciplinary, nonuniversity institution of the humanities, cultural sciences, and social sciences. As an area studies institution it has a regional focus – Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal – while it also incorporates transregional interrelationships. This gives it a genuinely international orientation. An information centre, a research centre, and a cultural centre, all housed under the same roof and on an equal footing give the Institute its unique profile. The Library and Special Collections of the IAI are among the world's most outstanding on Latin America, the Caribbean and the Iberian Peninsula. The Institute develops its own research activities, is involved in collaborative projects with universities, hosts international visiting scholars and has a multilingual publishing program. It also carries out a broad spectrum of scientific and cultural events. The Institute's stable and sustainable structures are a decisive advantage here. The IAI has been a part of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz since 1962. With its libraries, museums, archives, and research institutes, the SPK is one of the world's largest cultural and scientific institutions. It is jointly supported and financed by the German Federal Government and the Federal States, the Länder. The combination of different types of institutions, a broad spectrum of collections and diverse disciplines makes the SPK a great environment for the development of the IAI.

[www.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de) | [www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de](http://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de)

## **Universidade de São Paulo (USP)**

The Universidade de São Paulo (USP) is a public university founded in 1934 as part of an effort to modernize higher education in Brazil. USP is a state-operated university and does not charge tuition fees. The university offers a comprehensive range of programs across various fields of knowledge, including the humanities and social sciences. USP comprises 42 teaching and research units, six specialized institutes, four hospitals, four museums, 48 libraries, 15 archives, and a considerable number of well-equipped laboratories. With 333 courses, USP serves more than 60,000 undergraduate students. In addition, its graduate programs comprise 264 courses with approximately 37,000 students enrolled. USP accounts for 22% of Brazil's scientific production and frequently ranks as the top university in Latin America in terms of research output and quality. To carry out its activities, USP operates across eight campuses located in cities such as São Paulo, Bauru, Lorena, Piracicaba, Pirassununga, Ribeirão Preto, Santos, and São Carlos. Additionally, it has teaching units, museums, and research centres situated outside these campuses in various municipalities. Internationalization is one of USP's guidelines. The mobility of students and professors, as well as participation in networks and consortia, are the translation of this goal. Between 1,500 and 3,000 international students are received in its undergraduate and graduate programs each year.

[www5.usp.br](http://www5.usp.br)

## **Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Cebrap)**

The Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Cebrap) is a global research centre, founded in 1969 by intellectuals, most of whom were professors at Universidade de São Paulo (USP) who had been removed from the university by the regime established after the 1964 military coup. As in its origins, Cebrap's research focuses primarily on the analysis of the Brazilian reality. It adopts a comparative analysis approach, combining specialization and interdisciplinarity. The Centre draws on diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives from various fields, including Sociology, Political Science, Demography, Law, Philosophy, History, Anthropology, Economics and Geography. Today, Cebrap has established itself as a leading institution on the national scene and is known for its research projects, publications and seminars that follow a multidisciplinary approach and continue to have a significant impact on public debates. Over the years, Cebrap has conducted more than 500 research projects and collaborated with some 200 national and international partners. Cebrap disseminates its research through various channels, including the interdisciplinary academic journal "Novos Estudos", which features contemporary research. It also maintains a Virtual Library, housing video archives and articles produced by Cebrap, and organizes the traditional Cebrap Seminars, which foster discussions on Brazilian political and social reality.

[www.cebrap.org.br](http://www.cebrap.org.br)

## **Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS), Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP)**

Founded in 1905, the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) is the first and largest of the 21 free and public universities spread throughout the Province of Buenos Aires. Teaching, research, and extension are currently the fundamental pillars of the UNLP. The university comprises 17 faculties, with an enrollment of around 110,000 students. In recent years, an average of about 35,000 prospective students has applied for one of the 120 degree programs offered by the UNLP. Each year, approximately 7,000 students graduate from its programs. Since its creation in 1920, research has been a distinctive activity of the Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación of UNLP, achieving progressively greater institutionalization through the formation of specific units: institutes, centres, and areas. The IdIHCS was established in August 2009 with the aim of integrating and strengthening these units and their researchers. It operates as a dual-dependency entity of both UNLP and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet). Since June 2010, it is also a member of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales. The objectives of IdIHCS are to promote, carry out and coordinate theoretical, empirical, and methodological studies in the field of social sciences and humanities. Among its key functions are: the elaboration and execution of research programs and projects; collaboration in the training of young scientific researchers; the provision of advice and transfer of knowledge and/or research tasks for institutions that require it; and the organization of scientific meetings (congresses, symposiums, conferences and research forums, meetings, etc.), as well as courses, seminars and research workshops. With more than 270 researchers, 157 doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, 12 research support professionals and 3 administrative agents, IdIHCS is the largest Conicet humanities and social sciences research centre in Argentina.

[www.unlp.edu.ar](http://www.unlp.edu.ar) | [www.idihcs.fahce.unlp.edu.ar](http://www.idihcs.fahce.unlp.edu.ar)

## **El Colegio de México (Colmex)**

El Colegio de México (Colmex) is an outstanding social science and humanities research and teaching institute. Created in 1940, the origins of Colmex are linked to La Casa de España, which received many distinguished exiled scholars during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The institution operates as a small public university and research centre with a highly specialized faculty, an excellent academic library and a program of high-level seminars and conferences on cutting edge issues of the contemporary world as well as in many academic disciplines. Its eight academic centres offer degrees in the following fields: Master's and Doctoral degrees in History, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Linguistics, Literature, Asian and African Studies, Urban Studies, Demography and Environmental Studies, a Master's Program in Gender Studies, and undergraduate degrees in International Relations, Public Administration and Economics. Admission is based on open and very rigorous competition for candidates from Mexico and abroad. Virtually all accepted students obtain scholarships, which require full time dedication to their academic program. El Colegio de México has numerous, ongoing academic exchanges with many high-level educational institutions around the world.

[www.colmex.mx/en](http://www.colmex.mx/en)

## **The Research Areas of Mecila**

### **Research Area: Medialities of Conviviality**

The Research Area Medialities of Conviviality analyses, through the lens of inequality and difference, processes of co-production, circulation, and appropriation of knowledge, imaginaries, and representations. These processes include movements of persons, ideas, values, and objects. Practices such as writing, drawing, photographing, collecting, and exhibiting offer clues to the study of how notions of conviviality – for instance, utopias or mythical pasts – become manifest in objects that are produced, negotiated, and circulated in unequal convivial configurations. Digital transformation is shaping the circulation of knowledge in new and unprecedented ways, reducing old inequalities but also producing new ones. The knowledge dimension and the ways and means of mediation are key to understanding the nexus between conviviality, difference, and inequality.

### **Research Area: [Hi-]Stories of Conviviality**

The Research Area focuses on the question of how convivial configurations evolve and interact to bring about changes in convivial regimes, favouring a diachronic approach without limiting itself to it. One prominent field of inquiry is labour relations: forced labour arrangements and resistance to it in colonial settings; informal and formal labour and their relationship in historical and contemporary Latin America. Another field consists of the legal settings and everyday negotiations of legitimacy and illegitimacy in family formation and their connection with social hierarchies and group formation. Finally, Latin America's heterogeneous urban populations and the historically grown power hierarchies is on the focus. In all our research projects, the tensions between norms (socio-political, legal, moral, or economic) and convivial realities and practices play an important role.

### **Research Area: Politics of Conviviality**

The main concern of the Research Area lies in how markers of difference are negotiated in contexts of power asymmetries and subsequently impact patterns of inequality within convivial configurations. It inquires how various agents either enhance or challenge existing inequalities through their everyday and institutional practices. The scope of this Research Area is not limited to the realm of institutionalised politics, macro-structures, and top-down power relations: politics also encompasses everyday life interactions, unstably codified practices, unspoken conflicts, and informal agreements, which are also marked by inequality and conviviality in particular ways. In this sense, both the public and private spheres of social life are eminently political.

[www.mecila.net/en/programa-de-pesquisa-2](http://www.mecila.net/en/programa-de-pesquisa-2)

## The Mecila Information Infrastructure

The Mecila Information Infrastructure stands as a cornerstone of academic and cultural exchange between Germany and Latin America. It has been developed in close collaboration with leading institutions across the region, including the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library of El Colegio de México (COLMEX, Mexico), the Library of the Instituto de Estudios Brasileiros at the University of São Paulo (USP, Brazil), and the Biblioteca Prof. Guillermo Obiols of the Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación, Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS–CONICET/Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina). The Mecila Information Infrastructure supports the interdisciplinary, international and multi-institutional research network Mecila, funded for the funding period 2020 to 2026 by the Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space) and coordinated by the Ibero-Americanisches Institut (IAI) in Berlin (Germany).

Since its inception, Mecila has brought together scholars from diverse fields to examine pressing social transformations in Latin America, from urbanization and migration to cultural identity and political change. It has been investigating past and present forms of social, political, and cultural living together in Latin America and the Caribbean. It wants to contribute to a better understanding of conviviality in diverse and unequal societies. For researchers working at the Mecila Hub in São Paulo, secondary nodes in Argentina, Mexico and Germany, or from distant academic centers, access to specialized literature can be a persistent challenge. The Mecila Information Infrastructure addresses this by creating an articulated digital information ecosystem that bridges geographical, institutional and disciplinary divides and provides researchers with specialist literature. Far more than a mere digital library, it functions as a interconnected knowledge infrastructure, integrating analog and digital resources, enabling seamless access to rare and often not accessible materials, and fostering a shared research environment across continents.

At the core of the Mecila Information Infrastructure is the Mecila eLibrary, a secure, virtual reading room designed specifically for copyrighted print materials that are not available in digital form. Access is restricted to registered Mecila members (Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators, Postdocs, Junior and Senior Fellows, Doctoral Researchers) and provided in compliance with German copyright law, ensuring legally compliant and equitable access to the materials. As of early 2025, the eLibrary hosts over 330 digitized titles, all selected from the Ibero-Americanisches Institut's extensive print holdings and curated according to their relevance to Mecila's research themes. The collection includes works in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, covering a broad spectrum of social, cultural, and political topics central to Mecila.

Access to the Mecila Information Infrastructure is straightforward and free for all project members, including Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators, Postdocs, Junior and Senior Fellows, Doctoral Researchers. After personal registration, users are granted access to the services of the infrastructure, including the Mecila eLibrary, as well as to all digital resources of the IAI. While the eLibrary offers targeted access to digitized monographs,

the Mecila Information Infrastructure provides users with access to the catalogues and services of all participating partner libraries. This includes the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and digital services of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, as well as those of the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library at El Colegio de México (Mexico), the Library of the Institute of Brazilian Studies at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), and the Professor Guillermo Obiols Library of the Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación / IdIHCS, Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina). These resources, combined with the ability to request digitization of specific materials, ensure that researchers can access the scholarly foundations they need, regardless of location.

To this end, the responsible colleagues for the Mecila Information Infrastructure at the four partner institutions regularly coordinated their joint information services, exchanged experiences and jointly developed ideas for new, needs-based services for the Mecila Information Infrastructure. This exchange contributed significantly to the internationalization and networking of the libraries and to the further development of their respective services.

In a first Institutional Workshop of the Mecila Information Infrastructure, which was held in 2022 in direct temporal and thematic connection with the Mecila Thematic Workshop "Latin American Knowledges in Circulation: Mediating Differences in Convivial Contexts" of the Research Area Medialities of Conviviality, also held at the IAI in Berlin, cooperation between the participating libraries was strengthened and the direct connection to the Research Area was highlighted. For Mecila, the Information Infrastructure is not just a service provider. With its combination of analog and digital collections, associated practices, and various collection-related expertise, it is also a partner in the examination of possible inequalities and hierarchies in knowledge archives and collection institutions and the strategies for overcoming them. These central themes were discussed in the Mecila Annual Meetings in 2023 and 2024, at another Thematic Workshop in 2023, and at the Mecila Civil Society Workshop in 2025, all organized by the Research Area Medialities of Conviviality.

Looking ahead, the Mecila Information Infrastructure will be further strengthened through the Mecila Institutional Workshop in Berlin from February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2026, bringing together researchers, librarians, and technical coordinators to evaluate current practices, discuss future developments, and enhance the platform's usability. This event underscores the Mecila Information Infrastructure's role not only as a repository of knowledge but as a living, evolving space for collaboration that reflects the dynamic, transnational nature of contemporary research in Mecila and the Ibero-American world. By integrating institutional expertise, digital innovation, and a commitment to equitable access, the Mecila Information Infrastructure exemplifies how modern research infrastructures can transcend borders, enabling scholars to work together, share insights, and advance understanding across continents.

## The Information Infrastructure of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

### Holdings of the Library

Books (printed monographs)	1.231.524
E-Books	44.121
Periodicals (Gesamtbestand)	75.528
Current periodicals	3.459
E-Journals	10.291
New acquisitions (books)	31.806
Documents in the Digital Collections	20.963



### Holdings of the Special Collections

Collections from corporate bodies	19
Papers and manuscripts	332
Audio media	64.370
Videos and DVDs	7.420
Maps	76.160
Images (Photographs, Slides, Postcards)	216.300
Posters	5.730
Graphics	2.760
Newspaper Clippings	350.000



### Usage of the Collections

Registered Library users	3.623
Loans	41.863
Interlibrary loans	4.113
Online catalog (OPAC) queries	2.026.895
Number of accesses commercial e-media	13.069
Number of accesses Digital Collections (page views)	1.012.678



from The IAI in Numbers 2024:

[www.iai.spk-berlin.de/en/the-iai-in-numbers](http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de/en/the-iai-in-numbers)

WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 | QUARTA-FEIRA,  
18 DE FEVEREIRO DE 2026 | MIÉRCOLES, 18 DE FEBRERO DE 2026

14.00 – 14.30 Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Conference Room

## Welcome Addresses and Introduction | Boas-vindas e apresentação | Palabras de bienvenida e introducción

Barbara Göbel, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Christoph Müller, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

14.30 – 16.00

## Why Latin American Information Infrastructures matter? | Por que as infraestruturas de informação da América Latina são importantes? | ¿Por qué son importantes las infraestructuras de información de América Latina?

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: Milagros Pacco, Universität zu Köln

Manuel Santos Silva, Freie Universität Berlin

## Data Infrastructure for Evidence-based Policymaking: Lessons from Latin America | Infraestrutura de dados para a formulação de políticas baseadas em evidências: lições da América Latina | Infraestructura de datos para la elaboración de políticas basadas en evidencia: lecciones de América Latina

Micaela Chávez Villa, El Colegio de México

Valentín Ortiz Reyes, El Colegio de México

## Between Discourse and Implementation: The Mexican Government's Proposals on Infrastructure for Open Science | Entre o discurso e a implementação: as propostas do governo mexicano sobre infraestrutura para a ciência aberta | Entre el discurso y la implementación: las propuestas del gobierno mexicano sobre infraestructura para la ciencia abierta

WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 | QUARTA-FEIRA,  
18 DE FEVEREIRO DE 2026 | MIÉRCOLES, 18 DE FEBRERO DE 2026

Clara Ruvituso, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

## The Circulation of Latin American Social Sciences: Knowledge Infrastructures, Media and Mediators | A circulação das ciências sociais latino-americanas: infraestruturas do conhecimento, veículos de comunicação e mediadores | La circulación de las ciencias sociales latinoamericanas: infraestructuras del conocimiento, medios y mediadores

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

16.30 – 18.00

## The role of the Collections of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut in Germany and Europe | O papel das coleções do Instituto Ibero-Americano na Alemanha e na Europa | El papel de las colecciones del Instituto Ibero-Americano en Alemania y Europa

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: Valentín Ortiz Reyes, El Colegio de México

Christoph Müller, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

## The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut and its Collections: An Overview | O Instituto Ibero-Americano e as suas coleções: uma visão geral | El Instituto Ibero-Americano y sus colecciones: una visión general

Barbara Göbel, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

## The role of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut and its collections for Latin American and Caribbean Studies | O papel do Instituto Ibero-Americano e as suas coleções para os estudos latino-americanos e caribenhos | El papel del Instituto Ibero-Americano y sus colecciones para los estudios sobre América Latina y el Caribe

Visit to the Collections of the IAI | Visita às coleções do IAI | Visita a las colecciones del IAI

09.30 – 12.30

Museum für Naturkunde

**Visit to the Museum für Naturkunde, Research Museum of Leibniz Association** | Visita ao Museum für Naturkunde, museu de pesquisa da Associação Leibniz | Visita al Museum für Naturkunde, museo de investigación de la Asociación Leibniz

Susanne von Mering, Museum für Naturkunde

Frederik Berger, Museum für Naturkunde

12.30 – 13.00 Transfer to Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut | Transferência para o Instituto Ibero-American | Traslado al Instituto Ibero-American

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break | Intervalo para o almoço | Pausa de almuerzo

14.00 – 15.30 Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Conference Room

**What does Open Science mean for Information Infrastructures?** | O que significa ciência aberta para as infraestruturas de informação? | ¿Qué significa la ciencia abierta para las infraestructuras de información?

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora:

Daniela Piantola, Universidade de São Paulo

Peter Birle, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

**Publications and Research Data in the Context of Open Science. Strategies and Challenges from the Perspective of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut** | Publicações e dados de pesquisa no contexto da ciência aberta. Estratégias e desafios sob a perspectiva do Instituto Ibero-American | Publicaciones y datos de investigación en el contexto de la ciencia abierta. Estrategias y desafíos desde la perspectiva del Instituto Ibero-American

Sibylle Hermann, Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Württemberg

**Open Science: Implications for Information Infrastructures** | Ciência aberta: implicações para as infraestruturas de informação | Ciencia abierta: implicaciones para las infraestructuras de información

Gustavo Archuby, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

**Knowledge Sovereignty in the Age of AI. Knowledge Extraction: Situation, Considerations, and Actions (virtual)** | Soberania do conhecimento na era da IA. Extração de conhecimento: situação, considerações e ações (virtual) | Soberanía del conocimiento en la era de la IA. Extracción de conocimiento: situación, consideraciones y acciones (virtual)

15.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

17.00 – 19.00

**Public Lecture: The Future of Information Infrastructures: Perspectives from Latin America** |

Palestra pública: O futuro das infraestruturas de informação: perspectivas da América Latina | Conferencia pública: El futuro de las infraestructuras de información: perspectivas desde América Latina

Christian Zamora, Universidad de Costa Rica

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora:

Clara Ruvituso, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

09.00 – 10.30 Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Conference Room

## Digital Transformation and the Internationalization of Information Infrastructures: Potentials and Challenges | Transformação digital e a internacionalização das infraestruturas de informação: potenciais e desafios | Transformación digital y la internacionalización de las infraestructuras de información: potenciales y desafíos

Chair | Coordenadora | Coordinadora: **Sibylle Hermann**,  
Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Württemberg

Daniela Piantola, Universidade de São Paulo

**Special Collections in Libraries and Digital Archives: The Case of the IEB-USP Library (São Paulo, Brazil)** | Coleções especiais em bibliotecas e acervos digitais: o caso da Biblioteca do IEB-USP (São Paulo, Brasil) | Colecciones especiales en bibliotecas y archivos digitales: el caso de la Biblioteca del IEB-USP (São Paulo, Brasil)

Nora Rabe, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften  
**Building Bridges: Potentials and Challenges of the Internationalization of Information Infrastructures** | Construindo pontes: potenciais e desafios da internacionalização das infra-estruturas de informação | Construyendo puentes: potenciales y desafíos de la internacionalización de las infraestructuras de información

Christian Zamora, Universidad de Costa Rica

**Who Protects our Digital Information Infrastructures? Lessons from Central America** | Quem protege nossas infraestruturas de informação digital? Lições da América Central | ¿Quién protege nuestras infraestructuras de información digital? Lecciones de Centroamérica

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee Break** | Pausa para o café | Pausa de café

11.00 – 12.30

## Changing Roles of Information Infrastructures in Societies | Mudança do papel das infraestruturas de informação nas sociedades | Cambio del papel de las infraestructuras de información en las sociedades

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Peter Birle**, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Tiago Braga, Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia  
**Open Informational Infrastructures as a Mechanism of Informational Sovereignty** | Infraestruturas informacionais abertas como mecanismo de soberania informacional | Las infraestructuras informativas abiertas como mecanismo de soberanía informativa

Eva Ommert, Universität Leipzig

**Ethical Challenges in Digital Area Studies, Histories** | Desafios éticos nos estudos digitais da área, histórias | Desafíos éticos en los estudios regionales digitales, historias

Barbara Göbel, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

**How to Handle Culturally Sensitive Objects in Library Collections: Experiences from the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut** | Como lidar com objetos culturalmente sensíveis em coleções de bibliotecas: experiências do Instituto Ibero-Americano | Cómo manejar objetos culturalmente sensibles en colecciones bibliotecarias: experiencias del Instituto Ibero-Americano

12.30 – 13.00

## Synthesis and Closure | Síntese e encerramento | Síntesis y clausura

Chair | Coordenador | Coordinador: **Christoph Müller**, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch** | almoço | almuerzo

# Biographical Notes

## Berger, Frederik

Frederik Berger is head of the Department Services in the Science Program Collection Future of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. He studied Archaeology and Art History at the Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz and holds a PhD with his thesis on the history of 19th century archaeological collections. He received further qualification in Information and Library Science at TH Köln. At the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin he developed and implemented the collection digitisation program since 2018. His research and work focuses on the digital transformation of collections and the development of collection based services. He is principal investigator of the EFRE-funded project ELIO (Entwicklungslabor für Innovation in der Objektdigitalisierung – Lab for innovation in object digitisation), which aims at establishing digitisation services as a business model in GLAM institutions.

## Birle, Peter

Mecila Principal Investigator Peter Birle is Director of the Research Department of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) and teaches at Freie Universität Berlin. He was Mecila German Director in Presence from April to September 2023 in São Paulo. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. He is member of the the Executive Board of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (ADLAF). He was an Assistant Professor at Universität Rostock and Visiting Professor and Researcher at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. Peter Birle's research interests include Latin American foreign policies in comparative perspective, regional cooperation and integration in Latin America, comparative analysis of Latin American political systems, and knowledge production in and about Latin America.

## Chávez Villa, Micaela

Micaela Chávez Villa is an Academic Librarian at El Colegio de México. Her areas of interest include collection management, library administration, digital special collections, and library building planning. She has over 50 years of service at the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library of El Colegio de México, recognized as the leading library for social sciences and humanities in Latin America, where she has held various positions and has served as its Director since 2004. Her ongoing commitment to the dissemination and access to the information resources produced by El Colegio de México has fostered the development of digital projects benefiting the country's academic community. Likewise, her tireless spirit of collaboration with related institutions has significantly contributed to the formation of consortia and the cooperative development of digital libraries in Mexico. Since 2021, she has served as General Coordinator of the Network of Academic Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the Union of Latin American Universities (UDUAL).

## Göbel, Barbara

Barbara Göbel is Director of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI), Honorary Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin and President of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung. Barbara Göbel is Mecila Principal Investigator and leader of the Mecila subproject at IAI. She studied social anthropology, prehistory, and economic and social history at Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München and holds a PhD from Universität Göttingen. She has been involved in several international, interdisciplinary projects and is member of multiple boards and review panels of national and international organizations and funding agencies. She worked at the Universities of Göttingen, Tübingen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Köln and Bonn in Germany and at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Collège de France and has served as Visiting Professor at several universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and the United States. In 2022, she received the Premio Leloir from Argentina as a recognition of her engagement for the internationalization of sciences. Her main research interests are anthropology of nature; socio-environmental inequalities; geopolitics of knowledge; infrastructures of knowledge and digital transformation.

## Hermann, Sibylle

Sibylle Hermann is Chair of the VDB Commission for Research-Oriented Services. She holds a PhD with a strong focus on Open Science; her work addresses how transparency, reusability and appropriate recognition of research outputs can be achieved within academic evaluation systems. She is Head of the Union Catalogue and Consortium Systems Department (SWB-Verbundsystem) and Deputy Director at the Library Service Centre Baden-Württemberg (BSZ), where she shapes strategic development and research-oriented information infrastructures.

## Mering, Sabine von

Sabine von Mering is head of the Research Group Data for Nature at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. She studied Biology at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the University of Hamburg, taking additional courses in Latin American Studies, and holds a PhD in Systematic Botany. After transitioning into research data management and biodiversity informatics, she has spent many years working as a researcher and coordinator on national and international biodiversity data initiatives. Since 2020, she has worked as a data scientist in the Science Programme Collection Future, focusing on opening up and linking collection data, and knowledge contextualisation. Her academic interests include botanical research, the history of natural history collections, and biodiversity data standards. Currently, she works on research expeditions, women in natural history, and networks of collection agents. An advocate for Open Science and Wikidata as a research tool, she also has an affinity for interdisciplinary approaches.

## Müller, Christoph

Christoph Müller works at the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) in Berlin as vice-director of the library, director of the Digital Library department and director of the Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Collections. He studied Romance Philology and Art History at the Technical University of Aachen (RWTH Aachen). He received a PhD from the RWTH Aachen with a thesis on the Arcadia Lusitana, an eighteenth-century

Portuguese literary academy. His current fields of research are digital transformation in libraries and Latin American literature from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries (especially science fiction literature, comics/fanzines and serials). He is principal investigator of the Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America funded by the Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR, German Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Space) and, at the moment, he is German Director in Presence of Mecila in São Paulo.

#### **Nunes Braga, Tiago Emmanuel**

Tiago Braga has a PhD in Information Science from the University of Brasília (UnB), Master's degree in Technological Education from Cefet-MG, and Bachelor's degree in Information Systems from PUC Minas. He is currently the Director of the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (Ibict), where he also leads the Information and Society Laboratory (Insumo) and serves as a faculty member in the Graduate Program in Information Science (PPGCI/IBICT). He is an invited member of the Technical Management Committee of the Global LCA Data Access Network, an initiative led by UN Environment, and of the I4T Global Knowledge Network, supported by UNESCO. His research focuses on national and international studies in the field of information science.

#### **Ommert, Eva**

Eva Ommert is a research associate at the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) at Leipzig University, focusing on research data management and digital methods. She is in charge for the archiving of research data in the GlobeData repository. She also coordinates the activities in the Digital Lab, where researchers are supported in their work with digital data, tools, and methods. She is also responsible for implementing a sub-project in the NFDI4Memory (NFDI for historically oriented humanities) on "Digital Area Histories", focusing on ethical, legal, and technical issues. From 2020-2024, she coordinated a pilot project on research data management in the Collaborative Research Centre 1199 "Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition" at ReCentGlobe.

#### **Ortiz Reyes, Valentín**

Valentín Ortiz Reyes holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, a Master's degree in Library Science from El Colegio de México, and a PhD in Library and Information Studies from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His research has focused on journalists' information behavior, grounded theory, and data journalism. He has taught courses on research methodology, introduction to reference services, documentary research, collection management, and thesis seminars. He is currently part of the academic staff at the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library of El Colegio de México, where he has served as Bibliographer, Coordinator of Services, and Coordinator of Collection Management.

#### **Pacco, Milagros**

Milagros Pacco is historian and digital humanist. She holds her MA degree from the University of Cologne. Since July 2017, she has been research assistant at the Institute of History

(Iberian and Latin American History) at the UoC and part of the coordination team at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (Mecila) in Cologne. At Mecila, she is involved with research and coordination tasks and is responsible for the research data management. Among other things, she is also a lecturer in digital skills for BA students (history) and a consultant for Rhine-Ruhr Center for Scientific Data Literacy (DKZ.2R / IT-Center University of Cologne). In her work, she is particularly interested in practical and ethical aspects of storing and preservation and long-term access of research data, as well as digitization and digital methods for the humanities.

#### **Piantola, Daniela**

Daniela Piantola is chief librarian of Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros of Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil. Daniela holds a Bachelor's degree in Portuguese and Italian Language and Literature, a Master's degree in Theory of Literature, USP, and another Bachelor's degree in Librarianship and Information Science, UFSC. In collaboration with Elizete Vitorino, she published "Competência em Informação: conceito, contexto histórico e olhares para a Ciência da Informação" (2019) and other articles on Information Literacy. Currently, her work is dedicated to the selection and organization of special collections, such as the libraries formed by economists Celso Furtado and Paul Singer and Brazilian writers Mário de Andrade and Guimarães Rosa, in addition to projects aimed at the conservation and dissemination of those collections and the assistance to specialized researchers.

#### **Pichinini, Mariana**

Mariana Pichinini holds a Bachelor's degree in Library Science and Documentation from the National University of La Plata (2007). She has served as the Interim Director of the Prof. Guillermo Obiols Library at the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences of the National University of La Plata, Argentina, since 2022. From 1996 to 2022, she was Head of the Information Technologies Department at the same library. She is responsible for the institutional repository Memoria Académica of the FaHCE-IdIHCS, UNLP, as well as the research sources repository ARCAS of the FaHCE-IdIHCS, UNLP. She is also a member of the Expert Committee of the National System of Digital Repositories, under the Secretariat of Innovation, Science, and Technology of Argentina. Mariana has taught several training courses on information technology using open-source software, in particular Greenstone for digital libraries and KOHA for library management.

#### **Rabe, Nora**

Nora Rabe holds a master's degree in Library and Information Sciences and a master's degree in Hungarian Literature and Language from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Budapest. She began her career as a librarian in Hungary and later worked for over 15 years in international academic publishing with publishers such as Wolters Kluwer Health and Gale Cengage Learning, supporting research institutions and university libraries across Europe. From 2023 to 2025, she worked at the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) Berlin within the Mecila project, where she was responsible for the central information infrastructure of the international research consortium, including acquisition and cataloguing, administration of

the Mecila eLibrary, digitization services, and Open Access publishing. Since 2025, she has been working as an academic librarian at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW).

#### Ruvituso, Clara

Clara Ruvituso is a researcher at Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) in Berlin and Associated Investigator at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (Mecila). She holds a degree in sociology from Universidad Nacional de La Plata and a PhD in political science from Universität Rostock. Her research focuses on analyzing inequalities, entanglements, and transformations in the transregional production and circulation of knowledge. She is currently researching the circulation of Latin American social theory in France and Germany, comparing processes of translation, appropriation, modification, and exchange.

#### Santos Silva, Manuel

Manuel Santos Silva is Assistant Professor (Junior Professor) of Economics of Latin America at the Institute of Latin American Studies and the Department of Economics at the Freie Universität Berlin. He is also a Principal Investigator at Mecila: the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre of Advanced Studies on Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America. Before, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Münster and the University of Göttingen. He holds a PhD in Economics (in the Research Training Group 'Globalisation and Development' (GlaD)) from the University of Göttingen, where he also completed a Master's degree in Development Economics. As his main research focus, he studies from an empirical perspective how gender inequalities shape and interact with labour markets, public policies and political processes.

#### Zamora Rodríguez, Christian

Christian Zamora holds a Bachelor's degree in Library Science and Information Studies from the University of Costa Rica. He has extensive professional experience in information management, digital repositories, and library technologies. He has held key positions at the University of Costa Rica, including the Institute of Social Research, the Center for Environmental Pollution Research, and the Institute for Educational Research, leading projects on digitization, system interoperability, and increasing the visibility of scientific output.

Since May 2025, he has been teaching at the Autonomous University of Central America (UACA). He has coordinated institutional projects such as the technical area of the Central American Repository of Cultural Heritage at UCR and currently leads digital initiatives to disseminate research and knowledge from the Institute of Social Research, including the Central American Network of Repositories and Digital Libraries.

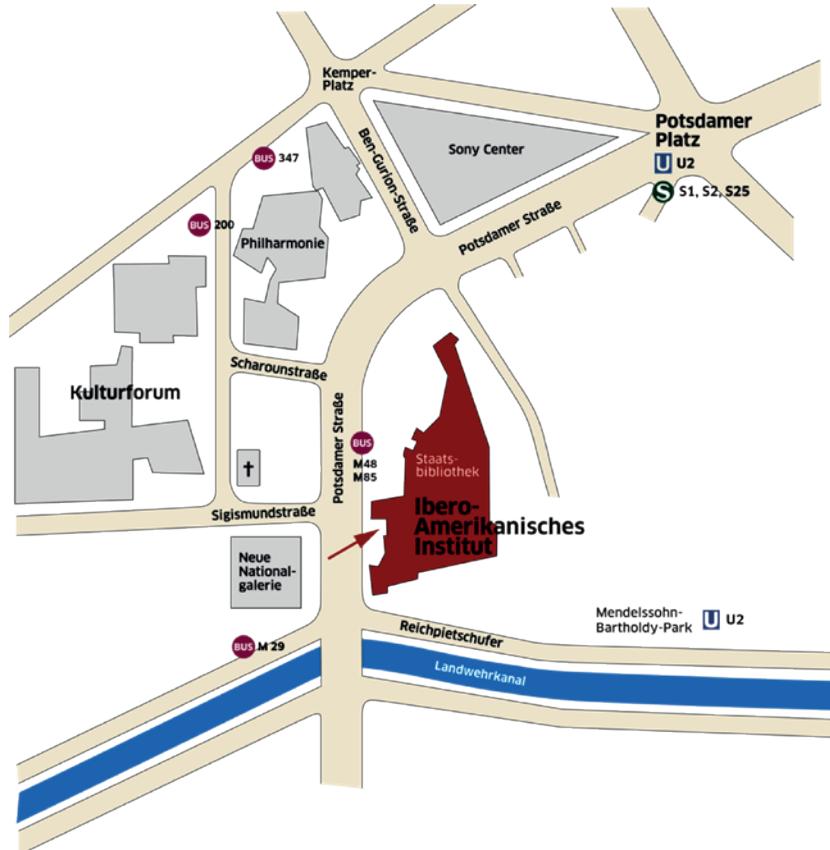
He has developed solutions using open-source software such as DSpace, Moodle, VuFind, OJS, and WordPress, integrating artificial intelligence and process automation for libraries and documentation centers. He also trains professionals in bibliometrics, editorial management, reference management tools, and XML tagging for databases like SciELO and PubMed.

## Programme

18/2/2026	19/2/2026
<b>Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut</b>	<b>Museum für Naturkunde</b>
14.00 – 14.30	09.30 – 12.30
<b>Welcome Address and Introduction</b>	<b>Visit to Museum für Naturkunde, Research Museum of Leibniz Association</b>
14.30 – 16.00	12.30 – 13.00 Transfer to Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut
<b>Why Latin American Information Infrastructures matter?</b>	
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break	
16.30 – 18.00	
<b>The role of the Collections of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut in Germany and Europe</b>	
<b>Visit to the Collections</b>	
	<b>Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut</b>
	13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break
	14.00 – 15.30
	<b>What does Open Science mean for Information Infrastructures?</b>
	15.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break
	17.00 – 19.00
	<b>Public Conference: The Future of Information Infrastructures: Perspectives from Latin America</b>
20/2/2026	
	<b>Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut</b>
	09.00 – 10.30
	<b>Digital Transformation and the Internationalization of Information Infrastructures: Potentials and Challenges</b>
	10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break
	11.00 – 12.30
	<b>Changing Roles of Information Infrastructures in Societies</b>
	12.30 – 13.00
	<b>Synthesis and Closure</b>
	13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

## Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Potsdamer Straße 37 · 10785 Berlin



## Museum für Naturkunde

Invalidenstraße 43 · 10115 Berlin

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut > Museum für Naturkunde

Public Transport: approximately 25 – 35 minutes

Taxi / Ride hail: around 15 – 20 minutes in normal traffic

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Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America  
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## Imprint

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Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Berlin 2026

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# Mecila:

## Consortium Members

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Berlin, Germany



**Ibero-Amerikanisches  
Institut**  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz



**Freie Universität** Berlin

Cologne, Germany



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São Paulo, Brazil



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