

International Colloquium

Indigenous Struggles for Territory : Latin America and Quebec

Montreal, October 12-13, 2017

Followed by a mini-tour, October 2017

Coordinators : Pierre Beaucage
Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert

Sponsored by :

Groupe de recherche sur les espaces publics et les innovations politiques – GREPIP –
dir. Dr Charmain Levy, Université du Québec en Outaouais.
Groupe de travail « Espaces de vie » : Nancy Thede et Pierre Beaucage)

Centre pour la conservation et le développement autochtone alternatif (CICADA)
Intendance Environnementale Autochtone et Développement Alternatif (IEADA) : Director,
Colin Scott, Department of Anthropology, McGill University.
Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL)

Objective : The central objective of the **International Colloquium** is to make it possible for representatives of indigenous organizations from various countries in Latin America and to present to an academic public, to members of other indigenous groups and to the public in Quebec, their experiences of struggles for territory against large extractive projects : open-pit mining, hydro-electric dams, high-voltage lines and fracking for oil and gas. The relevance of this colloquium is made even greater since Canadian mining and hydroelectric companies are front-stage actors in these projects which have devastating social and environmental effects.

Participants from Indigenous Peoples

Roméo Saganash, federal MP for Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik-Eeyou (to be confirmed)

Jean-Charles Pietacho, chief of the Conseil des Innu d'Ekuanitshit (Mingan)

Angus Mayappo et **Stephanie Georgekish**, representatives from the Cri-Eeyou de Wemindji, Quebec

Nazario Diego, representative from Altepe Tajpianij, which gathers various Maseual (Nahua) communities in the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla (Mexico).

Miguel Sánchez Olvera, representative of Makxtum Kglahaw Chuchutsipi, which gathers various Totonakú (Totonac) communities along the Ajajalpan and Zempoala rivers in the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla.

Miriam Bautista Gutiérrez, representative from the Frente de Defensa del Apulco, which gathers various Nahua and mestizo communities in the Apulco Valley, Sierra Nororiental de Puebla (Mexico).

Zhemeli Dagua Trochez, representative from the Resguardo Indígena de Canoas, Asoc. de Cabildos indígenas del Norte del Cauca, Colombia.

Alejandro Marreros Lobato, from the committee which opposes to mining company project in Ixtacamaxtitlán, Puebla (Mexico)

Aniseto López Díaz, representative of the Frente de Defensa Sanmiguelense, Mam, de San Miguel Ixtahuacan (Guatemala).

Pedro Nola Flores, president of the Congreso Ngabe-Buglé, Panama

Hector Jaime Vinasco, leader of the Cañamomo Loma Prieta community, Embera, (Colombia)

Manari Ushigua, president of the Sápara nation (Ecuador)

Sergio Campusano, president of the Diaguitas Huasco Altinos community,

Academics and collaborators

Pierre Beaucage, département d'anthropologie, Université de Montréal, member of GREPIP

Nancy Thede, département de science poitique, Université du Québec à Montréal, member of GREPIP

Colin Scott, Department of Anthropology, McGill University

Daviken Studnicki, Department of History, McGill University

José Aylwin, Coordinador del Programa de Globalización y Derechos Humanos, Observatorio Ciudadano, Santiago (Chile).

Karine Vanthuyne, Université d'Ottawa

Mario Melo, lawyer, specialized in the legal defence of indigenous rights (Ecuador)

Pierre Trudel, chargé de cours (Université de Québec à Montréal) who works with First Nations in Quebec

Gérald McKenzie, formerly in charge of Indigenous Rights at the International Federation of Human Rights

Adriana Pozos Barcelata, Ph. D. student in Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal

Ximena Cuadra, Ph. D. student in Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal

Viviane Weitzner, Ph. D. student in Anthropology, CIESAS (Mexico)

Teresa Peñafiel, teacher, Montessori School, in charge of the cultural event

PROGRAM, October 12

9h Welcoming words, Pierre Beaucage, professor emeritus, département d'anthropologie, Université de Montréal

9h. Opening Statement, by **Roméo Saganash**, federal representative from Abitibi- James Bay- Nunavik-Eeyou (to be confirmed)

9h30 The Northeastern Sierra de Puebla de Puebla (Mexico) : communities facing mining, hydroelectrical and fracking projects. (Chair : Adriana Pozos Barcelata).

9h30 The Maseualmej (Nahua) from Cuetzalan : from farmers' cooperative to an organization in defense of the territory. (Nazario Diego, representative of Altepe Tajpianij)

10h00 The Totonakú (Totonac) from the Ajajalpan and Zempoala valleys : defending the rivers against hydroelectric projects (Miguel Sánchez Olvera, representative of the organization Makxtum Kglahaw Chuchutsipi)

10h30 : The indigenous and mestizo communities from the Apulco Valley : from local to regional action (Miriam Bautista Gutiérrez, representative of the Committees in Defence of the Apulco).

11h00 The impact of the Ixtacamaxtitlán mining project on indigenous rights (by Alejandro Marreros Lobato, representative of the Committee against the Mining Project)

11h30 **Australia** : Land rights and native title in remote Australia and the contests over resource extraction (Jon Altman, Deakin University, Australia)

12h Questions and comments

12h15-13h30 Break for lunch

13h30 **The Ngäbe and Buglé of Western Panamá.** (Chair : Ximena Cuadra).

13h30 How we obtained autonomy for the Comarca Ngäbe Buglé (Pedro Nola Flores, president of the Congreso Ngäbe-Buglé)

14h00 The indigenous representation of space in the struggle for territorial autonomy. (Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, Department of History, McGill University)

14h30 The Indigenous Peoples of Chile against the extractive companies (Chair : Nancy Thede)

14h30 Fighting for human rights and for the rights of indigenous peoples in a legal context built by the Pinochet dictatorship (by José Aylwin, Coordinator of the Globalization and Human Rights Program, Observatorio Ciudadano, Santiago de Chile).

15h00 The struggle against Barrick Gold in Pascua Lama (by Sergio Campusano, president of the Diaguitas Huasco Altinos community, Chile).

15h30 The struggle of the Mapuches for their territory, against the energy policy of the Chilean Government (by Ximena Cuadra, Ph. D. student in Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal)

16h00 Questions and comments

16h15 Break

16h45 **The First Nations from Quebec** (chair Pierre Trudel)

16h45 The struggle of the Ekuanitshit Innu against fracking on Anticosti Island (by Jean-Charles Pietacho, chief of Ekuanitshit community).

17h15 The Cree-Eeyou Nation in Wemindji and mining companies (Angus Mayappo et Stephanie Georgekish, representatives of the Cri-Eeyou from Wemindji, Quebec)

17h45 The political and legal context of the struggle for territorial autonomy in Canada : the case of the Cree-Eeyou from Wemindji (Karine Vanthuyne, professor, University of Ottawa)

18h15 Questions and comments

18h Break for supper

19h30 Cultural event featuring the Surkalen musical group, at the Photo Café, 2101 Rachel East

October 13

9h Round table : Experiences of struggle and resistance of indigenous women for the protection of the territory. Participants : Zhemeli Dagua Trochez, Miriam Bautista Gutiérrez, plus one woman from an urban environment and another from Women of Diverse Origins (FDO). (Organized by the Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine – CDHAL – Femmes autochtones du Québec – FAQ – and Women of Diverse Origins (FDO))

11h Break

11h15 **The struggle against oil companies in Ecuador** (moderator : Paul Cliche)

11h15 How the Sápara Nation won this battle (Manari Ushigua, president of the Sápara nation (Ecuador))

11h45 A legal victory against the Chinese consortium Andes Petroleum (Mario Melo, lawyer who defended the Sápara)

12h15 Questions and comments

12h30 -13h30 Lunch break

13h30 Projection of the film **El mineral o la vida**, by José Luis Matías Alonso (Nahua from Guerrero, Mexico). (Spanish with French sub-titles). The struggles and victories of the indigenous peoples from Guerrero against the devastation of their territories by mining companies.

14h **Colombia and Guatemala. The destruction of the environment and its costs. Who is going to restore it ?** (Moderator : Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, McGill University)

14h **Colombia** : when the ennemy is multifold. (Hector Jaime Vinasco, leader of the Resguardo Cañamomo Loma Prieta, Embera)

14h 30 Guatemala : When the company leaves, who repairs the disaster ? (Aniseto López Díaz, representative of the Frente de Defensa Sanmiguelense, Mam, San Miguel Ixtahuacan)

15h00 Questions and comments

15h30 **Conclusions** : Indigenous territorial rights, extractive enterprises and conflicts over the use of resources (Colin Scott, Department of Anthropology, McGill University)

The international colloquium will take place in the Université du Québec à Montréal .
Pavillon Président-Kennedy, 201 avenue du Président-Kennedy, Room PK 1140.
(UQÀM).

2. Mini-tour of presentations in Quebec

The mini-tour will bring our guests to l'Université Laval, Québec (October 6), Saint Paul and Ottawa Universities (October 10), as well as to indigenous communities.

Notes :

1. During the colloquium, simultaneous translation services will be provided by CDHAL.
2. Presentations will be videotaped by Steven Schnoor, from McGill University. They will be edited with English, French and Spanish subtitles and will be made available on CICADA website.
3. We recommend to participants to bring their lunch for the lunch breaks.

For the organizaing committee

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