

NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMAZONIAN STUDIES

A satellite map of the Amazon River basin, with the river network highlighted in a vibrant red color. The background is a dark, textured map showing the surrounding land and other water bodies. The red lines represent the main river channels and their tributaries, creating a complex, branching pattern across the region.

MAY 17-18, 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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FRANKE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE ROOM
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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This conference aims to bring to campus scholars conducting cutting-edge research on the Amazonian region in the United States today. Our purpose is to present scholars from a range of fields in the Humanities and Social Sciences in order to provide to the university's academic community a panorama of the questions, themes, and problems that have been guiding current scholarship and cultural production on the Amazon. How is the region's history, from the late-nineteenth-century rubber boom to the

expanding deforestation of the 1970s, present in contemporary inquiries? What is the role of Indigenous thought and cultural production, including visual arts as well as film and verbal arts, in today's Amazonian and international cultural scenes? How has the Amazon become a fertile ground for the production of speculative fiction? In a region where Indigenous presence has received so much attention, how to account for the large and vibrant presence of Black and other brown populations?

Organized by

Victoria Saramago
Eduardo Leão

Sponsored by

Center for Latin American Studies
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU)
Franke Institute for the Humanities

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

4:30-6:00pm | Keynote Address

**"Narrating Extractivism, Climate Change,
and Resistance in the Amazon Today"**

Edmundo Paz-Soldán (Cornell)

Moderated by Eduardo Leão

THURSDAY, MAY 18

8:30am | Breakfast

8:45am | Opening Remarks
Eduardo Leão and Victoria Saramago

9:00–10:30am | Panel 1

“Infrastructural Utopias in Amazonia: Fluvial Technologies in Early Twentieth Century”

Javier Uriarte (Stony Brook)

“Research and the Infrastructure of Extractivism: Digitizing the Biblioteca Amazónica of Iquitos, Peru”

Amanda Smith (UC Santa Cruz)

10:30–11:00am | Break

11:00am–12:30pm | Panel 2

“Seeing Amazonia Anew: Photography and the Multitudinous Forest”

Marina Bedran (Johns Hopkins)

“Mapping Ontologies of Cinema in the Amazon”

Gustavo Furtado (Duke)

12:30–1:30pm | Lunch

1:30–3:00pm | Panel 3

“Between the Seven Worlds: Curing and Cosmological Migration with Uitoto Desplazados”

Amy McLachlan (Field Museum)

“Death and the Political: Mortuary Landscapes and Afro-Indigenous Relations in Amazonia’s Past and Present”

Oscar de la Torre (UNC Charlotte)

3:00–3:30pm | Break

3:30–4:30pm | Plenary Session with All Speakers

