



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
Graz School of Interdisciplinary
Transnational Studies



CAMPS 2026
CONFERENCE

Camps, Belonging, & Abolition Democracy

The 3rd Graz/Puerto Rico International Conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective

*Organized by the Center for Inter-American Studies of the Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies, University of Graz, together
with the Institute of Caribbean Studies and the Department of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus*

4 June - 7 June, 2026, University of Graz, Austria

SCHEDULE		
Thursday, June 4		
Pre-conference		
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Location: Graz Museum (Sackstraße 18)	<u>Local Panel: Detention, Prisons, and Abolition in Austria</u> Chair: Monika Mokre (Austrian Academy of Science) Klaudia Wieser (Push-Back Alarm Austria) and Ayoub (Council for Refugees) There are no laws. They are the law: Migration Detention in Vordernberg Austria Union for the Rights of Prisoners, Austria: Elena Balthesen, Leah Doll, and Mimi Schmidl Support for Prisoners in Austria: Between Solidarity and Paternalism Martin Steinbach (Inmates shelter) Prisons in Austria
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Location: AULA, University of Graz (Universitätsplatz 3, first floor)	Registration
5:00 pm – 7.00 pm		CONFERENCE OPENING AND WELCOME RECEPTION Freedom's Crisis Keynote Lecture: Rinaldo Walcott (University at Buffalo, SUNY, U.S.) <i>(in English with interpretation into Spanish)</i>

Friday, June 5

Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

9:00 am – 11:00 am	HS 11.01 <u>Special Panel: Archives for the Future</u> Chair: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Sami Al Haj (Sudan, Oman) Sufyian Barhoumi (Algeria, online) Moazzam Begg (United Kingdom) Lakhdar Boumedienne (Bosnia and Herzegovina, France) Abdellatif Nasser (Morocco) Mohamedou Ould Salahi Houbeini (Mauritania, Netherlands) Sabri Al Quarshi (Syria) Click here for online participation!		
11:30 am – 12:00 am	Coffee Break: Student Poster Presentations & Elastic Borders Installation		
12:00 am – 1:30 pm	<u>Panel #1: The Elastic Borders of the EU: Analyzing Contemporary Border Regimes in Europe and Beyond</u> HS 11.01 Chair: Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria) Discussant: Sebastian Cobarrubias Baglietto (University of Zaragoza, Spain) Artemis Fyssa (University of Graz, Austria) From One Camp to the Next: Border Elasticity and the Scaling Up of Confinement on a Greek Island	<u>Panel #2: Learning and Emancipation as Spaces of Worldbuilding</u> HS 11.03 Chair: Artiola Kajtazi (University of Graz, Austria) Brian Cabral (University of Texas at Austin, U.S.) Reordered Abolitionist Worldbuilding within U.S.-based Youth Carceral States: Educational Guideposts from Formerly Incarcerated Youth Marcia Watson-Vandiver (Towson University, U.S.)	<u>Panel #3: Incarceration, Rehabilitation, and Decolonial Ethics in Puerto Rico</u> SR 11.05 Chair: Tania Garcia-Ramos (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Sara Santiago-Estrada (University of Puerto Rico, U.S.) The Context of Incarceration in Puerto Rico: Colonialism and Coloniality Maribel Báez-Lebrón (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Correctional Rehabilitation in Puerto Rico

	Mirco Buoso (University of Graz, Austria) Elastic Bordering through Encampment and Transfer: Ethnographic Notes from Tenerife, Canary Islands Angelika Adensamer (University of Graz, Austria) Legal Techniques of Elasticity: The Erosion of Rights through the Fiction of Non-Entry Charlie Yves Ngoudji Tameko (University of Graz, Austria) Surviving the Atlantic, Arriving Unwell: The European Union Border Regimes and Migrant Health in the Canary Islands	Jessica Lee Stovall (University of Wisconsin-Madison, U.S.) Freedom Schools as Sustained Emancipatory Spaces: Black Student Reflections on Carceral Discipline, the School-to-prison Pipeline, and Renewed Possibilities for Racial Belonging Gabriela Azevedo de Aguiar (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil) “I Am From Here and There”: Belonging, Reception, and School Inclusion of Latin American Migrant Children in Brazil	Tania Garcia-Ramos (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Marcos Irizarry (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Amaris Nieves López (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) An Ethical Reconfiguration of Incarceration in Puerto Rico
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch		
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Keynote Lecture HS 11.01 Moderator: Nicole Haring (University of Graz, Austria) Rooting [Out] Our Entangled Present Speaker: Diana Coleman (Northern Arizona University, U.S.) Click here for online participation!		
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Coffee Break: Student Poster Presentations & Elastic Borders Installation		

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	<u>Panel #4: From Clear Voices to Ungrievable Lives</u> HS 11.01 <u>Chair: Bilgin Ayata</u> (University of Graz, Austria) Fiammetta Bonfigli (University of Vienna, Austria) From Gaza to Rio de Janeiro: Extermination Policies and “Ungrievable” Lives Abdrabou A. H. Alanzi (Al-Azhar University- Gaza, Palestine; online presented by Walaa Allouh) Gaza as the World’s Largest Camp: Settler Colonialism, Carcerality, and the Politics of Belonging Johanna Lutz (University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria) Anything you say can be used against you - Terrorism policing, Biometrics and the Voice in Germany Moazzam Begg and Nehal Abdalla (Cage International) From the War on Terror to War on Muslims and Migrants: Securitization, Islamophobia, and Executive Power <u>Click here for online participation!</u>	<u>Panel #5: Circuits of Enclosure, Currents of Opposition: Abolition-ism and Transnational Carcerality</u> HS 11.03 <u>Chair: Michael Reyes Sala</u> (Vassar College, U.S.) Jorge E. Cuéllar (Dartmouth College, U.S., online) Administrative Errors: Kilmar Ábrego and the U.S.-El Salvador Carceral Archipelago Michael Reyes Sala (Vassar College, U.S.) Transcolonial Ruination: Abolitionist Optics in Penal Photo-Textuality Jorge Pavez Ojeda (University College London, UK) The Prison Détour of National Culture. The Case of Puerto Rico Angelica Camacho (San Francisco State University, U.S.; online) Resisting Divide and Conquer Strategies and the Agreement to End All Hostilities Amongst the California Prison Population <u>Click here for online participation!</u>	<u>Panel #6: Literary and Visual Representations of Militarization and Violence</u> SR 11.05 <u>Chair: Maritza Stanchich</u> (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Katja Seidel (University of Innsbruck, Austria) <i>Say Nothing</i> to Speak Out Loud. Institutional Violence and the Affective Visuality of Relational Resistance Yutaka Yoshida (Chuo University, Japan) What is New About the Emperor’s Clothes?: Carcerality, Militarization, and International Cold War Politics in Caribbean Literature Bruno Lopes de Almeida (University of Minho, Portugal) (Re)Claiming and (Re)Imagining Belonging through the Novel <i>Rainbow Milk</i> by Paul Mendez	SPECIAL ACTIVITY <u>Guided Tour Art Exhibition and Creative Session:</u> SR 11.06 Carolyn Defrin (University of Graz, Austria) Past Portals to Future Worlds
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7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Location: Burg Graz Hofgasse 15, 8010 Graz	Conference Dinner (included with registration; no sign-up necessary; departure after parallel panels; meeting point at registration; on-foot and public transportation options available)	
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Saturday, June 6

Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

9:00 am – 10:30 am	Panel #7: Education & Abolitionist Praxis HS 11.01 Chair: Artiola Kajtazi (University of Graz, Austria) Elizabeth Swanson (Babson College, U.S.) Dignity, Belonging, Transformation: Criminal Legal Reform, Abolition Democracy, and Higher Education Inside the Walls Leanne Trapedo Sims (Knox College, U.S., online) The Limits of Forgiveness: A Meditation on an Inside-Out Class in Illinois Jessica Lee Stovall (University of Wisconsin-Madison, U.S.) Marica Watson-Vandiver (Towson University, U.S.) Ethnic Studies as an Abolitionist Educational Practice in Youth Carceral Regimes	Panel #8: Restorative Justice, Temporicide, and the Possibilities of Abolitionist Sanctuary HS 11.02 Chair: Jonathan Cortez (University of Texas at Austin, U.S.) Gabreëlla Friday (St. John's University, U.S.) Josh M. Price (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada) Temporicide and Unbelonging A. Naomi Paik (University of Illinois, U.S.) All We Have Is Each Other: Abolitionist Sanctuary Against All-American Fascism Leila Rodríguez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Doing the Dirty Work: Workers' Experiences with the Incarceration and Management of Asylum-Seekers in Costa Rica	Panel #9: Re-visiting Guantánamo Writing in the Second Term of Trump HS 11.03 Chair: Alexandra S. Moore (Binghamton University, U.S.) Sufyian Barhoumi (Algeria, online) A Story from Guantánamo and Beyond Alexandra S. Moore (Binghamton University, U.S.) 'Where is Guantánamo' Today Terri Tomskey (University of Alberta, Canada) 'Send them to the World': Guantánamo Poems in the Age of Trump 2.0 Esther Whitfield (Brown University, U.S.) Two Decades of Literature from Guantánamo	Panel #10: Erasure, Belonging, and Critical Interventions SR 11.05 Chair: Nicole Haring (University of Graz, Austria) Mahshid Mayar (University of Innsbruck, Austria) I, Art – I, Empire: On Black Sites, "Exhibits," and Erasures Lena Elisabeth Leßlhuber (University of Salzburg, Austria) From JoAnne to Assata: A Journey of Resistance, Naming and Belonging in Assata: An Auto-biography (1987) Sandra Tausel (University of Innsbruck, Austria) Scaling the Prison Wall Together: Collaborative Erasure Art in Erasing Frankenstein
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	Click here for online participation!			
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Coffee Break: Elastic Borders Installation			
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Panel #11: Perspectivas interculturales desde los territorios: pertenecer no al estado HS 11.01 Chair: Anita Krainer (FLASCO, Ecuador) Nina Kolowratnik (Ghent University, Belgium) Voluntary Isolation as a Legal Category: Protection, Non-Contact, and Confinement: The Tagaeri and Taromenane Case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Christina Korak (University of Graz, Austria) Adriana Rodriguez (University Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador) Memoria de las mujeres amazónicas waorani y justicia intercultural: más allá de la reparación libera Anita Krainer (FLASCO, Ecuador) Desafíos para pertenecer al Estado: diversidades, interculturalidad y diálogo de saberes en América Latina	Panel #12: Language, Discourse, and the Abolitionist Imagination HS 11.02 Chair: Eva Bauer (University of Graz) Paula Martin Rivero and Dietmar Offenhuber (Northeastern University, U.S.) Language as Infrastructure: Fron-tex and the Bureaucratic Production of (Non)Belonging Stephanie Latty and Joshua Price (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada) From Preventable to Inevitable: Discourses of Custodial Death in Official Reports Omar Granados (University of Wisconsin La Crosse, U.S.) Carceral Pedagogies: The After-lives of the Hombre Nuevo in <i>El Mercurio de McCoy</i>	Panel #13: Socio-Political Movements and Dynamics of Belonging HS 11.03 Chair: Frithjof Nungesser (University of Graz, Austria) Mohammed Zarkan (Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco) From Discord to the Streets: Digital Camps of Belonging and the Reimagining of Democracy in Morocco's Gen Z 212 Movement Ahmed Maher (Independent Scholar) The Space Between the Bars: Narratives of Belonging in an Egyptian Activist's Memoir Todd Michael Rowan (Louisiana State University, U.S., online) and Jenna Ann Altomonte (Mississippi State University, U.S., online) (American) Southern Youth at the Global Crossroads Abdellatif Nasser Life after Guantánamo and Dictionary Story	Panel #14: Local Struggles, Global Designs: US Militarization in Puerto Rico and the Greater Caribbean SR 11.05 Chair: Maritza Stanchich (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Maritza Stanchich (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Domestic in a Foreign Sense: U.S. Militarization in the Caribbean Parallels its Own Authoritarianism Marie Cruz Soto (New York University, USA, online) Vieques in the Interplay of Militarized and Settler Colonial Logics Zorimar Rivera Montes (Tulane University, U.S.) A Week in the Life: (Re)militarization in the Greater Caribbean Fabio Santos (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) The Limits of Abolition Democracy: Haitian Refugees at Fort Allen, Puerto Rico

			Click here for online participation!	Click here for online participation!
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch			
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<u>Keynote Lecture</u> HS 11.01 Moderator: Esther Whitfield (Brown University) Mujeres migrantes y destierro Speaker: Elithet Silva-Martínez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Píedras Campus) Click here for online participation!			
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break: Elastic Borders Installation			
4:00 pm –5:30 pm	<u>Creative Writing Workshop (please sign-up beforehand)</u> HS 11.01 Workshop leaders: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Píedras Campus) Mohamedou Ould Salahi Houbeini (writer, human rights advocate)		<u>Book Presentation</u> HS 11.03 <i>Alicia Kozameh: la obra y su multiplicidad (2026)</i> (Erna Pfeiffer y Norah Giraldi Dei Cas, eds.) Norah Giraldi Dei Cas (University of Lille, France) Alicia Kozameh (Chapman University, U.S.) Erna Pfeiffer (University of Graz, Austria)	
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Location: Meerscheinschlössl, Mozartgasse 3	<u>Guantánamo Extended: Art, Scholarship, & Memory</u> Esther Whitfield , (Brown University, U.S.) author of <i>A New Non-Man’s Land: Writing and Art at Guantánamo, Cuba</i> (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2024) Alexandra S. Moore (Binghamton University, U.S.) and Elizabeth Swanson (Babson College, U.S.) Editors of <i>The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi</i> (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) Mansoor Adayfi (Yemen, Serbia) contributor to <i>The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi</i> , chapter title: “My Brother, the Artist” followed by a reception incl. food and drinks			

Sunday, June 7

Location: University of Graz (Heinrichstraße 36)

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Special Panel: Abolition Democracy and Freedom

HS 11.01

Moderator: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus)

Bilgin Ayata (University of Graz, Austria)

A.Naomi Paik (University of Illinois, U.S.)

Mohamedou Ould Salahi Houbeini (Mauritania, the Netherlands)

Rinaldo Walcott (University at Buffalo, SUNY, U.S.)

Creating and Committing to the Future

Carolyn Defrin (University of Graz, Austria)

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Coffee Break: Elastic Borders Installation

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Panel #15: Life Writing, Politics, and Memory

HS 11.01

Chair: Julia Harnoncourt
(University of Graz)

Steven Stiegemeyer Jr.
(University of Bielefeld, Germany)

Life Writing and Visibility:
Enslaved People, Undocumented
Migrants, and Legal Erasure

Alejandra Campos (University of
Granada, Spain)

Creative Writing on Migrant
Child-hood and Adolescence in
the Face of Contemporary Policies
of Capture and Confinement

José Ramón Sánchez Leyva
(independent scholar, Cuba)

Panel #16: Literary Choices and Abolitionist Imaginaries

HS 11.02

Chair: Seyma Yonar (University of
Graz)

Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre
University, Italy)

"As a result of the interview, my
family name was reduced to No.
13660." The Calvary of the
Japanese American Incarceration
in Miné Okubo's Illustrated Memoir

Youssef Diallo (Cheikh Anta
Diop University, Senegal)

From Colonial Compounds to
Contemporary Camps: African
Literary Interventions in

Panel #17: Public Memory and Narratives of Resistance

HS 11.03

Chair: Fatmir Ramadani (AAB
College, Kosovo)

Mónika Fodor (University of Pécs,
Hungary)

Telling Stories for an Invisible
Audience: Narrative Agency in the
Guantánamo Public Memory
Project

Manjola Nasi (University of
Tirana, Albania)
The Evasive Other: Narrating
Relational Surveillance and
Re-Sentencing in Albanian
Communist Political Prison
Memoirs

Panel #18: Martyrdom, Psycho-Carcerality, and the Abolitionist Imperative Against ICE and Elite Impunity

SR 11.05

Chair: Michael Reyes Salas
(Vassar College, U.S.)

Estella Pettus (Vassar College,
U.S.)

The Clubhouse Model of Mental
Health as Resistance to
Psycho-Carceral Architecture

Demetri Sedita (Vassar College,
U.S.)

ICE and the Battle Over the Digital
Visibility of Its Actions

Eva Martinez (Vassar College,
U.S.)

	No es país para ingleses: fundaciones fallidas vuelven a suceder	(Be)longing and Abolition Democracy Lucio De Capitani (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy) Colonialism, Carcerality and Abolition: Reimagining and Dismantling the Canadian Residential Schools in Cherie Dimaline's <i>The Marrow Thieves</i> (2017) and <i>Hunting by Stars</i> (2021)	Rabija Osmanagić (University of Graz, Austria) Abolition, Care, and Decolonial Feminism: Nadja Dizdarević and the Gendered Politics of Resistance in Postwar Bosnia	Witness as Humanity: Comparing The Passion of Perpetua and ICE Detainees' Stories Mariya Novosad (Vassar College, U.S.) "Free Jeffrey Epstein?" Abolition, Impunity, and Imaginings of Accountability
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch			
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Panel #19: Memory, Unforgetting, and Carceral Imaginaries HS 11.01 Chair: Carolyn Defrin (University of Graz, Austria) Rosie Elebyjian (Vassar College, U.S.) Anti-Carceral Digital Resistance: Online Public Memory of Syria's Saydnaya Military Prison Sandrine Canac (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France, online) Repackage to Reconcile? Colonial Carcerality, UNESCO Heritage, and the Politics of Memory Suma Cheru (University of Texas at Austin, U.S.) Educational Counterspaces, Acompañamiento, and Carceral	Panel #20: Exhibition and Presentation: Support of Prisoners in Austria SR 11.05 Chair: Monika Mokre (ÖAW, Austria) Elena Balthesen, Leah Doll and Mimi Schmidl (Union for the Rights of Prisoners, Austria) Between Solidarity and Paternalism <i>Guided tour through Exhibition on Artworks and Text from Prisons in Austria followed by presentation</i>	Panel #21: Belonging and Imagination as Abolitionist Tools HS 11.02 Chair: Artiola Kajtazi (University of Graz) Stephanie Athey (SUNY-Binghamton, Human Rights Institute, U.S.) Dueling National Security Imaginations: El Salvador, the US and Spaces of Negation Túlio Zille (Bowdoin College, U.S.) Belonging in Movement Shinichi Ishizuka and Mika Funakoshi (Ryukoku University, Japan) Capital Punishment and Discrimination in Japan: Explicit and Implicit Lurking in the Criminal Justice System	Panel #22: Counterspaces, Deportation, and Policy HS 11.03 Chair: Artemis Fyssa (University of Graz, Austria) Raven Burns (Northern Arizona University) The Human Investment: Con-sequences of the ATF's Operation Fast & Furious Otto Herschmann (University of Graz, Austria) The Weaponization of ICE: Mass Deportation, the Suspension of Due Process, and the Logic of the 'Camp' in the Americas Kamal Tasiu Abdullahi (Istanbul University, Turkey) Borders of Belonging: Economic and Social Dimensions of Migrant Detention

	Humanitarianism in U.S. Refugee Detention Click here for online participation!			
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break: Elastic Borders Installation			
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Panel #23: ICE, Solidaridad y Perspectivas Humanistas HS 11.01 Chair: Julia Harnoncourt (University of Graz, Austria) José Sánchez Guerra (Casa de Historia, Ciudad de Guantánamo, Cuba) Guantánamo Bay: Violación de los derechos humanos. Colonización cultural. Melquisedec González Dávila (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras) Identidad de la negritud, pertenencia y democracia abolicionista: genealogías del Encierro y horizontes de libertad decolonial Eliani A. Parrilla Rodríguez (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras, online) La libertad del saber en prisión: humanidades en contextos carcelarios Click here for online participation!	Panel #24: Rewriting Restorative Justice, and Nonviolent Resistance HS 11.02 Chair: Artiola Kajtazi (University of Graz, Austria) Ahmed Maher (Independent Scholar) Bruce Pearson (Center for Nonviolent Conflict Research, U.S.) After the Square: Belonging and the Consequences of Nonviolent Resistance Sreetapa Chakrabarty (Rabindra Bharati University, India, online) Identity, Belonging, and Childhood: Insights from Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh Gertrude Mensah (University of Ghana, Ghana, online) Beyond Encampment: How In-formal Settlements in the Global South Cultivate Belonging, Resistance, and Everyday Abolition Practices Leanne Trapedo Sims (Knox College, U.S., online) Reckoning with Restorative Justice: Hawai'i Women's Prison Writing Click here for online participation!	Panel #25: Beyond Guantánamo: Empire, Camps, and Freedom HS 11.03 Chair: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Matthew Masotto (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, online) Political Discourse and the Illusion of Freedom Alondra S. Acevedo Pérez (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Resisting Erasure in Carceral Spaces: How Silenced Voices Speak Alicia Figueroa Carlo (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Translation as Counter-Discourse: Against Empire, Toward Abolition Democracy Ángel R. Ocasio Gracia (University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus) Community Participation in Correctional Reform: A Public Health Approach from Puerto Rico Click here for online participation!	



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CAMPS
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2026

Break

6.00-7.00 pm

Closing Ceremony: What's Next?

Moderators: Don E. Walicek (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus) and **Nicole Haring** (University of Graz, Austria)

Poetry Reading and Presentation of Art

Commentary from Moazzam Begg, Lakhdar Boumediene, and Abdelatif Nasser