

Call for Abstracts: Commons and Commoning in the Latin American Context

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Scholarship on Latin American commoning has gone beyond economistic models of the commons as shared resources to emphasize the relational processes that emerge through the sharing of a place, practice, or knowledge. This conceptualization shifts the focus of commoning (or, *lo común*) to emphasize processes that produce and sustain life, community, and political subjectivities. Such a relational approach to the commons has proven useful as a way to articulate from below what is at stake in contemporary struggles for a meaningful and dignified life within capitalist modernity. Indeed, movements and mobilizations around Indigenous territorial defense, autonomy, and feminist liberation from Mexico to Argentina often engage the concepts of commons and commoning to find resources and insights for a political praxis that goes beyond state-centered capitalism or socialism to locally situated, socially embedded, and networked practices of care, provisioning and self-governance. These practices may be articulated in terms of the reproduction of human and more-than-human life, care, rights and responsibilities to subsistence or redistribution of surplus, or communitarian social ontologies as an alternative to the individualization and atomization of capitalist modernity. In addition, commons and commoning movements may simultaneously engage the dynamic between outward-facing social mobilizations against external threats and oppressions and instituent practices involving the recovery and stewardship of existing or new community governance and labor institutions.

We invite papers that explore these dynamics in the Latin American context, probing relational processes in historical and contemporary cases of commoning and increasing the visibility of community-based governance and institutions for social reproduction as a rich and demonstrative political alternative to capitalist modernity.

Papers might consider any of the following topics or others of relevance:

- practices of care and social reproduction from a commoning perspective
- intra- and/or inter- community organizational challenges and experiences
- relationships to commerce, markets, and surplus generation and/redistribution in commons and commoning
- commoning in relation to the more-than-human
- legal architectures and external legitimation of autonomous self-governance
- state cooptation of commoning and autonomy discourses
- political strategy and/or internal governance of commons and commoning movements
- catalytic actors and events in institutional recovery and rebuilding
- subjectivities and identities of commons in flux or in conflict
- interactions of commoning with migration

- historical studies of particular Latin American commons, including factors shaping their emergence and decline or persistence

Please send your abstract (250 words max) to Fiona Gladstone (Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ, USA) and Holly Worthen (Universidad Autonoma Benito Juarez de Oaxaca, Oaxaca, MX) at f.gladstone@fdu.edu and hworthen@gmail.com by September 7, 2026 to be considered for this panel.

Further reading:

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Gutiérrez Aguilar, R. (2010). *Entender la descomposición, vislumbrar las posibilidades*.

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Gutiérrez Aguilar, R., Linsalata, L., and Navarro Trujillo, M.L. 2016. Producing the Common and Reproducing Life: Keys towards Rethinking the Political. In *Social Sciences for an Other Politics: Women Theorizing without Parachutes*, ed. Ana Cecilia Dinerstein, 79–92. Cham, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Linsalata, L., & Salazar Lohman, H. (Coords.). (2015). Común ¿para qué? *El Apantle: Revista de Estudios Comunitarios*, (1). Sociedad Comunitaria de Estudios Estratégicos.

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Mariátegui, J. C. (2007). *7 essays de interpretación de la realidad peruana* (A. Quijano, Prologue; E. Garrels, Notes, Chronology & Bibliography). Fundación Biblioteca Ayacucho. (Original work published 1928).

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Nightingale, Andrea J. (2019). "Commoning for Inclusion? Political Communities, Commons, Exclusion, Property and Socio-Natural Becomings." *International Journal of the Commons* 13 (1): 16–35. <https://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.927>.

Rieiro Castiñeira, A., & Bustos, M. (2022). Lo común y los comunes en debate. *Argumentos*, (26), 538–567. <https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=802384074020>

Rodríguez Palop, M. E. (2013). *Reconocimiento, defensa y preservación de bienes comunes en los textos constitucionales*. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

----- (2016). Los bienes comunes. In F. Prats, Y. Herrero, & A. Torrego (Eds.), *La Gran Encrucijada: Reflexiones en torno a la crisis ecosocial y el cambio de ciclo histórico* (pp. 135–166). Libros en Acción.

----- (2026). Nuevo contrato social y política de lo común. *Papeles de relaciones ecosociales y cambio global*, (42), 179–187.

Sato, Chizu, and Jozelin M. Soto Alarcón. 2019. "Toward a Postcapitalist Feminist Political Ecology's Approach to the Commons and Commoning." *International Journal of the Commons* ' 13 (1): 36–61. <https://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.933>.

Salazar Zarco, A. L. (2025). Supuestos epistemológicos de la Teoría Política del Común: aportes de los feminismos y de la sociología crítica latinoamericana. *Diálogos Latinoamericanos*, 34. Retrieved from <https://tidsskrift.dk/dialogos/article/view/156570>

Tzul Tzul, G. (2018a). La forma comunal de la resistencia. *Ojarasca* (supplement of *La Jornada*), (258), 105–111.

----- (2018b). Rebuilding communal life: Ixil women and the desire for life in Guatemala. *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 50(4), 402–407.