by the State, acting in a geopolitical level, through the facilitation of sale of communal lands to private companies—initially domestic, but later foreign—as a means of promoting economic and productive "modernization", resulting in a transnational economic field.

New Institutionalism perspective, particularly focused on the institutional work, allied to the *Critical Realist Evaluation*, were used to demonstrate how the creation of the trust catalyzed institutional change by the State, enabling the privatization of communal lands, thus fostering the country's integration into the global economy. Methodologically, the research adopts a historical-documentary approach, combining the analysis of historical, legal, statistical and qualitative data (interviews and direct observation) from both the municipality and FIBBA, to assess its impact on urbanization and land control.

The findings indicate that FIBBA significantly transformed Bahía de Banderas by shifting economic activity from agriculture to tourism, which attracted foreign capital and established tourism as a key economic driver. In conclusion, while FIBBA played a strategic role in modernizing the region and attracting investment, successfully integrating Mexico into the global economic system, through the tourism sector, it did so in a subordinate role, at the expense of increasing dependence on transnational capital and people disempowerment. This transformation also resulted in the dispossession of *ejidatarios* and disproportionately benefited large international corporations.

RC01-24.3

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MARQUES, ADRIANA (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Los Estudios De Defensa En Brasil: Reflexiones a Partir De La Producción Académica Presentada En Los Encuentros Nacionales De La Abed

En este trabajo, pretendemos mapear la producción académica en el área de los Estudios de Defensa en Brasil a partir del análisis de los trabajos presentados en los encuentros nacionales de la Asociación Brasileña de Estudios de Defensa (ABED) que ocurrieron entre 2018 y 2024. La ABED es una asociación académica civil creada en 2005 con el objetivo de reunir a investigadores dedicados a los temas de la Defensa. Desde 2018, los trabajos académicos presentados en los encuentros nacionales (2018, 2021, 2022 y 2024) han sido alojados en 10 áreas temáticas, indicando una ampliación del alcance y profundidad de la agenda de investigación en el campo en Brasil. De esta manera, el presente trabajo busca evaluar: la evolución del número general de trabajos presentados, la distribución de los trabajos en las áreas temáticas y los subtemas más recurrentes dentro de cada área.

RC37-620.4

BIGENHO, MICHELLE* (Colgate University, USA)

Music Worlds Exchanged: Relationalities and the Curricular Value of Performing Bolivian Music

In international encounters, Bolivian musicians' performances often are marketed and consumed as folklore and as stagings of cultural difference, even as performers resist this cultural cornering. This paper explores an alternative form of exchanging music worlds, not based on the idea of touring Bolivians who perform for foreign audiences, but rather on a model of musicians who, in an intensive course, teach US college students how to play Andean panpipes. The course "Performing Bolivian Music," is unique in its aperture to any student--not just music students--, and in its bilingual teaching, even though the course carries no Spanish language requirement. Throughout the course, students learn what it means to work in inextricable interdependence with others—an ethos that contrasts with what one finds in many US college classrooms. I team-teach this course with Bolivian musicians and our social contract rests on multi-decade relationalities between an anthropologist/musician and the founder/director of a Bolivian music ensemble. Taking cues from Native American and Indigenous Studies' and feminist scholars' focus on the concept of relationality (Cattelino and Simpson 2022), I suggest that such a course moves out of a consumptionist model of cultural exchange and towards a model that emphasizes multilevel relationalities--among the instructors and among the students who become involved in playing Bolivian music. I also consider the relational values assigned to the knowledge of performing Bolivian music, as these practices assume a place within a credit-bearing course of the university's curriculum, not in the disciplines, but rather in interdisciplinary spaces.

RC05-85.1

BIHOLAR, RAMONA* (The University of the West Indies, Jamaica)

Caribbean Reparations Calls As Decolonising Accountability Tools for Inclusive Social Justice Frameworks

Caribbean reparations calls are a response to the lasting devastating legacies of colonialism and transatlantic slave trade, and the resultant global inequities that affect particularly the Global South, and thus, profound demands for accountability. However, they hardly find a footing in international human rights frameworks, debilitating various social justice demands.

This paper builds on Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) to critique international human rights-based justice frameworks and expose engrained structures of subordination and exclusion these frameworks have legitimated and reproduced. This paper is concerned with unearthing the epistemological injustices supported through international (human rights) law. In the TWAIL tradition, the paper asserts the Global South as a site for knowledge production and practice of human rights with specific understandings of and calls for justice that so far have not been reflected in and addressed by internatioanl human rights mechanisms for accountability and protection. Arguing that through calls for reparations, the Caribbean "speaks from a subaltern epistemic location" (Gathii 2020) that challenges the "universal" quality of Western worldviews reflected in international legal knowledge, this paper urges for a re-examination of the established perimeters of human rights-based justice, including standards, structures, mechanisms and methods.

Thus, the paper argues that reparations are decolonising calls demanding a critical re-imagining of the international (human rights) justice frameworks as systems that reflect and are inclusive of alternate standpoints on justice. It puts forward a theorisation of justice and reparations, in which both backward looking (reparation) and forward looking (compensation) responsibilities are taken by former coloniser States and the international community as duty bearers to respond to Caribbean reparations. The paper thus proposes and discusses in detail the necessary multifaceted effort, involving undertaking institutional, structural, legal and policy action by a wide range of actors operating at various international and national levels.

RC17-JS-113.1

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Building Brighten Futures: Knowledge and Communication on Socio-Environmental Topics in Two Macaronesian Regions

The global changes – out of which climate change is the most visible aspect – have conveyed dilemmas that challenge our ability to reflect on them and engender effective solutions. Thus, the world is imbuid with what Thimothy Morton (2013) called hyperobjects, incluiding the Anthropocene. Notwithstanding, the term 'Anthropocene' has generated controversy, with some authors suggesting that the correct term is 'Anthropocenes', due to the plurality of approaches and the fragmentation of the discourses involved, which entail a transdisciplinary epistemological positioning (Kelly, 2014; Wright, 2016). Bruno Latour's (2014) reflection on the Anthropocene builds on the idea that Geology and Earth Sciences draw near Anthropology, raising the question of human agency not only in construction of scientific facts, but in the very existence of the phenomena that these facts document. In other words, how is it that humans end up exerting such a significant influence on the planet, yet find it hard to understand the consequent profound changes, and feel powerless to respond to them (individuals, society, organisations, institutional and political power, economic agents)? Additionally, which discourses, knowledge, practices and ways of dealing with socio-environmental challenges and climate change are established at regional and local levels in insular contexts, specifically in the Autonomous Region of Madeira and the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands? The study we have conducted as part of a doctoral research, revealed that the mainstream perspective is still prevalent, and that regarding knowledge, policies, communication and participation, lay rationalities and territorial communities' perspectives remain virtually absent, although they have proven to be crucial throughout time, in providing answers to the main challenges experienced in these concrete territories and in forging adaptative skills. They must, therefore, be contemplated when tackling complex and multidimensional issues and considering alternative, brighten futures.

Fátima Alves (Open University and CFE) is a co-author.

     * denotes a presenting author. Abstracts are organized by first presenting author's last name.

RC24-403.2

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Powering Communication and Societal Engagement with Climate Research and Policies in Insular Territories

The discourses that condition knowledge, research and public policies concerning climate change are based on assumptions that work as starting points for analysis, debates and consensus to be carried out, yet they also emphasise controversies that contribute to opening *black boxes* (Latour, 1987, 1992, 2005) regarding the phenomenon, and which emerge from perceptions and conceptions that are occasionally divergent and incompatible. In fact, the different discourses highlight differentiated knowledge/power relationships and conflicting interests emanating from science, politics, economics, environmental NGOs…, often culminating in disparate and extreme positions, which generate confusion and instability. They are, therefore, a stimulus to public apathy and immobility, instead of fostering active and committed citizenship and the impulse to action.

Even though the relevance of participatory citizenship is cited by supranational, national and regional actors, and it is acknowledged that the involvement of all stakeholders is crucial in addressing socio-environmental challenges and promote the success of climate policies, resistance from knowledge- institutionalized powers endure, even when they refer to the need for change.

As concluded within the scope of a case study carried out in the Autonomous Region of Madeira and the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, also at regional level, the construction and dissemination of knowledge about climate change and the policies continue to favor a top-down approach. Lay rationalities and non-formal and territorial constructs have not found echo in scientific communication, nor in the mass media, and remain absent in the conception, design and implementation of policies, despite some local articulation initiatives with communities, associations, activist groups, together with economic agents, which hinders successful communicative processes and may balk timely, integrated and effective responses.

RC09-136.1

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NENADIĆ, IVA (University of Zagreb, Croatia)
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Unveiling the EU Digital Policy Pathways: A Compass without True North?

Digital transformation is a widely used concept in policies and academic discourse (Heeks et al., 2023), especially in the EU (European Commission 2021; 2022). Consolidated digital monopolies (Bilić et al., 2021; Rikap, 2021) and public pressure impose the need for protective industrial policy and stronger democratic governance. Geopolitical relations lead to trade conflicts in which the open global Internet and open markets falter in the face of the controlled global flow of technology, data and capital (Bradford, 2023).

The Digital Compass, designed to bolster the European international standing and create a sustainable digital transformation, focuses on creating efficient markets and public administration, better connectivity, improved digital skills and democracy. However, predominantly technocratic solutions often overlook the need for a comprehensive approach to social development. It is crucial to consider power and unequal social relations, rather than just individual skills and freedoms.

In this paper, we analyse (a) the underlying pathways in digital policy (strategies, acts, communications) (N=38) and (b) the regulatory expertise and experience of European Commission digital policy experts gathered through semi-structured interviews (N=10). Combining quantitative and qualitative analysis, we present the main characteristics and relations between explicit and implicit development paradigms (neoliberal, structuralist, sustainable, human development, and public wealth production).

Empirical data shows the lack of a single development direction of the EU digital policy. Relationships between individuals, social groups, public authorities, European institutions, and corporations are evolving. Infrastructures are insufficiently considered a shared resource through the lens of universal accessibility, non-discrimination, and social welfare. Private and public investments are reshaping the boundaries and responsibilities of actors in complex and unpredictable ways. Targeting too many policy goals creates the risk of missing the policy goals and steering digital transformation in undesirable directions.

RC32-529.11

BILON, XAVIER JAVINES* (University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines)

Pride, Politics, and Pageantry: Uncovering the on-Line News Coverage of LGBT Issues in the Philippines through LDA Topic Modelling

Recent trends in news consumption foreground the growing importance of on-line news as a primary source of information for many people. In the Philippines, while television and radio remain the primary sources of news, around half of Filipinos now turn to the Internet for their news. Given the media's gatekeeping function in shaping public discourse, it is crucial to uncover how media cover LGBT issues by examining which topics are being focused on and which are left out, and to surface opportunities for LGBTQI movements to engage with media outlets in bringing attention to issues that affect LGBTQI people. In this work, I utilized latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) to model central topics across headlines of LGBT-related on-line news in the Philippines from 2017 to 2022 (n = 1,314). News articles were obtained using Google Alerts, a tool that monitors web content. Using various optimisation metrics, 15 topics were obtained. These include topics across three general themes: pride (news about pride celebration and Pride Month), politics (news about LGBT-related pronouncements of key government officials such as the Philippine president and proposed laws on anti-discrimination law and marriage equality), and pageantry (news about cultural events such as drag competitions and beauty contests). News coverage of LGBT-related issues was also observed to peak during events surrounding these themes: pride marches, official government discussions on LGBTQI matters, and cultural events involving LGBTQI folks and allies. The findings reveal opportunities for LGBTQI movements to leverage these social, political, and cultural contexts to engage with news media outlets and address significant gaps in coverage of other issues affecting LGBTQI people, such as health, education, and employment.

RC49-782.3

BILOTTI, ANDREA* (Roma Tre University, Italy)
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Interprofessional Dynamics in Mental Health and Disability Services: The Tuscan Model

Mental health social workers often face challenges in being recognized for their expertise within interprofessional teams, especially in systems dominated by biomedical approaches. This study examines the Tuscan model of disability assessment and care, which prioritizes user participation and empowerment. It aims to analyze power dynamics influencing interactions between SW and other professionals, and how they affect the quality of care and the involvement of service users with disabilities and their families.

The study utilized a qualitative design, involving 150 professionals from 10 multidisciplinary assessment units across Tuscany. Data were collected through focus groups and role-play sessions, which were recorded and analyzed using the theoretical lens of Anti-Oppressive Practice (Burke, Harrison, 2002; Dominelli, 1996). The participants included social workers, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders involved in the care of people with disabilities. The analysis focused on identifying themes related to interprofessional collaboration, power relations, and user participation.

The results revealed that despite the Tuscan model's focus on user empowerment, significant power imbalances persist within interprofessional teams. Social workers often found their roles marginalized, limiting their ability to advocate for user-centered approaches. However, the model's emphasis on participation led to some positive outcomes in terms of user engagement and the promotion of autonomy. Key strengths of the model include its structured approach to multidisciplinary collaboration, but challenges remain in ensuring equal recognition of social work expertise.

The study emphasizes the need to address power imbalances in mental health and disability services for effective participatory care. Social workers should advocate for better recognition within interprofessional teams. Policy revisions are necessary to reinforce the value of social work in mental health and ensure that care models align with empowerment and social justice principles. Future research should focus on strategies to improve interprofessional equity and the long-term impact of participatory models on service outcomes.