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Buen Vivir and Collective Healings: A Communalist and Biocentric Initiative to Heal Colonial Wounds

Abstract:

This presentation will introduce the new interdisciplinary initiative called Buen Vivir and Collective Healings. With seed funds from UConn's Department of Anthropology and the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, this initiative seeks to interrogate and support the kinds of healings that happen beyond the individual body to include human collectives, other-than-human beings, spiritualities, and ecologies. It centers on the wounds that are historical, collective, and ecological and disrupt Indigenous communitarian and biocentric epistemologies such as Buen Vivir (Sumak Kawsay in Quechua or Suma Qamaña en Aymara), Ubuntu, or Eco-swaraj, among many others. This presentation will share some insights from the work with Indigenous elders in the Colombian Amazon to understand and promote the work of the association Ñatapai Jiyona (Living Healthy), from the work in progress around the conceptual framing "collective healings of colonial wounds," and from the work of acclaimed Indigenous filmmaker Francisco Huichaqueo who proposes that his Indigenous movies are a form of "medicine" that heals the spirit.

Bios:

César E. Abadía-Barrero is an associate professor of anthropology and human rights at the University of Connecticut. He integrates different critical perspectives in the study of how for-profit interests transform access, continuity, and quality of health care. He has conducted activist-oriented research in Brazil and Colombia, focusing on health care policies and programs, human rights judicialization and advocacy, and social movements in health. His current collaborative research supports community-based proposals in health and wellbeing after Colombia's 2016 peace accord. He is the author and editor of several books including *I Have AIDS but I am Happy: Children's Subjectivities, AIDS, and Social Responses in Brazil* and *Health in Ruins: the Capitalist Destruction of Medical Care at a Colombian Maternity Hospital*.

Catalina Alvarado-Cañuta, is a scholar of Mapuche origin from Chile. She is a Fulbright student currently pursuing a PhD in Medical Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. She obtained a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) in Mexico, where she began her specialization in medical anthropology, especially on issues of interculturality in health and the process of pregnancy and childbirth care for Mapuche women. Catalina has worked in public service as a manager of health programs for indigenous populations in Chile. She has received funding from the University of Connecticut to develop research on colonial trauma and collective healing processes of indigenous peoples. Currently Catalina is part of an interdisciplinary research group using participatory action research methodologies to work with indigenous migrants in Hartford.

Francisco Huichaqueo, Mapuche, Chile. He is a visual artist, filmmaker and academic of the Faculty of Humanities and Visual Arts of the Universidad de Concepción. He graduated from the University of Chile with a master's degree in documentary filmmaking from the same university, and specialization in optics at the film school of Cuba. His visual work is developed around the themes that concern his Mapuche lineage and the first nations. He expresses his work in film installation, documentary, and film essay formats that have circulated in national and international film festivals. He also intervenes colonial spaces where the material and immaterial indigenous heritage is kept, such as archaeological collections in museums in Chile and abroad. Currently Francisco is part of an interdisciplinary research group using participatory action research methodologies to work with indigenous migrants in Hartford.