

# La Compañera



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Catherine Berman and Anna Persmark, Editors  
Andrew Fisher, Director of Latin American Studies



Photo: Anthony Harb, '15

## Peru Off-Campus Studies

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# Society, Culture, and Language in Peru

The Program at a Glance: Spring 2014

Program Director José Cerna-Bazán recalls his students' surprise upon witnessing a moment of cultural hybridity in Lima for the first time: as workers refurbished an indigenous baroque church in Lima, *American hip hop* blasted through speakers! The most surprising aspect of Peruvian culture, for many Carleton students, is its fusion of the "traditional" and the "modern."



Through civic engagement (volunteer work or community participation), sociocultural events, excursions all over Peru, and a homestay with a Peruvian family, students appreciate the tremendous geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the country. Interdisciplinary courses examining these sociocultural issues as well as political questions (e.g., how is a "real" vs. "formal" democracy formed?) allow students to reflect critically on their personal experiences in Peru and develop strong Spanish-speaking skills.

Throughout the program, students' experiences shape their answers to powerful philosophical questions posed by their instructors: What is a good life (*vida buena, suma qausa*)? What is a good life in a place different from my own? What is a good life in Peru? What does it mean to live in a democratic, fair, and equal society?

The interdisciplinary nature of the program suits a wide range of majors, including students interested in Latin American Studies. The program is currently accepting applications for the spring of 2014.

To apply for the spring of 2014 seminar, visit <http://go.carleton.edu/ocs> or contact Professor Cerna-Bazán at [jcernaba@carleton.edu](mailto:jcernaba@carleton.edu).



Photos: Professor Cerna-Bazán



# Meet Professor Costanza Ocampo-Raeder

Assistant Professor of Anthropology



**Favorite courses:** Prof. Ocampo-Raeder is most enthusiastic about Anthropology of Good Intentions (SOAN 203), which evaluates the impacts of sustainable development, conservation, and aid initiatives and considers how programs with supposed benefits can better address environmental concerns.

She also enjoys teaching Ethnography of Latin America (SOAN 250), as well as Anthropology of Food (SOAN 233), which incorporates many experiential learning experiences, such as visits to Chinese and Mexican supermarkets in the twin cities.

**Fieldwork:** Prof. Ocampo-Raeder is an environmental anthropologist who traces the practical and ideological methods of resource management in indigenous populations, as well as the impacts of global conservation and development policies on these systems. She works extensively in three field sites in Peru (the Amazon, Coast, and Inter-Andean River Valley), and she has also worked in a wide variety of ecosystems, including Belize, Montana, Kenya, and Tahiti. Last Friday, October 4, in her talk titled "Spying and Gossip in the Forest: The Role of Children in Resource Management Activities in the Amazon," Ocampo-Raeder shared her findings from her fieldwork with the Ese Eja People, examining the fundamental role of "invisible users" (women and children) in resource management. She looks forward to inviting students to participate in her fieldwork, especially since Carls are "traveled, adventurous, and tend to know other languages."

**Teaching philosophy:** Professor Ocampo-Raeder aims to foster students' curiosity, by 1) conducting fieldwork with students and 2) illustrating the relevance of academic pursuits beyond the classroom. She considers, for example, how can we *measure* the impacts of fair trade on the peoples it aims to help? What are the economic implications of similar programs? How can we become more mindful of power dynamics and the cultural assumptions we make when conducting fieldwork? How can we use these differences as opportunities rather than barriers?

**Passions:** Prof. Ocampo-Raeder aims to learn a new skill every year: since developing this goal, she has become an avid (and self-taught!) hula-hooper, contact juggler, seamstress, and Bollywood film expert. The biggest privilege of her profession, she says, is to travel extensively and inhabit new places for long periods of time: in fact, she has become "tri-cultural" (Mexican, Peruvian, and American) after years of traveling to her field sites. She loves teaching and writing and is thrilled to join the Anthropology and Latin American Studies Departments at Carleton.

# Fall Term Events

Weeks 1-5



## Zapata Exhibit Opens in Gould Library

This fall the Latin American Studies Department welcomed back returning faculty and students, as well as some new faces. Members of the department, majors, concentrators, and interested Carleton students and staff gathered in the library for the welcome-back reception on September 24, centered around the current exhibit in Gould Library, "The Many Faces of Zapata." This exhibit opened on September 20 and closes on November 20, so there is still ample time to stop by and appreciate the artwork.

The exhibit was put together last spring by Andrew Fisher's history class, *The Mexican Revolution*. The silkscreen prints were commissioned in 2009 to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emiliano Zapata's assassination. Zapata was a revolutionary figure who became a legendary symbol of Mexican identity. Zapata's serious brow and prominent mustache stand out in many of the prints, while other designs are more abstract. These prints are a testament to the multifaceted nature of Zapata's identity within the Mexican consciousness.

## International Film Forum Screens Latin American and Other International Films

This fall, Carleton's International Film Forum (IFF), an initiative run by CAMS Professor Jay Beck, Director of the Arts Steve Richardson, and Spanish Professor Palmar Alvarez-Blanco, screened several Latin American films. These films included *Miss Bala* (Gerardo Naranjo, Mexico) and a three-part showing of *The Battle of Chile* (Patricio Guzman, Chile), a record of the struggles of Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government.

*Miss Bala* was introduced by Alberto Fierro Garza, Consul of Mexico, and was sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. The three parts of *The Battle of Chile* were shown over consecutive evening screenings and introduced by professors Andrew Fisher, Jay Beck, and Cecilia Cornejo. At the screening of the final episode of Guzman's films, Professor Jay Beck emphasized that the film gives voice to the workers, who represent some of the movement's most articulate speakers. Of all three episodes, said Beck, the film captures moments of "pure visual poetry" and is the first episode to include music. In addition, the trilogy ends with a tremendously optimistic position for future generations, concluding with images of workers' determination rather than recounting the aftermath of coup.

The International Film Forum is supported through curricular efforts at Carleton and it represents a chance for Carleton College to promote international cinema and culture internally within the college community, across a broad range of disciplines, and externally to Northfield and the surrounding area. The goal of Professors Beck and Alvarez-Blanco is to promote the medium as both an art form and a civic forum, developing a program that includes year-round screenings and special events. The IFF's screenings are held every **Thursday** at 7:00pm in the Weitz Cinema. All the films are shown in their original language and format, with English subtitles.

