

Public Lecture and Workshop

By visiting academic Dr. Dennis Lucy Avilés Irahola



Dr. Avilés Irahola will be staying with the Chair of Physical Geography from **16-28 February 2026**. She is Associate Researcher at the Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Instituto de Investigaciones Socio-Económicas), Catholic University of Bolivia; Senior Fellow at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany; and External Researcher at the Institute of Environmental Studies, National University of Colombia (IDEA-UNAL). If you want to arrange for a meeting with Ms. Avilés Irahola, or sign up for the workshop, please send an email to Ms. Mehringer: sarah.mehringer@uni-passau.de (Geography section).

Public Lecture: Socio-ecological dimensions of deforestation in the Bolivian Amazon

Thursday, 19.02.2026, 14:00-15:00h, Room: PHIL HS 3

Bolivia is among the countries with the highest per-capita deforestation rates globally. This environmental degradation persists despite Bolivia's internationally recognized frameworks on the rights of Mother Earth and Indigenous Peoples. Understanding the drivers of deforestation in the Bolivian Amazon requires examining a complex interplay of social, political, and ecological factors, many of which have deep historical roots in global extractivist dynamics. This lecture explores the context, dynamics, and impacts of deforestation in Bolivia, as well as resilience strategies that civil society—including Indigenous communities and academic institutions—are advancing to safeguard the forest.

The public lecture is open to everyone. No need to register!

Workshop for Master and Doctoral Students: Participatory methods for socio-environmental monitoring: concepts, tools and a case study from the Amazon

Thursday, 19.02.2026, 15:30-17:00h, Room: NK 202

Abstract: Quantitative indicators are widely used to assess and monitor policy programs and environmental governance; however, conventional expert-driven approaches often marginalize local knowledge systems and reproduce epistemic and power asymmetries. This workshop engages with participatory methodologies for the co-creation of communal indicators, grounded in decolonial and feminist perspectives that challenge externally imposed definitions of sustainability, well-being, and nature's rights. Drawing on experiences from Indigenous and local contexts, we explore how indicators co-produced with communities can integrate quantitative and qualitative dimensions, value intersubjective and relational aspects of socio-environmental systems, and translate collective rights into measurable and locally meaningful objectives. During the workshop, students will critically examine both the potential and the limitations of participatory indicators, including tensions around knowledge extraction, data governance, and self-determination, and emphasize the importance of community-led decisions over what is measured, how information is produced, and who controls its use.

The workshop is open for Master and Doctoral students from all fields. Please send an email to Ms. Mehringer (sarah.mehringer@uni-passau.de), if you want to join!