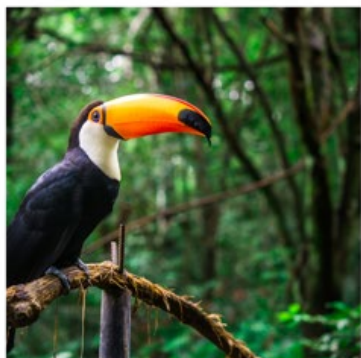


VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PERTAINING TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE AMAZON REGION



FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023 – 8:30 A. M. – 3:00 P. M. EASTERN TIME

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – APRIL 6, 2023 –

NO REGISTRATION FEE

<https://pi.tt/ucis-global-sustainability>

(in case of difficulty, please send an email to raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu)

Convened by

**The International Studies Consortium of Georgia (ISCOG)* -Celebrating 30 Years of Service
Conference/Consortium Executive Director: Rajgopal Sashti**

Jointly Co-organized and Co-sponsored by

**The University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Center, Center for African Studies, Center for Latin
American Studies, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, European
Studies Center, and the Global Studies Center**

 Reinhardt University

 University of
Pittsburgh



ISCOG

Pitt Global

Asian Studies Center
Center for African Studies
European Studies Center
Global Studies Center
Center for Latin American Studies
Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies



Agenda

- 8:45 a. m. **WELCOME, GREETINGS AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
Rajgopal Sashti, Consortium Founding/Executive Director, Reinhardt University.
Dr. Allyson Delnore, University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- 9:00 **THE AMAZON: AN INSIDE PERSPECTIVE AND AN UPDATED PROFILE**
Dr. Roberta Mendonca de Carvalho, Teaching Assistant Professor in the Urban Studies Program,
University of Pittsburgh.
- 9:40 Question and Answer – Participants
- 9:55 **Break**
- 10:00 **TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT BRAZIL-CHINA RELATIONS IN AGRIBUSINESS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**
Dr. Gustavo de L. T. Oliveira, Assistant Professor of Global & International Studies, University of
California – Irvine.
- 10:45 QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS
- 11:00 **Break**
- 11:25 **MAKING EUROPE WORK FOR FORESTS AND PEOPLE, “EUROPEAN UNION AND AMAZONIA:
COOPERATION TO COUNTER DEFORESTATION.**
Dr. Nicole Posterner, Campaigner on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patters at FERN, a non-
governmental organization aimed at making the European Union work for forests and people who depend
on this.
- 11:45 QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS
- 12:25 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:00 **TROPICAL SILK ROAD: CHINA IN SOUTH AMERICA**
Dr. Paul Amar, Chair and Professor, Global Studies Department, University of California – Santa Barbara.
- 1:45 QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS
- 2:00 Break
- 2:05 **CONNECTING TO THE CURRICULUM: HELMS AND LAC**
Dr. Allyson Delnore, University of Pittsburgh.
Dr. Haixia Wang, Program Coordinator for Languages Across the Curriculum, University of Pittsburgh.
- 3:00 CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

***Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

Bios of Presenters and Hosts

Dr. Roberta Mendonça De Carvalho is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Urban Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh and affiliated faculty in the Center for Global Studies and in the Center for Latin American Studies, where she is an active collaborator, coordinating the newly launched Amazonia Program. Proudly born and raised in one of Brazilian Amazon largest cities--Belem, Pará-- where she earned a bachelor's in business administration, and a master's in Local Development and Natural Resources Management. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Florida, researching urbanization in the Amazon. Her interdisciplinary research intercepts global and local perspectives to address the loss and importance of urban green areas and ecosystem services. She believes that cities are crucial to global sustainability, and improving urban life makes Urban Studies universal. Her professional experiences beyond academia advocated for environmental and local development in private, governmental, and NGO sectors. She has lived in ten cities, including global New York and Tokyo, on three continents. Her classes fuse these experiences to teach urban diversities. She is a member of the Amazon Dams Network, a former Water Institute Graduate Fellow, and won the Ruth McQuown Scholarship Award, a competitive award destined to women in social sciences.

Dr. Gustavo Oliveira's intellectual formation is deeply interdisciplinary and transnational and his doctoral research focused on Chinese investments in Brazilian agribusiness and related infrastructure. With more than two years of ethnographic fieldwork across 16 states in Brazil and 8 provinces in China, this is among the most extensive and in-depth investigations to date on the creation and contestation of agro-industrial partnerships between Brazil and China.

At UC Berkeley, Oliveira also developed several new courses including *Global Political Ecology*. In the fall of 2016, Oliveira was Visiting Scholar at the **Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University** in China, where he developed and taught an Advanced Social Science Seminar on *Food, Development, and the Environment*. In 2017, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at **Swarthmore College**. During 2018-2019, Oliveira was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor at **Peking University** where he developed new research in economic geography, critical geopolitics, and global political economy.

A member of the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Science Panel of the Amazon**, he is also editor of the book ***Soy, Globalization, and Environmental Politics in South America*** (Routledge 2018, with Susanna Hecht), and guest editor of special issues in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* (v. 43, n. 2), *Political Geography*, the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, and *Globalizations*.

Education: B. A., New Florida College; M. A. University of Colorado, Boulder; Ph. D. University of California, Berkeley.

Ms. Nicole Polsterer is Fern's campaigner on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns. Fern is a non-governmental organization aimed at making the EU work for forests and people who depend on them. Prior to joining Fern, Nicole has mainly worked for the United Nations in different capacities in Brussels, New York and Paris. For the United Nations Environment Program, she coordinated the Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies. Her other work experience includes leading a team of researchers at Sustainable Europe Research Institute in Vienna. Her focus areas were product environmental footprints and related business advisory services. Nicole's desire to effectively communicate complex policy issues to a wider audience led her to pursue documentary filmmaking. She has received Masters degrees in Business Administration and Economics as well as International Management from the Community of European Management Schools and postgraduate diplomas on International Development and Peacekeeping from the United Nations University. Nicole speaks German, English, French and Spanish.

Dr. Paul Amar is Chair and Professor in the Global Studies Department at the University of California Santa Barbara and Director of the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies. He is a political scientist and anthropologist with affiliate appointments in Feminist Studies, Sociology, Comparative Literature, Middle East Studies, and Latin American & Iberian Studies. Before he began his academic career, he worked as a journalist in Cairo, a police reformer and sexuality rights activist in Rio de Janeiro, and as a conflict-resolution and economic development specialist at the United Nations.

He is the author of *Cairo Cosmopolitan* (2006); *New Racial Missions of Policing* (2010); *Global South to the Rescue* (2011); *Dispatches from the Arab Spring* (2013); and *The Middle East and Brazil* (2014).

His book, "The Security Archipelago" was awarded the Charles Taylor Award for "Best Book of the Year" in 2014 by the Interpretive Methods Section of the American Political Science Association.

Dr. Allyson Delnore is the Executive Director of Academic Affairs for UCIS and holds an adjunct appointment with the Department of History. Previously, she served as Associate Director for the European Studies Center for ten years, including two terms as Interim Director of that Center. Prior to coming to Pitt, Allyson was an Assistant Professor of History at Mississippi State University and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Marquette University. She has a Ph.D. from

the University of Virginia and her research interests revolve around nineteenth century French imperial and penal policies and practices, Europeanization and the French overseas departments, and European and area studies in higher education.

Dr. Haixia Wang is a Program Coordinator for Languages Across the Curriculum (LAC). She earned her Ph.D. in Language, Literacy and Culture from the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh and works with six Title VI National Resource Centers at the University Center for International Studies.

Director Raj Sashti. Before joining Reinhardt University, Raj was an Associate Professor and in academic administration at half-dozen public universities and colleges in Georgia including the Georgia Institute of Technology – Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. During his 50+ years of service to higher education, he has been awarded more than \$5,000,000 grants by the U.S. Department of Education, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, and other organizations. Over the years, Raj has also received two Fulbright Specialist grants and three Fulbright Fellowships to study and travel in Germany, Japan, and Brazil. He has traveled around the globe directing Fulbright funded faculty development programs in more than two dozen countries of Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Raj has two M. A. degrees in Geography, one from the University of Akron, Ohio, and the other from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.

What is Amazonia and Where is it Located?

Amazonia is a land of many rivers which eventually join to form the Amazon River, carrying to the sea the rains and silt which feed the greatest forest in the world. Most of Amazonia located in South America is in Brazil, but an extensive network of tributaries flow into it from the neighboring countries of Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, all of which share the environment and culture of the South American tropical lowlands.



Unparalleled in scale, complexity, and diversity, the Amazon stabilizes key processes that are vital to life on Earth. This impressive region provides essential ecological services, stabilizing the world's rainfall patterns and storing massive amounts of carbon that mitigate climate change.

Spanning nine South American countries and 2.5 million square miles (roughly the size of the 48 contiguous United States), the Amazon represents over half of the world's remaining rainforest. Its moist, tropical vegetation stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Andes in the west. Running through the north of the rainforest is the Amazon River. Flowing a length of 4,000 miles, it contains the largest number of freshwater fish species in the world. The rainforest is the planet's richest and most-varied biological reservoir, containing millions of species of plants, insects, birds, and other forms of life.

Significance of the Amazon Rainforest:

The rainforest captures billions of tons of carbon. The Amazon has long been recognized as an important repository of natural resources and services not only for local and Indigenous communities but also for the rest of the world. The rainforest plays a crucial role in stabilizing the world's rainfall patterns, influencing atmospheric and water cycles as far as the United States. Additionally, vegetation in the region takes in massive amounts of carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate climate change. Currently, the Amazon's forests hold 100 billion tons of carbon in the lignin of its trees. Furthermore, the Amazon circulates more than 20 percent of the world's oxygen.

Why is the Amazon rainforest important to the world?

Not just for food, water, wood and medicines, but **to help stabilize the climate**—around 76 billion tons of carbon is stored in the Amazon rainforest., The trees in the Amazon also release 20 billion tons of water into the atmosphere per day, playing a critical role in global and regional carbon and water cycles.

What are reasons why the Amazon rainforest is important?

- help stabilize the world's climate.
- provide a home to many plants and animals.
- maintain the water cycle.
- protect against flood, drought, and erosion.
- are a source for medicines and foods.
- support tribal people.

What would happen if the Amazon Rainforest Disappeared?

The destruction and disappearance of the Amazon rainforest will lead to **warmer temperatures, frequent floods, and long droughts**; The gradual decrease in rainfall would increase the pest and infection and less water will minimize the resources of sowing and maintaining crops.

What has happened and is happening to Amazonia?

Humans have deforested 20% of the Amazon Rainforest over the last 40 years alone and an additional 20% is at risk of being destroyed.

Agricultural expansion is the greatest threat to the Amazon ecosystem. Industrial farming, urban expansion, mining, petroleum extraction, dams and irresponsible timber production have also led to massive forest loss. As deforestation continues and effects of climate change intensify, we run the risk of losing the world's largest ecosystem for future generations. Based on the foregoing, it is very critical for citizens in all countries of the world to protect and cultivate a sustainable forest economy.

The Amazon is under siege like never before. Deforestation and fire are once again on the increase, and protected areas and indigenous lands face increasing threats. It needs our help more than ever. **We cannot tackle the climate crisis without the Amazon's vital life-sustaining role.**

Amazonia and Humanity:

The vast reaches of the Amazonian rainforest have been lived in and shaped by human hands for thousands of years. Long before Europeans arrived in the Americas this deep history of human interaction with river and forest gave rise to enduring cultural traditions and sophisticated art styles. Today people's lives are closely intertwined with the plants and animals of the forest for their practical value as well as their symbolic significance. Native Amazonians, or Amerindians, belong to a multitude of different ethnic groups with their own languages and cultures, but also sharing a common cultural tradition.

The Amazon is home to more than 120 Indigenous Nationalities

Indigenous nationalities such as the Shuar and Maijuna have been living in the Amazon for thousands of years, accumulating a detailed knowledge of the rainforest and methods to subsist from it. Across the Amazon, thousands of plant species are used for medicine by local communities. Research consistently shows that forests, where Indigenous peoples have secure land rights, have significantly lower deforestation rates and release less carbon dioxide than adjacent lands.