

Heritage and territoriality: Past, present, and future perceptions among the Tacana, T'simane, and Waiwai

Initiative: Globale Herausforderungen – Integration unterschiedlicher Perspektiven

Ausschreibung: Integrating Different Perspectives on Heritage and Change

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In the Amazon basin, even protected areas and indigenous lands face increasing threats from agro-industrial, gold-mining and infrastructure expansion or climate change. This encourages indigenous societies to affirm or recreate their ethnicity and cultural expressions. This project aims to analyse the complexities of cultural heritage and their relationship with perceptions of time and space, local knowledge, and territorial defense among three Indigenous Peoples in the Bolivian (Tacana and T'simane) and Brazilian (Waiwai) Amazon. The three case studies address the broad issue of heritage from specific and comparative perspectives. Based on archaeological, anthropological, and ecological research, and by applying collaborative methodologies that involve a co-production of knowledge between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, the subject of heritage is approached from a holistic view that reflects the ontologies of indigenous people and introduces indigenous approaches into a fruitful dialogue with Western heritage notions and practices. By identifying and questioning different notions of heritage around archaeological sites, materials, ethnographic collections, and landscapes from multiple aspects of the territory the project intends to contribute to the defense of indigenous territories by protecting heritage in all its aspects while also making these socio-ecological systems more resilient to global processes.

Projektbeteiligte

Dr. Carla Jaimes Betancourt

Universität Bonn
Philosophische Fakultät
Abteilung für Altamerikanistik
Department for the Anthropology of the Americas
Institut für Archäologie und Kulturanthropologie
Bonn

Prof. Dr. Karoline Noack

Universität Bonn
Philosophische Fakultät
Institut VII, Abt. Altamerikanistik
Bonn

Prof. Dr. Carlos Dias Junior

Federal University of Amazonas (UFAM)
Departamento de Antropologia
Instituto de Filosofia, Ciencias Humanas e Sociais
Manaus
Brasilien

Dr. Lilian Painter

Wildlife Conservation Society
Bolivia Program
La Paz
Bolivien