Practices of Consultation with Indigenous Peoples in Indigenous/Latin America

Tuesday 19 September, at Guovssu (TEO-H2 2.228), Centre for Sami Studies, University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway

Program

0930: Welcome (Bjørn Ola Tafjord and May-Lisbeth Brew)
0945: Practices of consultation with indigenous peoples in Argentina (Relmu Ñamku)
1045: Practices of consultation with indigenous peoples in Chile (Rafael Railaf)
1145: Lunch
1300: Practices of consultation with indigenous peoples in Costa Rica (Geyner Blanco & William Vega)
1400: Practices of consultation with indigenous peoples in Guatemala (Mariel Aguilar Støen)
1500: Discussion

About the speakers

Relmu Ñamku is a Mapuche leader and the general secretary of the Consultative Council of Indigenous Peoples in Argentina.

Rafael Railaf is Mapuche and a member of the NGO Mapuche Foundation FOLIL. Founded in 2000, Mapuche Foundation FOLIL is one of the first Mapuche organizations in Europe and most of its members are first and second generation Mapuche.

Geyner Blanco is Maleku and advisor in indigenous affairs for the Costa Rican president. With William Vega, he has co-supervised the development of a new protocol for consultations with indigenous peoples in Costa Rica.

William Vega is a lawyer and former advisor in indigenous affairs for the Costa Rican president. With Geyner Blanco, he has co-supervised the development of a new protocol for consultations with indigenous peoples in Costa Rica.

Mariel Støen is associate professor at the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Oslo, and has studied practices of consultation in Guatemala.

About the seminar

The obligation to consult and get the consent of indigenous peoples, before interfering in their lives and territories, is increasingly recognized in international fora and different national contexts. In many places, formal protocols and bodies are being proposed or put in place in order to facilitate such consultations. However, there are still many actors – state agencies as well as private corporations – who keep rejecting, ignoring or paying only superficial attention to the demands for consultations and the relevant procedures.
In this seminar, we will learn more about how consultation processes are carried out, or not, in different countries in Indigenous/Latin America. How can consultations become events that lead to mutual understanding and binding agreements? Why can consultations by one or more parties end up being considered as theater only? What are the main challenges of consultation processes today? What do successful consultations look like? These topics and questions are highly relevant also beyond Indigenous/Latin America as they resonate strongly also in Sami/Nordic contexts.

Organizers

Department of Archaeology, History, Religious Studies, and Theology / Centre for Sami Studies / the research group “Indigenous Religion(s): Local Grounds, Global Networks / the research group “Politics of Culture in Latin America”

University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway

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