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Participants of Andrea Román-Alfaro's Puerto Nuevo Photography Project

Community-Based Participatory and Action Research: Bridging Latin American and Local Perspectives

Speakers:
Dr. Anjuli N. Fahlberg, Associate Professor, Tufts University (TU)
Dr. Nilza Rogéria de Andrade Nunes, Associate Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ)
Dr. Siegrid Guillaumon Dechandt, Professor, University of Brasília (UnB)

Thursday, September 24: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, September 25: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | UNM Hodgin Hall. Register for the event in the QR and/or link below.

SEPTEMBER 24-25

Join us for a one-and-a-half-day conference bringing together scholars, students, and community partners engaged in participatory and community-based research in Latin America, New Mexico, and the Southwest. The conference will feature invited speakers, interactive workshops, World Café-style discussions, and student lightning talks designed to foster dialogue, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections across Latin American and local contexts.

Organized by the Latin American and Iberian Institute (LAII) in collaboration with Nina Wallerstein (Center for Participatory Research), Andreas Hernandez (Sustainability Studies), and Andrea Román-Alfaro (Sociology).

Register Here



Anjuli N. Fahlberg is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Tufts University and co-director of the Building Together Research Collective, based in Brazil, El Salvador, and Honduras. Her research employs a participatory action research (PAR) approach to study urban violence, politics, and social movements in Latin America. Her book, *Activism under Fire: The Politics of Non-Violence in Rio de Janeiro's Gang Territories* (2023, Oxford University Press) received several best book awards from the Brazilian Studies Association and the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association. Her current project examines the impact of states of exception on urban violence and social resilience in El Salvador and Honduras.



Nilza Rogéria de Andrade Nunes is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Brazil. She is a social worker, holds a PhD in social work, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in public health at the University of Brasília. Her academic work promotes dialogue among social work, public health, and participatory research, with an emphasis on the intersections of gender, race, territory, and health. She conducts long-term research and community outreach activities on the leadership of Black women in favelas and urban peripheries, investigating community leadership, solidarity networks, collective resistance, and the social determinants of health.



Siegrid Guillaumon Dechandt is a professor in the Department of Management at the University of Brasília. She earned her PhD from the Federal University of Bahia, with a dissertation nominated for the National CAPES Dissertation Award, and a bachelor's degree in management from the University of São Paulo, where she received the Ruy Leme Academic Excellence Award. Her current research focuses on systemic creativity and the public sector and sports management, with an emphasis on para-sport development. She coordinates outreach projects on sustainability and national parks in Brazil, early career internationalization, and studies in China. She is an accredited researcher at the Center for Advanced Studies in Government and Public Administration (CEAG-UnB).

This event is free and open to the public. Individuals of all abilities are encouraged to attend LAII-sponsored events. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate in one of our events, please visit laii.unm.edu/events/accessibility.html or contact laiioutreach@unm.edu.

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COLLEGE OF POPULATION HEALTH
CENTER FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community-Based Participatory and Action Research: Bridging Latin American and Local Perspectives
September 24–25, 2026
UNM Hodgin Hall

Program

Thursday, September 24

8:00–8:30 a.m. | Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome by Frances Hayashida, Director, Latin American and Iberian Institute.

Opening Remarks by Nina Wallerstein, Director of Center for Participatory Research, College of Population Health

8:30–10:00 a.m. | Participatory Research in Latin America: Perspectives from the Field

Invited scholars will introduce their work in Latin America and reflect on how participatory and community-based approaches have shaped their research, collaborations, and relationships with communities.

Speakers:

Anjuli Fahlberg (Tufts University)
Nilza Rogéria de Andrade Nunes (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, PUC-Rio)
Siegrid Guillaumon Dechandt (University of Brasília)

10:00–10:15 a.m. | Break

10:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | World Café: What Makes Research Participatory?

Participants will engage in small-group conversations exploring key questions about participatory and community-based research. Participants will rotate between tables, allowing ideas and experiences to circulate across groups.

12:00–1:15 p.m. | Lunch Break

1:15–2:45 p.m. | Interactive Workshops — Round 1

Participants select one concurrent workshop.

Workshop Topics

Participatory Research and Food Systems
Facilitators: Esther Hewitt (UNM Master in Latin American Studies Program), *Nilza Rogéria de Andrade Nunes (PUC-Rio), and Luciano Chavarria (Project Feed the Hood/SWOP)*

Participatory Research in Contexts of Violence
Facilitators: Andrea Román-Alfaro (UNM Sociology), Anjuli Fahlberg (Tufts University), and Tameka Gillum (UNM College of Population Health)

Best Practices in Community Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR)
Facilitators: Nina Wallerstein (UNM College of Population Health) and Engage for Equity team members

Participatory Research and Policy Change
Facilitators: Andreas Hernandez (UNM Geography/Sustainability Studies), Siegrid Guillaumon Dechandt (University of Brasília), and Jeff Hertz (Albuquerque City Council)

2:45–3:00 p.m. | Break

3:00–4:30 p.m. | Interactive Workshops — Round 2

The workshops will be repeated, allowing participants to select a second topic and engage with a different group of facilitators and participants.

4:30–5:00 p.m. | Reflections and Day One Closing

Friday, September 25

Students and the Future of Participatory Research

8:00–8:15 a.m. | Welcome and Introduction

Brief overview of the morning's student-focused program.

8:15–9:45 a.m. | Student Lightning Talks: Participatory Research in Progress, Part I

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in working on community-based participatory action research — whether in the United States, Latin America, or elsewhere — will give brief presentations on proposed or ongoing projects.

9:45–10:00 a.m. | Break

10:00–11:30 a.m. | Student Lightning Talks: Participatory Research in Progress, Part II

11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Closing Conversation: Where Do We Go from Here?