



THE ANDES AND SOUTHERN CONE PROGRAM AND THE BRAZIL STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

**MONEY ON THE MARGINS: COUNTERFEITERS, MIGRANTS, AND POLICEMEN IN THE IBERO-AMERICAN WORLD, 1880-1940**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**  
@ 4:30 PM ET

At the turn of the twentieth century, several financial crises resulted in extreme illiquidity and retraction of bank credit. Such a situation created opportunities for the activities of counterfeiters and the formation of criminal networks that circulated across the Atlantic as part of larger circuits of migration connecting Europe with the Americas. National agencies sought to limit the action of local authorities – who were often suspected of negligence and even complicity with counterfeiters – and built collaborations with police from other countries.

This presentation focuses on the role of counterfeit currency within South American migrant economies, focusing in particular on the trajectory of two counterfeiters of paper money, and their strategies of construction of criminal networks in the Atlantic world. Following the transatlantic journeys of a Portuguese immigrant and a French family involved in the production and circulation of forged currency, it sheds lights on a lesser known aspect of the circulation of migrants, by exploring the many connections between migration, money, crime, and law enforcement in the urban centers of Latin America connected to Atlantic world. The argument is that these networks were not marginal to migration, but part of it and fueled by shared values and common social relations.

Through a biographical, microhistorical approach, this social history of counterfeiting networks in the context of circuits of migration dialogues with contemporary studies of money and illegal markets, migrations, organized crime, and police border surveillance, all of which are issues that resonate powerfully in contemporary Latin American politics.

Speaker **Diego Galeano**, Professor of Contemporary History in the Department of History at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio).

Moderated by **Paulina Alberto**, Professor of African and African American Studies and of History at Harvard University.

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