



NEWSMAIL | AUGUST 2022

Research projects, publications and events

Dear Members and Friends,

With yet another war in Europe and increasing global tensions, times have not become easier since our last newsletter and I hope you are all well! I also hope that not too many of us came home with COVID after we were finally able to meet in person again at the EASA in Belfast!

Against these odds, CaSt has remained productive and it is a pleasure to report some interesting new publications by our members below. In addition, our network has gained again two new members: a warm welcome to Saskya Tschebann and Julia Malik! We were also happy to host Michal Šípoš as guest researcher during the last months at our Vienna base.

I wish you all a relaxing summer break and hope we look forward to an easier fall term!

Please send any comments and suggestions or announcements you have to share to cast.ksa@univie.ac.at

NEWS

CaSt welcomes [Saskya Tschebann](#) and [Julia Malik](#) as new members of our research network.



Saskya is a recipient of a DOC fellowship by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and focuses on end-of-life care in the California Central Coast region in her current PhD project.

She explores how understandings and definitions of 'good dying' are translated into practice by end-of-life doulas in institutional and private settings, elucidating negotiations of 'good' care in the face of actual differences.



Julia's research interests revolve around kinship and genetics, care and state, and bureaucracy and documents.

In her PhD project, she explores sociotechnical productions of knowledge and data about kinship and resultant negotiations of belonging to the state from the perspective of anthropological science and technology studies.



[Michal Šípoš](#) (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences) joined CaSt from March to July while being a guest researcher at the University of Vienna.

As a part of the doctoral studies, Michal carried out ethnographic fieldwork among Chechen asylum seekers in Poland. He described their remaking of a world in a local context of refugee accommodation centres at the eastern outer border of the European Union.



We're happy to announce a new cooperation with [ReloCare](#). ReloCare, short for Relocating Care, is a research project that studies the recent trend to relocate seniors to care homes abroad, where the quality of care is high yet costs are lower. The international team researches this trend in Central and Eastern European countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), where care homes recruit potential residents from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

PUBLICATIONS

Letizia Bonnano: Of Athens, crises, and other medicines

= *American Anthropologist*, vol. 124 (2).

'Of Athens, crises and other medicine' is a research article which makes use of the graphic medium to explore solidarity and care in the context of one grassroots medical facility in Athens.



Sofía Ugarte: Desired formality: Labor migration, black markets, and the state in Chile.

Desired formality
Labor migration, black markets, and the state in Chile

Sofía Ugarte

Abstract: Formal work is essential to gain legal residence in Chile and the reason why Latin American and Caribbean migrants purchase fake contracts on the black market. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with migrant Haitian women applying for work visas in Santiago, this article explores the effects of desired formality and its promises of a good life on contemporary statehood in Chile. The analysis shows how Haitian women's efforts to become formal workers transform their experiences as racialized and gendered migrants in Chile, and impact how state institutions manage and control migration. Desired formality reveals the paradoxical character of state policies that help create a racialized and precarious labor force within its legal frameworks and explain why migrants attach themselves to fragile good life projects in new countries.

Keywords: desire, formality, labor migration, Latin America, state

Becoming a formal worker is an essential requirement to gain legal residence as a labor migrant in Chile and the main reason why Haitian—and many Latin American migrants—purchase fake work contracts on the black market. For Haitians, finding a job is not easy, and searching for formal sector jobs in the Chilean labor market to obtain legal residence is a deeply racialized and gendered experience with numerous obstacles. Non-declaratory hiring practices are hardly enforced, allowing employers to turn away workers because of the color of their skin, their accent, and their foreign origin, or hire them without following the labor laws that give migrant workers a limited degree of rights and protection. In Chile today, Haitian women are the demographic with the lowest rate of labor

participation among migrants (INEC 2016), in large part due to such racialized, linguistic, and gendered biases that position them as one of the most disadvantaged and disposable workers in the Chilean economy (Ugarte 2020).

For Haitian women, having a formal job with a signed and stamped contract to apply for a residence visa in Chile comprises the negotiation of state bureaucracies, intermediaries, and the workings of a black market of documents, which contribute to their experiences of underemployment and labor exploitation. By looking at the experiences of Haitian women and their encounters with Chilean state agents, intermediaries, and employers in the city of Santiago, I explore everyday practices through which migrants experience the state as a real and co-



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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST

Skilling race: Affective labor and "white" pedagogies in the Chilean service economy

Sofía Ugarte

Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

Correspondence:
Sofía Ugarte, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, 70a Robinson Road, Cambridge, CB2 3RQ, UK.
Email: s2020@cam.ac.uk

Abstract
This article examines the effects of racialization practices in quotidian encounters between migrant Haitian women looking for work and Chilean recruiters in job interviews and skills-training programs in Santiago. Drawing on ethnographic research, I show how racialized differences are made material and emotional based on a particular history of white supremacy and mestizaje. I argue that to become appropriate and hireable workers in the service economy, Haitian women transform their appearance, movements, feelings, and attitudes according to white pedagogies of affective labor. I show how the skilling of labor performed through these pedagogies is deeply affective, shaping Haitian women's sense of worth and their self-constitution as migrants beyond labor encounters. The analysis of how anti-Black racism toward migrant women perpetuates local manifestations of white-mestizo privilege reveals how affective labor and racialization practices articulate intimate experiences of transnational mobility with intersectional scripts of power.

Keywords
racism and whiteness, affective labor, skills, migration, Latin America

Resumen
Este artículo examina cómo prácticas de racialización afectan los encuentros cotidianos entre mujeres migrantes haitianas en busca de trabajo y reclutadoras chilenas en entrevistas laborales y capacitaciones en Santiago. A partir de investigación etnográfica, examino cómo las diferencias racializadas son materiales y emocionales, signando una historia particular de supremacía blanca y mestizaje. Argumento que, para convertirse en trabajadoras apropiables y contratables en la economía de servicios, las mujeres haitianas transforman su apariencia, movimientos, sentimientos y actitudes de acuerdo con pedagogías blancas de trabajo afectivo. En el artículo demuestro cómo las capacitaciones laborales que se configuran a través de estas pedagogías son profundamente afectivas, moldeando en mujeres haitianas la manera de percibir y la constitución de sí mismas como migrantes en el día a día de estos encuentros laborales.

Sofía Ugarte: Skilling race. Affective labor and “white” pedagogies in the Chilean service economy.

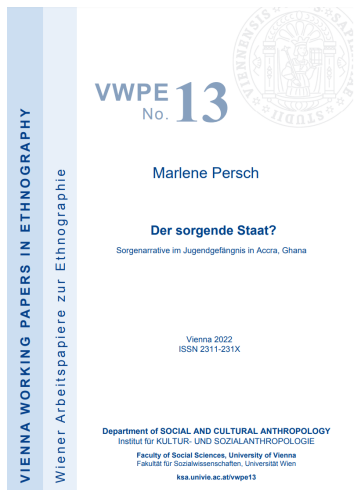
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based on a particular history of white supremacy and mestizaje. I argue that to become appropriate and hireable workers in the service economy, Haitian women transform their appearance, movements, feelings, and attitudes according to white pedagogies of affective labor. I show how the skilling of labor performed through these pedagogies is deeply affective, shaping Haitian women's sense of worth and their self-constitution as migrants beyond labor encounters. The analysis of how anti-Black racism toward migrant women perpetuates local manifestations of white-mestizo privilege reveals how affective labor and racialization practices articulate intimate experiences of transnational mobility with intersectional scripts of power.

Ivan Rajkovic: People against Rio Tinto – three ecopopulist lessons for the Balkan left

= *LeftEast*.

Although often presented as separate domains, state/institutional and 'private'/kin care are inevitably interwoven and even mutually reinforce each other. By uncovering moral hierarchies of (un)deservingness, this Working Paper shows how poverty is moralised and ultimately attributed to individual failure. I argue that by portraying poverty as self-inflicted, disregard for someone's neediness can be depicted as morally proper conduct that obstructs neither the realisation of the moral self nor the maintenance of the ideal of (unconditional) mutual support and social cohesion.



Marlene Persch: Der sorgende Staat? Sorgenarrative im Jugendgefängnis in Accra, Ghana.

= [Vienna Working Papers in Ethnography](#), no. 13.

Das Arbeitspapier zeigt Aushandlungsprozesse von GefängnisoffizierInnen zwischen Sorge als persönliches Engagement und als Teil der Berufsanforderung in einem Jugendgefängnis in Ghana auf. Über wiederkehrende Erzählungen verorten OffizierInnen sich und ihre Arbeit im Gefängnis und dabei auch gegenüber "dem" Staat.

Anhand von verschiedenen Sorgenarrativen zeichne ich die Produktion von Staatlichkeit durch das Gefängnispersonal nach, die von Ambivalenzen in der Zuschreibung eines wohlfahrtsstaatlichen Charakters des Gefängnisses geprägt ist. Durch die (Un)Sichtbarmachung staatlicher Aspekte (re-)produzieren OffizierInnen ihre Praktiken als Teil eines sorgenden Staates, der jedoch nicht immer von allen Beteiligten als sorgend empfunden wird. Im Zentrum des Beitrags stehen ambivalente und teils widersprüchliche Staatsverständnisse, die in den Interaktionen zwischen staatlichen AkteurInnen sichtbar werden.

EVENTS

28.-30. September 2022 | Vienna (Austria)

6th Vienna Ethnography Laboratory

The [6th Vienna Ethnography Laboratory](#) focuses on the topic of *Relating Risk* and welcomes Anna Jabloner (Department of Anthropology, Harvard University) and Michael Guggenheim (Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths University of London) as guest scholars.

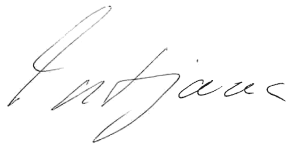
This year's lab is a collaboration of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the Department of Science and Technology Studies (both University of Vienna) and is organised by Prof. Tatjana Thelen, Prof. Janina Kehr and Prof. Maximilian Fochler.

We're looking forward to inspiring contributions and lively discussions!

Have a look at the preliminary program [here](#).

Greetings

Tatjana Thelen



CaSt - Care and State

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna
Austria

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