

C.IAS SPOTLIGHT TALKS

#1

INTERCULTURALITY UNDER THREAT:

An Analysis of Repression and the
Constitutional Reform Plans in Ecuador

ANITA KRAINER AND JOHANNES WALDMÜLLER

the talk will be in English and Spanish

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

6.00-7.30 PM

C.IAS

Schubertstraße 21/ground floor

Interculturality as a key concept of coexistence based on indigenous relational territoriality is a cornerstone of Ecuador's constitution. The Carta Magna from 2008 recognises nature as a legal subject, enshrines the *Sumak Kawsay* (*Buen Vivir, The Good Life*) as a guiding principle in 99 articles and guarantees ample collective rights including bilingual intercultural education. This ground-breaking legal framework figures among the most comprehensive in the world. Our guests trace the origins of this notion of interculturality back to the streets and to the demands of indigenous and popular movements of the 1990s while also reflecting on current events. In October, in the face of rising commodity prices, government plans to open new oil camps in the *Ronda Suroriental* and the *Ronda Subandina* as well as to extend mining in indigenous territories, protesters took to the streets again. The government led by Daniel Noboa has answered with severe repression leading to arbitrary detentions and even the killings of three indigenous persons. The president's plans of a constitutional reform and the socio-political climate in the country have sparked an urgent question:

Is Ecuador's interculturality under threat?

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Transnational Studies





ANITA KRAINER

*University of Vienna, Austria /
Latin American Faculty of Social
Sciences, Ecuador*

Anita Krainer, PHD, specialized in sociolinguistics. Since 2008, professor in the master's program for socio-ecological studies at FLACSO Ecuador, head of the research group "Laboratorio de Interculturalidad" and the postgraduate program "Interculturality and Development."



JOHANNES WALDMÜLLER

*Boku Vienna, Austria /
University of Geneva, Switzerland*

Johannes M. Waldmüller is an associate researcher at the IDR at Boku, Vienna, the Global Studies Institute at the University of Geneva, and head of the Academy for the Common Good for the Cooperative for the Common Good. His research focuses on issues of human rights and the rights of nature, SDGs, and disaster prevention in intercultural understanding.

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The C.IAS spotlight talks are a monthly format that aims at shedding light on pressing sociocultural topics in the Americas.

