

Bio: Dr. Clara Guardado

Clara Guardado is an affiliated researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy. She has been granted the Early Career Research Grant from the Leading House for Latin America. Her new project “Democracy at Stake: The New Era of Authoritarianism in Central America and the Movement of Resistance and Resilience” seeks to understand the process of peace and democracy in El Salvador and Guatemala through an ethnographic study of social movements in the region.

Clara received her Ph.D. (Summa Cum Laude) from the Department of Cultural Analysis and Anthropology at the University of Zurich. She holds a Master’s degree in Anthropology and Sociology from the Graduate Institute of Geneva and previously studied her BA in Anthropology at the National University of El Salvador. In the last two years, she has been a postdoc researcher at the Institute of Latin American Studies and an SNF postdoc fellow at the Department of Geography of the University of Zurich.

Her main lines of research are legal anthropology, international justice, political violence, Latin American studies, social movements, environmental dispossession and climate inequality. In her PhD thesis, Clara focused on the study of law and justice as the basis of democratic processes in the Central American region and how colonization imposed political processes within the states with rather authoritarian practices. Now she studies the states of El Salvador and Guatemala and the forms of resistance practiced by human rights movements to the new repressive practices that have been imposed in the region. With a legal anthropological approach, she seeks to understand such processes in the Central American region from the bottom up.

Clara has taught various courses in Anthropology and Sociology at universities in Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador, University of Zurich, and has performed as an invited professor at the University of London and Washington University. She has obtained several grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation such as the Doc.ch grant for doctoral studies and the Postdoc SNF fellowship. She has also been part of the Swiss Gender Association and the Swiss Latin American Center at the University of St. Gallen.