LASA Materials ~ Ulla D. Berg

BIO - max 800 words:

Ulla D. Berg is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Latino and Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University where she also directed the Center for Latin American Studies from 2015-2021. She received her Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology (2007) and a Certificate in Culture and Media (2005) from New York University where she worked under the direction of the late Thomas Abercrombie. Prior to this, she earned an MA (2001) and BA (1998) in Social Anthropology from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Berg has also received additional training in Andean Studies at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (1997-98) and in screenwriting at the Escuela International de Cine y Television (EICTV) in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba (2003). Despite working in the United States for the last fifteen years, she sustains longtime collegial and research relationships with colleagues at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and FLACSO-Ecuador, among other institutions.

A socio-cultural and visual anthropologist by training, Berg's research and teaching focuses on transnational migration and (im)mobilities in the Andean region of Peru and Ecuador and among Latin American and U.S. Latinx populations and communities in the United States. Her work is grounded in long-term ethnographic engagements with peoples and places in the Central Highlands of Peru and Peru's capital Lima, the Southern highlands of Ecuador and among migrants from these areas in the United States. More generally, Berg's work demonstrates the critical role that ethnography can play in transdisciplinary migration studies and exemplifies what comparative migration studies stand to gain from anthropological analysis and ethnographic methodologies. Ulla is the author of Mobile Selves: Race, Migration, and Belonging in Peru and the U.S. (NYU Press, 2015, translated to Spanish as Sujetos Móviles (IEP 2016); co-editor of numerous edited volumes and special issues including El Quinto Suyo: Transnacionalidad y formaciones Diaspóricas en la Migración Peruana (IEP, 2005, with Karsten Paerregaard), Transnational Citizenship Across the Americas (Routledge, 2014, with Robyn Rodriguez), Migración (CLACSO/UAM-Guajimalpa 2022, with Irére Ceja and Soledad Alvarez Velasco), and Latinos/as in New Jersey: Histories, Communities, Politics (Rutgers Press, with Aldo Lauria Santiago, forthcoming 2024). Berg's published work has also appeared in various disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals including Cultural Anthropology, Current Anthropology, Ethnography, Latin American Perspectives, Latino Studies, Identities, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS), Journal of Migration and Human Security (JMHS), Etnografías Contemporáneas, and Íconos, among others. More recently, she has completed two multi-year research projects; one on the deportation of South Americans from the United States to Peru and Ecuador, and another on the conditions in migrant detention centers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Her forthcoming book examines the effects of the U.S. deportation regime on rural and urban communities in Peru and Ecuador.

Berg has been a contributing member to LASA since 2001 and participates regularly in LASA Congresses as a presenter and organizer of panels and roundtable sessions. She is a long-time

member of LASA's Peru section and more recently of the Ecuadorian Studies section. Most recently, she served as Program Co-Chair (with Liliana Rivera-Sanchez) for the fully online 2021 LASA Congress under the Presidency of Gioconda Herrera. She has also served as a member of LASA's Commission on Academic Freedom and Human Rights. Other commitments to the profession have included serving as Co-Director of the Society of Visual Anthropology's Film and Media Festival from 2015-2017 and as a member of the American Anthropological Association's Executive Program Committee (2018-19). She is currently the co-convener of EASA's Anthropology of Confinement Network. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Berg was the co-convener with Soledad Alvarez Velasco (UIC) of (In)Movilidad en las Americas, a multi-lingual, transnational, and transdisciplinary network of scholars and activists focusing on pandemic migrant (im)mobilities and border regimes in the Americas.