

COLLOQUIUM

PRISON ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A COLLABORATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY OF MONEY, TECHNOLOGY, AND BLACKNESS IN LATIN AMERICA

Dr. Jorge Nunez – Faculty member and Co-Founder of the Center for
Interdisciplinary Ethnography – Kaleidos, University of Cuenca & FLACSO (Latin
American Faculty of Social Sciences) Ecuador

This talk reflects on 15 years of friendship and ethnographic conversation on mass imprisonment in the Andes between Arbolito, my long-time collaborator, and myself. It explores the role of prison economies in Latin American carcerality on the one hand, and the use of race and technology in small-time financial crimes on the other. Through a focus on life experiences of organized crime and incarceration, this talk attempts to reframe the prison system as a space of entrepreneurship within an economy of exclusion and inequality, rather than seeing it exclusively as a control mechanism or penal institution.



Thurs Nov. 1, 2018
3:30-5:00pm
SBSG 1517

Jorge Núñez is a founding member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Ethnography - Kaleidos at FLACSO - Ecuador and University of Cuenca. He has conducted ethnographic research with prisoners in Ecuador, and freelance traders and small investors in Spain. His work on prisons includes long-term participant observation in Ecuador's men maximum security prison between 2003 and 2005, archival work after this penitentiary was decommissioned in 2014, and an ongoing collaborative ethnography on prison entrepreneurship, financial crime, and racial capitalism in the Andes. His research on finance examines playful engagements with speculative forms of debt during the Great Spanish Recession. He is currently drafting a book manuscript tentatively titled Markets of Excitement: Debt, Speculation, and Catalonia.

