

“Rivers”

7 & 8 May 2026

The Swiss School of Latin American Studies (SSLAS)

Workshop May 2026



Artwork: Glenn Hope Fischli (ZhdK).

Fishes inhabiting Greater Amazonia (www.msanchezlab.net)

Thursday, May 7, 2026 (13:00 – 19:00)

Friday, May 8, 2026 (9:00 – 13:00)

**University of Zurich, Karl-Schmid-Str. 4, 8006 Zurich
KO2-E-72 a/b Lecture Hall of Department of Paleontology and Cinema
Auditorium of the Natural History Museum**

Rivers are corridors for the spread of cultural traits and the migration of people, reservoirs of much biodiversity, and shapers of the landscape. As stated by the historian Fernand Braudel in one of his classic works, 'flowing water mingles with every kind of natural phenomenon; and more than one might imagine, it has also mingled with the particular destiny of mankind'. In the 2026 edition of SSLAS, to be held in Zurich on 7-8 May, invited speakers from biology, archaeology, social and evolutionary anthropology, literature, and law will discuss topics where disciplines intersect to understand the waterways that shape the human geography of Latin America. The Mapuche writer Daniela Catrileo will be one of 14 invited speakers, joined by free contributions on all topics related to Latin America in this joyful and stimulating meeting for exchanges to be held at the Natural History Museum and the Department of Paleontology at the University of Zurich.

The talks and discussions of the workshop will be in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

SSLAS Workshop organized by the
Latin American Center of the University of Zurich (LZZ)



**University of
Zurich** UZH



Latin American Center

Thursday, May 7 2026

Location: University of Zurich, KO2-E-72a/b, Hörsaal
Palaeontology

- 12:00 – 13:00 *Welcome Sandwich and Coffee*
- 13:00 – 13:10 *Opening Remarks: Rivers in time, space and imagination*
Prof. Dr. Marcelo Sánchez-V. (University of Zurich)
- 13:10 – 13:30 *Water, Mobility, and Pre-Hispanic Earthworks in the Orinoco Llanos*
Diego Vargas (University of Bonn)
- 13:30 – 13:50 *Human genetic relationships in the northern Neotropics: connections between the Orinoco Delta, the Caribbean and Mesoamerica*
Prof. Dr. Chiara Barbieri (University of Cagliari and University of Zurich)
- 13:50 – 14:10 *The Pampas and the Paraná river: On rocks and fossils*
Dr. Analía Forasiepi (CONICET Argentina)
- 14:10 – 14:30 *Commentary / Discussion*
Dr. Alessandro Urciuoli (University of Zurich)
- 14:30 – 14:45 *Coffee break*
- 14:45 – 15:15 *On rivers and migrations: the longue durée in the Orinoquía?*
Dr. Philippe Riris (Bournemouth University)
- 15:15 – 15:35 *On rivers and fish – river landscape modification and fisheries in prehispanic South America*
Dr. Gabriela Prestes-Carneiro (CNRS-MNHN Paris)
- 15:35 – 15:55 *Resilience on the Ocean's Edge: Dynamic Responses to Shifting Landscapes in Ayangue, Ecuador*
Dr. Eric Dyrdaahl (Museo Nacional del Ecuador) and
Dr. Fernanda Ugalde (Museum Rietberg Zurich)
- 15:55 – 16:15 *Commentary / Discussion*
Dr. Cristiana Bertazoni (University of Bonn)

16:15 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:30 **Conferencia magistral**

Entre cauces

Daniela Catrileo

Profesora, editora y escritora mapuche, autora de *Río herido* (2016), *Las aguas dejaron de unirse a otras aguas* (2021) y *Sutura de las aguas. Un viaje especulativo sobre la impureza* (2024)

Moderación: Prof. Dr. Adriana López-Labourdette (University of Zurich)

17:30 - 18:00 *Coffee break*

Location: **Kino Museum, Naturhistorisches Museum UZH**

18:00 - 18:30 **SSLAS Lecture (co-hosted by Naturhistorisches Museum UZH NMZ 'Wissen to Go' and the Department of Paleontology)**

From Andes to Atlantic: The evolution of Amazon River

Prof. Dr. Carina Hoorn (University of Amsterdam)

18:30 - 19:00 *Commentary / Discussion*

Prof. Dr. Marcelo Sánchez-V. (University of Zurich)

Location: **Paleolounge of the Natural History Museum exhibit (Below the giant ichthyosaur)**

19:00 - 20:00 *Informal Pizza Ápero with drinks*

Friday, May 8, 2026

Location: University of Zurich, KO2-E-72a/b, Hörsaal Palaeontology

- 9:00 – 9:30 *Trayectorias de ida y retorno: restitución ancestral y gobernanza en el territorio Kawésqar*
Francisco González Álvarez (Presidente de la Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar y director de la Iniciativa Ko Aswál) y Benjamín Candia Calderón (Antropólogo, Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano)
- 9:30 – 9:50 *“Munekan Masha” at the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta: antropología, ecología y restauración.*
Dr. Ingrid Olivares (University of Zurich)
- 9:50 – 10:10 *Comentario / Discusión*
Dr. Gabriel Aguirre (University of Zurich)
- 10:10 – 10:25 *Coffee break*
- 10:25 – 10:45 *Ríos de vida y de comunión. El sentido religioso, teológico y jurídico del agua en el proceso sinodal amazónico.*
Prof. Dr. Daniela Tarantino (Università di Genova)
- 10:45 – 11:05 *Nestlé, Water Privatization and Swiss Development Aid*
Franklin Frederick (writer and a political activist, Bern)
- 11:05 – 11:25 *Commentary / Discussion*
Prof. Dr. Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina (University of Zurich)
- 11:25 – 11:40 *Coffee break / Poster Session**
- 11:40 – 12:10 *Lo hídrico en novelas latinoamericanas contemporáneas*
Prof. Dr. Alejandro Adalberto Mejías (Universidad Paul Valéry Montpellier 3)
- 12:10 – 12:25 *Comentario / Discusión*
Dr. André Masseno Viana (University of Zurich)

***Poster session** *En búsqueda de los orígenes de la fauna de peces del Amazonas*

Jack Norton (PhD at University of Zurich)

Dr. Jorge Carrillo-Briceño (University of Zurich)

The photographic documentation of a historical paleontological collection from the Peruvian Amazonia

Dr. Gabriel Aguirre (University of Zurich)

For more information or to sign up please contact:

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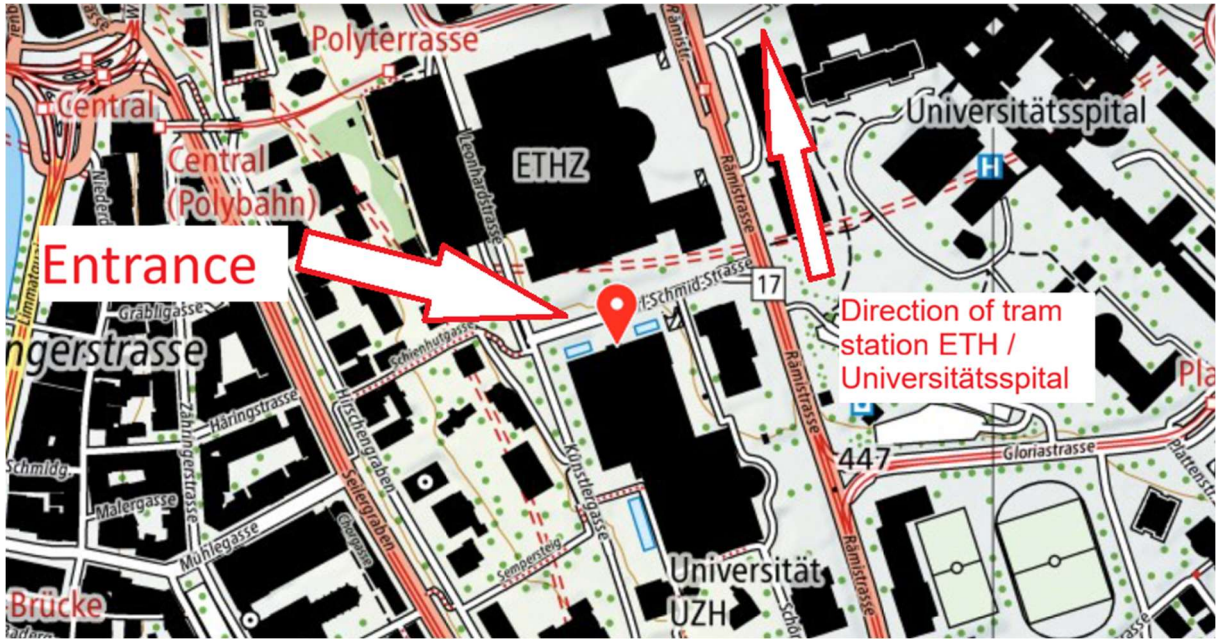
Location:

University of Zurich, Karl-Schmid-Str. 4, 8006 Zurich

KO2-E-72a/b Lecture Hall of Department of Paleontology and

Cinema Auditorium of the Natural History Museum

How to get there: From the Main Train Station *Zürich*, you can either walk (ca. 15 mins) or take tram number 10 leaving from the station *Bahnhofstrasse* to the stop ETH / Universitätsspital. From this stop, it is approximately a five-minute walk to Karl-Schmid-Str. 4 (the side entrance of the main building of the University of Zurich).



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