



# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

27.04.2022, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

## María Fernanda Olarte-Sierra (University of Vienna)

When a Pandemic Hits Peace: Forensic Practice, Victim Identification, and Transitional Justice in (Post)Conflict Colombia.



**María Fernanda Olarte-Sierra (Mafe)** is a medical anthropologist and an anthropologist of science with a focus on ethnographic research.

She addresses interactions of health, technology, and the body in highly bio-

medicalized and technological contexts, including forensic victim identification in armed conflicts, prenatal testing, congenital cardiac disease and childhood cancer in Latin America. Currently, she is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow at the University of Amsterdam. Also, she is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vienna, in the Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, where she will work on practices of collective care and healing in war-ridden contexts in Latin America.

### kommende Termine

28.04.2022 (Donnerstag) **Ståle Knudsen**  
How to Account for Patterns, Trends and Shifts in Political Ecology? Mobilizing Critical Realism to Enable Analysis beyond Diffuse Actor-Networks.

04.05.2022 **Jessica Greenberg**  
Culture Goes to Court: Reproducing "East" and "West" at the European Court of Human Rights.

Colombia has endured an armed conflict since the 1960s that has produced over 9.000.000 victims country-wide. Forensic experts have played a fundamental role in identifying the victims. As a result of the peace agreement signed between the now-extinct guerrilla group FARC-EP and the Colombian government in 2016, two forensic teams were established as part of the governmental agencies created to ensure the agreement's implementation. One group is the forensic experts of the transitional justice tribunal. The other one belongs to a humanitarian and extrajudicial unit that contributes to the reparation of victims and their right to truth. As part of their work, these teams have been working on defining *Sites of forensic interest*, however, when COVID-19 hit, the process of defining these sites needed to be readjusted in order to protect endangered human remains. In this talk, I will attend to the making of such sites via the issuing of precautionary measures by the combined efforts of the forensic teams as a way in which they actively participate in peace and reconciliation processes. I argue that these sites are materialisations of social and technolegal interventions that sustain and attempt to stabilise transitional justice efforts and victim reparation in times of utter uncertainty.