



# BILDNER CENTER

for Western Hemisphere Studies

## Bildner Seminar

# PLAN COLOMBIA IN PUTUMAYO AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF US ANTI-DRUG POLICY

**María Clemencia Ramírez**

*Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History*

**Desmond Arias** (Discussant)

*John Jay College and the Graduate Center*

US foreign policy has been a key factor in shaping Colombia's internal response to drug trafficking and insurgency. After 9/11, the line between the drug war and the counter-insurgency was blurred: guerrillas became "narcoterrorists" and military response overwhelmed and over-influenced social problems, particularly with new US policy. Militarization increased in marginal regions, where armed conflict and drug trafficking grew due to the weakness or absence of the state. In this context, President Álvaro Uribe prioritized counter-insurgency operations over development plans to break the link between drug trafficking and guerrillas. In an analysis of Plan Colombia in the southwestern Putumayo, María Clemencia Ramírez argues that the implementation of Plan Colombia, with a focus on security, has both deepened the criminalization of peasant coca growers as well as suppressed their needs, while undermining the sovereignty of the Colombian state.

María Clemencia Ramírez is a Research Associate and former Director of the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University. Her work explores the intersections of violence and identity through the lens of public policy and state/citizen relations, focused on the Amazon Region of Colombia and the department of Putumayo, where the implementation of Plan Colombia began in 2000.



Location:  
Room 9206/9207  
The Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue  
(Between 34th and 35th Street)

**Tuesday**  
**February 10**  
**4:00 PM**

To reserve, send e-mail to [bildner@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:bildner@gc.cuny.edu)