



Documentary Launch and Debate

Weaving Threads Across Borders (Tejiendo entre fronteras)

Friday, 25 November 2022

17:15 - 18:30, followed by an apéro

University of Neuchâtel, Av. du 1er-Mars 26, Room C54

In the presence of:

- Yvonne Riaño
- Germán Arango
- Ana Teresa Castillo
- Carolin Schurr

The documentary **“Weaving Threads Across Borders”** (“Tejiendo entre Fronteras”) shows the struggle of three Colombian women living on the Colombia-Venezuela border, a zone of geopolitical conflict where guerrillas, paramilitaries, and the Venezuelan army fight for control over the territory. These three stories are illustrative of the situation experienced by many internally displaced persons and forced migrants. Despite the pervasive violence, the immobility policies of the Venezuelan government, and the absence of the Colombian state, these women develop strategies to survive with their small businesses and to weave social fabric between the two sides of the border. The documentary, constructed in three chapters, focuses on these important dynamics.

The screening of the documentary will be introduced by Yvonne Riaño, followed by an open discussion together with Germán Arango, Ana Teresa Castillo, and Carolin Schurr.

Documentary director and script: **Germán Arango** is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and anthropologist. A budding writer, he has publications in different Colombian media. He directed the documentary “Cantos que inundan el río” about the funeral singers of Bojayá, Chocó (Colombia), for which he won the documentary award at the Toulouse Latin Film Festival in 2022.

Documentary research and script: **Yvonne Riaño** is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel. She is a social geographer specializing in migration studies, who carried out the research for the documentary, and participated in its production. She is passionate about participatory research methods and uses short films as a means of communicating the realities experienced by migrants, particularly women.

Documentary field-support: **Ana Teresa Castillo** is a well-known local leader on the border between Colombia and Venezuela. A victim of numerous internal displacements and violent deportation, she created the Deredez Association, which supports displaced Colombians, Venezuelan migrants, and victims of sexual violence. In 2021, she received the “Walking Towards Justice” award from the organization “Pact - Building Local Promise” for her work as a human rights defender.

Discussant: **Carolin Schurr** (University of Bern) is Professor of Social and Cultural Geography. In her research, she investigates how processes of globalization affect intimate life by combining approaches from feminist geography with theories of affect, feminist and postcolonial technology studies, and new debates around the reconceptualization of the body in the wake of new materialism.

This documentary has been funded by the nccr – on the move and the University of Neuchâtel.