

La exotización hollywoodense de Colombia en la relación civilización-barbarie y el tratamiento de su espacio como jardín-desierto - Contextual Note and Research Progress Audiovisual Representations and the Construction of Latin American Space in Hollywood.

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Contextual Note and Research Progress: Audiovisual Representations and the Construction of Latin American Space in Hollywood

Article: *Hollywood's Exotization of Colombia within the Civilization–Barbarism Binary and the Construction of Its Space as Garden–Desert: An Analysis of Romancing the Stone (1984), Directed by Robert Zemeckis*

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1. Presentation and Research Line Framework

The purpose of this supplementary document is to contextualize the article *Hollywood's Exotization of Colombia within the Civilization–Barbarism Binary and the Construction of Its Space as Garden–Desert* (originally published in *Clivajes. Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, 2022) within a broader and sustained line of research.

Across this corpus of work, we critically examine how the cinematic and discursive productions of the U.S. film industry (Hollywood) construct, stereotype, and geolocate Latin American subjectivity and identity, establishing colonial and Eurocentric dichotomies (such as civilization vs. barbarism or garden vs. desert).

Below is a detailed mapping of related publications and research updates, complete with standard APA (7th edition) bibliographic citations, abstracts, and permanent links (ARK/Handle) for consultation and citation in academic repositories.

2. Mapping of Related Works and Research Corpus

Author: Dr. María Ximena Méndez Mihura

Research Area: Sociology of Culture, Cultural Studies, and Geopolitical Representations in Hollywood Cinema

1. Principal Article

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2022). La exotización hollywoodense de Colombia en la relación civilización-barbarie y el tratamiento de su espacio como

jardín-desierto. *Clivajes. Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, (17), 45–60.

<https://doi.org/10.25009/clivajes.v0i17.2734>

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/10>

2. Preceding and Related Research Works

A. Doctoral and Master's Theses (Structural Framework)

1. Doctoral Dissertation

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2023). *Latinos en Hollywood: sujetos y espacios en el cine de ficción de Hollywood en torno al cambio de siglo* [Doctoral dissertation, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO Argentina)]. FLACSO Institutional Repository. <http://hdl.handle.net/10469/20723>

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/35>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/k4M>

- **Abstract:**

- This project falls within the field of Sociology of Culture. Specifically, it examines the representations of Latin American archetypes (pertaining to both subjects and spaces) in narrative Hollywood feature films from the 1980s, 1990s, and the post-September 11, 2001 (9/11) decade. It should be noted that the technological and cultural power of this industry operates in close alignment with U.S. foreign policy directives. Furthermore, this research conceptualizes the film director as an auteur—that is, a creator endowed with a specific subjectivity and an explicit ideological and political stance. The empirical selection focuses on classical-style Hollywood narrative cinema, paying particular attention to the substantial presence of Latin American elements within the narrative framework. Consequently, this study aims to identify, interrogate, and explain representations of Latinidad by centering the analysis on the notion of archetypes, thereby distinguishing itself from prior research that primarily prioritized stereotypes.

2. Master's Thesis Summary

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2017). Sujetos y espacios latinoamericanos en películas estadounidenses de ficción en la primera década del siglo XXI [Master's thesis summary]. *Cuadernos del CEL*, 2(4), 210–218.
<http://www.celcuadernos.com.ar/upload/pdf/Resumen%20Tesis.%20docx.pdf>
- **Acta Académica Link:**
<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/8>
- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/1do>
- **Abstract:**
- This work analyzes the link between Hollywood cinema and imperialism as a mechanism for reproducing power dynamics reconfigured in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It offers a critical perspective on U.S. foreign policy and the cultural representations of the Latin American continent at the turn of the century.

B. Analysis of Historical, Spatial, and Ideological Representations in Film

3. Post-9/11 Stereotype Analysis

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2014, July 29–August 1). *Estereotipos de lo latinoamericano en las producciones de Hollywood* [Conference presentation]. XI Congreso Argentino de Antropología Social, Rosario, Argentina.
<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/3>
- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/k4C>
- **Abstract:**
- This paper presents the master's thesis project (CEL-UNSAM) by examining a corpus of eight films (2001–2011). It posits a nuanced hypothesis regarding the explicit framing of Latin Americans as "terrorists" post-9/11: subjects are characterized as dangerous, corrupt, or as "noble savages," but not directly as terrorists; meanwhile, Latin American spaces function primarily as territories for surveillance rather than sites of direct attack.

4. Pre-Columbian Representations and Imperialism in Mel Gibson's Cinema

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2019, November 6–8). *Mel Gibson y su visión de América antes de la llegada de los europeos en el cine de Hollywood* [Conference presentation]. 1.er Congreso Internacional de Ciencias Humanas: Humanidades

entre pasado y futuro, Escuela de Humanidades, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), San Martín, Argentina.

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/9>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/CRg>
- **Abstract:**
- This paper investigates the narrative framework of *Apocalypto* (2006), in which director Mel Gibson discards the "noble savage" myth in favor of colonial chronicles depicting native cruelty (such as those of Diego de Landa). The film portrays pre-Columbian peoples through the lens of an expansive, decadent, and superstitious empire. The study examines the filmmaker's perspective as an auteur possessing a distinct subjectivity and ideological positioning.

5. Cold War Cinema and Representations of the Political Left

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2019, October 1–4). *Indiana Jones e Irina Spalko: Dos miradas hacia América Latina* [Conference presentation]. XVII Jornadas Interescuelas/Departamentos de Historia, Universidad Nacional de Catamarca, Catamarca, Argentina.
<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/43>
- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/y5e>
- **Abstract:**
- This paper analyzes Steven Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (2008). It explores Spielberg's critique of organic left-wing intellectuals through the character of Soviet scientist Irina Spalko, who seeks omniscience through controversial research. Within the film, this female character is portrayed as Stalin's favorite scientist; however, far from developing practical research to assist her people in accordance with socialist ideals, she remains on the periphery of knowledge: pursuing knowledge for its own sake, detached from practical application.

C. Studies on Education, Youth, and Autoethnographic Cinema

6. Representation of Latino Youth in the U.S.

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2019, November 13–15). *La representación de las juventudes latinas en el cine de los Estados Unidos* [Conference presentation]. IV

Congreso de Jóvenes Medios e Industrias Culturales (JUMIC), Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina.

<https://perio.unlp.edu.ar/ojs/index.php/actas/article/view/5759>

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/7>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/fbz>

- **Abstract:**

- This paper examines the representation of Latino youth in the film *Stand and Deliver* (1988), focusing on the pedagogical experience of teacher Jaime Escalante at Garfield High School. It analyzes the impact of this case on broader educational policy debates surrounding the Latino community in the United States.

7. Autoethnographic Cinema and Prison Subculture

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2016). Un análisis en torno a *American Me*, de Edward James Olmos. *Revista Transas*.

<https://revistatransas.unsam.edu.ar/un-analisis-en-torno-a-american-me-de-edward-james-olmos/>

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/20>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/UXZ>

- **Abstract:**

- An analysis of *American Me* (1992), directed by and starring Edward James Olmos. The film belongs to the category of "autoethnographic cinema" (Pratt, 2011) and addresses interracial conflicts between Anglo and Latino communities, gang history, daily prison life, parallel power networks, and illicit economies. Set entirely within U.S. territory, the narrative unfolds in East Los Angeles.

D. Methodological and Institutional Reflections

8. Historical Context: Hollywood and the U.S. Department of State

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2018, November 19–23). *Cine e imperialismo: Antecedentes y miradas en la relación entre Hollywood y el Departamento de*

Estado norteamericano [Conference paper abstract]. 8.^a Conferencia Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

https://www.clacso.org.ar/conferencia2018/presentacion_ponencia.php?ponencia=2018813153622-4335-pi

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/55>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/n23>

- **Abstract:**

- This work summarizes the literature review and state of the art regarding the mutual relationships and influences between U.S. Department of State policies and Hollywood industrial film production.

9. Cultural Research Methodology

- **APA (7th ed.) Citation:**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2023, November 15–17). *Experiencia, preguntas, dificultades y logros en la investigación de producciones culturales de Hollywood* [Conference presentation]. VIII Encuentro Latinoamericano de Metodología de las Ciencias Sociales (ELMECS), Salto, Uruguay.

<http://elmeecs.fahce.unlp.edu.ar/viii-elmeecs/actas/ponencia-240618125758981054>

- **Acta Académica Link:**

<https://www.aacademica.org/maria.ximena.mendez.mihura/62>

- **ARK:** <https://n2t.net/ark:/13683/pQeh/nX6>

- **Abstract:**

- This paper reflects on the qualitative and descriptive methodological approach applied to the case studies in the author's doctoral dissertation film corpus. It addresses the challenges of analyzing cultural products as carriers of ideological bias from the perspectives of Sociology of Culture and Cultural Studies.

3. Recommended Citation Guide for Researchers

If you are referencing this work or its derivatives in research related to cultural studies, film criticism, or spatial discourse analysis, please use the following citation formats:

- **To cite the research article (Clivajes, 2022):**

- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2022). La exotización hollywoodense de Colombia en la relación civilización-barbarie y el tratamiento de su espacio como jardín-desierto. *Clivajes. Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, (17), 45–60.
<https://doi.org/10.25009/clivajes.v0i17.2734>
- **To cite this contextual note and general mapping:**
- Méndez Mihura, M. X. (2026). *Contextual note and research progress: Audiovisual representations and the construction of Latin American space in Hollywood* [Supplemental material]. Acta Académica.