



NEW COURSE–NEW COURSE–NEW COURSE–NEW COURSE–NEW COURSE

Join this experimental course taught in parallel at **MIT** and **USC!**

ANTH 499 Future of Facts in Latin America (10682)*

Spring 2024, Tuesdays 3.30-6.20 pm PT

[Prof. Andrea Ballester](#) (USC) in collaboration with [Prof. Eden Medina](#) (MIT)

- Parallel local field trips in Los Angeles, CA and Cambridge, MA.
(*fully funded, students will have no out-of-pocket costs*)
- Lecture series on the nature and future of facts.
- Opportunity to interact across institutions and with faculty participants.
in [the Future of Facts in Latin America Working Group](#)

If in the 20th century facts were presumed objective entities, in the 21st **facts are up for grabs** as manufactured doubt and distrust of expertise saturate the public sphere. To understand the future of facts, we need to expand studies of disinformation with approaches that examine the nature of facts in a global context. This requires **going beyond truth/falsehood, fact/fiction discourses**. This class takes an expansive approach and examines the making, use, and erasure of facts in Latin America. It will ask: Who produces a fact? Where is it produced? How is it circulated? And, how is it discredited? Students will learn **social science and humanities tools** to expand the analysis of facts and better understand what is often referred to as the post-truth era.

Our case studies will include the role of genetic information in violent disappearances in Chile, the making of medical claims in Nicaragua, organizing aquifer protection in Costa Rica, inventing new technologies for the green revolution in Mexico, accounting for the body in legal proceedings in Colombia, distrusting algorithms in Costa Rica, religious facts in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.

**For USC students, this course requires a D-clearance*