

Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego
Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles
Latin American Institute, UC Los Angeles

Crossing the Darién Gap

Friday, December 8, 2023 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



Presenter: [Julie Turkewitz](#)

Julie Turkewitz is the Andes bureau chief for The New York Times and lives in Bogotá. She covers Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Based in South America since 2019, much of her work has focused on the effects of the ongoing economic and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, including the record movement of migrants through the Darién Gap, and on the way this crisis has stripped women of access to contraceptives and meaningful care during pregnancy. Prior to moving to Colombia, she covered the Rocky Mountain region of the United States.



Presenter: [Federico Rios](#)

Federico Rios is a photographer based in Colombia, working in the Andes region for The New York Times since 2017. Much of his work has focused on violence and civil movements in Latin America. His most recent photobook: VERDE, was published by Raya Editorial in 2021. During the last six years, Federico has documented migration through Latin America, including the exodus from Venezuela to Brazil, Colombia, Panamá, Mexico and the United States. Federico has won several international awards, including the International Committee of the Red Cross Humanitarian Visa d'or Award (2023), Photojournalist of the Year at Poy Latam (2023) and the People's Choice Award Prix Pictet (2023).

New York Times journalists Julie Turkewitz and Federico Rios have spent more than a year documenting the transformation of the Darién Gap from a roadless, barely penetrable jungle straddling two continents into one of the planet's busiest migrant thoroughfares, a roadless route of last resort for hundreds of thousands of people headed toward the United States. Together they have crossed the jungle several times, chronicling the Darién's growing popularity and the excruciating toll it takes on those who survive it.

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