

**REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

"The Role of Indigenous Women in the Protection and Promotion of Indigenous Languages and Cultures"

August 9, 2022

PARTICIPANTS' BIOS

CANADA

Laura Burnouf

Laura, originally from Beauval, Saskatchewan has lived in La Ronge ever since she started working at the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) beginning in 1995. After teaching for 27 years, Laura retired a few years ago but continues to teach Cree language classes and keeps busy volunteering and coordinating events for her Metis community. She served ten years as president of the Jim Brady La Ronge local and just recently won a seat in 2021 as regional director with the Metis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS). Apart from her duties, Laura accepts invitations to entertain children with Cree songs and dance in schools and cultural camps. Connecting Elders with families is an important practice of hers and since she speaks and understands the Cree Michif language this becomes important. Laura also mentors those that want to learn the language.

Amanda Shannon

Amanda Shannon is the Director of Policy in the Indigenous Languages Branch, Canadian Heritage. In this role, she is responsible for continuing to implement the Indigenous Languages Act as well as the International of Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2023 in the domestic and international context. Prior to that, Amanda was the Director of Program Evaluation at Canadian Heritage, where she was responsible for providing neutral, timely and evidence-based advice on the relevance and performance of programs within the Department.

She has been a career public servant for over 18 years and has held numerous positions with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Coast Guard. Amanda holds a Baccalaureate in Administration from the University of Ottawa and is fluent in French and English.

ECUADOR

Yana Lema

Yana is a young poet from the Otavalo Community and the Kichwa nationality. She obtained a degree in Social Communication from the Central University of Ecuador. She also has a Master Degree in Social Sciences from FLACSO-Ecuador and an International Sciences degree from the Central University. In 2008 she got a diploma in journalism in Cuba. Currently she is a professor at the University of Arts in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Yana Lema has participated in several international poetry festivals in Italy, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba and Ecuador. She has won some awards like the National Award of Poetry "Jorge Carrera Andrade" in Ecuador 2021. She also won the award for the Best Children's story from the Quito Municipality in 2016. In 2000 she obtained the Written Testimony Award in the First Andean Women Contest.

Yana has published two kichwa poetry books and one short story. She has worked in compilations of kichwa literature and has been invited as speaker in several roundtables in Ecuador and other countries like Colombia and Mexico.

Daniela Castillo

Daniela Castillo holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication from *Universidad Central del Ecuador*, a specialization in Museums and Historical Heritage from *Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar*, Ecuador campus; and a Master's degree of Visual Anthropology at *Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales*, Ecuador campus.

She has participated in research projects, curatorship and development of museological and museographic scripts for exhibitions related to historical and cultural heritage, and indigenous, afro-ecuadorian, montubio and mestizo peoples of Ecuador.

She participated in the elaboration of the First Atlas of Infrastructure and Cultural Heritage of Ecuador, coordinated by the Ministry of Culture in 2012; and in the elaboration of the Catalog of Iconography of Ancient Ecuador, together with the *Museo Etnohistórico de Artesanías del Ecuador "Mindalae"* in 2016, as one of the first efforts to compile in a single document the extensive iconographic heritage of the historical-cultural areas of the country. A synthesis of her research thesis, "Semiotic Analysis of the Yumbada of Cotacollao", was published by the *Kinti Editores* Collective, in December 2019.

Nowadays, she works as Director of Public Policy for Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador.

GUATEMALA

Ana Elizabeth López Ramírez

Ana Elizabeth was born in San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán, Huehuetenango, Guatemala. She is a member of the Mam language community and chairs the Mam table at the Guatemalan Mayan Languages Academy and seats in the academy's Board of Directors. She is a Mam-Spanish teacher with a BA in Pedagogy from the Landivar University, and a degree in Mayan grammar from the San Carlos University. She also has a specialization in public administration and human rights.

She has worked as a Mam facilitator at different public schools in the department of Huehuetenango, where she has also contributed to the building of capacities among Indigenous teachers. She has contributed to research on Mayan language including a "Morphology and Phonetic" study for Kansas University, and Mam reading and language text books for Guatemala's Education Ministry.

Mina Griselda González Navichoc

Mina Griselda González Navichoc is a Maya Tz'utujil Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public from Guatemala. She has a Master's Degree in Human Rights and a PHD in Public Administration, with a specialization in Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Food Security and Public Policies against Hunger.

She currently occupies the position of Private Secretary to the Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala, a position that is occupied for the first time by an Indigenous woman. Between 2018 and 2019 she worked as advisor on food security and nutritional policies at the Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Teaching, CATIE. She has worked extensively in the fight against malnutrition, as Cooperation Director at the Presidential Secretariat for Food Security of Guatemala and the National Body for Consultation and Participation of the National Food Security Secretariat.

Her participation in public institutions is driven and supported by Indigenous and women organizations, which has meant for her a constant promotion of rights, inclusion and equality.

MEXICO

Rubí Celia Huerta Norberto

Rubi Celia Huerta Norberto is a native of the Indigenous community of Santo Tomás, Municipality of Chilchota, Michoacán, Mexico. She is a historian from the University of Guadalajara. She is a poet, communicator, translator and professor of the Purépecha language in the Department of Languages at Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo University, and she is a member of the Academy of Purepecha Language at the same university. She has participated in several national poetry meetings, and she is the author of three poetry books. In addition to several collaborations and translations, her works have been published in anthologies and electronic magazines such as: Revista Literatura UNAM, "Tierra Adentro", New York Poetry Review, Sujuy Tsónoot and the supplement of the newspaper La Jornada de Campo.

Rubi contributes to the efforts of teaching, documentation and research of her language. Additionally, in her work as a communicator, she makes use of media such as radio to generate linguistic awareness. She is a workshop leader in "Alas y Raíces" within the project "Lenguas de nuestra Tierra" (Languages of our Land).

Juan Gregorio Regino

Juan Gregorio Regino (1962) is a native of the Mazatec nation. He has published two bilingual books of poetry: Tatsjejin nga kjaboya (Death is not eternal) and Ngata'ara Stsehe (Let it rain). Part of his poetic production has been translated into English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Hungarian and Catalan. Prestigious intellectuals have dealt with his work such as: Eliot Weinberger, Jerome Rothenberg, Miguel León - Portilla, Carlos Montemayor, Earl Shorris, Philippe Ollé - Laprune, Elvira Dolores Maison, Donald Frischmann, Ramón Torrents and Ricardo Yáñez.

He has translated into Mazatec a selection of Octavio Paz's poems for Artes de México publishing house (2016). In the field of essays, he has collaborated on Indigenous literature and Mazatec literature in various national and international journals.

His poetry is included in 17 anthologies alongside great writers such as Juan Rulfo, Inés Arredondo, Elsa Cross and Álvaro Mutis, to name a few. His poetry has been disseminated in several countries, such as: Spain, France, Italy, Serbia, Serbia, Brazil, Argentina, Hungary, Cuba, Colombia and the United States. In 1996 he won the Nezahualcóyotl Prize for Literature in Indigenous Languages, awarded by the National Council for Culture and the Arts.

In the educational field, he has collaborated as author of the free textbook in the Mazatec language of San Pedro Ixcatlán, published by the Ministry of Public Education, as well as in the construction of the Mazatec alphabet of the lowlands, of which he is the author.

His poetry is rooted in the oral tradition present in the Mazatec culture, where he has rummaged the community memory to find new paths to the so-called oralitura, a concept he developed to design oral poetry workshops, as well as graphic narrative in different Indigenous languages of the country, when he worked in the General Directorate of Popular Cultures (2010 to 2016).

He joined the Mexican Academy of Language in June 2016 as a corresponding member for Oaxaca. On January 16, 2017 he was appointed by Mexico's President as Director General of the National Institute of Indigenous Languages.

PANAMA

Omayra Casamá Samana

Omayra Casamá holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, is an official translator of the Ĕmbĕrĕ language and has a diploma in Methodology of Popular Education, Local Development and Political Advocacy.

In 1986, Omayra began serving the Ĕmbĕrĕ community in the process of legalizing the Collective Territories of Alto Bayano. She participated in traditional congresses to give women a voice and in 2000 she was elected as the first woman Cacique (chief).

Omayra has represented the Indigenous Peoples of Panama in various international forums and has worked on multiple local initiatives focused on women's leadership, biodiversity and human rights. Omayra founded the Association of Artisan Women Ĕmbĕrĕ (AMARIE) with which she has implemented several Canada Fund for Local Initiatives projects, among others to promote and conserve Ĕmbĕrĕ culture and ancestral knowledge.

H.E. Ausencio Palacio Pineda, Vice Minister of Indigenous Affairs

A member of Ngĕbe-Bugle People, His Excellency Ausencio Palacio has held positions as an expert in mediation and conflict resolution, and has represented the Indigenous peoples of Panama in various international forums. He was the main coordinator and negotiator of the law that created the Ngĕbe-Bugle Comarca in 1997.

He has held several governmental positions such as Governor of the Ngĕbe-Bugle, Parliamentarian of the 12-1 District of the same Comarca, and is now Vice-Minister of Indigenous Affairs within the Ministry of Government.

Mr. Palacio chaired the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Parliament of America three times between 2014 and 2019 and is currently a member of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

PERU

Briset Saldivar

Briset Saldivar was born in the peasant community of Lucma, in the district of Vilcabamba, Cusco, Peru. She is an anthropologist with a master's degree in Architecture with a mention in cultural heritage management from the National University of San Antonio Abad in Cusco, and member of the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. In addition to anthropology, she has a special interest in the performing arts and participates in cultural events related to the Inka era. Briset is committed to working for Indigenous rights, respect for their worldview, gender equality, the integration of people with disabilities and the fight against anemia in children. Currently, she is part of the Indigenous Professional Program of the Canadian Embassy in Peru, and is the proud mother of Sebastián Amaru, her 4-year-old son whom she is teaching to know and love his culture.