

As Bolivia has emerged as a global center of resistance to modern/colonial capitalism and as a site productive of alternatives to neoliberal economic agendas, many activists and scholars have seen the exciting potentiality for the creation of a post-capitalist economy, replete with a remade social order that does not rest upon liberal identity classifications. Nevertheless, and despite the adoption of a discourse of de-patriarchalization in the Bolivian state's decolonizing development policy, it has been noted that theorization of the roles of the patriarchal family and heterosexualism as technologies of neoliberal governance has taken a backseat to a focus on indigenism and women's economic rights that often fails to problematize and dissect the workings of an engrained colonial gender system. This presentation will explore the work of Bolivian feminist activist groups such as Mujeres Creando who utilize graffiti, theater, and poetry in the dissemination of images and discourses that queer notions of tradition, indigeneity, and modernity, aesthetically challenging the heteronormative political subjectivities produced and instrumentalized by the current leftist regime. These activists identify the biopolitical function served by narratives of gender, sexuality, and family in a country with long-established gender inequality in which women's rights continue to be de-prioritized. Their work to build community in spaces outside of the national struggle challenges dominant discourses that construct the role of Bolivian women as primarily that of mothers and caretakers, highlighting the key position that these normative constructions occupy within modern systems of patriarchal domination and internal colonialism.