Title: "A disjointed civil sphere, national identity and the crisis of institutional democracy. Reconceptualising democracy in Peru through food and national pride"

Abstract: In a society where a fragmented civil society is divided along historical and economic class lines, where the political completely lacks any legitimacy, and where democratic institutions have been historically weak, why is it that the political system has not collapsed? Moreover, how is it that social anomie has not occurred in Peru in a way similar to, for example, the former Yugoslavia or the ethnic divisions of sub-Saharan African societies? In answering these questions, this paper, therefore, tries to contribute to a growing literature that is trying to redefine the traditional concepts of civil society, the public sphere and democracy in light of cases outside of the traditional West. In this paper, I argue that food and elements of Peruvian pride are central to understanding why and how it is that in Peru there can be civility without a traditionally recognized civil society, or a sense of democracy without political representativity.