

# From the President

by **Lynn Stephen, President of LASA** | University of Oregon | [stephenl@uoregon.edu](mailto:stephenl@uoregon.edu)

LASA2019, "Nuestra América: Justice and Inclusion," is going to have a wonderful set of panels, roundtables, workshops, invited sessions, and presidential sessions. We received session proposals from 58 different countries: 22 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico), 24 from Europe, 2 from North America, 7 from Asia and South Asia, 2 from the Middle East, and New Zealand. We are delighted to see that the inclusive global participation in LASA that we saw in Barcelona will continue in Boston. The column in this issue written by Lorraine Leu, one of LASA2019's program co-chairs, highlights some of the themes in our presidential sessions. We look forward to sharing more details with you as the program is finalized this fall in November.

The LASA Anti-Harassment Task Force work is moving forward. The task force has been hard at work on a survey that will be sent to all LASA members and will be available in Spanish, English, and Portuguese. The purpose of the survey is to research the experiences of LASA members at congresses and any other LASA venues to register a spectrum of possible forms of violence, harassment, and discrimination, including sexual, racial, sexual orientation, physical, psychological, or emotional. The questionnaire is part of research being conducted by the task force with the goal of writing a report and policy recommendations. We hope that the survey will be arriving to you by mid-November and that you will take the 15 minutes necessary to complete it. Thank you in advance for your participation.

At the same time, the Executive Committee of LASA and a special subcommittee are working toward finishing a Code of Ethics and Behavior for LASA and outlining an implementation plan including the use of an ombudsperson to receive complaints. We hope to have these policies and plans in place for early 2019. In the spring issue of

the *LASA Forum* before the congress in Boston, we will be publishing a special dossier on the topic of anti-harassment work and research.

The LASA Commission for Academic Freedom and Human Rights

has been very active this fall under the leadership of Vice President Mara Viveros. The commission produced statements and press releases urging the Colombian government to protect the lives of leaders, activists, and journalists ([http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/Colombia\\_2018.pdf](http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/Colombia_2018.pdf)); urging the government of Guatemala and the United Nations Development Program to guarantee the integrity of the Historical Archive of the National Police ([http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/PR\\_Guatemala\\_8-2018\\_en.pdf](http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/PR_Guatemala_8-2018_en.pdf)); and expressing our solidarity in the aftermath of the fire at Brazil's Museu Nacional and calling for the protection of this patrimony of humanity, in conjunction with the Brazilian Studies Association ([http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/MuseuNacional\\_LASA\\_BRASA\\_Statement\\_20180907\\_en.pdf](http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/files/MuseuNacional_LASA_BRASA_Statement_20180907_en.pdf)).

I am pleased to note that this *LASA Forum* contains two exciting dossiers and two articles. The article by Wayne Cornelius follows up on LASA statements regarding the detention of families, the limiting of asylum protections, and the ending of Temporary Protected Status. The other article by Adriana Pou Hernández focuses on highlights from the Otros Saberes Section pre-congress program in Barcelona.

The dossier edited by Juliet Hooker connects directly with the statement, press release, and interview put out by LASA in June urging the



Nicaraguan government to stop repression against protesters, including many students. The articles in this dossier provide an update to the packed roundtable on Nicaragua in Barcelona. In fact, as Hooker points out, one of the participants in the roundtable who was supposed to contribute an essay was unable to because she was arrested and detained, and currently is unable to have a public presence. The articles in the dossier document the increasing authoritarianism, violence, and repression of the government, and the sustained and growing opposition. They also raise the important question of how to resolve the tension between calls for a more democratic Nicaragua and the accumulated historical tensions represented at the present moment that defy traditional ideological classifications.

The other dossier, edited by Carlos Aguirre (also a program co-chair for LASA2019) published the papers presented in the LASA 2018 presidential session titled "Revisiting 1968 in Latin America, 50 Years Later." A crucial moment in Latin America (as it also was around the world), 1968 saw student mobilization in various countries, the massacre of Tlatelolco in Mexico, a military coup in Peru, and the intensification of military repression in Argentina, Brazil, and other countries. Papers highlight experiences in Mexico, Peru, and Cuba, as well as some reflections on the legacies of that eventful year. I invite LASA members to read the dossier of 1968 in relation to the one on Nicaragua. Both dossiers in part document very significant youth movements with fifty years between them. The ideological positioning of youth in 1968 contrasts significantly with that of Nicaraguan student organizers in 2018.

I encourage you to use the *Forum* as a space of engagement with the ongoing life of LASA and its members. While there are still months before the year ends, I want to wish everyone health and hope in 2019. //