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Opinions expressed herein are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Latin American Studies Association or its officers.

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From the President

by **Aldo I. Panfichi Huamán**

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú / apanfic@pucp.pe

The dynamism that Latin American studies has shown in different regions of the world can be explained by the strengths that this area of study has developed along its trajectory of over five decades. During this time, the study of Latin America has become characterized by mature and experienced teaching and research, generating insights that contribute to understanding numerous problems in different parts of the globe.

From its origins in the mid-twentieth century, Latin American studies postulated the need to have a profound knowledge of the history, economics, and social structures of the countries in this region. History and structuralism, be they from functionalist or Marxist perspectives, were present in the first analyses of the possibilities and limitations of development in Central and South America.

As Latin American studies has developed, it has incorporated the premises, perspectives, and methodologies of diverse fields in the humanities and social sciences, actively promoting collaboration between colleagues from a diversity of disciplines. In this sense, the field of Latin American studies is an early example of the strength of interdisciplinary work, an example followed by other academic societies around the world.

Another strength of Latin American studies is the existence of a tradition of critical thinking, in which scholars are suspicious of absolute truths and ideological biases. For the most part, our field has not become trapped by the political and economic agendas of powerful states, instead successfully revindicating academic autonomy. This has not been an easy enterprise, especially in the context of the dictatorships of the seventies or the subsequent



authoritarianisms where various colleagues have suffered, in the flesh, the harshness with which independence and autonomy were punished.

Latin American studies also turn out to be an important asset in the knowledge accumulated on national and regional issues, which today constitute global problems. Among these issues we find economic migrations, but also those produced by political reasons, such as migrations of those displaced by wars and internal conflicts; the different shapes that authoritarianism takes, from classical military dictatorships to contemporary forms such as those that develop inside initially democratic political systems, concentrating power in few hands; the revolutionary efforts of social change and social movements; the innovative forms of citizen participation; the practices of corruption by political authorities at the national and subnational level that today corrode social coexistence and the legitimacy of political systems; the informal sector of the economy and work; structural inequality; violence and lack of public safety. All these problems, well known in Latin

America, are today global ones, and those of us in Latin American studies can contribute to their understanding worldwide.

Additionally, an important criterion in the capacity of Latin American studies to reinvent itself, and remain relevant as the years go by, is its calling to respond to the challenges and needs of local and national environments in which it has developed. It is a production of knowledge with great social and political usefulness, not a mere academic exercise free of commitment nor a field which serves those currently in power.

To sum up, Latin American studies constitute a dynamic, mature, autonomous, and interdisciplinary area of teaching and research. It is a privileged laboratory to analyze a wide range of social, political, and cultural phenomena, as well as a space of learning for societies in other regions of the planet, and an arena of exchange between distinct nuclei of academics not only in and on the Americas, but around the world. On this last point, there is a lot still to do and to learn. The time has come to think of more ambitious and innovative forms of collaboration between our academic communities. //

LASA in Europe

by **Marianne Braig**, LASA2018 program co-chair
Lateinamerika Institut der FU Berlin / Marianne.Braig@fu-berlin.de

In May 2018, the annual conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) takes place for the first time in Europe—in Barcelona, to be precise.

LASA, the largest international academic organization for research about Latin America, has undergone a significant transformation. In the past few years, the number of members from Latin America has surpassed those from Canada and the United States. At the same time, the number of European members has increased from 350 to around 1,500 in 2017. The new memberships belong to a younger group, and the percentage of women today surpasses that of men.

The participation among Europeans has been very positive. Never before have there been so many panel proposals including both high-ranking European scientists and young researchers with new and creative research interests. The thematic focus of the international congress revolves around the changing role of Latin America amid globalization and offers the possibility to gather researchers from all over the world for a weeklong discussion about different aspects of “Latin American studies in a globalized world.”

Beyond the growing interest from individual academics, many European organizations have shown their support for LASA's activities in Barcelona. Among them, we find the European Union–Latin America and Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation), created in 2010 by heads of state and governments of the European Union (EU) and CELAC (Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños); and OBREAL, the Observatory for European-Latin American Relations (Observatorio para las Relaciones Europa-América Latina), a network of universities and nonuniversity academic institutions. Both

the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL have generously contributed funding for some of the presidential panels.

To more deeply explore the general theme of LASA2018, “Latin America Studies in a Globalized World,” LASA president Aldo Panfichi Huamán, professor of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, and the two Congress program co-chairs, Charles F. Walker from the University of California, Davis, and Marianne Braig from Freie Universität Berlin, supported the organization of presidential panels that reflect on these changes from the vantage point of Latin American studies and that include various global and regional perspectives and debate about shared issues and concerns.

In the first panel, entitled “Rethinking the Relations between Latin America and Europe: Between Interdependent Inequalities and ‘Cooperations’ for Civilizational Transitions,” three highly regarded international researchers will explore aspects of European relations with Latin America. Relations between Europe and Latin America are maintained and reproduced by asymmetric relationships. These are reflected in several phenomena tied to global inequalities, such as transnational mobility between the two regions and the externalization of risk and human and ecological costs from Europe to Latin America. In this context of crisis of the dominant civilizational model and the emergence of alternatives to it, such as “Buen Vivir,” the discussion about cooperation between Latin America and Europe plays a fundamental role. Arturo Escobar, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, whose work in Colombian and American universities has focused for many years on development, the environment, and sustainability, considers the possibility of cooperation for civilizational transitions between

the two regions. Bolivian intellectual Xavier Alba, from CIPCA (Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado), introduces an indigenous peoples' perspective on these relations with his presentation "Desde los pueblos indígena y sus portavoces: Paradojas cotidianas del *vivir bien*." Gender expert Adriana Piscitelli, from Universidad de Campinas, examines the complex migration processes between both regions and focuses on the current migration of women from Latin America to Europe in her presentation "Migrants for Love, Sex, or Money? Readings about Mobility between Brazil and Europe."

A second panel, entitled "Migrations, Cold War, and Solidarity: Latin American Studies from Europe," will focus on research themes that have received significant attention over the last few decades in different European research centers interested in Latin America. The influence that these themes have had, not only in political relations but also in scientific research, will be discussed by four internationally respected scholars from European and Latin American institutions: Ludger Pries from Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Maxine Molyneux from University College London, Michiel Baud from University of Amsterdam, and Josef Opatrný from Charles University of Prague. In the long tradition of European studies of Latin America, it is very noticeable that when Europeans define their objects of study, they transfer their historical experiences and their current problems to spaces outside of Europe, thereby imposing their perspectives. This has included subjects like migrations, the Cold War, solidarity movements, or revolutions. This panel highlights the need to render visible the asymmetries related to these perspectives, but also to observe the incessant renovations in these approaches that have their origin not only in political or academic interests but in the impulses generated by civil society organizations and extremely diverse social movements (such as movements of women, workers, against immigration policies, against violence and precarization, or against racism, as well as solidarity movements). The panel will discuss how the Cold War and the East/West confrontation, as well as the solidarity and migration movements between societies from both regions, significantly promoted and shaped these processes.

Finally, a third presidential panel will highlight the student movements of 1968 as reference points in the Americas and Europe. May 1968 in Paris and the Tlatelolco Massacre in Mexico City, as well as other similar events in Argentina, Germany, Prague, and Berkeley, are part of the global history of 1968. Half a century later, the relevance of this shared anniversary will be discussed in this panel. We will also be able to reminisce on this period at the LASA Film Festival in Barcelona. //

Elections 2018: Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for vice president and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from May 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, and as president from June 1, 2019, until May 31, 2020. The three winning candidates for EC membership (including the graduate student) will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2020.

Nominees for Vice President

Javier Corrales
Amherst College

Kevin Middlebrook
University College London

Mara Viveros-Vigoya (write-in candidate)
Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Nominees for Executive Council

Sara Castro-Klarén
Johns Hopkins University

Emiliana Cruz (write-in candidate)
CIESAS-DF

Bianca Freire-Medeiros (write-in candidate)
University of São Paulo

Jeffrey L. Gould
Indiana University

Daniel Mato (write-in candidate)
CONICET and UNTREF

Carlota McAllister
York University

Maria Victoria Murillo
Columbia University

Leigh Payne
Oxford University (St. Antony's College)

Lisandro Pérez
City University of New York

Graduate Students for Executive Council

Vivian Andrea Martínez-Díaz
Universidad de los Andes

Marcus Vinicius Rossi de Rocha
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

THE CANDIDATES

Javier Corrales

Javier Corrales is Dwight W. Morrow 1895 Professor of Political Science at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He obtained his Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University. Corrales's research focuses on democratization and political economy of development. The second edition of his co-authored book *Dragon in the Tropics: Venezuela and the Legacy of Hugo Chávez* (with Michael Penfold) was published by Brookings Institution Press in 2015. He is also the co-author with Daniel Altschuler of *The Promise of Participation: Experiments in Participatory Governance in Honduras and Guatemala* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013), and with Carlos A. Romero of *U.S.-Venezuela Relations since the 1990s* (Routledge, 2013). He is the co-editor with Mario Pecheny of *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America: A Reader on GLBT Rights* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010), and author of *Presidents Without Parties: the Politics of Economic Reform in Argentina and Venezuela in the 1990s* (Penn State University Press, 2002). His forthcoming book, *Fixing Democracy* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming) focuses on Latin America's penchant for constituent assemblies

and their impact on presidential powers. He is also working on two other projects: 1) the political economy of energy in Latin America, and 2) the expansion of LGBTI rights in the Americas.

His research has been published in academic journals such as *Comparative Politics*, *World Development*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Policy Journal*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Studies in Comparative International Studies*, *Current History*, and *Foreign Policy*.

Javier Corrales serves on the editorial board of *Latin American Politics and Society*, the *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, and *Americas Quarterly*.

In 2010, he was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve on the executive board of Mass Humanities, a grant-making organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He has taught at the Center for Latin American Research (CEDLA) at the University of Amsterdam and at the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University. He has also offered short courses at the Institute of Higher Studies in Administration (IESA) in Caracas, the School of Government at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, and at the Universidad de Salamanca.

He has been a Fulbright scholar twice, in 2005 in Caracas and 2016 in Bogotá.

Corrales Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve as vice president, a position that so many distinguished scholars have held.

LASA is both an academic and an exchange community, and I pledge to defend and enhance these core features.

When democracy or financial stability are threatened, academic and exchange endeavors become threatened as well. Today, some countries where our members reside are facing

either democratic or financial threats, and I am committed to making sure that LASA's ability to offer academic and exchange opportunities remain protected for all our members.

We also live in times in which academic expertise is being devalued by so many sectors of society. It is all the more important to protect academic organizations like LASA and to ensure their continued growth.

LASA's membership has been growing for the past years, a testament to the good work of previous leadership. It is also a testament to the continued importance of the study of Latin America and the Caribbean, and its diasporic communities. I want to help LASA continue to grow into the future.

I also consider myself extremely committed to disciplinary and methodological pluralism. In my academic work and teaching, I draw from a variety of disciplines and approaches. I pledge to work with the board, the staff, and our members to ensure that academic pluralism and intellectual diversity remain LASA's central values.

In particular, I want to make sure that all academic fields—traditional or emerging, large or small—see LASA as a welcoming home. I also want to help LASA open its doors further to fields that have been historically underrepresented.

I am not offering my candidacy as a total newcomer. In 2010, I had the joy and privilege of co-chairing our annual meeting in Toronto. This experience allowed me to learn about the complexities of LASA's operations. I believe that one of my roles in joining the Board ought to be to help the institution innovate. As co-chair, I helped launch some innovations, such as the pre-conference program. I also helped consolidate the protocol of assigning two specialists per track, when possible, to ensure a more balanced evaluation of proposals.

In short, I am committed to innovating, but more important, to defending and enhancing LASA as an academic and exchange forum, promoting

intellectual pluralism within our organization, and building on the successes of previous Executive Boards.

Kevin J. Middlebrook

Kevin J. Middlebrook is Professor of Latin American Politics at the Institute of the Americas, University College London. Educated at Harvard University (A.B., Ph.D.), he previously held faculty teaching positions at Indiana University-Bloomington, University of California-San Diego (UCSD), and University of London. Between 1995 and 2001 he was Director of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UCSD.

At the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (CUSMS), he promoted collaboration with universities and research centers throughout Mexico and with diverse constituencies in the San Diego-Tijuana binational community; inaugurated funded research projects on democratization in Mexico, *ejido* reform, the Mexico-U.S. border environment, and other subjects; coordinated one of the largest residential fellowship programs in the United States; established a special UCSD library archive on armed opposition movements and the “dirty war” in Mexico during the late 1960s-early 1970s; and raised more than US\$4.1 million from U.S. foundations and other sources for research, training, publications, and the Center’s permanent endowment.

At LASA, he has served as: *LARR* editorial board member (1997–2000); member (1992–1994) and co-chair (1994–1997) of the Task Force on Human Rights and Academic Freedom; chair of the “Democracy and Human Rights” section of the 1994–1995 Congress program committee; the first elected Treasurer (2006–2010); co-founder and co-chair of the Mexico Section (2009–2012), which at the time was LASA’s largest section; member of the Investment Advisory Committee (2010–2018); co-chair (2012–2014) and member (2014–2018) of the Development Committee; and co-founder (2015) and co-chair (2016–2019) of the Guillermo O’Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship.

Professor Middlebrook’s research is broadly interdisciplinary (engaging political science, political economy, history, and sociology), and his interests include labor politics, democratization, and U.S.-Latin American relations. He has conducted field research in Mexico, Peru, and Canada, and he has held research affiliations at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and El Colegio de México. His work on state-labor relations in Mexico has both won academic recognition and served as a resource for democratic trade unionists and labor activists in Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

His current research examines strategies for the international defense of labor rights. It focuses empirically on the special labor institutions created by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), exploring the domestic and international factors that have shaped their capacity to address labor rights violations in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The project compares the NAFTA experience with other trade agreement-based labor-rights arrangements, and it assesses the effectiveness of these institutional arrangements compared to such alternative rights-protection strategies as cross-border labor solidarity actions, corporate social responsibility campaigns, and actions undertaken by the International Labour Organization. The research highlights the tensions between state sovereignty and the international promotion of labor rights.

He is the author of *The International Defense of Labor Rights: The North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation in Comparative Perspective* (in preparation) and *The Paradox of Revolution: Labor, the State, and Authoritarianism in Mexico* (Johns Hopkins, 1995), winner of the 1996 Hubert Herring Book Prize from the Pacific Coast Council of Latin American Studies. He is co-author of *Mexico Since 1980* (Cambridge, 2008) and *Organized Labour and Politics in Mexico: Changes, Continuities and Contradictions* (University of London, 2012), a revised and expanded version of which was published as *Sindicatos y política en México: cambios, continuidades y contradicciones* (FLACSO-México, 2013). In addition, he is editor or co-editor of nine books: *The United States and Latin America in the 1980s: Contending Perspectives on a Decade of Crisis* (Pittsburgh,

1986; *Choice* "Outstanding Academic Book"); *Unions, Workers, and the State in Mexico* (CUSMS, 1991); *The Politics of Economic Restructuring: State-Society Relations and Regime Change in Mexico* (CUSMS, 1994); *Electoral Observation and Democratic Transitions in Latin America* (CUSMS, 1998); *Conservative Parties, the Right, and Democracy in Latin America* (Johns Hopkins, 2000); *Party Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in Mexico: National and State-Level Analyses of the Partido Acción Nacional* (CUSMS, 2001); *Confronting Development: Assessing Mexico's Economic and Social Policy Challenges* (Stanford / CUSMS, 2003; *Choice* "Outstanding Academic Book"); *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico* (University of London / CUSMS, 2004); and *Producción de exportación, desarrollo económico y el futuro de la industria maquiladora en México* (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, 2005).

Professor Middlebrook has published articles in leading disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals in English and Spanish, including *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *Comparative Politics*, *Estudios Sociológicos*, *Foro Internacional*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Labor Studies Journal*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*, *Trabajo*, and *World Politics*, as well as chapters in numerous edited books.

He has held residential fellowships at CUSMS (twice), El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Tijuana), and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and research grants from the Fulbright-Hays Commission, Social Science Research Council, Howard Heinz Endowment, Fulbright Commission, and Nuffield Foundation.

He is co-founder and co-chair of the British Network on Latin American Politics.

Middlebrook Statement

Latin America and LASA comprise the center of my professional life; leading our Association would be a high honor. As a candidate, I offer a record of dedicated engagement with LASA as an organization and a clear agenda for change. My strongest personal values are closely

aligned with the LASA ethos: commitments to social justice, democratic governance, and accountability, transparency, and inclusiveness in a multidisciplinary membership organization.

In undertaking previous LASA responsibilities, I have acted upon these values.

As a member of the Executive Council (EC), I won approval for a change in LASA's statutes to permit write-in candidates for all Association-wide elected positions.

As the first elected Treasurer, I advanced our shared commitment to social justice by winning EC approval to formulate investment policy guidelines that prioritize socially responsible investments (SRI) and to shift a significant proportion of the permanent endowment into SRI funds—liquidating, in the process, an investment in a U.S. weapons manufacturer at the time of the second Iraq war. The Investment Advisory Committee (on which I serve) has recently recommended moving the remainder of the endowment into SRI funds over the next two years.

As Treasurer, I practiced transparency by regularly publishing LASA Forum reports to the membership on endowment performance, which was particularly important during the 2008–2009 financial crisis.

As inaugural co-chairs of the Mexico Section, Sandra Kuntz and I established procedures to ensure gender balance and the permanent representation of Mexican scholars in the Section's leadership.

As co-chairs of the Development Committee, Cynthia McClintock and I worked closely with other colleagues to build the Kalman Silvert Society, together raising more than \$225,000 for LASA's endowment.

As co-creators of the Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship, Gabriela Ippolito-O'Donnell and I established selection criteria that ensure that all recipients of the most recent Association-wide prize have close personal knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As these last examples attest, I believe strongly in collaborative leadership. This is the principle I would adopt in making balanced, broadly inclusive committee appointments.

LASA is growing and changing (half the membership now resides in Latin America and the Caribbean), and we must do more to serve our diverse international constituencies. We should:

Amend current procedures to give the full membership voice in determining the annual congress theme, defining program tracks, and selecting plenary sessions.

Promote professional opportunities for younger Latin American scholars—especially those at public universities outside the region's capital cities—by sponsoring a rotating annual "summer institute" in different countries (including Cuba) to stimulate cutting-edge research and encourage multiple forms of knowledge creation (on the Otros Saberes model) on such topics as gendered justice, the environment and rights-focused development, and citizenship and civil society.

Raise special funds to create annual "LASA Dreamer Scholarships" in the social sciences and humanities for at least two U.S.-born Latinx university students.

Employ social/electronic media creatively to improve the organization of our annual congress (proposal submission, travel-grant allocation, on-site registration, access to papers) and to promote transnational exchanges, engaged scholarship, and instructional innovation.

Because of my extensive experience in academic administration and fund-raising and my excellent working relationship with the Secretariat, I am well-positioned to deliver on this agenda.

If elected, I would be the first Europe-based member to lead our Association. I would employ the LASA network to seek expanded scholarship opportunities for Latin American graduate students studying in European universities.

The 2020 congress will be held in Mexico City. It would be a privilege to coordinate preparations for the event, and my broad range of university and public-sector contacts in Mexico would contribute to its success.

Mara Viveros-Vigoya (write-in candidate)

Soy economista con estudios de posgrado en estudios latinoamericanos y antropología, campo en el que he desarrollado mi actividad profesional. Desde 1998 soy profesora (actualmente Profesora Titular) en el Departamento de Antropología y en la Escuela de Estudios de Género de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Soy la actual directora de la Escuela de Estudios de Género, de la que también fui directora en 2010–2012 y cofundadora en 2001. He sido profesora visitante en la Universidad de París III, el Instituto de Altos Estudios de América Latina -IHEAL- (2000–2001); la École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (2010); Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana de México, Xochimilco (2013); Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina (2016) y el Instituto de Posgrado de Estudios Internacionales y de Desarrollo de Ginebra, Suiza (2017).

Soy autora de *Les couleurs de la masculinité: Expériences intersectionnelles et pratiques de pouvoir en Amérique Latine* (La Découverte, en prensa). De *quebradores y cumplidores: Sobre hombres, masculinidades y relaciones de género en Colombia* (U. Nacional, 2002). Con Norma Fuller y José Olavarría, fui coautora de *Hombres e identidades de género: Investigaciones desde América Latina* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2001); con Luz Gabriela Arango y Rosa Bernal, fui coautora de *Mujeres ejecutivas: Dilemas comunes, alternativas individuales* (Universidad de Los Andes, 1995). Edité *Saberes, culturas y derechos sexuales en Colombia* (CLAM / Unal, 2006), y soy coeditora con Peter Wade y Fernando Urrea de *Raza, etnicidad y sexualidades: Ciudadanía y multiculturalismo en América Latina* (Unal 2008); con Carmen Gregorio Gil de "Sexualidades e interseccionalidad en América Latina, El Caribe y su diáspora" (número especial de la *Revista de Estudios Sociales*, No. 49, 2014). He publicado en numerosas revistas principalmente

de América Latina, pero también en los Estados Unidos y Francia y he sido becaria en calidad de *member* de la Social Science School of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (2014–2015).

Mi última investigación examinó, centrándose en la interseccionalidad de raza, género y clase, los procesos de movilidad social de las clases medias negras de Colombia en cada una de sus regiones geográficas y el alcance y las limitaciones del modelo multiculturalista liberal para eliminar las desigualdades sociales que afectan a los afrocolombianos. Actualmente soy coinvestigadora del proyecto “Antirracismo latinoamericano en tiempos post-raciales” desarrollado en Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador y México, y financiado por el Consejo de Investigación Económica y Social (Reino Unido). Mis intereses abarcan los campos de la antropología, la sociología, los estudios de género y los estudios críticos de raza y se enfocan en temas relacionados con las intersecciones de género, sexualidad, masculinidad, clases medias, raza y etnicidad en las sociedades latinoamericanas.

He sido miembro de LASA desde 1997 y actualmente soy consejera en la sección Etnicidad, Raza y Pueblos Indígenas (ERIP) y co-coordinadora, junto a María Teresa Sierra, de la Sección Afrolatinos / Pueblos Indígenas del congreso LASA 2019 en Boston. Fui parte del consejo editorial del *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* y actualmente hago parte de los comités editoriales de *Debate Feminista* (UNAM-México); *Method(e)s*, *African Review of Social Science Methodology*; y de *Interfaces – Revista de Extensão da UFMG* (Brasil).

Viveros-Vigoya Statement

En mi calidad de asistente a los congresos de ERIP, y posteriormente como consejera de esta sección en la Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LASA), he tomado conciencia de la importancia de promover una mayor participación de académicos e intelectuales indígenas y afrodescendientes (hombres y especialmente mujeres) en las actividades de LASA. Siendo LASA la asociación profesional más grande del mundo para personas e instituciones dedicadas al estudio de América Latina, es

esencial que la composición de sus miembros, incluida la de su Consejo Ejecutivo, refleje plenamente la diversidad de las sociedades que estudiamos.

En este mismo sentido, cobra relevancia que los diálogos que se propicien entre estudiosos de la región, incluyan, además de expertos estadounidenses, europeos y latinoamericanos, expertos africanos y asiáticos. Su presencia fomentaría el diseño de sesiones en las que se exploran diferentes problemas latinoamericanos a partir de diversas alternativas analíticas y teóricas, informadas por los diferentes contextos sociohistóricos en los que se produce este conocimiento sobre la región. En mi experiencia como participante en muchas conferencias de LASA, como panelista o como ponente, he notado que muchas sesiones tienden a abordar un problema dado desde perspectivas generalmente homogéneas (en términos de lenguaje, disciplina, país de origen) en lugar de buscar la más amplia diversidad de puntos de vista. Si bien es importante reconocer algunos esfuerzos realizados en esta dirección, vale la pena luchar por un mayor pluralismo epistemológico y una gama más amplia de investigación comparada.

Todo crecimiento y diversificación de las acciones institucionales y más cuando hablamos de una asociación de la magnitud de LASA plantea enormes desafíos. Uno de estos grandes retos es cómo ser una fuente de innovación y transformación, sin perder la participación y el apoyo de los miembros más tradicionales de la Asociación. Debemos esforzarnos por consolidar un legado de 50 años de trabajo al mismo tiempo que actualizamos y transformamos este legado, para que las voces de quienes desde hace mucho tiempo son objeto de investigación en América Latina, la población afrolatina, los pueblos indígenas, las mujeres y las personas con diferentes orientaciones sexuales, participen más activamente en la determinación de nuestros objetivos organizacionales.

Como afrocolombiana, feminista, mujer y profesora universitaria por más de 20 años, me he enfrentado a desafíos relacionados con la apertura de espacios para los estudios feministas

y de género y los estudios étnico-raciales en las universidades latinoamericanas. Después de largas luchas por parte de académicas feministas, de las que he sido parte, hemos logrado una institucionalización de los estudios de género y la introducción de debates feministas en la esfera académica latinoamericana; sin embargo, lo mismo no ha sucedido con los estudios étnico-raciales. Uno de los pasos para avanzar en esta dirección es democratizar la composición del cuerpo estudiantil, docente y de los órganos rectores de las universidades, así como de las asociaciones académicas, en términos de género y pertenencia étnica y racial. Creo que LASA podría jugar un papel importante en este proceso de democratización del mundo académico, sirviendo de ejemplo para otros.

Propongo, en particular: 1) promover una mayor participación de intelectuales indígenas y afrodescendientes (mujeres y hombres) en todas las secciones y no solo en la sección de Etnicidad, Raza y Pueblos Indígenas (ERIP) u Otros Saberes; 2) mejorar las oportunidades para que estos intelectuales participen en estas actividades académicas a través de políticas que orienten recursos nuevos o reutilizados para este fin; 3) promover un mayor diálogo Sur-Sur y relaciones de colaboración entre América Latina, especialistas africanos y asiáticos para dar lugar a números especiales de la revista (LARR); 4) diseñar sesiones mixtas que crucen los intereses de varias secciones de LASA y enriquezcan contenidos de las demás; 5) fomentar relaciones más sólidas entre investigadores de la academia y de la sociedad civil, y al hacerlo, aumentar las oportunidades para la práctica y la innovación de los métodos de investigación en colaboración. Considero que LASA es uno de los espacios académicos más adecuados para nutrir tales debates y colaboraciones.

En resumen, me gustaría que mi candidatura, respaldada por un equipo comprometido con la misma tarea, contribuya al progreso democrático, plural y participativo, en este doble desafío de consolidarnos y, al mismo tiempo, de repensar nuestra estructura, nuestras funciones y el alcance que pretendemos dar a nuestro trabajo no solo

como la principal red mundial de estudios sobre América Latina, sino también como la más incluyente.

Sara Castro-Klarén

Sara Castro-Klarén is Professor of Latin American Culture and Literature at the Johns Hopkins University. She has been Director of the Latin American Studies Program there on two occasions. She has published extensively on the Latin American novel, postcolonial theory, and topics on Andean colonial and contemporary historiography with special reference to subaltern studies and imperial discourses. Her first book, *El mundo mágico de José María Arguedas* (Lima, 1973), was reissued in France by Indigo Press in 2004. Her second book, a collection of essays on Julio Cortázar, Guaman Poma, and Diamela Eltit, appeared in Mexico in 1989 under the title *Escritura y transgresión en la literatura Latino Americana. Understanding Mario Vargas Llosa* (University of South Carolina Press) followed in 1990. She has recently published *The Narrow Pass of Our Nerves: Writing, Coloniality and Postcolonial Theory* (2011). Fernando Coronil in 2011 wrote that this book is a “triumph of postcolonial thought”; *The Narrow Pass* brings to life the ideas of a pioneering set of colonial subjects revealing the distinctiveness of the colonial experience in Latin America and the ongoing relevance of reflections about it. With Christian Fernandez she has edited *The Inca Garcilaso in Dialogue with Contemporary World Making Today* (2016). In Juan de Castro, ed., *Critical Insights: Mario Vargas Llosa*, she has published “Disentangling the Knots: Vargas Llosa and Jose Maria Arguedas in *La utopía arcáica*” (2014). The essay review “Mario Vargas Llosa: A Retrospective” appears in *Modern Language Notes* (Hispanic edition, 2015). She is also finishing a book on the Inca Garcilaso and cultural comparativism. In a collection edited by Juan Ramos and Tamara Dayly, Castro-Klarén begins the exploration of decolonizing the university curriculum (2016).

Castro-Klarén has also published numerous essays on women’s writing and gender theory, and she is, with Sylvia Molloy and Beatriz Sarlo, the editor of *Women’s Writing in Latin America*:

An Anthology (1991). In *Teaching Gender through Hispanic Literature and Culture*, ed. Leila Gomez et al., Castro-Klarén authored “Mobilizing Meanings: Questions for a Pedagogy of Women’s Writing” (2015).

Castro-Klarén Statement

Over the years, we have all watched LASA grow and become the indispensable meeting place for the exchange of research and new initiatives in the study of Latin America. In the age of globalization, scholars who study Latin America in its multiple dimensions need to strengthen this organization so it can meet the global challenges it will be facing as both its membership evolves and its involvement with scholars beyond the North and South American academies move to the forefront. By strengthening the disciplines while at the same time remaining open to new approaches, re-conceptualizations of new and older questions as well as opening new inquiries, LASA will continue to serve its intellectual and cultural mission with success.

As it seeks to invigorate the central importance of area studies in the curriculum and in research funding, LASA plays a pivotal role. The greater the scholarly reputation of LASA the better the chances of success for programs across the board in the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Now that the association has met several times in Latin America and will do so in Spain in 2018, I believe that it might be a good time to begin to look into the possibility of future meetings in Europe and eventually in Asia and Africa. This global outlook of engagement with researchers based beyond the Americas could enable our fields of study to play an important and constructive role in the evolution of the study of Latin America as LASA constitutes a space where established disciplinary knowledges have been gained and questioned over the years and has cleared a path for future thinking and research. Hosting our meetings in cities beyond the Americas would, at the same time, foster truly pluritopic approaches to the study of the region. Open dialogue and exchange between different

scholarly traditions would be a useful future endeavor for the Association as the digital world brings us more and more in closer contact.

Emiliana Cruz (write-in candidate)

Emiliana Cruz fue profesora en la Universidad de Massachusetts en Amherst y actualmente trabaja para el CIESAS-DF. Recibió su B.A. (2001) en El Colegio Estatal Evergreen y obtuvo su M.A. (2004) y Ph.D. (2011) en la Universidad de Texas en Austin, en antropología social y lingüística. Su trabajo se enfoca en el lenguaje, el paisaje, en la documentación y preservación de los muchos idiomas que se aproximan a la extinción, con un enfoque en las lenguas chatinas de Oaxaca, México. Gran parte de su labor académica se centra en la documentación y la preservación de dichas lenguas. Como hablante nativa de Chatino, usa métodos antropológicos para documentar el discurso natural en lenguas indígenas. Su enfoque reconoce el papel crucial desempeñado por lingüistas hablantes nativos, a quienes entrena para apoyar sus esfuerzos por preservar sus idiomas de origen natal. Entre las muchas comunidades en las que ha trabajado se encuentran: Santa María Yolotepec, Santa María Amialtepec, San Francisco Ixpantepec y San José Ixtapan. Su trabajo antropológico también incluye el estudio de la relación entre el lenguaje y el paisaje, especialmente en el contexto de la pérdida del lenguaje. Además de su trabajo de enseñanza, ha publicado artículos en lingüística sobre la compleja estructura tonal de las lenguas chatinas, y desarrolló el alfabeto de la variedad San Juan Quiahije. Ha sido parte integral en la creación de materiales pedagógicos que permitirán a los miembros de la comunidad Chatino preservar su idioma y su integridad cultural.

También fue la fundadora del Proyecto de Documentación Lingüística Chatino conformado por un equipo de lingüistas cuyo objetivo es documentar y revitalizar los idiomas chatinos. En 2016 le fue concedido el Premio Distinguido de Participación Comunitaria (Distinguished Community Engagement Award) que se otorga anualmente a dos miembros académicos por la Universidad de Massachusetts Amherst. Dirige e

imparte cada año un taller de tono para lingüistas que se lleva a cabo en la Biblioteca de Investigación Juan de Córdova en Oaxaca de Juárez.

Actualmente trabaja en un libro sobre la etnografía del lenguaje y el paisaje entre los Chatinos de San Juan Quiahije y tiene en preparación un Diccionario del Chatino de San Juan Quiahije que será publicado por el Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas de México.

Cruz Statement

Me siento profundamente honrada por la invitación a ser candidata para el puesto en el Consejo Ejecutivo de LASA. Tener la posibilidad de ser parte del Consejo sería una invaluable plataforma para aportar mi perspectiva como investigadora latinoamericana, mujer indígena y profesora. He sido un miembro activo de LASA desde 2011 y durante este tiempo he sido testigo del incremento de los miembros de la organización, así como de la consolidación de su prestigio como un espacio privilegiado de debate y generación de conocimiento en el área de estudios latinoamericanos y caribeños. Sin embargo, también he identificado oportunidades para enriquecer a nuestra organización.

Considero de total importancia incrementar la participación de investigadores indígenas; mujeres latinoamericanas; así como la inclusión de lenguas originarias no sólo como materia de estudio, sino también como espacio de diálogo y debate. Asimismo, es importante que los conocimientos generados durante las conferencias anuales tengan mayor difusión. Para esto propongo una expansión de nuestra presencia en medios digitales y redes sociales, ocupando los espacios de comunicación que son capaces de tener nuevos alcances a bajo costo, con un impacto positivo y de sólido impacto en las audiencias especializadas y no especializadas. Por ejemplo, la revista interdisciplinaria Latin American Research Review (LARR) actualmente cuenta con blog únicamente en inglés. Por lo cual, un punto importante en nuestra agenda sería trabajar en la inclusión y traducción de otras lenguas. De igual forma, habría también que estar abierto a la generación de nuevos proyectos editoriales: impresos, virtuales o audiovisuales.

Por último, considero que LASA podría convertirse en un paradigma en la inclusión de perspectivas de investigación no sólo novedosas sino que se construyan como relaciones fructíferas para los investigadores y las comunidades que participan en los estudios, abriendo espacios de diálogo para creativos e innovadoras metodologías colaborativas, tanto en soportes visuales como escritos.

Bianca Freire-Medeiros (write-in candidate)

Professora do Dept. e do Programa de Pós-graduação em Sociologia da Universidade de São Paulo (USP) e coordenadora do UrbanData - Brasil: banco de dados sobre o Brasil Urbano, Bianca Freire-Medeiros possui mestrado em Sociologia pelo IUPERJ e doutorado em História e Teoria da Arte e da Arquitetura pela Universidade de Binghamton (NY). Possui trabalhos publicados em inglês, espanhol, francês e alemão no campo dos estudos urbanos, da cultura visual e das mobilidades turísticas. É autora, entre outros, de *Gringo na Laje: Produção, circulação e consumo da favela turística* (Ed. FGV, 2009) e *Touring Poverty* (Routledge, 2013; 2015). Foi Professora da Fundação Getulio Vargas - FGV (2006 a 2015) e atualmente participa, como professora colaboradora, do Programa de Pós-Graduação em História, Política e Bens Culturais do CPDOC/FGV. Foi editora da Revista *Estudos Históricos* e, desde novembro de 2015, atua na Comissão Editorial da revista *Tempo Social*. Foi pesquisadora no Center for Migration and Development Studies da Universidade de Princeton e no Center for Mobilities Research da Universidade de Lancaster (Reino Unido); foi professora convidada no Colégio de México e Tinker Visiting Professor na University of Texas at Austin. A coletânea *Urban Latin America: Images, words, flows and the built environment*, por ela organizada em co-autoria com Julia O'Donnell, será lançada pela Routledge em 2018.

Freire-Medeiros Statement

Sabemos muito bem que a relação de pertencimento do Brasil à América Latina está longe de ser óbvia. Muitos autores, de diferentes filiações disciplinares, já teorizaram sobre as resistências, ambivalências e paradoxos que

marcam nossa inclusão nesse vasto território da imaginação. Não cabe aqui retomar esse debate, porém vale refletir sobre o que significa termos uma representatividade tão diminuta do Brasil entre os quadros executivos da LASA ao longo de sua história. Precisamos desnaturalizar, entre nós, essa e outras ausências. Ausência de tantos idiomas que constituem e identificam culturas de resistência em nosso continente. Ausência de grupos que há muito são tomados como objetos do nosso olhar investigador – populações indígenas, favelados, encarcerados, entre tantos outros –, mas a quem raramente convidamos a participar dos nossos congressos na qualidade de produtores de conhecimento. Minha principal meta, se eleita como membro do Conselho Executivo, será auxiliar na promoção de um questionamento sistemático desses silenciamentos.

Como membro intermitente da LASA por quase duas décadas, e depois de ter convivido em diferentes ambientes acadêmicos, tanto no sul global e quanto no rico norte, pelos quais circulam colegas de diferentes partes da América Latina e Caribe, estou certa de precisamos encarar o debate acerca da geopolítica do conhecimento e do sistema de trocas hierarquizadas com que lidamos em nosso cotidiano acadêmico. São desigualdades que, inevitavelmente, atravessam a LASA como comunidade intelectual e que nos concernem a todas e todos. Conquistamos muito até aqui. Não há dúvida de que somos uma instituição inclusiva e democrática. Porém ainda há muitos do lado de fora com os quais temos tanto a aprender.

Jeffrey L. Gould

Jeffrey L. Gould is the James H. Rudy Professor of History at Indiana University (IU). In 1988, he received his doctorate in history at Yale University, studying under Emilia Viotti da Costa. Since 1988, he has taught at IU; in 1995, he was a visiting professor at the Universidad de Costa Rica. From 1995 to 2008, he was Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS).

He is co-founder of the Center for Documentary Research and Practice and currently Associate Director.

As Director of CLACS, he founded and directed the Central American Video Project (www.archivomesoamericano.com), which digitized and annotated over one hundred deteriorating videos from CIESAS (Mexico), Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica (Managua), and el Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (San Salvador). He obtained Title VI funding for the Minority Languages and Cultures Program within CLACS.

His first book was *To Lead as Equals: Rural Protest and Political Consciousness in Chinandega, Nicaragua, 1912–1979* (University of North Carolina Press, 1990) (*Aquí todos mandamos igual*, Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica, 2008). This was a study primarily of the peasant movement in northwestern Nicaragua. The book challenged official historiography that regarded the movement as spontaneous and offered a novel understanding of Somocista hegemony and subaltern consciousness. His next book was *El mito de la Nicaragua mestiza y la resistencia indígena* (Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica, 1997). That monograph offered the framework for an English version, *To Die in This Way: Nicaraguan Indian Communities and the Myth of Mestizaje, 1880–1965* (Duke University Press, 1998). This study challenged the dominant myth of a mestizo Nicaragua and traced its origins to the conflicts between ladino elites and indigenous communities in the early twentieth century. This research contributed to a larger project. He joined forces with Charles Hale to direct an NEH-funded project involving 15 Central American scholars that resulted in the publication of *Memorias de Mestizaje: La política cultural en América Central desde 1900* (coedited with Darío Euraque and Charles R. Hale). The project, in turn, led him toward research on mestizaje, rebellion, and revolution in El Salvador. That research resulted in *To Rise in Darkness: Revolution, Repression, and Memory in El Salvador, 1920–1932* (co-authored with Aldo Lauria, Duke University Press, 2008) (*Rebelión en la oscuridad*, 2008). Based on research that included over 200 interviews by Gould, the book challenged interpretations of the insurrection and subsequent

massacres and offered an innovative interpretation of the development of cultural mestizaje in twentieth-century El Salvador. His most recent book is *Desencuentros y desafíos: Ensayos sobre la historia contemporánea centroamericana* (CIHAC, Costa Rica, 2016). This is a collection of Gould's scholarly articles. They include a prize-winning article on labor, dispossession, and mestizaje in Matagalpa, Nicaragua; on documentary film and historical analysis; and on the Latin American 1968. In addition to his book-length works, Gould has published some 30 articles. He is currently completing a book, *Port Triumph: Solidarity and Discord in the Salvadoran Labor Movement, 1970–1990* (Cambridge University Press). This study, rooted in union archives and interviews with former packinghouse workers and shrimp fishermen deals with the gendered labor mobilization and triumphs of the 1970s, the repression of 1980 and 1981, and the discord within the movement that characterized the 1980s. It also offers a local and unique vision of the triumph of neoliberalism.

Gould co-directed and co-produced 1932: *Cicatriz de la Memoria* (Scars of Memory) (Icarus, 2003), with Carlos Henríquez Consalvi, Award of Merit, LASA; Honorable Mention, Festival del Cine de El Salvador, 2003; it was selected at the Latin American Film Festival (NYC) and at the Toronto Latin American Film Festival. It is shown on El Salvadoran educational television annually. His second documentary film, *La palabra en el bosque* (2012, also with Henríquez Consalvi) highlights the origins of the Christian Base Communities in Morazán, El Salvador, during the 1970s. It was nominated for Outstanding Documentary at the Queens World Film Festival and was selected at the Cine las Américas Film Festival, Ethnografilm (Paris), LASA, and the Boston Latino Film Festival. He has presented it at over 25 universities in Latin America and the United States. Gould just completed another feature-length documentary, *Port Triumph/Puerto el Triunfo* (www.puertofilm.com) that brings the book's research to the screen.

Gould's research has been funded by Fulbright Fellowships (1990, 1995); a Social Science Research Fellowship (1990); a NEH Collaborative Research Grant (1997); a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (2001), a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship (2002). He

was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study for 2012–2013 and a fellow at the Charles Warren Center, Harvard University, 2016–2017. The Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS), a consortium of four German universities and the Universidad de Guadalajara, named him one of eight founding fellows. He will take up residency in Guadalajara in 2018.

Gould Statement

I started attending LASA congresses while in graduate school in the mid-1980s. Since then, I have found them to be stimulating sites of scholarly and cultural exchange. My own work has crossed several disciplinary boundaries and LASA has proven to be a fine scholarly venue for such work. I also recall the valuable role its fact-finding commissions played during the 1980s and, of course, they are still needed (e.g., Honduras). If honored by a position on the Executive Council, I would push for greater scholarly exchange between the North and South. I would hope to explore potential LASA collaboration with CLACSO. I would also attempt an outreach effort to the Latin Americanist community in Europe that seems quite underrepresented in LASA, and would continue to promote the Otros Saberes project and other similar initiatives that keep LASA a vibrant locus of scholarly research and exchange in between congresses.

Although trained as a historian, throughout my career I have been quite committed to Latin American studies (LAS). During my tenure as director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University (IU), I promoted long-term scholarly exchanges with Mexican and Central American institutions. The "Memories of Mestizaje" project resulted in valuable experiences and research and convinced me that such enterprises are worth the bureaucratic headaches. I would be glad to try to facilitate such projects through LASA.

As director of CLACS, I also became interested and committed to Latin American studies as a fertile field of cross-disciplinary scholarship and study. LASA needs to engage with the plight of LAS programs across the country (and perhaps the

hemisphere), particularly those lodged in public institutions. Paradoxically, as LASA continues to grow, these core institutions that have historically sustained it are suffering. In the U.S., area studies have suffered a severe blow from the cut in Title VI funding; they are also often easy targets for cost-cutting deans. LAS faculty have to engage in turf battles with globalization studies for the shrinking number of tenure track positions. Yet, on a conceptual level, LAS must engage with the history and reality of globalization without sacrificing the specific contributions of area studies. LASA should be involved in those vital discussions as all Latin Americanists confront similar practical and scholarly challenges, if with different local configurations.

I would also continue LASA's excellent efforts to promote access to the congresses for Latin American academics and students, but I would also emphasize access to North American and European students (my son, a doctoral student, is currently trying to scrape together the funds to attend). Soon, I fear LASA will be out of reach as well to junior faculty at many public institutions.

For the past two decades, I have devoted much effort to the production of documentary films that directly derive from scholarship. I believe that as scholars we need to reach far greater audiences, and documentary film is an important means to do so. Documentary can achieve greater political and social relevance when built on scholarly foundations. I would hope LASA could promote such endeavors, particularly collaborative projects.

Daniel Mato (write-in candidate)

Daniel Mato es Licenciado en Economía (Universidad de Buenos Aires, 1974) y Doctor en Ciencias Sociales (UCV-Universidad Central de Venezuela, 1990). Desde 2010: Investigador Principal, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) y Director Adjunto del Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), Buenos Aires, Argentina, donde coordina el Programa Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes (Programa ESIAL). Entre

1978 y 2010: Profesor de Ciencias Sociales en la UCV e Investigador Nivel IV del Programa de Promoción del Investigador (Venezuela). Ha sido Profesor Visitante en universidades de Estados Unidos (Columbia University, Dartmouth College, UC-San Diego, UC-Berkeley, UT-Austin, U Miami, U Maryland), España (Universidad de Barcelona) y de varios países latinoamericanos (FLACSO-Quito, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, y varias de Argentina y Venezuela). También ha sido Investigador Visitante en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y la Smithsonian Institution.

Desde 1990 ha sido conferencista invitado en reuniones científicas y universidades de Estados Unidos, Reino Unido, Bélgica, España, Japón, China, Australia y una decena de países latinoamericanos. Es, o ha sido, miembro de Consejo Editor de numerosas revistas; entre otras: *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Revista Colombiana de Antropología*, *Cultural Studies*, *Identities*, *Revista de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre as Américas*, *Alteridad: Revista de Educación* (Ecuador).

Es autor de más de 100 artículos y capítulos de libros publicados en español, portugués, inglés y francés, así como de siete libros. Además ha editado 15 libros de múltiples autores, cinco de ellos resultado de proyectos internacionales de los que fue Director. Desde 1992 la mayoría de sus publicaciones son resultados de investigaciones en los campos de Cultura, Comunicación y Transformaciones Sociales, y de Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad en Educación Superior. Sus publicaciones de períodos anteriores son resultado de investigaciones en Economía y Antropología. Ha recibido numerosas becas y distinciones, entre otras: LASA-Oxfam-America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship, Guggenheim Foundation, Japan Foundation, Smithsonian Institution, Fulbright, University of Sussex. Ha obtenido fondos de investigación para proyectos internacionales de: UNESCO, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation y Agencia Española de Cooperación. Desde 1986 ha desarrollado diversas experiencias de trabajo en colaboración con organizaciones e intelectuales indígenas y afrodescendientes de varios países latinoamericanos. Ha desarrollado una significativa

labor de construcción y coordinación de redes y grupos de trabajo: En 1997 impulsó la creación de la Sección “Culture, Politics and Power” de LASA, que dirigió hasta 2000. En 1998 estableció el Grupo de Trabajo “Cultura y Poder” del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) que coordinó hasta 2002. En 2007 estableció el “Proyecto Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad en Educación Superior” del Instituto Internacional de la UNESCO para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe (UNESCO-IESALC), con la participación de 65 colegas de 12 países (que coordina desde entonces), el cual ha publicado cuatro libros colectivos y formulado recomendaciones de políticas que han sido adoptadas por la 2da. Conferencia Regional de Educación Superior-CRES (Cartagena, junio 2008) y por el Parlamento Latinoamericano (“Declaración de Panamá sobre la Educación en la Sociedad del Conocimiento”, 2012). Actualmente dirige el equipo de 13 colegas de 10 países que realiza investigación y prepara recomendaciones para la 3ra. CRES (Córdoba, junio 2018). En 2014 promovió la creación de la “Red Inter-universitaria Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes”, que coordina desde entonces, en la que actualmente participan 49 universidades de nueve países latinoamericanos, la cual ha realizado cuatro coloquios y publicado tres libros colectivos. En 2016 presentó ante UNESCO el proyecto de creación de la “Cátedra UNESCO Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes”, la cual concibió como una red de colaboración entre 30 universidades latinoamericanas; el proyecto ya fue aprobado, la Cátedra será inaugurada en marzo 2018. Ha sido un miembro activo de LASA desde 1994, y miembro de Secciones: Cultura, Política y Poder; Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples; Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina; y Otros Saberes. Como parte de su vida en LASA también ha sido: Miembro del Comité del Premio Iberoamericano Book Award (1997); promotor de la creación de la Sección “Culture, Politics and Power”, de la cual fue su primer “Chair” reelegido para un segundo período (1997–2000); miembro del LASA Elections Nomination Committee (2001–2002); miembro del Consejo Editorial de la *Latin American Research Review* (2005–2011); miembro del LASA/Oxfam-America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award Committee (2018)

y “Chair” del LASA/Oxfam-America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Award Committee (2018). Ha publicado dos textos programáticos en LASA Forum: “Del ‘diálogo de saberes’ a la construcción de modalidades de ‘colaboración intercultural’: Aprendizajes y articulaciones más allá de la Academia” (2017) y “Algunas ideas para mejorar la comunicación entre los investigadores de Estados Unidos y América Latina: Una carta abierta” (1997); este último en co-autoría con Henry Dietz (UT-Austin), que presenta propuestas que retomo en mi postulación al Comité Ejecutivo. Más información: <http://untref.edu.ar/sitios/ciea/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/02/Daniel-Mato-CV-31-10-2017-formato-CONICET.pdf>.

Mato Statement

Mi experiencia en LASA comenzó en 1994, como ponente y organizador de una sesión en el XVIII Congreso. Esto abrió un mundo de relaciones de colaboración con colegas y estudiantes de Estados Unidos y varios países de América Latina. Mi participación activa en la vida de LASA ha sido fuente de muchos aprendizajes útiles no solo para mi vida profesional, sino también sobre la vida de nuestra Asociación. Una fuente importante de aprendizajes fue haber participado activamente en un acontecimiento importante en la vida de LASA, cuando en 1996 el Executive Committee (EC) convocó a crear “secciones”. Ésta fue una importante innovación en la vida de LASA, que estimuló notablemente el trabajo en redes dentro de nuestra Asociación. Esta constatación sirve de base a algunas propuestas que promoveré en caso de resultar electo como miembro del EC, como expongo más abajo. Pero, antes quisiera mencionar otra experiencia que también alimenta dichas propuestas. En 1997, junto con el colega Henry Dietz (Government, UT-Austin) publicamos en LASA Forum el texto “Algunas ideas para mejorar la comunicación entre los investigadores de Estados Unidos y América Latina: Una carta abierta” (1997). Este título expresaba nuestro interés común. Nos preocupaban algunos obstáculos al creciente desarrollo de redes de colaboración dentro de LASA, y así lo expusimos en esa carta. En ella también formulamos algunas propuestas concretas, especialmente respecto de la

necesidad de profundizar los avances hacia una Asociación cuánto menos verdaderamente trilingüe (español, inglés y portugués), o de ser posible cuatrilingüe (incluyendo el francés). Sosteníamos que esto era posible gracias a las comunicaciones electrónicas y procurando el cultivo de relaciones de colaboración mutua para asegurar las traducciones de nuestras publicaciones. Solicitamos a LASA Forum que esa carta fuera publicada en las cuatro lenguas mencionadas, pero no fue posible porque en ese entonces la publicación solo circulaba impresa y esto incrementaba costos. Desde entonces, han pasado 20 años, los medios digitales se han ampliado, LASA Forum está disponible en Internet, las prácticas de colaboración mutua en LASA se han incrementado, y en su vida se han desarrollado diversas “iniciativas” para las cuales se buscaron y obtuvieron fondos ad-hoc, como por ejemplo la Iniciativa “Otros Saberes”. En estos años también aprendí que nuestra Asociación es muy heterogénea y que las dinámicas a su interior están marcadas por una gran diversidad de contextos, visiones de mundo, valores, intereses, culturas disciplinarias, institucionales y profesionales, así como por diferencias generacionales y de género. A partir de estas experiencias y aprendizajes, he decidido que en caso de ser electo como miembro del EC impulsaré prioritariamente las siguientes propuestas:

1) Facilitar mayor participación de colegas y estudiantes de América Latina en los congresos. Procurar reducir costos de producción para rebajar el monto de inscripción y buscar nuevas fuentes para subsidiar su participación.

2) De manera análoga a como en 2005 LASA estableció la “Iniciativa Otros Saberes” (buscando fondos ad-hoc de varias fuentes) establecer otras “Iniciativas”; prioritariamente propongo estas: “Estudios y Educación contra el Racismo” y “Estudios y Educación para erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres”. Otras surgirán mediante consultas ad hoc a la membresía.

3) Sacar más provecho del sitio en Internet y de “nuevas tecnologías” para facilitar intercambios permanentes entre los miembros / las miembros.

4) Avanzar en el plurilingüismo en toda la vida de LASA. Actualmente la “Constitución y Estatutos” (Bylaws) solo están disponibles en inglés; las “Bios” y Propuestas de los candidatos / las candidatas al EC y la Vicepresidencia solo están disponibles en un idioma. LASA puede estimular redes de colaboración para traducciones de estos documentos y de nuestras publicaciones, y además crear espacios adecuados en su sitio en Internet.

Carlota McAllister

Carlota McAllister is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the former director of the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University in Toronto, Canada. She holds a B.A. (Honors) in Latin American studies and anthropology from the University of Toronto, an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the Johns Hopkins University. From 2013 to 2016 she served on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In 2016–2017 she was a Faculty Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for American History at Harvard University, participating in the center’s first Pan-American-oriented seminar.

A political and historical anthropologist, she studies the formation of political and moral agency in situations of conflict or crisis in agrarian communities in Guatemala and Chile, using theoretical tools drawn from the anthropology of religion, actor-network theory, feminist anthropology, historical anthropology, and political ecology. She has conducted ethnographic, ethnohistorical, and/or archival research in Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, and the United States. With Diane Nelson, she co-edited *War by Other Means: Aftermath in Postgenocide Guatemala* (Duke University Press, 2013), a collection of papers addressing the legacy of 36 years of massive state violence in an aftermath characterized by both neoliberal restructuring and attempts at transitional justice. Her monograph *The Good Road: Conscience and Consciousness in a Post-Revolutionary Mayan Village in Guatemala*

is forthcoming with Duke University Press. It shows how revolutionary consciousness-raising, Catholic traditions of moral thought, and indigenous experiences and concepts of community briefly converged to produce a Mayan revolutionary consciousness; how the Guatemalan state's genocidal response to Mayan mobilization for revolution forced them apart again; and how this history shapes contemporary Mayan projects for the future. Her current project addresses a dam conflict in the remote Aysén region of Chilean Patagonia, where energy companies and multimillionaire private conservationists have clashed over the future uses to which this "last frontier" should be put. She explores how gauchos living in river valleys draw on their history as the heroic pioneers who made this difficult terrain productive, and the material legacy of this history in different forms of private property as resources for building collective responses to the dam proposal, both in favor and against. Her work has been supported by grants from the Fulbright Institute of International Education, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, among others.

McAllister Statement

I am standing for election to the LASA Executive Committee to help in the project of broadening the hemispheric reach and perspective of the association.

A year spent in France as a young adult, enjoyable though it was, convinced me that I was a "New World person," as I put it to myself then. This insight shaped my intellectual trajectory going forward. As a student, I was equally engaged by debates and literature in Latin American studies as by those in anthropology; as a scholar, Latin American studies, particularly as embodied in LASA, has always been as much of a home for me as my discipline. But the intellectual architecture of area studies in which I was formed was built during and for the purposes of the Cold War. It is no longer adequate, either intellectually or institutionally, to the debates and concerns that

arise from a deep engagement with the places of the Americas and the people who are identified with them.

How to sustain this engagement without that architecture is a question I frequently confronted over the three years that I directed the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University, Canada's oldest and largest Latin American studies center. This position included serving on the executive committee of the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS). Canada's historic disavowal of its belonging in the Americas—which is often reciprocated by the rest of the continent—meant the center had to continually rearticulate and justify the scope of its concerns, even as the rise of Canadian mining investment in Latin America and the growth of Latinx migration to Canada made these concerns more politically urgent.

What we found most productive was to take a hemispheric approach to our mandate. Doing so allowed us not only to insist on Canada's participation in the sometimes excessively intimate dialogue between the U.S. and Latin America, but also to understand the connections among indigenous, Afro-descended, and other Latinx identities and claims across the continent; explore migration not just from South to North but in many other directions; examine the colonialist political economy of extractivism throughout the Americas; celebrate the rich subaltern traditions of performance and performative critique that undergird the continent's cultural life; see how the geopolitical space of the Americas is being reconfigured by emergent imperial powers; along with many other fruitful endeavors. We worked to build an architecture for these hemispheric reflections by holding the annual CALACS conference at the University of Costa Rica, only the second Latin American venue in its history.

Throughout, we were informed by the process of rethinking and reinvigorating Latin American studies in which LASA has been engaged for some time now, work signalled by moves like holding the annual meeting outside of the United States and now bringing it back to the Old World, as

well as institutional initiatives like Otros Saberes. If elected to the Executive Committee, I would work to help strengthen and multiply these tendencies toward a more hemispheric association. LASA has been a critical matrix for my intellectual life, and I would like to be part of the project of opening it to nurture new traditions of place-informed inquiry as well as new generations of scholars.

María Victoria Murillo

María Victoria Murillo obtuvo su licenciatura en Ciencia Política en la Universidad de Buenos Aires y su maestría y doctorado en esa misma disciplina en la Universidad de Harvard. Actualmente es profesora titular de Ciencia Política y Estudios Internacionales en la Universidad de Columbia. También se ha desempeñado como profesora en la Universidad de Yale y como investigadora post-doctoral en la Universidad de Harvard y en el Russell Sage Foundation. Ha sido profesora visitante de la Universidad Di Tella y otras instituciones argentinas, investigadora visitante en el CIDE, el Colegio de México y Flacso-México, el IESA (Caracas) y la CEPAL (Chile), y dirigió desde Flacso-Argentina un proyecto regional sobre sindicatos docentes y reforma educativa.

Ha recibido becas de la Fundación Fulbright y la National Science Foundation y sus trabajos han recibido números premios de organizaciones profesionales. Ha sido fundadora de la Red de Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL) y es co-editora de la serie *Politics and Society in Latin America* de Cambridge University Press Elements. Es parte del comité editorial de numerosas revistas en EE.UU. y América Latina y fue miembro del comité ejecutivo de la Asociación Americana de Ciencia Política.

Su especialidad es la economía política latinoamericana y su investigación se ha concentrado en la comprensión de las dinámicas sindicales, los procesos de reforma económica, la privatización y regulación de los servicios públicos, el comportamiento electoral y el componente no ideológico de las relaciones entre partidos políticos y votantes, así como la conflictividad derivada de la expansión sojera en el Cono Sur, y la debilidad de

las instituciones políticas en la región. Su trabajo de investigación incluye diferentes trayectorias metodológicas y ha involucrado trabajo de campo en Argentina, Chile, México, Paraguay, y Venezuela.

Sus trabajos incluyen *Labor Unions, Partisan Coalitions and Market Reforms in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), traducido como *Sindicatos, coaliciones partidarias y reformas de mercado en América Latina* (Siglo XXI Editores, Madrid, 2005) y *Political Competition, Partisanship and Policy Making in Latin American Public Utilities* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), así como un libro de próxima aparición en Cambridge University Press que ha sido co-autoreado con Ernesto Calvo y se titula *Non-Policy Politics: Poor Voter, Richer Voter, and the Diversification of Electoral Strategies*. También ha sido la compiladora de *Carreras magisteriales, sindicatos de maestros y desempeño educativo en América Latina* (Flacso 2003), junto con Steven Levitsky de *Argentine Democracy: the Politics of Institutional Weakness* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005) y junto con Mario Pecheny y Roberto Gargarella de *Discutir Alfonsín* (Siglo XXI, Buenos Aires, 2010). Está editando ahora un volumen sobre la debilidad institucional en América Latina junto con Steven Levitsky y Daniel Brinks. Ha publicado además numerosos artículos en revistas especializadas de EE.UU. y América Latina, así como colaboraciones en volúmenes editados.

Murillo Statement

LASA es un espacio único para la interacción de los académicos que buscan comprender los fenómenos latinoamericanos desde una perspectiva multidisciplinaria y es también un espacio fundamental para el diálogo entre los trabajos que se generan en la región y fuera de ella. Es crucial fortalecer LASA para que ese espacio de intercambio consolide su influencia intelectual a partir de la participación de todos sus miembros en el análisis de los problemas de América Latina y para generar diálogos que involucren distintas miradas sobre estos temas. El impacto de LASA como foro regional que promueva la interacción de diferentes enfoques disciplinarios y metodológicos permite enriquecer debates intelectuales que trascienden

fronteras nacionales y disciplinarias. Es nuestra responsabilidad fortalecer este espacio plural y facilitar el diálogo entre distintas perspectivas — incluso aquellas que no están en este momento tan representadas en la organización.

Con este fin es importante afianzar la organización y expandir la participación en la misma tanto en el congreso anual como también en secciones y grupos de trabajo o redes que vinculen a sus miembros. Construyendo sobre la experiencia de secciones como la de LASA Cono Sur que ya ha organizado dos simposios regionales y las múltiples actividades y grupos de trabajo establecidas por otras secciones deben ser multiplicadas. Hay que apoyar esos esfuerzos desde el comité ejecutivo de LASA y su dirección ejecutiva poniendo a su disposición recursos electrónicos, apoyo logístico y fomentando también la relación con otras organizaciones regionales de las ciencias sociales y humanidades. Dentro de estos espacios es importante que no nos cerremos solamente al interior de nuestras disciplinas, sino que impulsemos la exposición a otras perspectivas que ofrece el espacio de LASA. Tanto las conferencias, foros y otros ámbitos deben promover dichos diálogos tanto desde lo práctico —financiando la participación de investigadores jóvenes y aquellos que vienen de instituciones con menores recursos— como considerando dicho pluralismo en la organización de conferencias, publicaciones y foros. Por ejemplo, en las conferencias se podría impulsar más aun los esfuerzos interdisciplinarios sobre temas de urgencia para la región con paneles especiales que muestren el valor de las múltiples miradas sobre un mismo tema. Asimismo, la trayectoria de LASA en cuanto a la promoción del diálogo intelectual entre la producción regional y la que se produce fuera de América Latina puede ser profundizado impulsando redes que generen espacios de producción conjunta. Los recursos de LASA (desde publicaciones a las website, así como foros y conferencias) pueden ser multiplicados, y especialmente cuando facilitan el acceso y la interacción entre investigadores basados en la región.

Finalmente, LASA como organización debe oír la voz de sus miembros y responder a sus demandas. Sería importante tener mayor información y contacto entre la membresía y la dirección de LASA y analizar cuáles serían las temáticas no solo intelectuales sino también profesionales que les importan a sus miembros. Investigar la participación de grupos sub-representados en la producción intelectual y la estructura académica de la región y generar recursos que permitan una participación más igualitaria. Los recursos de LASA en términos de su membresía, su capacidad de escuchar demandas y de transmitir las múltiples experiencias de sus miembros, pueden establecer mecanismos de transmisión entre diferentes estructuras académicas que sirvan para difundir nuevas formas de encarar problemáticas similares en diferentes contextos.

Leigh Payne

My research focuses on the legacy of authoritarian rule and violence in Latin America. I have endeavored to use a multidisciplinary approach in my work on confessions to past violence by state perpetrators (*Unsettling Accounts: Neither Truth nor Reconciliation in Confessions to Past Violence*, Duke University Press), particularly performance studies, discourse analysis, and sociological dramaturgy. The book examines confessions in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. I used a similar approach to my study of armed right-wing movements in Latin American democratic transitions in Argentina, Brazil, and Nicaragua (*Uncivil Movements*, Duke University Press). I have also worked closely with young scholars in developing multidisciplinary projects from the arts and humanities and the social sciences, many of which emerged from past LASA conferences and included Latin American and other scholars: *Accounting for Violence: The Memory Market in Latin America* (Duke University Press) and *The Art of Truth-Telling about Authoritarian Rule* (University of Wisconsin Press). While my work is largely qualitative in orientation, I have carried out quantitative and database projects with my doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows, such as a global study on *Transitional Justice in Balance: Comparing Processes, Weighing Efficacy* (USIP

Press) that emphasizes the role Latin America has played in overcoming impunity. A follow-up article in *Human Rights Quarterly* explains the region's global protagonist role in accountability processes. With a team of doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows as well as Latin American human rights organizations in Argentina (CELS/ANDHES) and Colombia (Dejusticia), I have developed a database of cases of accountability for corporate complicity in human rights violations in authoritarian regimes and armed conflicts (Cambridge University Press). That project also emphasizes the leading role Latin America plays in the world in terms of accountability efforts. Another project in which I am involved with Latin American partners is the study of disappearances after democratic transitions in Mexico and Brazil. We have been working with FLACSO-Mexico and Mexican human rights nongovernmental organizations and victim/survivor groups to document the disappearances and to establish patterns of the perpetration of those abuses. In Brazil, we are working with a forensic team and a group of mothers of victims to raise attention to ongoing state involvement in disappearances after the democratic transition. The orientation of these recent projects is around action-research, or the impact of academic research on human rights improvements. We have participated in the development of strategic litigation cases, amicus briefs, truth commission designs, and other accountability efforts in the region. We have presented to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, UN bodies, Latin American judges and prosecutors, congressional committees, and ministries.

I am currently a Professor of Sociology and Latin America at the University of Oxford (St. Antony's College). I received my Ph.D. from Yale University (1991) in political science and taught for 17 years in political science at the University of Wisconsin, before accepting a position in the Latin American Centre and Department of Sociology at Oxford.

Payne Statement

LASA is my intellectual home. Since I was a graduate student, I have found the multidisciplinary, international, politically engaged, and supportive community the right

place for probing new ideas and new approaches. As an intellectual community, we have been able to reach across disciplinary divides to meet on a full range of topics, allow participants to speak—and be heard—in languages in which they are the most comfortable, to engage scholars and activists with diverse identities and backgrounds, and to address important political issues on panels, in films, and in special events. What I hope for LASA's future is that it become the intellectual home for others. Most of the components are in place. What remains out of reach is the cost of attendance. As a community, we need to explore how the organization can survive financially while also making it accessible to those who personally or whose institutions cannot cover the high cost of registration, travel, and membership. I am committed to engage in the sorts of fund-raising activities that could support more participants and members. I am also committed to investigating the possibility of finding lower-cost venues to make LASA meetings more accessible to more members and participants. In this way, I hope to contribute to building LASA's diverse membership and participant base and the stimulating intellectual community that I have found so rewarding to my academic and advocacy work.

Lisandro Pérez

I was born in La Habana and emigrated to the United States with my parents in 1960. We settled in the Greater Miami area, and I attended the University of Miami, where as an undergraduate I decided to enter the field of Latin American studies and abandon my plan to go to law school, one of the best decisions of my life. From UM I received a B.A. in sociology and anthropology, with minors in English and Spanish. Upon graduation I was awarded a graduate research assistantship by the Sociology Department at the University of Florida, so I took the Florida Turnpike and I-75 up to Gainesville, where I was privileged to take courses from some of the foremost Latin Americanists of the time: Raymond Crist, Charles Wagley, Lyle MacAllister, John Saunders, Maxine Margolis, and, especially, my mentor, T. Lynn Smith. Not only did Dr. Smith direct my dissertation, on determinants

of rural-urban migration patterns in Colombia, but he also recommended me for a faculty position at his former institution, Louisiana State University. During my ten years at LSU I was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and served as Graduate Coordinator and as Acting Chair of Sociology and Rural Sociology. In 1985 I returned to Miami when I was hired as Associate Professor and Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Florida International University. After serving as chair at FIU, I founded its Cuban Research Institute and directed it for twelve years, a span of time that marked the ascendancy of the CRI as the premier university center for the study of Cuba and Cuban Americans, with more than \$1.5 million in support from the Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur, and Christopher Reynolds Foundations. We established the CRI Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, which is still held today on a biennial basis, and we also maintained a groundbreaking program of exchanges and collaborations with colleagues in Cuba, including full-semester residential fellowships at FIU funded by a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship Program awarded to us in 1993. From 1999 to 2004, I edited *Cuban Studies*, the leading journal in the field, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. After 25 years at FIU I accepted the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies at John Jay College of the City University of New York, attracted by the opportunity to design and establish a B.A. degree in our field, as well as spearhead initiatives designed to enhance student success. In 2014 I was awarded a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program designed to support student-centered activities and programs focused on Latin America. I have taken CUNY students to Cuba in study abroad programs during 2015 and 2016 and will do so again in 2018. I am proud to serve at John Jay, a Hispanic-Serving Institution with a focus on justice issues and a strong commitment to the success of historically underserved populations. I am currently on a sabbatical leave, which I am spending in Miami engaged in research and writing before returning to John Jay.

My research interests focus on population dynamics, migration, ethnicity, and social change, with application primarily to an understanding of societal change in Cuba and to the development of the Cuban presence in the United States. I co-authored *The Legacy of Exile: Cubans in the United States* (Allyn & Bacon, 2003), and have written articles that appeared in the *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Cuban Studies*, *International Migration Review*, *Population and Development Review*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and *Revista Casa de las Américas*, as well as chapters in edited works published by Harvard University Press, the Social Science Research Council, the New York Historical Society, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Russell Sage Foundation, among others. My recent work has tended to be more historical than sociological, as I boldly ventured into researching the Cuban presence in New York during the nineteenth century. My book on the subject, *Sugar, Cigars, and Revolution: The Making of Cuban New York* will be published in June 2018 by New York University Press: <https://nyupress.org/books/9780814767276/>. I have been awarded fellowships by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers of the New York Public Library, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. For more information, please consult my faculty page: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/faculty/lisandro-perez>.

Pérez Statement

I attended my first LASA Congress in 1979, in Pittsburgh. LASA meetings are exciting, international, and multidisciplinary, with participants representing a wide variety of engagement with the region. The growth of both the membership and the annual meeting program are testaments to the success of the association and the dedication of those who have led it. If elected to the Executive Council I will work with Council members and staff to sustain and enhance the association's accomplishments

across the entire spectrum of LASA activities. I also anticipate that my own experience, both within and outside of LASA, will lead me to prioritize three areas that present opportunities and challenges for the association. For the most part these are already part of LASA's organizational culture, but require a sustained commitment to develop them further.

The internationalization of the membership and the annual meetings.

This is one of the most exciting trends in LASA's development. The integration into LASA of our colleagues who reside outside the United States, especially in Latin America, has greatly contributed to the association's visibility, its intellectual diversity, and its relevance and impact on the region we study. I have a career-long commitment to overcoming the challenges involved in building bridges to colleagues and academic institutions in Cuba. That was the main thrust of the research institute on Cuba I established and directed for twelve years at Florida International University. I have always appreciated the singular role that LASA has played in breaking down the barriers towards collaboration with colleagues in the island, especially through our International Congresses, which have become major events in the calendar of Cuban scholars. From 2013 to 2015 I was privileged to be elected and to serve two terms as Co-Chair, jointly with a colleague from Cuba, of the LASA Section on Scholarly Relations with Cuba and to contribute to further developing LASA's outreach to the island. Cuba presents unique challenges, but facilitating the participation of our colleagues throughout the hemisphere in our association is an ideal to which I have an abiding commitment.

A greater, more institutionalized and systematic, role for LASA in the policy debates regarding Latin America

We should explore mechanisms by which LASA can expand its role as a resource for decision makers and the media on Latin American policies and issues. LASA members represent the most extensive and diverse source of talent on research-

grounded analyses and advocacy on the region. The association should position itself as the principal facilitator of connections between our members and those in public venues who are seeking, or could benefit from, the expertise of our members.

The state of Latin American studies in the curricula of institutions of higher education in the United States

We should be attentive to our field's pipeline and devise strategies to reinforce it. Erosions in the status of area studies should be a concern, especially as they affect graduate programs that offer Latin American content courses and specializations to their students. But my experience at CUNY has convinced me that there are expanding opportunities at the undergraduate level as the children of Latin American immigrants arrive in increasing numbers on our campuses. Not only do they enroll in Latinx studies courses, but also courses on Latin American culture, society, and history, which provide students with critical insights and context on the origins of their own presence in the United States. Stimulating the offering of courses and programs at the undergraduate level presents a growing target of opportunity for LASA, with potential long-term benefits for our association.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vivian Andreaz Martínez-Díaz

Vivian Andreaz Martínez-Díaz is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. Before her doctoral studies, she graduated in political science from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and obtained a master's degree in anthropology from Universidad de los Andes. She has a specialization degree in public policy from the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO). Currently, she is finishing her doctoral dissertation, which is titled "Weaving together Culture, Politics, and Indigenous Female Experience in the City: Activisms and Leaderships

of Inga Women in Bogotá.” Along with her studies, Vivian has worked as a researcher and lecturer at public and private universities in Colombia.

In 2008, she worked in a research group affiliated with Universidad Nacional de Colombia, which studied cultural diversity and politics. In this research group, Vivian analyzed the constitutional recognition of cultural diversity in Colombia in the 1990s and its implications for public policy. She also collaborated on a research project to evaluate cultural policies in three municipalities of the department of Cundinamarca: Chía, Cota, and Sesquilé. This project was financed by the Colombian Ministry of Culture through the research grant Beca del Sistema Nacional de Cultura.

In 2011, Vivian became a member of Antropolítica, an interdisciplinary research group from the Universidad de los Andes’ Department of Anthropology. In Antropolítica, she analyzes the processes of migration, settlement, and emergence of urban indigenous communities in Bogotá, and the political participation of Kichwa-Otavalo and Inga women in the cities, as well as creating collaborative feminist ethnographies sensitive to power phenomena, but also to thoughts, opinions, emotions, desires, dreams and daily problems of indigenous women, their loved ones, and their peoples.

Between 2015 and 2017, Vivian was a member of Rodeemos el Diálogo. Within this organization which focuses on promoting peacebuilding in Colombia, Vivian formed discussion panels with representatives of indigenous councils, afro-descendant communities, LGBTQI movements and religious institutions. With the support of Rodeemos el Diálogo, she created the radio segment “Culture, Identity and Peacebuilding,” which was based in Latin American feminist thought and decolonial approaches. This alternative feminist communication sought to uphold the voices of people oppressed by patriarchy, capitalism, and colonialism to help further the ongoing peace process. This radio segment was broadcast weekly during the first half of 2017 in Emisora La U.F.M., a Universidad del Quindío radio station.

In participation with the international congresses of LASA, in which Vivian is a member, she presented two conference papers in 2015 and 2016 based on her research work on urban indigenous women and political participation in Colombia. Within LASA, she belongs to the Gender and Feminist Studies Section, and Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) Section. These two interest sections supported Vivian by helping her successfully fight discrimination as a Latin American woman by immigration officials from the United States Embassy in Colombia. Additionally, LASA awarded her two travel grants to attend the LASA Congress in San Juan de Puerto Rico, and the ERIP Congress at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2015. Since then, she has collaborated on activities and initiatives within both sections, including support for special petitions to the Executive Council of LASA and government institutions in Latin America and the United States.

In addition to her interests in cultural diversity, politics, indigenous migrations, and the processes of collective organization of urban indigenous women in Colombia, Vivian also focuses on dismantling hierarchical relations between different sets of knowledge in Latin America through engaged research, and feminist activism within academia and social movements that support peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Martínez-Díaz Statement

My goal as a graduate student member of the LASA Executive Council will be to represent, dialogue, and collaborate with undergraduate and graduate students, chairs and affiliates of each section, the Executive Council, and ex officio members to contribute to the construction of a plural and transdisciplinary community of students focused on the study of Latin America and engaged with the transformation of the realities of oppression, violence, and inequality that prevail in the continent.

First, as a member of the Executive Council I will represent the students by listening their interests and needs and facilitating dialogues between them and other members of LASA. I will be actively

aware of actions and decisions taken within LASA that affect student members and disclose information about matters regarding them.

Second, I will promote collaboration between students and other members and representatives of LASA. To carry this out, I will work closely with the Student Section to promote exclusive spaces for students to share their experiences, projects, and research work and to facilitate their integration into the LASA community to make their contributions visible. I will also foster collaborative relationships with chairs of each section of LASA to encourage initiatives developed by the students, such as discussion panels, participation in conferences and seminars within universities and institutions, theses and dissertations defenses, publications, and research projects.

Third, I will work on the creation of a website for LASA students. The objectives of the LASA students' website are to contribute to the integration of students both within the association and the transnational academic community, and to promote their activities through virtual channels. The information that will be published on the LASA students' website is the following: (1) short biographies of students that show their academic background, including research interests, honors and awards, professional experience, publications, current projects, and participation in conferences; 2) students' developments in undergraduate monographs, master's theses, and Ph.D. dissertations; 3) academic events, calls for papers, and opportunities for funding research; 4) academic writing resources in languages from the Americas (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French); and 5) a blog section where students are invited to be guest authors to share their perspectives on Latin America.

LASA is an association whose plurality and composition allow us to create critical knowledge, theories, and perspectives to transform Latin America as a whole. This association has brought me opportunities to grow and learn as a professional, and has reinforced for me the values of collaboration, solidarity, and dialogue across boundaries. I hope to contribute by

furthering these values among my fellow students in LASA as a graduate student member of the Executive Council.

Marcus Vinicius Rossi de Rocha

Marcus Vinicius Rossi de Rocha is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, Brazil), chair of LASA's Student Section, research fellow at the Center of Latin America and Latino Studies (American University), and research fellow at Núcleo de Estudos em Corrupção (UFRGS). He holds a B.A. in Social Sciences and a master's degree in Political Science. His dissertation research investigates party competition, governance, and control of corruption in Brazilian municipalities, and his main fields of interest are institutions, governance, and research methodology.

At LASA, Marcus was part of the group of students that joined forces to create the Student Section in the 2016 Congress at New York. Subsequently, he served as one of the two first co-chairs (2016–2017) and was elected chair (2017–2019) of the section.

His publications include "Institutional Arrangements and Public Planning: Analysis from Multi-Annual Plans (1991–2015)" (journal, 2016) "Garantia de direitos" (book chapter, 2015). Besides his dissertation, he is currently working in a paper about how the 2013 mass protests in Brazil influenced Dilma Rousseff's impeachment in 2016.

Professional developments include teacher assistantship in two courses: government, federalism and public policy, and quantitative methodology (UFRGS). He worked as an online instructor in public planning (Center for International Studies on Government, 2013–2014) and public management (Universidade Aberta do Brasil, 2013–2015).

Marcus was also engaged in the student movement in Brazil and was several times elected to represent his peers, serving at Public Policy Program Council (2015–2016), Political Science Program Council

(2012–2013), UFRGS Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee (2010–2011), University Council (2010), and Internal Evaluation Committee (2009).

His participation in academic conferences includes his role as chair and organizer of Forum Brasileiro de Pós-graduação em Ciência Política (2017), a seminar led by Brazilian political science students to promote learning and engagement in the field which occurs every two years. For more information, see his academic CV: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/7716793067440072>.

In his personal life, his hobbies include reading, infinite discussions about *Song of Ice and Fire*, drawing, and painting. Marcus is currently enjoying a scholarship in Washington, D.C., at American University, but his hometown is Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he lives with his fiancée, Tahina, his daughter, Ana Clara, and their three cats, Banguela, Leia, and Stark.

Rossi de Rocha Statement

To serve as Executive Council member in an association like LASA is a great opportunity and a challenge as well. It is a personal opportunity to be in touch with researchers from all over the world in an early stage of my career. It is also an honor to give a small contribution to an organization built upon more than 50 years of hard work and engagement from many men and women. Likewise, it is a challenge to give a meaningful contribution to the future of such organization.

As I see, there are two ways to respond to the challenge of improving LASA in the near future, working upon what has been done until now. LASA must be even more inclusive and it needs to exist beyond its annual congress. Being more attractive to students is a fundamental step.

Students are already a big part of membership. With the right incentives, they will join LASA and remain members throughout their careers. Long-standing engagement creates the financial and creative foundations of a scientific organization.

In its more than 50 years of history, LASA has made great improvements in broadening its affiliation and in improving participation of women and minorities. The creation of the Student Section and the election of a student to LASA's Executive Council are part of an ongoing democratization process that makes this association so vibrant and strong. I hope to make my contribution in this process, helping to create an association with more space and voice for students from all around the world. In order to create spaces and activities that match the interests of students, we need to listen to them. LASA needs to research and understand who its students are and what challenges they are facing in the academic field. Students and young professionals from Latin America face different challenges than those from Europe and United States. After listening to the students, we can seek ways to improve the role of LASA with tailored solutions to issues like publication, career, and opportunities.

LASA could look for more ways to exist beyond its annual congress, embracing initiatives to promote collaboration and circulation of knowledge. In addition to initiatives like LARR and LARC, LASA can act as a hub of opportunities, creating spaces to promote collaboration between researchers and students around the world. LASA can create initiatives like online learning to promote issues across countries. Current technology and funding from third partners can easily drive down the costs. //

Getting To Know Your LASA

The call to vote for LASA president and members of LASA's Executive Council (EC) will soon be announced to LASA members. To better inform your vote, we explain here the nomination process and the roles and responsibilities these elected officials will have during their terms of service to our association.

Open Call for Nominations

The LASA Secretariat issues a call for nominations every year. From July through September, the membership may nominate candidates for vice president/president-elect, members of the EC, treasurer, and graduate student representative. All those nominated (by the membership and the Nominations Committee) must have been LASA members for at least one year prior to their nomination. LASA welcomes nominations of members representing diversity in region, discipline, and gender. Nominees should have ample experience in their respective fields as well as in LASA and be willing to serve and advance the mission of LASA.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, appointed by the president in consultation with the Executive Council, prepares a slate (taking into consideration nominations by the membership and nominations by the committee) as follows:

- Two candidates for vice president/president-elect
- Six candidates for the Executive Council (to fill three vacant positions)
- Two candidates for the graduate student representative (every two years)
- Two candidates for treasurer (every two years)

Service Term

Service terms begin on June 1 of every year. The winning candidate for vice president serves for three years (in the first year as vice president, in the second year as president, and in the third year as past president). Executive Council members (including the graduate student representative and treasurer) serve a two-year term.

Elections

The executive director of LASA enters on an official ballot the names of the candidates selected by the above-mentioned procedure together with the names of the candidates nominated during the write-in process. (The write-in candidates must have a minimum of 200 supporting signatures.) The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes serve on the EC for two years. The three candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be alternates for one year to serve in the event of temporary inability of a regular member of the Executive Council. The candidate with the highest number of votes for the positions of treasurer and graduate student representative serve on the EC for two years. The winning candidate for vice president serves for three years.

Role of the Vice President

The vice president of LASA serves one term of twelve months. During her/his term, the vice president has to perform multiple tasks:

- Designate program chair(s) for the LASA Congress and participate in the Program Committee.
- Define the Congress theme and tracks with the Program Committee and appoint track chairs.
- Chair the EC Subcommittee on Resolutions.
- Nominate committees for the Bryce Wood Book Award, Premio Iberoamericano, Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award, Howard F. Cline Book Prize in Mexican History, LASA/OXFAM America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship, Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship, LASA/OXFAM America Martin Diskin Fellowship, Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, and Media Award.
- Designate members of the Nominations Committee in conjunction with the EC.
- Chair the Commission on Academic Freedom.
- Chair the LASA-FORD Special Projects Committee.
- Support the president's fund-raising efforts.

Role of the President

The president of LASA serves one term of twelve months and upon retirement she/he remains in the EC and the Ways and Means Committee for one year. During her/his term, the president serves as the chairperson of the EC and has to perform multiple tasks:

- Work on fund-raising efforts for travel grants and other initiatives in conjunction with the Development Committee.
- Chair meetings of the Executive Council and Ways and Means Committee.
- Act as the editor in chief of the LASA Forum (4 issues).
- Inform the members with quarterly reports to be published in the LASA Forum.
- Prepare presidential and invited panels for the Congress in conjunction with the program co-chairs.
- Work on feasibility and implementation of new initiatives for LASA.

Role of the Past President

- Support the president's fund-raising efforts.
- Chair the Kalman Silvert Award Committee.
- Work on feasibility and implementation of new initiatives for LASA.

Role of the Executive Council

The Executive Council (EC) administers the affairs of the association and acts as an elected Board of Directors in the best interest of LASA. The EC meets at least once a year and may, by majority vote, create task forces; the president, with consent of the EC, appoints a chairperson and members of the task forces. The EC also approves the creation of LASA Sections. The EC consist of eleven voting members and ex-officio members with voice but no vote:

Voting Members

- Immediate past president
- President
- Vice president/president-elect
- Treasurer
- Six elected members
- One graduate student representative
- Non-Voting Members
- LASA executive director
- The editor of the Latin American Research Review (LARR)
- The current Congress program chair(s)
- The editor(s) of the Latin America Research Commons (LARC)
- Members of the Strategic Plan Oversight Committee //

LASA Leadership Circle 2017

The purpose of the LASA Leadership Circle is to strengthen the relationship between LASA and its donors, reaffirming the value of annual support at the leadership level. The LASA Leadership Circle fosters members who provide support to LASA, its Endowment Fund, and other initiatives. Donors who contribute \$50 or more annually become members of the Leadership Circle. Matching gifts from companies and firms count toward membership. LASA gratefully acknowledges all members of the Leadership Circle.

Members of the \$5,000+ Leadership Circle

—

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Ruth E. Goldstein

Renato Cordeiro
Gomes

Arantza Gomez Arana

Juan Carlos González
Espitia

Olga M. Gonzalez-
Castaneda

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Anda

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Javier Guerrero

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Bebbington

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Johnson

Beth E. Jorgensen
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Temma Kaplan
Gwen Kirkpatrick
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Patricia A. Landolt
Victoria A. Langland
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Raul L. Madrid
John Markoff
Rafael Martínez
Concepción Martínez-
Maske
Felipe Martínez-Pinzón
Francine R. Masiello
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Alida C. Metcalf
Carlos Monge
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Emily J. Morris
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Eva Juliane Mueller
Barbara E. Mundy
Mauro Neves Junior
Karoline Noack
Wellington Oliveira
Emanuelle K. Oliveira-
Monte
María Rosa Olivera-
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Nicole L. Pacino
Carlos A. Parodi
Susan A. Paulson
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Silvia Pedraza
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Heath
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Laura A. Valdiviezo
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Nuria Vilanova
Grazia Villarroel
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Michelle C.
Wibbelsman
Lorna V. Williams
Eliza J. Willis
Carol Wise
Elisabeth J. Wood
Steven S. Zahniser
Clarence Zuvekas Jr. //

LASA-FORD Special Projects 2018 Awardees

LASA is pleased to announce the outcome of the most recent LASA/Ford Special Projects competition.

Lynn Stephen, University of Oregon, LASA Vice President/President-Elect, chaired the review and selection committee, and the following LASA colleagues served on the committee: Alberto Díaz-Cayeros, Stanford University; Jeffrey Rubin, Boston University; Olivia Joanna Gall Sonabend, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; and Alessandra Santos, University of British Columbia. The committee had an award fund of \$25,000. In response to a request for proposals issued in 2017, nine applications were submitted for consideration by the September 15, 2017, deadline. Of these, two projects were selected for funding:

- “Consolidation of the International Working Group: Comparative Assessment of the Utility (or Lack Thereof) of ‘Multicultural Legal Instruments’ for Afrodescendants in Latin America,” project directors Jean Muteba Rahier, Florida International University; Carlos Agudelo, Unité de Recherche Migrations et Société (URMIS), Institut de Recherches pour le Développement (IRD)-Université Paris VII-Université Nice Sophia Antipolis; and Tanya Hernandez, Fordham University
- “El recuerdo y la memoria: Teatro, Mujeres, Tlatelolco and Beyond 1968 in Mexico,” project directors Alan Eladio Gómez, Arizona State University; and Michelle Téllez, University of Arizona

This twelfth cycle of the Ford-LASA Special Projects competition was made possible by a contribution from the Ford Foundation to the LASA Endowment Fund. Proceeds from that contribution provide support for such activities as transregional research initiatives, conferences, working groups, the development of curriculum and teaching resources, and similar projects of LASA Sections or ad hoc groupings of LASA members. //

LASA Statement of Concern Regarding Attacks on Brazilian Public Universities

Over the past year, government authorities in Brazil have taken actions that have been widely interpreted as intended to intimidate or demoralize administrators, faculty, and students at the nation's public universities, raising concerns about academic freedom in the most populous nation in Latin America. As the world's largest association of academics engaged in research on Latin America with 12,000 dues-paying members, and given our commitment to academic freedom, the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) expresses its concern over these actions and calls upon Brazilian authorities to investigate them, bring those responsible to account, and to take all measures necessary to guarantee academic freedom in Brazil.

Some of the actions that have come to our attention include:

- On November 29, 2016, a lecture at the Federal University of Pará in Belém on the environmental and social effects of mining along the Xingu River was abruptly terminated when Mayor Dirceu Biancardi of the municipality of Senador José Porfírio, accompanied by 40 other people, broke into the lecture hall and threatened to imprison the organizer of the event, Professor Rosa Acevedo of the Núcleo de Altos Estudos Amazônicos (NAEA, Institute for Advanced Amazonian Studies) and the other speakers.¹
- On December 9, 2016, nearly 70 federal police agents intervened in the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, leading to the forcible detention or arrest of six individuals, including four faculty, all involved in a health education extension program that was being investigated for misuse of fellowship funds.²
- On February 13, 2017, 180 federal police agents intervened in the Federal University of Paraná, in Curitiba, issuing arrest warrants for 20 individuals suspected of misuse of funds earmarked for

scientific research and temporarily imprisoning 12 of them. According to Rector Ricardo Marcelo Fonseca and his predecessor, the university had already implemented its own internal investigation of these allegations.³

- Overall, in the month of February 2017, authorities arrested eight public university administrators, and issued 29 temporary detention orders and 36 arrest warrants against faculty and staff in universities in the states of Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Rio de Janeiro, due to allegations of misuse of funds.⁴
- On September 14, 2017, the Rector of the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Luiz Carlos Cancellier de Olivo, was arrested on charges of obstructing an investigation into the alleged misuse of university funds. He was held in prison overnight but was soon released by a judge, who found that he posed no threat to the ongoing investigation. However, Cancellier de Olivo was prohibited by the police from setting foot on campus, and images of him wearing a prison uniform circulated on social media, causing him serious distress. Following these events, Cancellier de Olivo, who was 59 years old, killed himself.⁵
- On December 6, 2017, police officials intervened in the Federal University of Minas Gerais, purportedly to investigate allegations that funds for a memorial to victims of the dictatorship had been inappropriately funneled to research on that issue. The following day, the university Rector, Jaime Arturo Ramirez, was arrested at his home and briefly imprisoned, along with two other colleagues.⁶

These raids, detentions, and imprisonments have occurred despite the fact that federal universities operate under the aegis of the Tribunal de Contas da União (Government Accounting Board) and the Controladoria Geral (Comptroller General), a circumstance that should both protect the

principle of university autonomy and preclude the need for police raids on university campuses or against university officials.

LASA expresses its profound concern over the actions carried out by police and judicial forces against Brazilian public universities which ignore due process and violate multiple constitutional norms, including the guarantee of autonomy for Brazilian universities, based on Article 207 of the Constitution.

In light of this, LASA affirms its solidarity with the faculty, students, and administrators of Brazilian public universities and their demand that their elected leadership be respected and treated with dignity, and that any inquiry into alleged wrongdoing be conducted in accordance with the rule of law and with regard to the principle of academic freedom.

LASA furthermore calls upon Brazilian political and judicial officials to adopt measures to respect the autonomy of Brazil's universities and fully respect academic freedom, which is essential to the functioning of a community of scholars.

Miami, December 17, 2017

Notes

- ¹ "MPF investiga denúncia de intimidação e ameaça durante evento na UFPA que debatia impacto de mineradora," November 30, 2017, Portal G1 Pará, <https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/mpf-investiga-denuncia-de-intimidacao-e-ameaca-durante-evento-que-debatia-impacto-de-mineradora-na-ufpa.ghtml>.
- ² "Operações policiais em universidades aumentam temor de cruzada contra o ensino superior," December 15, 2017, *El País Brasil*, https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2017/12/13/politica/1513178766_195360.html.
- ³ "Reitor da UFPR diz que há controle de bolsas e auxílios, mas assume falhas," February 16, 2017, Portal G1 Paraná, <http://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2017/02/reitor-da-ufpr-diz-que-ha-controle-de-bolsas-de-estudo-mas-assume-falhas.html>.
- ⁴ Ricardo Marcelo Fonseca, "Um ano de ataques contra as universidades públicas brasileiras," December 6, 2017, Site da Universidade Federal do Paraná, <http://www.ufpr.br/porta/ufpr/blog/noticias/nota-do-reitor-ricardo-marcelo-fonseca-um-ano-de-ataques-contra-as-universidades-publicas-brasileiras>.
- ⁵ "Morte de Cancellier escancara arbitrio do Judiciário e irresponsabilidade da mídia," October 10, 2017, *Justificando*, <http://justificando.com/2017/10/10/morte-de-cancellier-escancara-arbitrio-do-judiciario-e-irresponsabilidade-da-midia/>.
- ⁶ "PF conduz reitor e vice da UFMG para depor sobre suposta fraude em obras," *Folha de São Paulo*, December 6, 2017, <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/educacao/2017/12/1941094-pf-conduz-reitor-e-vice-da-ufmg-para-depor-sobre-suposta-fraude-em-obras.shtml>. See also "Andifes manifesta indignação contra mais uma operação da PF em universidade pública," *Notícias da UFSC*, December 6, 2017, <http://noticias.ufsc.br/tags/andifes/>; and "Operação na UFMG repete equívocos de ofensiva na UFSC, afirma conselho técnico da Capes," Site da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, December 7, 2017, <https://ufmg.br/comunicacao/noticias/operacao-na-ufmg-repete-equivocos-de-ofensiva-na-ufsc-afirma-conselho-tecnico-da-capes>. //

On the LASA Resolution on Venezuela

By **The Undersigned** / October 30, 2017

To the editor:

The following statement addresses the difficult process of dealing with LASA about the accelerating destruction of democracy in Venezuela.

The Association's record on issues relating to Venezuela is decidedly mixed. Until recently Venezuela was seen as a relatively rich country whose potential delegates therefore required little assistance for participating. Numerous calls for help and efforts to set up funds to assist Venezuelan scholars went largely unheeded. Over the last two years LASA Forum has housed two "Debates" sections on Venezuela. The Executive Council also issued a resolution of concern in early 2017. Through late 2016 and into mid 2017, a resolution put forth by members of the Venezuelan Studies Section calling on LASA to recognize and condemn the erosion of democracy in Venezuela was prepared and presented to the Executive Council (EC), as a step towards having the membership vote on this important matter. The resolution was signed by a large group of colleagues, both belonging to the SVS and to other sections; many of them have also signed this letter. Preparation of the resolution carefully followed the detailed rules and regulations that LASA imposes on this process (including the requirement of original signatures; emails of support were not considered valid). In the end, the effort garnered well over the minimal number of signatures required to move the process to the EC.

That is where problems began. We met with significant resistance from the EC, including lengthy delays and foot-dragging that at times seemed to constitute active sabotage. The proposed text was subjected to a process of editing and revision that can only be described as politically and ideologically motivated. We were informed that our resolution might exacerbate polarization in the country (absurd on the face of it) and were admonished for not being sufficiently "balanced," and for failing to fully historicize the situation. Given that LASA requires that resolutions do not exceed 100 words, the demanded historicization would have been impossible. We were further instructed to include a section that acknowledged that all sides had responsibility for the crisis in Venezuela, an addition that would have suggested an equivalency that, as specialists in Venezuela studies, we could not in good conscience endorse.

We can only assume that the EC's concern with historicization reflects a concern among its membership that our resolution did not take the actions and claims of both sides — both Venezuela's government, and the protestors demonstrating against repression — as equally valid. This was because, in our view, they are not: while neither side is without fault, the country's opposition and pro-democracy protestors are not chiefly responsible for the country's current plight. Our resolution, after all, was intended not as a weighing of historical blame for Venezuela's current condition, but as an unequivocal statement against the immediate and ongoing erosion of democratic values, including the detention of citizens for political reasons and the violent repression of dissent, by that country's government.

The text of the resolution was closely modeled in form and content on one approved by the EC, and passed last year by a vote of the membership, condemning the impeachment and removal from office of Dilma as president of Brazil. Whatever your position on Venezuela, we urge all readers to examine the Brazil

resolution and search for balance, historicization, or deference to the views of those who engineered Dilma's removal. There is none. One must, therefore, ask why such "balance" was felt to be so acutely needed in the Venezuelan case.

Our goal was to give members an opportunity to vote on a resolution concerning Venezuela. Our belief was that this concerned issues that should be of vital concern to a group like LASA. As described, our efforts were significantly impeded by the EC's attempt to edit the original resolution so that the one circulated among the membership, and presented for a vote, followed a specific version pre-approved by the EC. After a complex and lengthy process of negotiation, a more acceptable version of the resolution was eventually approved for submission to members. To our surprise, however, and utterly without consultation with the original signatories, when the resolution was sent out for a vote it was accompanied by a "disclaimer" warning that this resolution did not meet with consensus in the EC. The disclaimer is copied in full below:

Disclaimer: This resolution reflects the Executive Council's belief that the membership of LASA should express their opinion on this issue. Nevertheless, it does not necessarily reflect the unanimous view of the Council.

A search of the by-laws and regulations of LASA reveals no provision for unanimity as a condition of approval by the EC, nor any suggestion that the EC should editorialize or present its views on the merits of a resolution put before LASA's members. So what was the purpose of this addition? It is difficult to see it as other than a last effort to discredit and delegitimize the arguments put forth in the resolution. We would have strenuously opposed the inclusion of this disclaimer had we been shown the courtesy of being told about it in advance.

This experience raises an obvious and troubling question: *What is the matter with LASA?* In our view, there are at least two core problems. First, the operating mantra of the association is to provide political balance, and on any position to give equal weight to all sides. This may be emotionally satisfying for some but it is not much of a guide to discovering or identifying the truth of a situation. Truth depends on evidence, not on achieving a balance of opposing views. The second and perhaps more critical element is that for a substantial faction in the Association criticism of anything that comes clothed in leftist rhetoric is unacceptable. This conflates political correctness with ideological solidarity. As honest scholars and intellectuals we must all be ready to oppose and condemn the excesses of any government, of the right or the left. Unfortunately, it appears for many of our colleagues it has become acceptable to unequivocally condemn the impeachment of Dilma (a constitutionally sanctioned process), but insufficiently "historicized," unbalanced, and unacceptable to condemn a self-described socialist regime that tramples on its constitution every day and tosses it away when it can no longer guarantee its survival in power. This is not a very good way to run an association that is supposedly committed to democratic principles and to the promotion of research and intellectual interchange, all of which presume a commitment to truth rather than to political ideology.

The result of the vote on the Venezuela resolution suggests a massive indifference within LASA to the fate of the country. Although the resolution won over 70% of votes cast (1,747 Yes, 463 No, 257 Abstentions) LASA requires that for any resolution to pass, at least 20% of the total membership (13,418) must vote. In this case only 18% bothered to do so. That more than 80% of the members of the Latin American Studies Association are either indifferent to or unaware of the destruction of democracy in Venezuela and the devastation faced by Venezuelans is shocking and shameful. Something is seriously wrong and one can only hope that things change for the better. The undersigned lament this situation and protest the behavior of the previous LASA leadership and EC in the strongest possible terms.

Signed

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Lisa Blackmore
University of Essex

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Northwestern University

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Comment on a *New York Times* Article

By **Efrén Sandoval Hernández** / December 1, 2017

To the editors:

As an anthropologist and social scientist whose work deals with the contemporary sources of the violence, and with the serious violations of human rights that Mexico is currently living through, I ask you to publish on the LASA Forum the next comment about the “Mexico’s Record Violence Is a Crisis 20 Years in the Making” article (published on October 27, 2017 on the *NY Times*, section Americas, column The Interpreter Newsletter, by Max Fisher and Amanda Taub). With this letter, I would like to contribute with a series of observations and point out the limitations implicit in that article as it is written.

The text attributes the increase in the levels of violence in Mexico to specific and at times fortuitous events. My opinion is instead that the increase in the number of violent acts must be understood as a process, but also in structural terms, on a national and binational level, but also as a global phenomenon. In this process, political changes have been important, but these changes and the Mexican state itself have been overtaken by drastic economic changes and their equally drastic social consequences.

In order to properly analyze the current situation concerning the increase in violence, insecurity and impunity, it is wrong to write about the Mexican state as one that is “failed”, “collapsed”, “fragile” or “weak”, as if the state were a “victim” of a “mafia” or “organized crime”. History and current events show that the Mexican state, as with any other state, is made and remade everyday through interactions and activities of very diverse types, including those of a criminal and mafia nature. Thus, to present the State as an institution that has attempted to act against lawbreakers as if these were an entity distinct from the State, and to furthermore affirm that this State has failed in its honest fight against the lawbreakers, is to give the Mexican state more merit than it deserves.

The actions that the Mexican state has taken in its ostensive fight against the drug cartels has been characterized by the lethal use of violence, the systematic abuse of authority and violations of human rights. There are sufficient elements to deduce that the Mexican state is not acting against supposed “organized crime” but instead in favor of the combined interests of the drug economy, American foreign policy (the Merida Initiative), the economic transformation (“structural reforms”) of the neoliberal project executed at a local level by both the PAN and the PRI but imposed from abroad by international institutions, and the persistence of the *status quo* in a country with some of the highest levels of corruption, impunity and inequality in the world. Within this framework, the increase in violent acts and insecurity is the result of the militarization of social life, the privatization of individual security, the backing of abuse of authority as a tool for social control, as well as the permanent state of fear among the population. Quality of life, and civil, labor, and economic rights are weakened, while at the same time the State reinforces its own control over and exercise of “legitimate” violence. In the end, is it not right to ask if the result of the “drug war” means a “failure”, a “mistake”, or simply “bad luck” for the Mexican state; but rather that it represents the ideal conditions that allow the implementation of neoliberal policies for economic transformation (in Mexico, there are academic studies that show the confluence of lands with rich mineral deposits and gas reserves, the displacement of large sectors of the local population, and militarization. This last one, as it is also demonstrated by other studies, has served as a means to intimidate or to act against outbursts of social protest in a context in which the State has minimum levels of social legitimacy). If seen in this manner,

instead of thinking about a State that unsuccessfully “fights” against “organized crime” we should speak of the State and “organized crime” as acting in unison in the pursuit of common interests far removed from those of the “democratic State” to which the article refers. In the case of Mexico, the real case is of a State that really has everything under control in order to allow the various interests to which it is beholden to act as they see fit. And by the way, perhaps the greatest of these interests, and which it’s not even mentioned in the article (not a word is said about the Merida Initiative or the illegal flow of arms into Mexico) is the help of the U.S. government.

I really hope this letter could contribute to a deeper reflection about this subject.

Cordially,

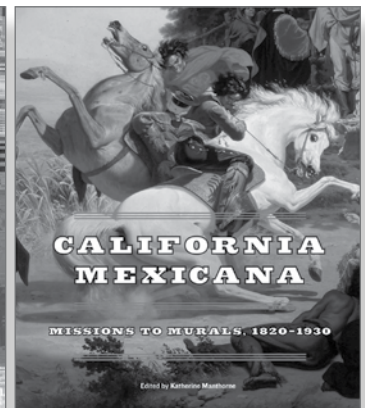
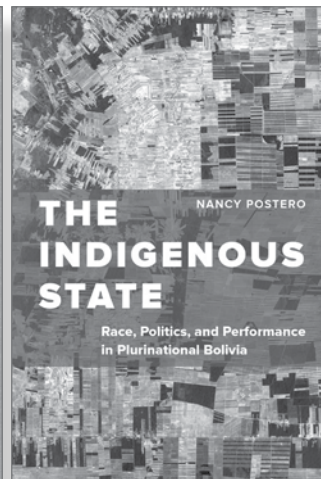
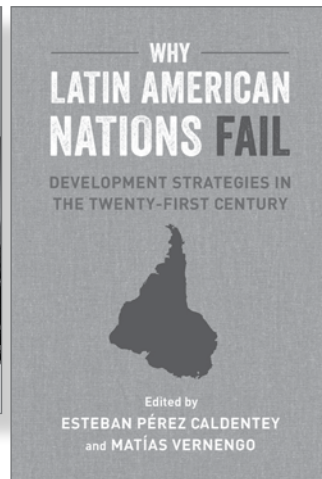
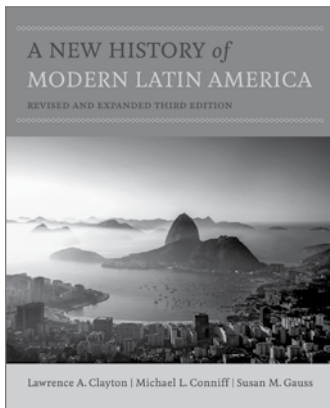
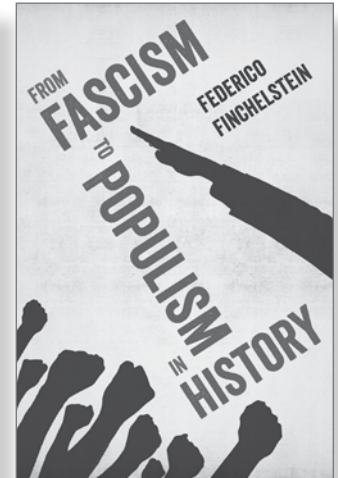
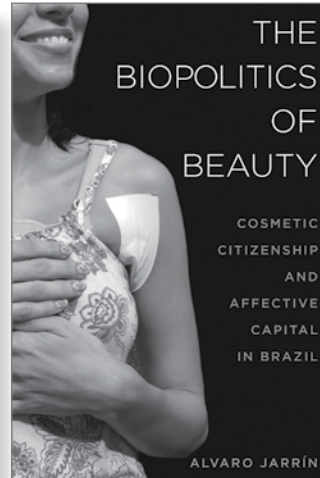
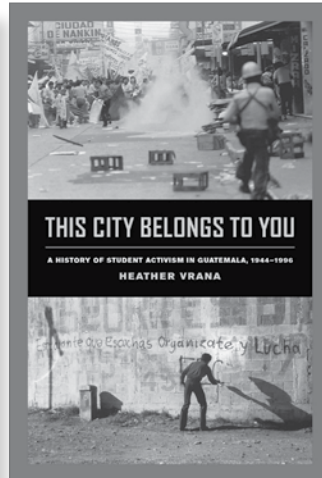
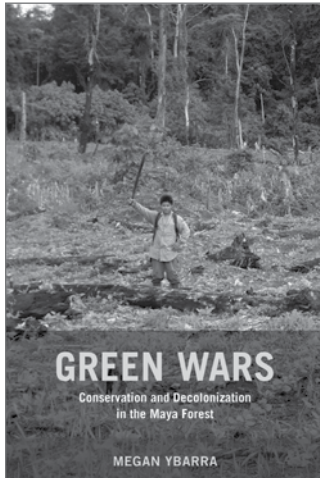
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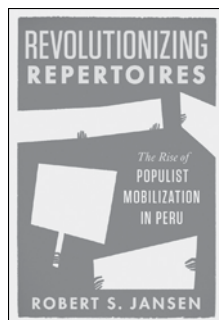


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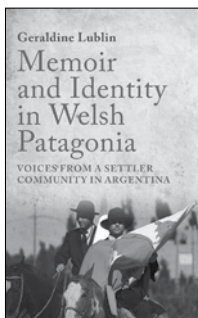
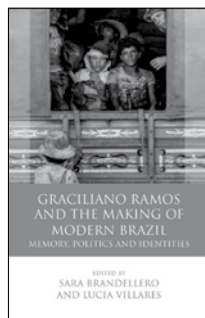


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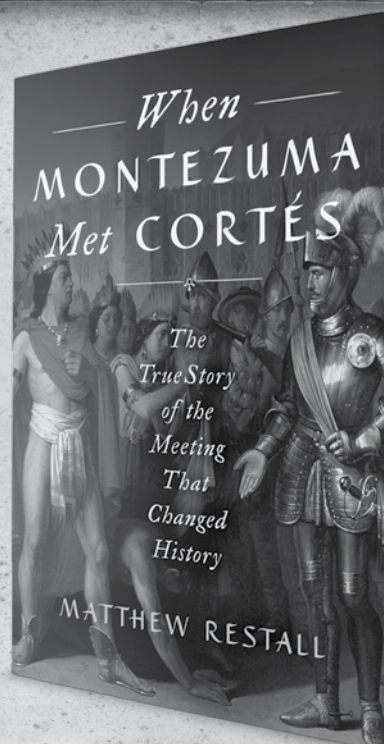
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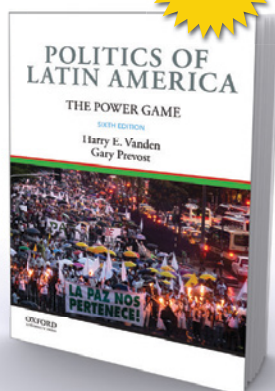
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