

# Latin American Studies Association

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# LASA Forum

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# President's Report

by Arturo Arias

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*Saludos para todos los miembros de la Asociación. Una de mis intenciones, desde que salí electo presidente, fue la de duplicar esfuerzos por convertir LASA en un organismo efectivamente trilingüe. Al fin y al cabo, inglés, español y portugués son los tres idiomas oficiales de la misma, sin orden de jerarquías. Sin embargo, la misma historia ha condicionado que, de hecho, el inglés funcionara como primer idioma, debido en parte a aquel paradigma que nuestro presidente saliente, Tom Holloway, ha llamado "the ethnocentric US vs. the exotic Other." Por ello, en este primer informe mío les relataré parte de la historia de LASA, y algunas medidas que empezamos a implementar para transformar estratégicamente a la Asociación. Dados los hechos de los últimos 35 años, sin embargo, volveré al idioma que ha imperado en nuestro ámbito, como proceso de narratividad y de historicación de lo que hemos sido.*

LASA was founded in the mid-1960s, when Area Studies was the vogue in U.S. academia—a focus that originated in the years after World War II. The development of Area Studies was partly a response to the increasing global influence of the United States, and to inadequacies about the U.S.'s understanding of the world in the context of the Cold War. Federal funding encouraged this trend, which grew throughout the 1950s and exploded after the Cuban revolution. Increased interest in Latin America in the 1960s was partly responsible for the explosive growth of scholars wanting to specialize on Latin American issues and, as a consequence of this same growth, for the founding of LASA.

The political complexity of this decade radicalized many students, who, in their turn, traveled to Latin America, threw their own energies into support of popular struggles on the continent, and then returned to the U.S. to obtain their graduate degrees and initiate academic careers. As a consequence, LASA shifted from a more positivist attitude in its early origin, where there was a clear "us" and "them" divide, to one of solidarity with the struggles and issues of Latin American peoples, where members of LASA saw themselves, not just as academics, but also as activists, agents of solidarity with the various struggles south of the border.

Nonetheless, a sense still remained that somehow North America was different from Latin America. The political divide had been breached, but a cultural divide continued to exist and establish basic parameters: Latin America was "down there," not "up here."

Recent developments, generated in many ways by the work of dedicated Latin Americanists during the past four decades, have

challenged these simplistic assumptions and thrown into question the very nature of Area Studies. The notion, for example, that the world can be divided into knowable, self-contained "areas of study" has come into question in the wake of postmodern approaches about population and cultural movements across regions and nations. Demographic shifts, diasporas, labor migrations, the movements of global capital and media, and processes of cultural circulation and hybridization have brought into question the nature of areas' identities or composition. These questionings have, in turn, had an expression in the transformations taking place across the board in U.S. academic circles, where many native Latin American scholars now teach in various fields on U.S. campuses, and interdisciplinary studies have encouraged a rapid breakdown of distinct and stable areas, with congruent cultural, linguistic or geographical identities.



*LASA President Arturo Arias*

And yet, despite this process, LASA has not changed structurally nor administratively. As a result, whereas many of its members have been on the cutting-edge of the process of questioning Area Studies and challenging assumptions about their basic premises, the associations that houses them continues to operate within those very parameters that their most dynamic members have exposed as lapsed, biased, or the heritage of outdated American policy in the developing world. Because of this, many of you think that the role of an organization such as LASA is just to organize good congresses, and nothing else. In general, what I'd be advocating is partly a change in style, and partly a change in identity. LASA is much bigger, much more

heterogeneous, much more international than ever, with loads of fascinating people working from many angles. Rather than a small club, where we all know the basics and just want news of the latest application deadline, I think LASA is the way to construct a much more pluralized and dynamic role for and within this sprawling community.

Thus, LASA has to rethink its own role in the context of the fluid transformations of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, re-position itself as an institution in regards to these many complex issues, and transform its *modus operandi* so as to dynamize its own administrative elements and make them more flexible and far-reaching at a moment when technological innovations and dramatic changes in the world as a whole re-position all relationships, exchanges, and flows of knowledge within the Americas. Yet, at the same time, Area Studies have been affected by financial retrenchment as support for specialized faculty and library resources has become increasingly scarce. Therefore, LASA has not only the need to

rethink its structure and composition so as to better respond to these new times, but it has to do so with fewer resources and with the threat of even scarcer ones in the future. These seemingly contradictory dynamics make it all the more critical that this process be launched as soon as possible, before both the new parameters of knowledge and the new paradigms of academic financing make it tragically late to do so.

I believe that LASA should, in these times, play a more vital role in dealing with the new issues of globalization and free trade that are fast emerging throughout the Americas. These are not only economic issues. They also have social, political and cultural consequences for the populations on both sides of the hemispheric divide. Thus, LASA should, at the least, be able to elaborate:

- Analyses of present conditions in Latin America;
- Meaningful research on crucial issues affecting Latin America.

In fact, I believe that all international organizations such as LASA should play a more active role—as a dynamic expression of academic vigor—in regional debates that affect the immediate future of all the nations of the hemisphere around political, economic and cultural issues.

The signing in mid-2001 of the Montréal agreements about the creation of a Free Trade Agreement for the Americas will change the geopolitics and the geoculture of the entire continent. We have heard about protests against globalization such as the ones that took place in both Seattle and Geneva, and even a few, more nuanced ones about the differences between globalization and neoliberalism. Yet, except for some brief excerpts of the Porto Alegre Forum, there is no elaboration of new ideas, nor enough substance in emerging plans of action, coming from any serious institution representative of brain trusts or academic knowledge, anywhere in the Americas. It is thus my belief that academic organizations such as LASA, FLACSO, CLACSO, FELAFACS and other Latin American and Pan American institutions should not only publish books, organize congresses and propose papers as a routine matter, but should also take an active role in the elaboration of a new way of thinking about the Americas, as a consequence of the coming transformations and modifications that promise to change forever the geopolitical landscape as we have known it in the hemisphere throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In that which specifically concerns LASA, and taking the Latin American Free Trade Agreement, ALCA 2005, as a point of departure, the Association should be able to come up with at least a minimum number of position statements, even when they are elaborated by a small representative group of its own membership. Based on its own analyses and research, it should elaborate proposals to be circulated in the public sphere that could be available to both Latin American governments and non-governmental organizations, as a source upon which to devise new policies, implement new measures, or recognize the inherent dangers implicit in some of the hastily approved clauses or regulations pertaining to the rapid creation of the largest free trade area in the world.

Thus, among the many elements that can come out of a strategic modification of LASA, and of its reactivation as an institutional

source of research and information, the following are certainly possibilities for the short-term future:

–Transformation of LASA into a sort of “think tank,” so as to have so a more vital role in dealing with the new issues of globalization and free trade issues throughout the Americas.

–Elaboration of a study on working conditions of academics residing in Latin America, with the goal of establishing mechanisms that would create both support as well as exchange programs.

–Invitation of non-academic Latin Americans who have distinguished themselves in other endeavors to participate in LASA Congresses.

–Inclusion of Latino communities from the cities in which a Congress takes place by organizing tours of their communities, artistic presentations or some other form of organic activity that brings together the community and the Congress.

–Some sort of pedagogical support for high school teachers so as to help them incorporate Latin American Studies into their curriculum.

–Incorporation of undergraduate students and selected high school students from the city in which a Congress takes place.

–Creation of a program to select outstanding graduate students to spend a year in Latin America doing research.

–Inclusion of US Latino issues, as well as questions of “dual” or multiple territorialities, in what gets designated as “Latin” America.

–Coordination of LASA’s efforts with other Associations, such as the American Studies Association, so as to deal with contemporary challenges such as immigration.

–To create a space on the LASA web page soliciting input on the Strategic Plan from all members during a certain period of time.

–To request that all sections’ boards elaborate a brief report with their respective input on strategic ideas for the Association.

LASA could very well articulate these forms of research with the SSRC and other organizations, making it easier to finance the publication of original research. Among the many possibilities for joint research, we can easily think of the following:

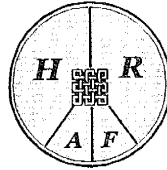
- Migrations;
- New juridical-political order;
- Comparisons between North and South about issues such as public education and human rights;
- Establishing the difference between economic citizenship, political citizenship and cultural citizenship.

These collective dossiers would be easier to both publish in book form, as well as circulate on the web, thus making the material easily available to institutions and individuals of the Americas needing precise data to form policies, organize opposition, alter contractual terms, etc. This would in turn, transform the U.S. academic community (now comprised of many Latin American citizens and Latino scholars) into one more dynamically and organically involved in the transformation and well-being of both their country of residence and the locales of their cultural roots.

It would be wonderful to have the membership’s opinion on many of these issues. A small percentage of members did receive last April a questionnaire as part of our effort to get a better sense of

what the membership is thinking. Most of you, however, might rightly assume that your word has no place in LASA's management or in changing the Association's order of things. Wrong. It matters a great deal, and we want to hear it more and more, so that the new 21<sup>st</sup> century LASA truly reflects the thinking of its members, and not just the whims of a small coterie of academics who are not afraid nor shy to speak out.

Please write to me and tell me what you think. My email is <arturo\_arias@redlands.edu> and all LASA members are welcome to contact me in whichever language, and share your ideas. *Escriban por favor. Es crucial mantener este contacto fluido con todos los miembros, e igualmente crucial que la membresía se reapropie de la Asociación que los representa. Por su aporte dinámico y continuo, muchas gracias.*



## Report from the Task Force on Human Rights and Academic Freedom, 2000-2001

by John L. Hammond, Chair

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This is my last report as chair and the last report from the Task Force. The LASA Executive Council, following the recommendation of the Task Force, voted at the Washington congress to replace the Task Force with a permanent Committee on Academic Freedom and Human Rights, with the following purposes:

1) to alert the association in general, especially the Executive Council, to violations of academic freedom and human rights that may occur in the hemisphere;

2) to respond to requests for LASA statements in support of those whose academic freedom or human rights have been violated or threatened by drafting statements for the consideration of the president, the Executive Council, and/or the business meeting;

3) to educate the LASA membership on issues of human rights and academic freedom by commissioning articles for the *LASA Forum*, by sponsoring sessions at the Congress, through the website, and by other means.

The work of the committee will be much the same as that of the task force; but it will now be a permanent committee and not have to be renewed by each new president. The statement of purpose reflects an evolution in the task force's activity in recent years to emphasize education while continuing to recommend responses to urgent situations of violation. (A similar expansion of focus has occurred in the human rights movement worldwide, especially in Latin America).

In the last eighteen months the task force has recommended to the president and council that LASA sign an advertisement in the Guatemalan press calling for justice in the trial of the accused

planners of the murder of anthropologist Myrna Mack in 1989; the task force sponsored three sessions at the 2001 Congress, two on general human rights topics cosponsored with the Section on Politics, Culture and Power and one (organized by task force member Linda Rabben) on the controversy surrounding Napoleon Chagnon and the Yanomami Indians of Venezuela; and the chair continued to solicit and coordinate articles on human rights topics for the *LASA Forum*.

As I step down from the chair after three terms, I am happy to leave the new committee under the capable direction of George Vickers, longtime task force member and until recently Executive Director of the Washington Office on Latin America.

*[LASA President Arturo Arias, on behalf of the LASA membership, has extended his profound gratitude to Jack Hammond for his years of faithful service to the association and to the profession. Arias also has made the following appointments to the new Committee on Academic Freedom and Human Rights:*

*Committee members named for three years:*

*Charles Call <ccall99@earthlink.net> <ccall@brown.edu>  
Clara Arenas <avandire@mail.concyt.gob.gt>  
Alvaro Camacho <rmcpq662@telefonica.net.co>  
Emilienne De León <estrategia@laneta.apc.org>  
Flavia Piovesan <piovesan@dialdata.com.br>*

*Committee members named for 18 months:*

*Carlos Basombrio Iglesias <carlosb@idl.org.pe>  
Esther Whitfield <whitfiel@fas.harvard.edu>  
Judith Adler Hellman <jhellman@yorku.ca>  
Linda Rabben <lrabben@igc.org>*

# The Creation of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Literature and Arts of Central America A Declaration of Regional Solidarity in the "Post War" Era

by Hilda Chacón

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In October 2001, thirty students from all over Central America arrived in Heredia, Costa Rica, Central America, ready to play their role as the first group of graduate students in the *Doctorado Interdisciplinario en Letras y Artes en América Central* (DILAAC), an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Literature and Arts of Central America. The Ph.D. program is hosted by the *Universidad Nacional* (UNA), National University of Costa Rica.

The opening of the regional program culminates several years of local and international efforts to create a new curricular opportunity for young minds following the various struggles of citizens of Middle America during the last decades. In the words of the creator of the project and its most enthusiastic promoter, Dr. Magda Zavala, "The *Doctorado* is a declaration of solidarity in the post-war times". Fourteen of the thirty students who compose the graduate student body of the *Doctorado* have received scholarships granted by the Norwegian Council for Higher Education's Programme for Development Research and Education (NUFU). The other sixteen students have obtained some financial aid from the *Doctorado* that covers the moving expenses from their native countries to Costa Rica, where the cost of living is by far the highest in the region.

Dr. Zavala is currently the *Doctorado* Director and has recently joined the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). She states, "We perceived the necessity to originate a high level Ph.D. program enabling young scholars in the region to further develop curricula in Central American universities without having to incorporate themselves into the academic Diaspora that characterizes our times".

The new Ph.D. program seeks to provide academic support for research in language, literature, arts, and religious studies of post-war Central America enhancing its historico-social connections with Latin America and the rest of the world. According to Dr. Zavala, "The *Doctorado* is interested in unraveling scholarly research to publish articles locally and internationally about the legacies of the war period of the 1980s and the effects of the current presence of multinational cultural industries in the area. We want to promote high-level academic investigation from a local perspective. The 'post-modern' scholar in the peripheral countries must observe closely the local re-interpretations of the globalization process and its imagery. We must theorize about the globalization process while closely observing local responses to 'global' issues. These local re-interpretations, reappropriations, and/or reactions occur through a 'negotiation of cultural terms,' as Homi H. Bhabha points out, between highly industrialized and less industrialized

cultures. During this process diverse cultural artifacts are generated".

Students registered in the *Doctorado* are committed to bringing excellence to the programs they develop at their native universities. The thirty graduate students come from four universities in Central America: *Universidad de El Salvador* (UES); *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua* (UNAN-Managua, and UNAN-León); *Universidad Rafael Landívar* (URL), Guatemala; *Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí* (UNACHI), Panama. The program also has enrolled students from the two major state universities in Costa Rica: *Universidad Nacional* (UNA); and *Universidad de Costa Rica* (UCR).

The curriculum of the *Doctorado* has an interdisciplinary approach that permits students to develop in-depth research in one of the main areas of specialization, or *Menciones*, in order to complete their Ph.D. The three main areas of specialization are Linguistics, Literature, and Cultural Studies. The specialization in Linguistics concentrates on three areas: 1) Linguistic Variations in Central American Spanish; 2) Indigenous Languages of Central America; and 3) Theory of Linguistics. The specialization in Literature also emphasizes three areas: 1) Literature and Semiotics of Culture; 2) Spanish American Literature; and 3) Central American Literature. The specialization in Cultural Studies features two major areas of emphasis: 1) Cultural Studies in Music; and 2) Cultural Studies in Arts.

The initial project that eventually developed the *Doctorado* program was written by Dr. Zavala in 1999 when she presented her academic proposal, *Patrimonio cultural e identidades*, to the Norwegian Council for Higher Education's Programme for Development Research and Education (NUFU) and obtained the funding needed for its implementation. In November 2001, the *Consejo Nacional de Rectores de Costa Rica* (CONARE) approved the project, and accredited the *Universidad Nacional* to host the Ph.D. program. The *Doctorado* is a curricular extension of the *Maestría en Estudios de Cultura Centroamericana* (MECC), chaired by Dr. Zavala since 1996.

There also exists a *Comité Internacional de Apoyo Académico*, composed of professors from universities in other parts of the world who are committed to support the *Doctorado*, the Central American academy, and research in general on literature and cultural studies of Central America. Committee members from the USA include Dr. Marc Zimmerman, University of Illinois, Chicago; Dra. Oralia Preble Niemi, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; Dr. Rafael Lara, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; Dr. Maureen Shea, Tulane University; Dr. Nicasio Urbina,



Tulane University; as well as Dr. Julio Torres Recinos, University of Saskatchewan. Also included are European scholars Dr. Martin Lienhard, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Dr. Neus Carbonell, Universitat de Vic, Catalonia, Spain; Dr. Claire Pailler, Université de Toulouse Le Mirail, France; Dr. Astvaldur Astvadsson, University of Liverpool, England; and Dr. Werner Mackenbach, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, in Frankfurt and Main, Germany. Other committee members from Latin America include Dr. María Noel Lapoujade, *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*; Dr. José Maristany, *Universidad de La Pampa*, Argentina; and Dr. Dolores Torres, *Instituto de Historia Nicaragüense*, Nicaragua.

The International Committee will render support for the *Doctorado* by exchanging ideas and providing curricular feedback. The members will also deliver speeches at the *Universidad Nacional* (UNA) main campus and supervise the dissertation writing process when requested by the *Doctorado* Director. According to Dr. Zavala, the *Doctorado* is a reality today thanks to the generosity of international scholars, organizations,

and universities, as well as to the great teamwork of her colleagues in Central America and at the *Universidad Nacional* (UNA). By interacting with an interdisciplinary and multinational group of scholars, students at the *Doctorado* will gain expertise in the everyday tasks of a graduate program, enabling them to further develop existing programs at their native universities.

The *Doctorado* aims to make meaningful contributions to the academic debate worldwide on culture, languages, and literatures of Central America in the context of globalization. One innovative aspect of this Ph.D. program is its commitment to analyze cultural events from a regional perspective. This leaves behind the traditional scholarly endeavor of analyzing culture from national perspectives only. The new Ph.D. program is engaged in the task of building a solid tradition of regional scholarship and curriculum development, which will facilitate an open and fruitful dialogue between Central Americanists from the area and experts in Central America from all over the world. "The *Doctorado* also aims to cooperate in achieving egalitarian peace and justice for Central Americans," Dr. Zavala concluded.

## Area Studies in a Global Age

by Peter H. Smith

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These times have been hard on area studies. Funding is down: the U.S. Department of Education allocates roughly 0.2 percent of its annual budget to international education, and Title VI spending, despite recent increases, is still 17 percent lower in constant dollars than in 1967. Student interest is down: merely 8 percent of college students are studying foreign languages, less than half the share as in the mid-1960s. And perhaps most galling of all, intellectual recognition is down: in an era of fast-paced globalization, concentration upon a geographical area seems obsolete and narrow-minded.

September 11 might change much of this. As the U.S. prepared its military campaign in Afghanistan, Washington was (apparently) surprised to discover a lack of expertise on Central Asia. In 1998, America's student enrollment in Pashto was zero; for Farsi, it was 614. Academic studies of Osama bin Laden and/or Al Qaeda are almost nonexistent. The Bush administration thus assumes the formidable task of "nation-building" in Afghanistan in an intellectual vacuum. There is a growing awareness, much belated, that something needs to be done. What that will mean in practice is another matter.

In the meantime, the study of Latin America has fared better (or less badly) than other fields. This benign fate is due to geographical proximity, cultural interpenetration, the accessibility of languages—and the idea that Latin America, as a showcase for neoliberal reform, would be a good place to make money. Yet the question remains: Is Latin American studies a truly viable field?

### On Area Studies

Area studies (and Latin American studies) accelerated sharply after World War II. This was in direct response to changing global realities: the emergence of the United States as a superpower, the decolonization of erstwhile European empires, and—most importantly—the outbreak of the Cold War. As the third world became the central arena for U.S.-Soviet competition, Washington came to see the importance of knowing both the enemy and the battleground. Not by coincidence, the National Defense Education Act was passed by Congress within months of the Soviet launching of Sputnik in 1958.

Area studies thus became part of the U.S. arsenal for fighting the Cold War. It was ironic, and perhaps predictable, that so many students supported by NDEA largess became sympathetic to the revolutionary movements they were supposed to help prevent. At the same time, a substantial number of Latin Americanists gladly endorsed U.S. policies; the most conspicuous example, but not the only one, was the ill-fated Project Camelot.

Area specialists developed a number of defining attributes: empathy for the areas and peoples under study; a broad commitment to interdisciplinary work, with particular emphasis on politics and culture; an insistence on field research and command of local languages; and cultivation of close links to local scholars.

These were praiseworthy commitments. But in practice, they often yielded unwitting consequences: the acceptance of national

(or regional) myths of exceptionalism, a resistance to comparison, an embrace of exoticism and an exaggerated emphasis on cultural factors.

## The Challenges

Area studies now confront three major challenges: the ending of the Cold War, a widespread fascination with the process of "globalization," and changing trends within the academic world.

### 1) The Ending of the Cold War

At first blush, the ending of the Cold War seemed to eliminate the need for area studies. There were no superpower rivals, there was no global contest for supremacy—so there was no use for area specialists. As Francis Fukuyama suggested, the United States had won hearts and minds in the "developing world" (a.k.a. the third world). The ideal of liberal democracy had triumphed, American popular culture was sweeping the world, ideology no longer mattered. Everyone wanted to be just like us.

Besides, investments in area studies had shown uneven results. The CIA—the institutional bastion of area studies with the U.S. power structure—had failed to predict or prevent such major events as the collapse of the Soviet Union or the attacks of September 11. And in Latin America, area studies had produced nothing but vociferous critics of U.S. foreign policy. And who needed that?

### 2) The Process of Globalization

Celebrated by pundits everywhere, the process of globalization is seen as an essentially economic phenomenon. It is driven by market forces that are universal, uniform, omnipotent—and, in the minds of many, ultimately beneficial. There might be short-term inequities but in the long run, the publicists claim, the rising tides of capitalist development will lift all boats.

Economists have become the high priests of this process. Politics is reduced to secondary status; it is a consequence of economic change. Free trade produces free politics. The greater the level of globalization—or, for individual countries, the greater the level of integration with the global economy—the greater the level of political democracy.

Happily for Washington and Wall Street, this interpretation has a geopolitical corollary: Who leads the process of economic globalization also leads the world community; ergo, the hegemony of the United States is a natural and logical outcome.

### 3) Trends in Academia

There have been internal challenges as well. Within the social sciences, one has come from the emergence of game theory and rational choice. Essentially, this approach is based on the assumption that individuals act "rationally" in pursuit of given objectives—within an established context of institutional incentives and actions by other players.

In principle, rational choice could be thoroughly compatible with area studies. In practice it tends not to be, since practitioners tend to assume their knowledge of actors' interests (or, in the prevailing idiom, their preference structures). With that in hand, they can then deduce a series of "rational" actions (rational, at least, according to their criteria). So there is no need to study languages, no need to interview people, no need to conduct field research. Ironically, rational choice has become a preeminent paradigm within political science, the field that was once a comfortable home for many area specialists.

A second challenge has come from cultural studies—or, more precisely, from particular versions of cultural studies. This may seem strange because, as a genre, cultural studies is closely akin to area studies. My concern, however, lies in the tendency to focus on the roles and meanings of "social constructs"—on the interpretations of *observers*, rather than on the substance of *what is being observed*. Taken to its logical conclusion, this approach can eliminate (or at least reduce) the need for first-hand observation. And without that, there is no area study as we have come to know it.

A third challenge stems from a widespread emphasis, or perhaps re-emphasis, on conventional disciplines. Interdisciplinary work has come to be viewed as "undisciplined" (in another sense of that word). We are jacks of all trades but masters of none. The farther we stray from our original disciplines, it is said, the less rigorous our scholarship. (And the consequence, as one colleague acidly remarked, is a systematic "cross-sterilization of the disciplines.") It is perhaps in reflection of this view that, at the end of the day, deans and provosts tend to support mainstream departments rather than interdisciplinary programs.

## What to Do?

So where does this leave Latin American studies? And area studies in general? I see three broad alternatives.

**Option 1: Retreat.** One possibility, in the face of these assaults, is to withdraw from the field—or retreat to our departments (or join a business school). If everyone adopts this course, it is tantamount to surrender.

**Option 2: Attack.** We can denounce the process of globalization or even deny its existence. We can wage polemics against rational choice, economics, and other obscurantist tendencies. This can be useful so long as the critiques are constructive and substantive.

**Option 3: Advance.** A third alternative would be to move forward—to continue with area studies, to do it as well as we possibly can, and to demonstrate its continued value and relevance. As we do so, let me suggest some modest guidelines:

- Let us rethink the concept of "area"—recalling that the term "Latin America" was first coined by France in pursuit of geopolitical interests. What do we mean by our region of study? How is it defined? (At a glance, we see that nomenclature can be quixotic—with labels such as "the Pacific Rim," which implies common attributes in



societies that share a large body of water, or “the former Soviet Union,” which links countries together under a rubric that no longer exists.)

- Promote cross-regional comparison—despite its inherent difficulty. This might take the form of collaborative projects.
- Employ new methods as appropriate—rather than reject them. My own view is that the study of “rational choice” is a method, not a theory (as some of its proponents claim). And it can be useful in unraveling puzzles. We should use such techniques if they help us to solve the problems at hand.

- Examine and de-compose the whole idea of globalization, including its many and facile assumptions; explore the differential effects (and limitations) of globalization, its cultural and social variations, and the persistence of ideas and politics. As current events now demonstrate, Latin America is fast becoming the world’s most conspicuous locale for compelling and powerful critiques of the globalization syndrome.

Perhaps most importantly, we should stand our ground on the integrity of our subject matter and approach—in particular, on the issue of interdisciplinarity. Complex questions require multiple methodologies. Let us remember this fundamental point.

This may be a difficult time for area studies—but an exciting one as well. ■



## ON LASA 2003

### A Note from the Program Chair

by María Rosa Olivera-Williams

University of Notre Dame

lasa.lasa.1@nd.edu

LASA Congress program chairpersons in the past have generally initiated their communications in the *Forum* by remarking on the continuity between the accomplishments of the present LASA International Congress and the preparations for the next Congress that, in our case, would be the LASA Congress in Dallas, Texas, scheduled for March 27-29, 2003. Nevertheless, the tragic deaths that stunned our nation with the collapse of the twin towers into flaming metal, rubble and dust on September 11th have altered the passage of time. The atrocious events have created a symbolic chasm, a before and after, in the nation’s collective memory.

In the months following eleventh of September, many of us have reflected on notions of courage, cowardice, betrayal, oppression and deceit. Furthermore, we have hopefully become more aware of the marginal elements of our society, their urgent plight. Shock and urgency drive us to gather, to exchange ideas and to reflect on our roles as scholars working on Latin America. The LASA Congress in Dallas, Texas, will be an excellent home for the enriching and scholarly exchanges on Latin America in a “globalized era”.

The 2003 LASA Congress will explore the theme, “The Global and the Local: Rethinking Area Studies from Below.” This ideological orientation, proposed by LASA President, Arturo Arias and unanimously supported by the Program Committee and myself, has become increasingly more important in view of the events of September eleventh. Most of us in both the Social Sciences and the Humanities have experimented with

transnational thematizations of the field, as well as with transdisciplinary approaches to our field in the last decade. However, as the category of “globalization” continues to advance in many directions, we realize that little work has been done in rethinking current theoretical parameters from below. As a result, we believe that the time has come for a radical restructuring of what was previously understood as “the national popular” space, and for the need to explore how “popular blocs” can potentially emerge in the face of a globalized hegemony. In this context, examining Latino contributions regarding these invisible boundaries in the last ten years proves significant. Analyzing the impact of Latino migratory movement within North American culture is also of particular importance in this sense, as is the revision of older concepts that appear much less in present-day scholarship, such as that of “minority” and “citizenship.” Nevertheless, the theme of the Congress is not meant to exclude other topics; all topics and points of view are welcome and encouraged.

In the Call for Papers that you received with the last issue of the *LASA Forum*, the names of the Program Committee members appear, representing the wealth of interests reflected in LASA’s membership. Eight new Tracks have been created, for a total of twenty-seven Tracks, demonstrating the dynamic nature of the Association. I am confident that you will also recognize the first-rate team of scholars serving as Track Chairs. I am truly grateful to LASA President, Arturo Arias, LASA 2001 Program Chair, Philip Oxhorn and the various LASA Sections, who nominated possible

Track Chairs. My gratitude to Philip Oxhorn extends beyond his important assistance in the formation of the Program Committee. His excellent recommendations about program database construction and data entry will facilitate correct listings in the Congress program booklet and will make the job of the LASA Program Office at the University of Notre Dame much easier.

I would like to remind people that the names of the Track Chairs were provided for your information only, and that all panel and paper proposals should be sent directly to the LASA2003 Program Office at the University of Notre Dame. On behalf of the Program Committee and myself, we very much look forward to working with you so that LASA2003 will be as successful as past Congresses. ■



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

### NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR 2003 SLATE

Deadline: *June 1, 2002*

LASA members are invited to suggest nominees for Vice President and three members of the Executive Council, for terms beginning May 1, 2003. Criteria for nomination include professional credentials and previous service to LASA. Candidates must have been a member of the Association in good standing for at least one year prior to nomination. Biographic data and the rationale for nomination must be sent by *June 1, 2002* to: Professor Ileana Rodriguez (Ohio State University), chair, LASA Nominations Committee, 1024 Oberlin Drive, Columbus OH 43221. Telephone: 614-292-8858; Fax: 614-292-7726; E-mail: [rodriguez.89@osu.edu](mailto:rodriguez.89@osu.edu).

The winning candidate for Vice President will serve in that capacity until October 31, 2004, and then as President for an additional eighteen months. Executive Council members will serve a three-year term from May 1, 2003, to April 30, 2006.

Additional members of the Nominations Committee are: María de los Angeles Torres, DePaul University; W. George Lovell, Queen's University; Florencia Mallon, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Daniel Mato, Universidad Central de Venezuela; Jennifer Schirmer, Harvard University; and Cynthia Steele, University of Washington.

### CALL FOR SILVERT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: *May 20, 2002*

The Kalman Silvert Award Committee invites nominations of candidates for the year 2003 award. The Silvert Award recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America. The Award is given every 18 months. Past recipients of the Award were:

John J. Johnson (1983)	George Kubler (1992)
Federico Gil (1985)	Oswaldo Sunkel (1994)
Albert O. Hirschman (1986)	Richard Fagen (1995)
Charles Wagley (1988)	Alain Touraine (1997)
Lewis Hanke (1989)	Richard Adams (1998)
Victor L. Urquidi (1991)	Jean Franco (2000)
	Thomas Skidmore (2001)

The selection committee consists of Tom Holloway (chair), LASA immediate past president; Franklin Knight and Susan Eckstein, past presidents, and Peter Ward, editor of *LARR*. Nominations should be sent to LASA Executive Director Reid Reading at the LASA Secretariat by *May 20, 2002*. Please include biographic information and a rationale for each nomination.

### CALL FOR BRYCE WOOD BOOK AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: *July 15, 2002*

At each International Congress, the Latin American Studies Association presents the Bryce Wood Book Award to the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in English. Eligible books for the March 2003 LASA International Congress will be those published between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002. Although no book may compete more than once, translations may be considered. Anthologies of selections by several authors or re-editions of works published previously normally are not in contention for the award. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Persons who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to each member of the Award Committee, at the expense of the authors or publishers.

All books nominated must reach *each member* of the Award Committee by *July 15, 2002*. By the month preceding the International Congress, the committee will select a winning book. It may also name an honorable mention. The award will be presented during the LASA2003 business meeting or in a special session, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA membership is not a requirement to receive the award. Members of the 2003 committee are:

Lourdes Martinez-Echazabal, chair  
(University of California, Santa Cruz)  
114 Hagar Ct., Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Jennifer Burtner (Harvard University)  
804 Tucker's Ln., Hingham, MA 02043

Claudia de Lima Costa (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina)  
Rua Gécio de Souza e Silva, 65, Sambaqui  
Florianópolis SC 88051-210, Brasil

Edmund Gordon  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX 78712

Agustin Lao-Montes, Sociology  
732 Thompson Hall, University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003

**CALL FOR PREMIO IBEROAMERICANO  
BOOK AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Deadline: *July 15, 2002*

The *Premio Iberoamericano* is presented at each of LASA's International Congresses for the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in Spanish or Portuguese in any country. Eligible books for the 2003 award must have been published between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002. No book may compete more than once. Normally not in contention for the award are anthologies of selections by several authors or reprints or re-editions of works published previously. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Individuals who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to *each member* of the award committee, at the expense of those submitting the books.

All books must reach each member of the committee by *July 15, 2002*. LASA membership is not a requirement for receiving the award. The award will be presented during the LASA2003 business meeting or in a special session, and the awardee will be publicly honored. Members of the 2003 committee are:

Raúl Bueno-Chávez, chair  
Dartmouth College  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
6072 Dartmouth Hall  
Hanover, NH 03755

Gilberto Arriaza (San Jose State University)  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192

Manuel Angel Castillo  
Colegio de México  
Camino al Ajusco 20  
Pedregal de Santa Teresa  
México DF 14200  
México

Livia Reis (Universidade Federal Fluminense)  
Rua Artur Araripe 77, Apt 301  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22451-020  
Brazil

Victoria Sanford (University of Notre Dame)  
327 North Hill St.  
South Bend, IN 46617-2317

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
LASA MEDIA AWARD**

Deadline: *September 15, 2002*

The Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce its competition for the year 2003 LASA Media Awards for

outstanding media coverage of Latin America. These awards are made every eighteen months to recognize long-term journalistic contributions to analysis and public debate about Latin America in the United States and in Latin America, as well as breakthrough journalism. Nominations are invited from LASA members and from journalists. Journalists from both the print and electronic media are eligible. The Committee will carefully review each nominee's work and select an award recipient. The winner will be honored at the 2003 International Congress. LASA will invite the awardee to submit materials for possible publication in the *LASA Forum*. Recent recipients of the awards have included:

Guillermo González Uribe of *Número*, Bogotá (2001)  
Patricia Verdugo Aguirre of Conama, Chile and  
*Diario 16*, Spain (2000)  
Gustavo Gorriti of *Caretas*, Lima, Peru (1998)  
Julio Scherer of *Proceso* (Mexico City) (1997)  
Horacio Verbitsky of *Página 12*, Buenos Aires, and  
David Welna of National Public Radio (1995)  
Kathy Ellison of the *Miami Herald* and  
*Caretas*, Lima, Peru, Enrique Zileri, editor (1994)  
Alma Guillermoprieto of *The New Yorker* (1992)  
John Dinges of National Public Radio (1991)  
Pamela Constable of *The Boston Globe* (1989).

To make a nomination, please send one copy of the journalist's portfolio of recent relevant work by *September 15, 2002* to:

Gregory Grandin, Chair  
Department of History  
New York University  
53 Washington Square South  
New York, NY 10012

Additional members of the committee are: Beatriz Cortez, California State University at Northridge; Claudia Ferman, University of Richmond; and Carlos Figueroa, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla.

**2003 LASA/OXFAM AMERICA  
MARTIN DISKIN MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP**

Deadline for nomination: *July 15, 2002*

The Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding individual who combines Professor Diskin's commitment to both activism and scholarship.

This distinguished lectureship is made possible largely by a generous contribution from Oxfam America, an organization committed to grassroots work—and one with which Martin Diskin was closely associated. Ricardo Falla, S.J., was the 1998 Diskin Lecturer. Professor Gonzalo Sánchez Gómez of the Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Relaciones Internacionales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, was the Lecturer in 2000. At LASA2001, Professor Elizabeth Lira Kornfeld, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile, delivered the Memorial Lecture.

Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. A nomination should include a statement justifying the nomination, the complete mailing address of the nominee, telephone and fax

numbers, and e-mail address. To nominate a candidate, send these materials no later than *July 15, 2002*, to the chair of the Diskin Lectureship Selection Committee, Professor Tracy Fitzsimmons, Public Administration and Political Science, Shenandoah University, 1460 University Drive, Winchester, VA 22601.

Additional members of the 2003 Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Committee are: Norma Chinchilla, California State University at Long Beach; Victor Montejo, University of California at Davis; Susanne Jonas, University of California at Santa Cruz; and Ray Offenheiser, President, Oxfam America.

### LANIC and FLACSO Collaborate on Databases

The Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC) has entered into an agreement with the prestigious Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), to host nine of the institution's databases on LANIC servers. The databases house thousands of records related to FLACSO activities in the areas of Research, Academic Programs, and Publications. A directory of FLACSO-affiliated researchers and professors is also included. All databases can be searched by full text or by keyword. The user interface, as well as the database records, are in Spanish. You may access the databases by following the link to FLACSO-Bases de Datos in the "On Lanic" sidebar on LANIC's Home Page (<http://lanic.utexas.edu>).

LANIC also announces the release of its new multilingual interface. Users can now change between English, Spanish, and Portuguese with a single click from the Home Page, or from the language options bar adjacent to the LANIC logo on the top of hundreds of the directory pages.

### LASA2001 Papers

*Any of more than 1,000 hard copy papers from LASA2001 may be ordered from the Secretariat. The list of papers on file in the Secretariat in hard copy was mailed with the Fall 2001 issue of the LASA Forum, and the list also appears on the LASA Internet site (click on "Congress Papers" on the Home Page: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>). Please add to the list the following papers, now available:*

**Baer, James A.**, Birds of Passage: Anarchists and Immigration in Spain and Argentina

**Galvan, Delia B.**, Visión panorámica de elementos históricos y políticos en la ficción de Elena Garro.

**Gillezeau Berrios, Patricia**, La bioética en la gestión empresarial

**Merchant, David and Paul Rich**, Porfirio Díaz is Still in Paris

**Nagy Zekmi**, Chicanos y beurs: migrancia y de/reterritorialización

**Parra Sandoval, María Cristina**, Los cambios en las políticas de Educación Superior Venezolana y la profesión académica

**Pérez Montfort, Ricardo**, Cultura popular, identidad y nacionalismo en México 1920-1940

**Queirolo, Graciela A.**, Modernidad y mujeres: las crónicas  
Alfonsina Storni y Roberto Arlt

**Reber, Vera Blinn**, Poverty, Illness and Death: Tubercular Children in Buenos Aires, 1880-1920

**Rodríguez, Florisabel and Silvia Castro Méndez**, Apoyo al sistema político: Algunas reflexiones a la luz del caso de Costa Rica

**Rodríguez López, María Guadalupe**, El porfiriato y los gringos en Durango

**Sánchez Martínez, Eduardo**, Condiciones para una mayor inversión en la universidad pública: el caso de Argentina

**Shifter, Michael and Victoria Wigodzky**, The Deepening Tragedy [in Colombia] Demands Better U.S. Engagement ■



# NEWS FROM LASA

## LASA VOLUNTARY SUPPORT

Your latest opportunity to support the mission of the Association is through the newly-created **LASA Student Fund**. The Fund is a response to the recognized need to facilitate the participation of students in LASA Congresses, and to provide support for future student-related projects. Like the LASA Travel Fund, the Student Fund is not an endowed fund; all contributions received will be expended for the succeeding LASA Congress. However, unlike the Travel Fund, the Student Fund will benefit student participants traveling to the Congresses from locations outside Latin America and the Caribbean. Applications for funding consideration are included with each Congress Call for Papers. Early donors to the **Student Fund** include:

Jeremy Adelman  
Sivia Arrom  
Kathleen Bruhn  
María Elena Cepeda  
Dennis Gilbert  
Michiyo Hayashi  
Amarilis Hidalgo de Jesús

Christopher Lutz  
Scott Mainwaring  
Judith Maxwell  
Lynn Meisch  
Liliana Obregón Tarazona  
Thomas Perreault

Rolando Romero  
Arthur Schmidt  
T.M. Scruggs  
Ximena Sosa-Buchholz  
Alex Westfried  
Angus Wright

Donors to the **LASA Travel Fund** include the following:

Francine A'Ness  
Silvia Arrom  
Deborah Augsburg  
Andres Avellaneda  
Sarah Babb  
María Elena Cepeda  
María Elena Diaz  
Manzar Foroohar  
John Gilderbloom  
Michel Gobat  
Jeffrey Goodwin  
Michiyo Hayashi  
Rodolfo Hernandez Guerrero

Gilbert Joseph  
Amy Kaminsky  
Abraham Lowenthal  
Christopher Lutz  
Kathleen Mahoney-Norris  
Francine Masiello  
Judith Maxwell  
Lynn Meisch  
Liliana Obregón Tarazona  
Francisco Ortega Martínez  
Thomas Perreault  
Stephen Perz

Ana Ramírez Barreto  
Joanne Rappaport  
Keith Richards  
Christopher Sabatini  
Aurora Schmidt Camacho  
Arthur Schmidt  
T.M. Scruggs  
David Slater  
Ximena Sosa-Buchholz  
Millicent Thayer  
Rodrigo Villar  
Angus Wright

**We have more news to share!** Two more of our members recently became LASA Life members: **Scott Mainwaring** and **Gilbert Merlx**. Well-recognized for their dedication of time and expertise to LASA in recent years, Scott as member of the Executive Council and treasurer, and Gil as editor of the *Latin American Research Review*, both have made yet one more major commitment to the Association. We thank them for their support of the Endowment Fund and for future generations of Congress scholars who will benefit.

Our thanks as well to these recent donors to the **General Endowment Fund**:

Silvia Arrom  
Frank Bonilla  
Donald Castro  
Jack Corbett  
Jorge Dominguez  
Johanna Mendelson Forman

Edmundo Fuenzalida  
Michiyo Hayashi  
Lynn Meisch  
Gilbert Merlx  
William Nylen  
David Popper

Miles Richardson  
Aurora Camacho Schmidt  
T.M. Scruggs  
William Waters  
Cliff Welch  
Clarence Zuvekas

And these donors to the **Humanities Endowment Fund**:

María Elena Cepeda  
María Elena Diaz  
Michael Doudoroff  
Michiyo Hayashi

Amy Kaminsky  
Rachel McCleary  
Lynn Meisch  
Corinne Pernet

Ana Ramírez Barreto  
Anton Rosenthal  
T.M. Scruggs

Lastly, our warmest thanks to William Garner for his continuing support of the **John Martz Fund**. For more information on any of the LASA funds please contact the LASA Secretariat at 412-648-1907. ■



## SECTION NEWS

### REPORTS BY LASA SECTIONS

#### Brazil

Ted Young and Maria de Lourdes Alcántara, Co-chairs

At its business meeting, the group unanimously voted to maintain the format of two co-chairs, one from Brazil and one from the United States. Two new co-chairs were elected: Tânia Carvalho, Professor of Comparative Literature at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul; and Marshall Eakin, Professor of History from Vanderbilt University. Leopoldo Bernucci, Professor of Brazilian and Hispanic Literature at the University of Colorado-Boulder, was elected to serve for another term (3 years). Council members elected include: Professors Lúcia Helena Costigan (The Ohio State University), Theodore Young (Florida International University), James Green (California State University), Ivete Lara Walty (PUC, Minas Gerais), and Helena Singer (Latin American student, USP).

The following Award Committees were selected:

**Books:** Jean-Philippe Belleau (Sociology/Anthropology-Sorbonne), Ottman Goetz (Sociology-La Trobe University), Ernst Pijning (Social Sciences-Minot State University), Lawrence Woodward (U.S. Government Printing Office), Jeffrey Lesser (History - Emory University).

**Essays or others:** Jean-Philippe Belleau (Sociology/Anthropology-Sorbonne), Marcelo Justo (student, Social Sciences/Geography-USP), Ivan Teixeira (Literature-USP). Award announcements will be made on January 30, 2002.

The members discussed themes for the Section's four conference panels for 2003, focusing on comparative approaches. Deadlines are November 1 (submission of topics), November 13 (e-mail vote). After November 13 the Section will send by e-mail its "Call for Papers".

#### Business and Politics

Ben Ross Schneider, Chair

The central project for 2000-01 was to develop and manage a website for our Section. Since May 2001 this site has been up and running, and accessible through the main LASA site or directly at <http://www.northwestern.edu/cics/lasa/index.html>. The goal of the website is to facilitate communication and exchange among our 70 or so members between LASA meetings (and to rely on this site rather than communicating through a listserv). The Section site lists all members with their contact information, links to personal websites, and research interests. In addition the site has a growing Section for posting drafts, working papers, and other work in progress. Finally, the website includes links to other sites relevant to research on business in Latin America.

Strom Thacker will chair the Section through the next LASA Congress.

#### Colombia

Leah Carroll, Vice-Chair

The Section's business meeting (attendance 40-50) was co-led by Leah Carroll, Vice-Chair, and Joanne Rappaport, Section President for 3/2000-9/2001. After introductions, we fruitfully brainstormed about Section panels for LASA 2003, ultimately deciding to choose a panel selection committee, then hold a competition early in spring of 2002.

Tico Braun, U. of Virginia, and Marta Zambrano, U. Nacional de Colombia, will be Co-chairs for 9/01-3/03. Leah Carroll and Ann Farnsworth-Alvear will remain Vice-Chairs. These four will choose a council of 10 people, aiming for an equitable representation of genders, disciplines, and national location.

During the past term, we grew as a Section and developed a new website, <http://www.inmarcesibles.org>. The website not only gives information about the Section, but also allows members to enter their names, contact information, areas of research interest, and post their CV. Eventually, this could become a "speakers bureau", to which we could refer the press. The website also contains a "chat room" for discussing current events, etc.

The listserv, now in its fourth year, is used daily and has expanded continuously as word has spread. We also organized three Section panels for LASA 2001 as well as a wildly successful reception.

In the coming term, beyond producing excellent panels for LASA 2003, we'd like to greatly expand use of the website database/directory, to facilitate Colombianist contact with each other. Using the listserv and the website, we'd also like to encourage Colombianists to seek out greater contact with the press.

#### Cuba

Sheryl Lutjens and Lourdes Tabares, Co-chairs

At the end of summer 2001, just prior to the Washington Congress, the Section had more than 300 members. The principal activities of the Section from the Miami to Washington Congresses were the distribution of information to Section members via the list managed by Michael Erisman, and the promotion of the participation of Cuban academics in Washington. Section officers met in Havana at different points during this period, and also held a meeting in Pittsburgh in Fall, 2000. Planning has begun for a second Section-organized research trip to Cuba for interested LASA members (tentatively scheduled for Spring 2002) and our web page should be functioning soon!



Eighty-two Cubans participated in the Congress, with support for travel provided by 14 U.S. universities as well as by LASA and the MacArthur Foundation. MacArthur Foundation funding also facilitated the exhibition of Cuban publications in Washington and allowed 50 Cuban academics to become members of LASA and the Cuba Section. The Section sponsored four very successful panels in Washington (on U.S.-Cuban relations, Cuban cultural journals, the state of Cuban Studies, and community development in Havana). Among the varied activities of Cuban participants before, during, and after LASA, 32 meetings were held in Congress. Thanks are due to Kimberly Stanton for her efforts in organizing the interchange of Cuban academics with NGO's, government officials, and community groups in Washington.

The Saturday evening business meeting included an update on U.S. policies toward Cuba and Section elections. Following norms of shared leadership (half of our elected officers resident in Cuba and half from outside), Lourdes Tabares was reelected and Eloise Linger elected to co-chair the Section, the new Secretary-Treasurer is Elizabeth Iglesias, and the Executive Board includes Milagros Martínez (reelected) and Jorge Hernández from Cuba, and Miren Uriarte (newly elected) and Kimberly Stanton from the United States.

#### **Culture, Power, and Politics**

Daniel Mato, Chair

The Culture, Power, and Politics Section held its business meeting in Washington DC on September 6. Thirty-five members participated in the meeting. The Section board members would like to express their satisfaction with such high attendance. Daniel Mato, former chair of the Section, began by addressing the accomplishments of the Section since its establishment. He stressed the enthusiasm of the members' involvement in each decision-making step soon after the Section was created and added. To maintain such membership participation is one of the greatest challenges for the new board. Participants discussed briefly the need to generate mechanisms to encourage greater involvement in the election of new board members. Board members proposed different activities the Section could sponsor. We evaluated the possibility of organizing a Section pre-conference and we agreed on consulting members via e-mail on various formats for this event. We also considered the goal of starting a publication and it was agreed that the new board will work actively on this issue. We presented the results of the Section elections conducted electronically. A total of 31 members submitted their votes. Claudia Lima Costa was elected vice-chair; Ana Wortman, elections coordinator; and Mirna Yonis-Lombano, Treasurer. Steve Wiley, Mirta Antonelli, and Carmen A. Ferradás will continue on the board for another year.

Once the business meeting was adjourned, members were invited to stay for a Section reception. The party was a success in that it provided an excellent opportunity to meet with each other again and exchange further ideas on the future of our Section in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

#### **Decentralization & Sub-national Studies**

Eliza Willis and Ed Gomez, Co-chairs

The Decentralization and Subnational Studies Section held its first business meeting at LASA 2001. Ten Section members, including presiding Section co-chairs Eduardo Gómez and Eliza Willis, were in attendance. Although recently established, the Section already has a membership of 83. At LASA 2001 the Section sponsored its first panel entitled Policymaking, Politics and the Subnational Level as well as a reception for the members. Members attending the business meeting elected four new Section committee members, voted to change the name of the Section, and discussed several future initiatives to be implemented over the next academic year. The new committee members are Al Montero (Carleton College), Alex Ginsberg (New School), Richard Syder (University of Illinois), and Peter Spink (Fundação Getúlio Vargas). Several of those present suggested that changing the word "governance" to "studies" would convey more accurately the multidisciplinary character of the study of decentralization in Latin America. Maria Escobar-Lemon (Texas A&M) offered to create a listserv for Section members. Eduardo Gómez offered to organize the publication of an annual electronic newsletter with review essays, a list of recent doctoral dissertations and publications focusing on decentralization, and related information of interest to Section members. The possible creation of a website for the Section was also proposed. Attending members agreed to establish a \$100 prize for the best paper on decentralization written specifically for and presented at LASA2001 by a Section member. All Section members are invited to submit qualified papers for consideration for this prize by March 20, 2002.

#### **Defense, Democracy & Civil-Military Relations**

Raúl Benitez Manaut, Chair

The Section meeting was attended by 30 members. Members agreed to increase the future activities of the Section. The first year and a half in which I was responsible for the Section, its regularization was achieved within the organizational schemes of LASA. The announcements in *LASA Forum* and in the member renewal forms elicited the participation of 21 members for the 2001-2003 period, and 94 members for the year 2001. The Section now has 115 members, in addition to other interested persons who attended the meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

In the meeting we reached the following agreements:

- 1) To transform the leadership structure from one chair to two co-chairs, preferably one from the United States and the other from Latin America.
- 2) To conduct an election via e-mail to select these two members. The organizers of the election procedure were Professor Sam Fitch and I, because neither of us was a candidate for the position.

The tasks of those elected include the following:

- 1) To stimulate the inclusion of young scholars in the Section and their participation as lecturers in the meetings of the Section and in the LASA Congresses.

2) To include scholars in areas related to peace and security. After the events of September 11, we think it is appropriate to include the study of responses to terrorism in democratic settings

3) To organize a day-before meeting at the next LASA Congress

4) To co-organize panels in the regular LASA Congress

5) To organize a web-page.

We also agreed to accept in the Section those LASA members who attended the meeting of September 8th, but had not paid the Section membership fee. These members agreed to pay in the next annual LASA payment. These members will have the right to vote to select the Co-chairs. Johanna Mendelson and Hector Saint Pierre were elected in an electronic election in the last days of October.

### **Estudios Ecuatorianos**

Brian R. Selmeski, Chair

La Sección de Estudios Ecuatorianos realizó su primera reunión de la membresía en Washington, con la asistencia de treinta personas, donde tomamos varias decisiones, entre ellos: En julio del 2002 realizar en Quito, Ecuador el "Primer Encuentro de Ecuatorianistas", bajo el liderazgo de Adrián Bonilla (FLACSO-Ecuador). Ximena Sosa-Buchholz (U Kansas) ofreció organizar un comité para levantar fondos para auspiciar la participación de cinco ecuatorianistas de pocos recursos a Dallas en 2003 y así reforzar el fondo existente de LASA. Liisa North (York U) planteó la idea de establecer un coordinador de derechos humanos dentro de la Sección para facilitar la reacción de los socios a supuestas violaciones. Melina Selverston Scher (IGC) se encargó de organizar este nuevo puesto que próximamente se lanzará en coordinación con entidades existentes dentro y fuera del Ecuador. Teníamos que elegir tres oficiales nuevos, un coordinador y dos miembros del comité. Pero tomando en cuenta la corta vida actual de la Sección y las labores que enfrentaremos en la organización del Encuentro el próximo año, Jennifer Collins (U San Diego) propuso que mantuviéramos la misma directiva hasta la realización del Encuentro en julio. La propuesta fue unánimemente aprobada. Finalmente, premiamos a Blanca Muratorio (U British Columbia) por sus "Contribuciones Académicas a Estudios Ecuatorianos" y a Marc Becker (Truman State U) por su "Servicio Ejemplar a la Sección". Los dos recibieron una carta de felicitación de la directiva y un bono de compra para libros en la librería Quiteña, Abya-Yala. La acta completa de la reunión y más información acerca de la Sección esta disponible en nuestra nueva página web: [www.ecuatorianistas.org](http://www.ecuatorianistas.org).

### **Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina**

Ruth Sautu, Chair

Durante XXIII Congreso de LASA, la sección Educación y Políticas Educativas en América latina llevó a cabo sesiones y un Business Meeting. En las sesiones se presentaron ponencias en las cuales se discutieron temas vinculados con los procesos de restructuración y reforma educativa; la sociedad civil, el gobierno y la educación en relación a la exclusión social;

políticas de educación; las reformas educativas en Argentina y Chile; la educación post-obligatoria; la violencia contra los niños y en las escuelas de barrios pobres; y los resultados de una investigación comparativa sobre programas para mejorar el aprendizaje. Asimismo, miembros de la sección presentaron ponencias en sesiones donde se discutieron el papel de la universidad pública, las trayectorias profesionales educativas, y el estudio de los roles docentes.

Finalmente, durante la reunión del Business Meeting los miembros presentes decidieron conformar una dirección colectiva de la sección. A tal efecto fueron designados María B. Luce de Brazil ([lucemb@orion.ufrgs.br](mailto:lucemb@orion.ufrgs.br)); Christopher James Martin de México ([chris.martin@mx.britcoun.org](mailto:chris.martin@mx.britcoun.org)); y Silvia Llomovate de Argentina ([sllomova@filo.uba.ar](mailto:sllomova@filo.uba.ar)).

La discusión durante el Business Meeting giró alrededor de diferentes estrategias orientadas a expandir la cobertura de la sección, interesando a educadores e investigadores tanto de Norte América como de América Latina.

### **Gender and Feminist Studies**

Edna Acosta-Belén and Mary Garcia Castro, Co-chairs

The Section held a membership meeting on September 6 at the LASA Congress in Washington DC. About 75 members attended the meeting in which the following agenda was discussed:

1. Membership and budget report.
2. Congress Pre-Conference report by chair, Karin Weyland. About 55 people attended the conference entitled "Feminist Crossovers and Transnational Alliances".
3. Other Congress Section-sponsored sessions and panels in the "Gender and Sexuality" Program Track.
4. Announcement of Section-sponsored awards and new book publication by coordinator Sara Poggio.
5. Discussion of the Elsa Chaney Memorial and the possibility of creating and endowment in her memory. Discussion of a Latin America-based grassroots foundation in her memory.
6. Announcement of a Section-sponsored reception following the Chaney Memorial.
7. Announcement of a new Section web page: [www.albany.edu/celac/gndrhome.htm](http://www.albany.edu/celac/gndrhome.htm)
8. Announcement of newly-elected Section officers for 2002-2003. An election ballot was sent to all U.S. members and to international members without email. Other international members with email addresses received an electronic ballot. About 35 ballots were returned because of unreported address changes.

### **Haiti**

Henry (Chip) Carey, Chair

Over 25 people attended each of the Section-sponsored panels. Moreover, the discussions were very interesting and exciting, if I may say so— in spite of the current situation in Haiti. We held a large business meeting (despite the change in schedule) of over two dozen Section members and some interested Dominicanists

in Washington (before all the recent disastrous events). Members unanimously voted to request LASA to consolidate the Haiti Section into a consolidated Haiti/Dominican Republic Section. We also discussed how to plan the LASA celebration of the bicentennial of Haiti's independence. The LASA President-elect, Arturo Arias, has already expressed his positive response on both counts. As soon as we get formal approval, we will develop a new mission statement.

Patrick Bellegarde-Smith suggested that LASA hold a plenary session "...with historical topics in the vein of 'The Impact of the Haitian Revolution on Latin America, North American and the World,' in which history, economics, and cultural issues would be debated." Patrick also suggested that we propose a resolution to be adopted at the LASA spring 2003 meeting in Dallas.

---Whereas the Republic of Haiti will commemorate two centuries since its Independence was proclaimed, on January 1st, 2004;

---Whereas Haiti, before its creation, had contributed handsomely to the freedom and the aggrandizement of the United States of America, by sending hundreds of its sons to the Battle of Savannah, Georgia, in 1779, and through the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the U.S. in 1803;

---Whereas both Haiti and the United States are the two first states of the Western hemisphere to have achieved their independence, both the result of a widespread Revolution, in 1776 and 1791;

---Whereas Haiti celebrated the American Bicentennial by issuing a stamp in 1976;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Latin American Studies Association, assembled in the City of Dallas, State of Texas, urges the United Postal Service to issue a stamp honoring the Republic of Haiti as close as practicable to January 1st, 2004.

There is also ongoing discussion about scholarly Congresses planned for the bicentennial in Haiti or Cuba; details will be reported at a later date.

There were no nominations for a new chair. There was a motion that I continue as chair, which was approved in principle at the meeting. We anticipate alternating the Section chair with a Dominicanist and then a Haitianist in the future.

#### **Labor Studies**

Hank Frundt, Secretary, for Marta Panaia, Chair

Chairperson Marta Panaia invited members present at the business meeting to suggest ideas for future labor panels that the Section would sponsor for 2003 in Dallas. Suggested themes included: free trade accords and labor impact; industrialization of the countryside; unions and undocumented workers; gender, work and family; immigrants and union relations; the informal sector; union-government interactions; service workers and job protections; unions and cultural/political identity; worker education. In terms of priority, the Section agreed that the following panel themes appeared essential: hemispheric changes in social security migration and unions (with an emphasis on women); unions and economic restructuring

(perhaps emphasizing worker education). It was further agreed that Section-sponsored panels should contain representatives from a variety of countries throughout the hemisphere.

The Section Prize Book Committee received five wonderful nominations. Marta Panaia announced that both *Trabajo y Trabajadores en el México Contemporáneo* by Graciela Bensusán and Teresa Rendón and *Dulcinea in the Factory: Myths, Morals, Men and Women in Columbia's Industrial Experiment* by Ann Farnsworth-Alvear had been selected. Each winner will receive a \$150 award.

Section members discussed some of the communications problems with LASA and between the Chair, Secretary, and Advisory Council. To clarify responsibilities of Section officers, Hank Frundt circulated a proposed set of guidelines which the Section approved. Marta Panaia raised the issue of the Section's relations with other associations in Latin America that study labor issues. Silvio Feldman, President of ALAST, briefly expressed his support for establishing relations between both Associations. The Section endorsed pursuing the establishment of mutual relations.

The Section agreed to continue the design of a website in accordance with the plan developed at LASA2000 in Miami. Marta Panaia announced that she hoped to include a LASA Labor Journal that would be published on the web. She will pursue this possibility.

#### **Latino-America Medio-Ambiente (LAMA)**

Laura Murphy, Chair

The Section has been active in 2000-2001 leading up to a busy 2001 conference and exciting plans and new leadership for the coming year. The Section's primary ongoing activity is the list-serve, Environment in Latin America (ELAN at <http://csf.colorado.edu/elan/>).

For the 2001 Conference, the Section also organized (with Kate Christen), hosted and moderated a special roundtable on "community-based conservation". Featured panelists were: Janice Alcorn, who spoke on Biodiversity Support Program experiences from around the world; Natalia Armijo Canto on agroforestry and conservation in Quintana Roo; David Barkin spoke on "alternatives to mega projects" (and served as impromptu discussant); Margaret Keck gave her perspectives as a political scientist focusing on water management projects in Brazil; and Sigrid Vasconez spoke about grassroots experiences from projects in western Ecuador. The panelists spoke briefly on key issues emerging from their work, and raised challenging questions: What is a community? What is "local participation"? Project managers and designs tend to essentialize "the community," misrepresenting internal diversity and difference.

Environmental themes were prominent at the 2001 conference, with 17 regular sessions in the environment track in addition to the Section-sponsored roundtable: many similar themes of 'community-based' conservation emerged in other sessions.

Additional panels addressing environmental themes were organized under the Agrarian Track.

Also at its 2001 conference business meeting, the Section began planning for LASA 2003, which will be continued through email and over the ELAN listserv. We hope to make good use of an expected two sessions for the Section that will bring together academics and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in a roundtable format to tackle "the border environment" and other themes. The roundtable sessions will be coordinated to complement the regular "environment" Section track sessions. The new Section co-chairs will also investigate the feasibility of a pre-conference involving academics and NGOs to provide more space for presentation and debate on environmental topics. Volunteers interested in helping with this can contact the new Section co-chairs.

It was recommended that LAMA council member Sandy Woy-Hazleton be appointed the next 2004 Environment Track Chair. Members also decided to try to use Section dues to sponsor awards for special service and scholarship awards; supplementary travel awards are also being considered. The first award for special service will go to Don Roper, who has hosted the ELAN listserv (<http://csf.colorado.edu/elan/>).

#### **Latin America and the Pacific Rim** Neanthro Saavedra, Chair

The newly-elected co-chairs of the Section include Sergio Cesarín (Argentina) and Won Ho Kim (Korea). The executive council members include Philip Brenner, Blake Locklin, Kimberly Niles, Neantro Saavedra-Rivano, and Araceli Tinajero.

As the business meeting held on September 8, 2001 was short (by one person) of the required quorum of ten people, we decided to make informal decisions to be confirmed by an e-mail vote. In the vote that followed there were 20 replies in favor of these decisions, 0 against, out of a membership of 57.

#### **Latino Studies** Frances Aparicio, Co-chair

During this last year the Latino/a Studies Section concentrated on programming and the dissertation award.

On programming we were able to organize three Section panels, one in the humanities, another in social sciences and a workshop on Latino Studies and Philanthropy. Two of these were very well attended with over 125 participants each.

Unfortunately the program committee scheduled the workshop at the same time as one of the panels even though the chair of workshop, Torres, was also presenting on a panel. The workshop had been rescheduled as well to yet another day and time. Several of the workshop participants had made the trip exclusively to give the workshop and while we had a fruitful discussion among a small group of participants, it was not what they had expected to find.

This was our second year presenting a dissertation award. A committee of three members reviewed the dissertations submitted and Adrian Burgos was chosen. The award was announced at a Section reception that was attended by over 200 participants.

We also held the Section business meeting. Over 25 persons were in attendance. We gave a brief report from the chairs and discussed upcoming activities for the Section. We have recommended the creation of a public intellectual award for the Section to honor those outside of academia who have contributed to Latino studies. A committee has been set up to further develop this proposal. We also took nominations for co-chairs, dissertation award committee and program chairs for the Latino track.

The web page was updated, but has yet to be reprogrammed.

*Note: The election of the new chairs will be conducted as soon as an electronic glitch is worked out and these will be reported to you as soon as possible.*

#### **Law and Society in Latin America** Victor Uribe and Henry (Chip) Carey, Co-chairs

There were 25 people present at the business meeting. First, we would like to repeat our expressions of gratitude to Carlos Aguirre, who will continue to manage the website and the electronic list for forwarding email correspondence while on leave in Spain this fall. He has been extraordinarily prompt, as well as generous with his time.

We had excellent attendance at our three panels at LASA2001: "Conflictos, violencia y castigos en una perspectiva comparada: Argentina y Mexico, 1850-1930;" "Judicial Access and Functioning;" and a roundtable, "Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Implications of the Pinochet and the Argentine Cases." All were very well attended. Our thanks to the panel organizers, David Parker and Mark Ungar.

The main item of business was to plan our panels for LASA 2003 panels in Dallas. The issue was a bit more complicated than eighteen months ago because of a proposal that the number of panels be changed, as discussed at the Section chairs meeting. However, after some follow-up investigation, we are confident that we will have three panels again. Instead of immediately appointing three panel planning chairs, we decided to appoint just one, Bob Cottrol of George Washington University, who will develop guidelines for a panel on the comparative history of anti-discrimination laws and policies in the hemisphere. He has already mentioned some colleagues to enlist for this project.

We also discussed how we might utilize Section funds, which were not spent at all in the past eighteen months. We formed a committee of five members, Linn Hammergren, Marc Ungar, as well as Bob Cottrol, Victor Uribe and Chip Carey to solicit proposals from the Section on both a) proposals for our two other panels and b) possible subsidies to these panels from

Section funds or other proposals on the use of those funds. Anyone who would like to nominate him or herself as the chair/organizer of either of these two panels should not feel inhibited to do so.

The other order of business was the election of officers. There were no nominees for new officers and a motion that Uribe and Carey continue. Since we have a large number of members, we have left open to the membership the nominations of any officers. To date, we have received no other nominations. So, we presume that the two of us will continue.

### Lesbian and Gay Studies

Florence Babb, Chair

Discussion took place at the Section's business meeting about how the Section can be more active between LASA meetings. One suggestion was to establish a Section listserv; several commented that it should be a moderated listserv. Another suggestion was to place a roster of members on the Section's website, including people's areas of research and contact information.

At the 2001 conference the Section was able to sponsor two panels. Reports were given on each. There was discussion about how to increase attendance at the next conference. It is still unclear how many panels the Section will be able to sponsor at the next conference, although it was assumed that there will be at least two. One Section-sponsored panel will address theoretical/academic issues, and the other will address activism in the local context (i.e., Texas, the site of the next conference). Jorge Quiroga and Laura Gutierrez were elected as the new co-chairs. Amy Lind continues in her three-year term as secretary-treasurer.

A discussion took place about how to allocate funding from the Section's small account, \$876.64 this year. The reception cost almost that full amount. It was agreed that further discussion will take place, via a listserv, about initiating Section awards for papers (academic, policy, and/or activist-oriented) and/or books and dissertations. Dan Balderston and Mary Weismantel agreed to serve on a book award committee, if the Section decides to establish the award.

An initial discussion about changing the Section's name took place. Both LGBT studies and queer studies were considered as options although there were also several hesitations. It was agreed that we will continue the discussion via the listserv.

A suggestion was made to contact Dallas newspapers to report/announce events at the upcoming LASA conference. Larry La Fountain encouraged collaboration with CLAGS at CUNY.

Stanford has a website on sexuality studies in Latin America. Adan Griego, Stanford librarian, offered to place people's papers on this website if they are interested.

### Paraguayan Studies

Teresa Mendez-Faith, Chair

About two-thirds of the Paraguayan Studies membership was in attendance at the Business Meeting in Washington D.C., including two members who traveled from Chile, one from Paraguay, and one from Argentina. During the meeting the following officers were elected: Frank Mora, Chair; Tracy Lewis, Vice-Chair; Beverly Nagel, Secretary/Treasurer; and Russell E. Smith, Brian Turner, Amanda Irwin, and Francisco Bustamante, Council Members.

There were a number of plans for the current LASA cycle decided upon at the meeting: The Section approved a \$250 Travel Grant to be awarded to the best Paraguayan Studies Student Paper submitted for LASA2003. Amanda Irwin, Christina Turner, and Russell E. Smith volunteered to form the paper committee. They will promote the competition and decide upon the winner.

Beverly Nagel has started to work on developing the Section's website, and volunteered to continue as the Section's Webmaster. The Section also approved the amount of \$100 to be spent on a reception or cash bar as part of the Section's Business Meeting.

In the last item of business, there was a guest presentation by Liliana Brezzo on two books she had recently published: *La Argentina y el Paraguay: 1852-1860* (1997), and (co-authored with Beatriz Figallo) *La Argentina y el Paraguay, de la guerra a la integración* (1999).

### Perú

Catherine Conaghan and Julio Carrión, Co-chairs

The Peru Section held its business meeting, chaired by Catherine Conaghan and Julio Carrión, on September 6, with 44 members in attendance.

Section activities over the last period included the participation of a delegation of Section members in election observation during the first round of the 2000 elections in Peru. In July 2000, 78 members of the Section signed a public statement of support for the *Marcha de los Cuatro Suyos* that was distributed to the Peruvian media.

The new executive officers elected at the Washington meeting are Charles Kenney (Chair, University of Oklahoma), Patricia Ledesma (Secretary-Treasurer, Northwestern University). The council members are Lydia Fossa (University of Arizona), Kimberley Theidon (Stanford University), Moises Arce (Louisiana State University) and Gregory Schmidt (Northern Illinois University). In addition, the membership voted to expand the council by including the Section webmasters and outgoing chairs as ex officio members.

Webmasters Mark Cox and Stephanie McNulty briefed members on the latest developments on the Section's web site (<http://>

home.presby.edu/lasaperu). The site currently contains an extensive Section on Peruvian literature. Future plans include an expansion of the links resources and further development of the op-ed Section on Peruvian politics and contemporary issues.

The membership voted to make a contribution of \$500.00 to the fund raising drive of the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos to expand and refurbish its library in Lima. The IEP houses an extensive collection in the social sciences and history.

The formation of a working group to inform members about the efforts of the Peruvian government to seek the extradition of Alberto Fujimori from Japan was also approved.

The Section continues to maintain an active listserv. Instructions on how to join the listserv can be found on the web site or by sending an email to Julio Carrión at [jcarrión@udel.edu](mailto:jcarrión@udel.edu).

#### **Rural Studies**

Ron Waterbury, Chair

Since LASA2000 the Rural Studies Section has increased its membership to approximately 130. We have also initiated an e-mail forum, which is carried as a channel (Anthap5) on the listserv of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Anyone who would like to join the list should e-mail Ronald Waterbury ([waterbury@qc.edu](mailto:waterbury@qc.edu)). It is not necessary to be a member of the Section to participate in the forum. At LASA2001 the Section sponsored two successful and well-attended panels. Both of them dealt with the concept of peasant social capital, with one emphasizing theory and the other examining the phenomenon on the ground. At the business meeting, which was attended by about 35 people, ideas for the future were discussed and the first phase of the election process for new officers was carried out. The election process was begun previously via e-mail whereby several candidates were nominated. At the meeting additional candidates were put forth, and a vote was taken via sealed

ballots. Those members who did not attend LASA2001 were subsequently given the opportunity to vote via e-mail. The two sets of votes were then combined to determine the winners. They were: chair Gerardo Otero ([oter@sfu.ca](mailto:oter@sfu.ca)); chair-elect Monica Bendini, ([rtbendin@uncoma.edu.ar](mailto:rtbendin@uncoma.edu.ar)); secretary/treasurer David Runsten ([runsten@ucla.edu](mailto:runsten@ucla.edu)); councilors Boris Marañón ([bolin88@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:bolin88@servidor.unam.mx)) and Martha Rees ([mrees@agnesscott.edu](mailto:mrees@agnesscott.edu)). The business meeting was followed by a reception at which a good time was had by all.

#### **Venezuelan Studies**

Cathy Rakowski, Chair

SVS held elections by e-mail and ratified the results at the business meeting in Washington. Following two ties among candidates, those present agreed to expand the number of council members to include all candidates. Leonardo R. Ledezma was elected chair and Cathy Rakowski secretary/treasurer. The council includes continuing members Elizabeth Nichols (USA), Luis Gómez Calcaño (Venezuela), and María Pilar García-Guadilla. New members are Emperatriz Arreaza, Raquel Gamus, Mauricio Pérez-Badell, Ana Emilia León, Dan Hellinger and Kim Morse. Margaret Martin continues as SVS Web Page Manager.

Activities over the last 18 months focused on building the Website, organizing sessions, networking, organizing an on-line chat and discussion site, and organizing a joint reception with the Central America, Brazil, and Social Studies of Medicine Sections.

The main activities planned for the coming 18 months include systematizing and posting information to help members find host institutions for exchanges and research leaves, and organizing a post-Congress conference in Venezuela (June 2002) where LASA papers will be presented to those unable to attend the Congress in the United States.

### **Primer Encuentro de la Sección de Estudios Ecuatorianos**

Usted está cordialmente invitado a proponer una propuesta de participación en el Primer Encuentro de la Sección de Estudios Ecuatorianos de LASA, 18-20 de junio del 2002. Colabora La Asociación de Ecuatorianistas.

Las propuestas completas de participación deben ser enviadas electrónicamente (como un documento de MS Word o Word Perfect) a los coordinadores del evento en [encuentro@ecuatorianistas.org](mailto:encuentro@ecuatorianistas.org) antes del **1 de marzo del 2002**. La comisión temática encargada confirmará la recepción de todas las propuestas completas y avisará al organizador su decisión antes del 1 de abril del 2002 por correo electrónico. Información completa acerca del Encuentro estará disponible en nuestra página web: [www.ecuatorianistas.org](http://www.ecuatorianistas.org).





## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NOTES

### IN MEMORIAM

University of Pittsburgh professor **Michael Jiménez** died in August, just before the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association and the tragic events of September 11, after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. Michael was, depending on how you wanted to look at it, an unorthodox Marxist who was also deeply Catholic or a Catholic who also happened to be a Marxist. In either case, perhaps the central fact of his life and charismatic personality was that he created community around him. What was true in his life was also true in his death: at his funeral coincided conservative Catholics from his own parish and radicals, social scientists, and delivering the eulogy, literary critics, academics and blue and white collar workers. His parish priest, stood by stiffly as a poem of Neruda's was read over his grave (but he stayed). It was mark of Michael's religious and political commitment and beliefs that he gave of himself unstintingly, generously, without thought of mercenary benefit for himself. He seemed never to say no to anyone who asked for his help, and he was a vital presence on many dissertations and events in the department. He was the son of a Colombian father, but they had lived apart for much of his life. Still, the identification with Colombia—its beautiful land and people and its troubled history—was undoubtedly

Michael's deepest inspiration as a historian. He had been working for many years on a history of the agrarian struggle in Colombia in the nineteenth century—the struggle that resulted in the still ongoing civil war in that country—which I saw in its ambition as something like a Colombian version of EP Thompson's great book, *The Making of the English Working Class*. It goes without saying that this was a book about the roots of class conflict in Latin American societies, but it was also Michael's hope that by writing the book he could contribute to the conditions for peace with justice in Colombia. Michael set his sights high, and at the time of his death he was still revising the manuscript, which had been accepted for publication by Duke University Press, one more time. The task of finishing it will now pass to his close friends. But Michael was even before his death already a legendary figure in Latin American history. We will remember him as a loyal and true friend and compafiero, and extend our sympathies to his wife Linn, his children and his family.

John Beverley  
University of Pittsburgh

**Werner Baer**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is co-editor of *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America: Its Changing Nature at the Turn of the Century* (New York: International Business Press, 2001). Other LASA members who collaborated in this volume were Melissa H. Birch, University of Kansas; Miguel D. Ramirez, Trinity College; Jorge Rojas, Universidad Católica del Perú; Nader Nazmi, Lake Forest College; José Insrán Pelozo, Catholic University of Asunción and Central

Bank of Paraguay; and Murray S. Simpson, PeopleClick, Inc.

**Jennifer Schirmer** has received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research and Writing Grant for her project "Protagonists of War: The Insurgents' View. Memories and Justificatory Narratives of the Guatemalan Guerrilla Leaders and Cadre." Schirmer is Research Professor in Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding, International Peace Research Institute in Oslo.

### INFORMATION ABOUT EMPLOYMENT, RESEARCH AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AND FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

As a free service to the profession, LASA posts notices about these items both in the *Forum* and on LASA's Internet site. If application or submission deadlines are earlier than the date a given issue of the *Forum* is expected to arrive in the mail, the notices are accepted only for the site. Be sure to check the site often if you wish to keep abreast of developments in any of these areas.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**California State University, San Marcos** seeks an assistant professor with a strong, interdisciplinary background in the study of social stratification, particularly gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual identity, and their intersections. Open to applicants with expertise in Women's Studies and doctoral degrees in any academic discipline. Candidates must be familiar with historical and current developments in feminist theory and fluent in applying various schools of feminist thought to the study of social stratification. Applicants should also have experience with community organizations and student internship programs. Expertise and teaching experience in Latina Studies, Gender and Latin America/Border Studies is desirable. The successful candidate will teach a range of introductory and upper-division Women's Studies courses, including Introduction to Women's Studies, Gender & Race in Contemporary Society, the Women's Studies Internship, and a senior research seminar for Women's Studies majors. Must be prepared to contribute significantly to the enrichment and growth of the Women's Studies Program through curriculum development and outreach efforts on campus and in the wider community. CSUSM is an Equal Opportunity Title IX Employer and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, or disability. Application letters, curriculum vitae, sample syllabi, and the names and contacts of three references should be sent to:

Ms. Jo Anne Moran  
Women's Studies Search  
California State University San Marcos  
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Rd.  
San Marcos, CA 92096-0001.

For further information, contact Dr. Linda Pershing, Program Director, at [Lpershing@csusm.edu](mailto:Lpershing@csusm.edu) or (760) 750-8008. Review of applications began on January 15, 2002, and will continue until position is filled.

The Department of African American Studies at **Ohio University** invites applications for a visiting position in African American and African Diaspora Literature in the Americas at the rank of Assistant Professor. Candidates must be prepared to teach survey courses in African American literature as well as courses on the literature of the African Diaspora in the Americas. Starting September 2002, the position is for one year but may be extended for up to three years. Ph.D. required. Salary competitive. Ohio University is a research-intensive institution, enrolling 19,500 students on the Athens campus and more than 8,000 students on five regional campuses. The Department of African American Studies is engaged in a period of renewal and growth. The successful candidate will have an opportunity to contribute to the creation of a distinctive program. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities are

encouraged to apply. Send letter of application, CV, statement of competence to teach courses on the literature of the African Diaspora in the Americas, and three letters of reference to:

Dr. Vibert C. Cambridge, Interim Chair  
Department of African American Studies  
Lindley Hall 320  
Ohio University  
Athens, OH 45701

Review of credentials began February 1, 2002

**Wake Forest University** seeks an active and distinguished scholar and teacher for a tenured appointment as Reynolds Professor in any area of Latin American Studies. The search is not limited to any particular discipline, but candidates must have a background that speaks to major social, political, economic, environmental, or cultural issues in modern Latin America. Knowledge of Brazilian society, the Southern Cone, or indigenous peoples is an asset. The person hired must value and enjoy teaching undergraduates and should expect to play a major role in building Wake Forest's Latin American Studies program. Appointment would begin August, 2002. Applicants should send a CV and three letters of reference that evaluate the candidate's teaching and research record. Wake Forest is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty. Send applications to:

Dr. Linda Howe, Chair  
Search Committee  
Department of Romance Languages  
Box 7566, Wake Forest University  
Winston Salem, NC 27109-7507

Deadline for receipt is **February 28, 2002**

Applications will be invited for a University Lectureship in Brazilian Studies, **University of Oxford**. The post is tenable from 1 October 2002, based at the Centre for Brazilian Studies. Candidates should have a doctorate in economics, political science or sociology/social anthropology in relation to Brazil, an outstanding research record or potential, and a strong publications record. They should also have a proven track record in graduate teaching and be able to teach a range of graduate courses in their chosen discipline. The person appointed will be expected to work with the director in the development of the Centre and to generate academic activities which will attract income. He or she will be expected to contribute to postgraduate teaching, for example to provide courses on Brazil within existing programmes. A college fellowship will be attached to the lectureship. Details of this post will be available early/mid January 2002. People who wish to receive further information should contact the Centre Administrator, Mrs Margaret Hancox ([margaret.hancox@brazil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.hancox@brazil.ox.ac.uk)). ■



## RESEARCH AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Joint Center for Latin American Studies at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/University of Chicago** announces its annual Summer Visiting Scholars Competition for faculty from non-research U.S. universities and colleges. Recipients research and write on a Latin American topic for one month during the summer of 2002 at the Urbana/Champaign and/or the University of Chicago campus and enjoy access to university libraries and resources. Awards include a stipend of \$3,000 for residence at University of Chicago or \$2,500 for residence at Urbana, and up to \$500 for travel to and from the recipient's home institution to either school. Summer residence must be completed by August 14, 2002 (due to grant cycle end date). To apply, send a letter of interest, a current CV, one letter of reference, and a brief project proposal (approx. 500 words). There is no additional application form. Submit material to:

Claudio Lomnitz, Interim Director  
University of Chicago  
Center for Latin American Studies  
5848 S. University Avenue, Kelly Hall 310  
Chicago, IL 60637

Deadline for application is **March 1, 2002**

**Rice University** and the **Center for the Study of Cultures** announce the establishment of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program designed to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. Two postdoctoral fellows will be selected for a two-year appointment beginning July 1, 2002 at a stipend of \$38,000 per year. Fellows will teach two courses per academic year and will be expected to make significant progress in their research. They will also participate in the intellectual life of relevant departments, programs, and Center research groups. We anticipate making appointments in one or two of the following areas of specialization: Latin American Visual Culture; World History in the Pre-Modern Period; Technologies and Strategies of Cultural Memory; African-American and African Derived Religions. The Ph.D. degree must have been received after September 1999. Applicants who will receive the Ph.D. degree by June 30, 2002 are eligible to apply. Rice University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. See <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~culture/MellonFellowshipProg.html> for application instructions. For more information contact:

Associate Director  
Center for the Study of Cultures  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892, MS-620  
Houston, TX 77251-1892,  
Telephone: 713-348-2770

Deadline for receipt of application materials is **March 1, 2002**.

The University Center for International Studies at the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** invites Fellowship applications from scholars, professionals and artists for our Rockefeller Humanities Residency Program "Reimagining Civil Society in an Era of Globalization: The American South in Applied Humanistic

Perspectives." This program explores emergent voices of new immigrants in the globalizing American south and their encounters in civil society and the provisioning of public goods, such as education, media, social welfare, and health care. Preference will be given to those applicants focusing on second-generation immigrant youth. For more information about the program, visit <[http://www.ucis.unc.edu/funding/rock\\_ad.htm](http://www.ucis.unc.edu/funding/rock_ad.htm)>. Fellows are expected to be in residence for the 2002-2003 academic year, will contribute to our seminar and, at their choice, to other seminars and workshops at UNC and in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. Fellows receive a stipend of approximately \$35,000, health insurance, plus partial assistance with relocation expenses. Two one-year, non-renewable fellowships will be awarded. To apply for this Fellowship, please send a letter describing your project (not to exceed 4 single-spaced pages), one writing sample (or brief professional portfolio), CV, and three professional letters of reference to:

Chad Haines  
Rockefeller Residency Program  
UCIS  
223 East Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5145  
[chad\\_haines@unc.edu](mailto:chad_haines@unc.edu)

Application deadline is **March 1, 2002**

**The Latin American, Caribbean & Iberian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will offer an Intensive Quichua Institute in Summer 2002.** This is a special 8-week course of intensive beginning Quichua, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and serves students at all levels, faculty and researchers, and development personnel who need culturally informed Andean communication skills. The teaching materials are texts centered on *parlukuna*, (stories and narratives in the colloquial styles of Imbabura Province, Ecuador). The teaching method sets priority on cultural authenticity, such as indigenous norms of courtesy. Andean peoples and cultures through lectures, music, films, and guest speakers are covered. Dates are June 17 to August 11, 2002. Instruction is five days/week, morning and afternoon and carries 8 semester hours of credit. The lead teacher for the Institute is Dr. Carmen Chuquin Amaguaña, a native speaker of Quichua and Ph.D. in Bilingual Education from the University of Illinois. She will be assisted by an expert in Andean Ethnography. The Institute is open to graduate students, professionals, and advanced undergraduates. Advanced application is required. Graduate students at CIC universities (Consortium on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of Big Ten Universities and the University of Chicago) may enroll via the CIC Traveling Scholar program; consult the official (usually the dean) representing CIC at your home campus. Applications for admission are due **April 5, 2002**. Notifications will be sent by late April. Application forms and details are available from the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program, 209 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706, attn. Alice Badertscher. E-mail: [abadertscher@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:abadertscher@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Each year the **National Endowment for the Humanities** offers college and university teachers opportunities to study humanities topics in a variety of Summer Seminars and Institutes. All teachers selected to participate in a seminar or institute will be awarded a stipend of \$2,800, \$3,250, or \$3,700 (depending on the length of the seminar or institute) to cover the costs of travel, books and other research expenses, and living expenses. Selection committees for seminars and institutes are directed to give first consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years. See <http://www.neh.gov/> for a listing of the Seminars and Institutes for 2002, as well as complete instructions on how to apply. The application deadline is **March 1, 2002** (postmark).

El Programa Globalización, Cultura y Transformaciones Sociales de la **Universidad Central de Venezuela** anuncia la apertura del Concurso de Becas para Investigadores Residentes con apoyo de la Fundación Rockefeller. El programa está dedicado a estudiar cómo en los presentes tiempos de globalización ciertas representaciones sociales que juegan papeles relevantes en tanto articuladoras de sentido de las prácticas de organizaciones y movimientos sociales son producidas en contextos de intensos intercambios entre actores locales y globales. Cada uno de los tres años del Programa estará dedicado a estudiar casos de producción social de representaciones articuladas en torno a un conjunto particular de ideas sociopolíticamente relevantes: 2000-2002 representaciones de identidades y diferencias culturales,

étnicas, y/o raciales; 2002-2003 representaciones de ideas de ciudadanía, sociedad civil, y participación social y 2003-2004 representaciones de ideas de medio ambiente, biodiversidad, y desarrollo sustentable. El Programa otorgará cuatro Becas de Investigación por año académico, dos en el período 20/septiembre-20/diciembre y dos en el período 1/febrero-30/abril. Fechas límite de recepción de las solicitudes: a) para Becas de Sept-Dic/02 y Feb-Abr/03: **1/abril/02**; b) para Becas de Sept-Dic/03 y Feb-Abr/04: **1/abril/03**. Para información adicional: Página digital en Internet: [http://www.geocities.com/global\\_cult\\_polit/](http://www.geocities.com/global_cult_polit/)

We are very pleased to announce the public launch of our new web site "Choosing a Color for the Cosmic Race: African Americans and National Identities in Central America/¿Memoria u olvido? La africanía y las identidades centroamericanas", at: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/latam/africania.html>. With major grant support from the National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Program, Mount Holyoke College, and the University of Costa Rica's Center for Central American Historical Research, we seek to provide access to both textual and visual materials that reframe longstanding historical debates while offering fresh perspectives and empirical evidence. We welcome comments and suggestions for the future evolution of the site and its resources:

Rina Cáceres: [rcaceres@cariari.ucr.ac.cr](mailto:rcaceres@cariari.ucr.ac.cr);

Lowell Gudmundson: [lgudmund@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:lgudmund@mtholyoke.edu).

Mauricio Meléndez: [momo64@costarricense.com](mailto:momo64@costarricense.com)

### **University of Texas and Latin Americanist Project Receive Grant**

The University of Texas at Austin General Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) have been awarded \$170,000 for 2001/2002 by the U.S. Department of Education under its "Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA)" program. This brings the total award to \$405,000 for the three-year period of 1999/2002. The grant supports the development of partnerships with Latin American libraries and the enhancement of the project's Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents (LAPTOC) database (<http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/arl/>) hosted at LANIC. Under the direction of Gayle Williams (University of Georgia), the Coordinator of Latin American Partnerships, five libraries have joined the project and now contribute to LAPTOC: the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires; the Universidad de Puerto Rico in San Juan; the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine,

Trinidad; the Biblioteca Inca in Cochabamba, Bolivia; and the Biblioteca CIRMA in Antigua, Guatemala. A Brazilian library will be added in the coming months. The LAPTOC database now includes more than 600 journals published in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is fast becoming a major Web research resource, providing keyword searching of the tables of contents information of more than 136,000 articles. Users at the participating institutions may electronically request document delivery of individual articles in the database. In addition to the five Latin American libraries, LARRP now has 47 participating institutions in the United States and Canada. Launched in 1994, LARRP seeks to expand the range of research materials available to Latin Americanist scholars and students through distributed, cooperative collection development; enhanced electronic access; and effective and timely document delivery. For more information, please contact: Eudora Loh, UCLA, [eloh@library.ucla.edu](mailto:eloh@library.ucla.edu). ■

### **Florida's Center for Latin American Studies Again Offers Library Travel Grants**

These Summer 2002 grants enable researchers—faculty and graduate students—from other U.S. colleges and universities to use the extensive resources of Florida's Latin American Collection. Holdings consist of more than 330,000 volumes, some 50,000 reels of microfilm, renowned newspaper and government document holdings, and a growing access to computer-based electronic information resources. Application deadline is **April 2, 2002**. See [www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach/outreachgra.html](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach/outreachgra.html) for all details.



# CONVOCATORIA (CALL FOR PAPERS)

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## Auspicia el congreso interdisciplinario 2002

Escritura, individuo y sociedad en España, Las Américas y Puerto Rico.

Encuentro Hispánico dedicado a Roberto González Echevarría y José Ferrer Canales.

21-23 de noviembre de 2002

conferenciantes principales: Roberto González Echevarría (Yale University)  
 Alan Deyermond (Univ. of London)  
 Eduardo Galeano (Uruguay)  
 Roberto Fernández Retamar (Casa de las Américas, Cuba)  
 Yolanda Martínez San Miguel (Rutgers)  
 Espido Freire (España) (Premio Planeta 1999)  
 Francis Schwartz (Universidad de Puerto Rico)

Las ponencias o talleres pueden cubrir los siguientes temas, aunque caben otros si están relacionados con el título del congreso:

literatura colonial	historia hispánica	feminismo/machismo
comunicación-periodismo-literatura	cine	literatura medieval
Siglo de Oro	posmodernismo	antropología-literatura
literatura e ideología puertorriqueñas	iconografía	sexualidad/género
lit. árabe en España	cultura popular	literatura caribeña
etnicidad	la otredad	lengua
indigenismo	lit. hispánica e hispanos en EE. UU	redacción
teoría literaria	literatura sefardita	ficción
lit. aljamiado-morisca	mitología	lit. de los marginados
lit. de la diáspora	literatura queer	religión
la narrativa femenina	literatura conventual	crítica literaria
tradición indígena oral y escrita	teatro	epistemología
lo erótico en el Caribe	creación poética	lengua y literatura fronteras
el comentario de textos literarios	narrativa y poesía	novela realista/naturalista

También aceptamos ponencias sobre los siguientes sub-temas:

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- La enseñanza de Español (lengua y literatura) en los centros educativos
- La prensa escrita y la realidad puertorriqueña, latinoamericana y española

Los interesados en presentar un trabajo lo pueden escribir en español, inglés, portugués o francés. Deberán someterlo ya escrito (máximo 8 páginas a doble espacio, 20 minutos de ponencia) acompañado de un resumen breve del mismo y un *curriculum vitae*. Los que deseen crear una sesión especial deberán comunicarse con la dirección abajo. Favor de enviar los trabajos a la siguiente dirección en o antes del 15 de mayo de 2002:

**William Mejías-López**

**Departamento de Español**

**Universidad de Puerto Rico en Arecibo**

**P. O. Box 4010**

**Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00614**

**Tel. (787) 878-2830, Ext. 3760 Fax (787) 880-6277**

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**<http://upra.upr.clu.edu/cuartopropio>**





## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

The next annual meeting of the **Midwest Popular Culture Association**, at Wyndham Milwaukee Center Hotel, Friday-Sunday, October 4-6, 2002, will center on Latin American popular culture. This is a call for panels, papers, and presentations. Please include name, affiliation, address, and telephone number of each author/participant. Also include any AV requests (only a VCR and slide projector will be provided for presenters). Because of large attendance expected at the conference, each person may participate in only one panel. Please specify any special scheduling needs. All participants must be members of MPCA and must preregister for the conference. For membership information, contact Gary Burns, Midwest Popular Culture Association, Department of Communication, Northern Illinois

University, DeKalb, IL 60115, USA (telephone 815-753-7108, fax 815-753-7109, e-mail [gurns@niu.edu](mailto:gurns@niu.edu)). Send paper, abstract, or proposal to:

Jane Florine (Latin American Popular Culture Area Chair for MPCA)

Department of Music/HWH 331

Chicago State University

Chicago, IL 60628-1598

Telephone: 773-995-2119

Fax: 773-995-3767

E-mail [J-Florine@csu.edu](mailto:J-Florine@csu.edu)

Deadline for receipt is **April 30, 2002**. ■



## PUBLICATIONS

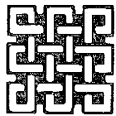
Submissions are invited for a proposed volume, *Double Exposure: Photography and Writing in Latin America*, co-edited by Marcy Schwartz and Mary Beth Tierney-Tello, on collaborative photography and writing projects in Latin America. Possible topics include: *testimonio*; documentary; mourning and memory in text and image; nature and writing; creative writing about photography; Weston and Modotti in Mexico; visual ethnography; writers and art criticism; indigenism and *neo-indigenismo* in visual and verbal media; surrealism in photography and writing; photography and revolution. We are particularly interested in the dynamic interactions and aesthetic

tensions between text and image as they arise in the context of collaborative works (books, catalogues, exhibits, demonstrations, graphic art). Other possible avenues of investigation include the politics of presentation and dissemination as well as the reception of these collaborative products. Send 2-page abstracts or completed manuscripts (20 pp. in length) along with a brief CV by *April 15, 2002* to Marcy Schwartz, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, 105 George St., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1414 <[meschwar@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:meschwar@rci.rutgers.edu)> and Mary Beth Tierney-Tello, Wheaton College, Norton, MA 02766 <[mttello@wheatonma.edu](mailto:mttello@wheatonma.edu)>. ■

### Correction

The *Forum* apologizes for printing errors in "A Broader Agenda for Latin American Human Rights Organizations?" by George Vickers. Page 7, first column, line 26, first word, should have read: "recognized." and carried footnote 2. Footnote 1 should have been placed after the title of the piece.





# Latin American Studies Association

946 William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$51 <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> (4 issues) (BLAR 2001 subscriptions not accepted after May 10)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Air mail (air printed matter) of <i>LASA Forum</i> (international only)	

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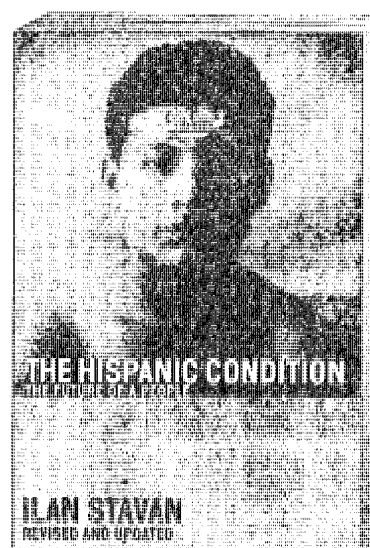
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