

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Elections 2007

Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for vice president and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from November 1, 2007 to April 30, 2009 and as president from May 1, 2009 until October 31, 2010. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a three-year term beginning November 1, 2007.

Nominees for Vice President:

Edna Acosta-Belén
University at Albany, SUNY

John Coatsworth
Columbia University

Nominees for Executive Council:

Florence Babb
University of Florida

Jonathan Hartlyn
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel
University of Pennsylvania

Silvio Torres-Saillant
Syracuse University

Teresa Valdes
Center for the Study and Development of Women (CEDEM)

Deborah Yashar
Princeton University

The Candidates

Edna Acosta-Belén is Distinguished Professor of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies, and Women's Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY. She is also Director of the Center for Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies (CELAC); a former Chair of the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies; and editor and co-founder of the *Latino(a) Research Review*, a journal that focuses on the transnational connections between the U.S. Latino(a) populations and their Latin American and Caribbean countries of origin. Dr. Acosta-Belén is a former President of the Puerto Rican Studies Association (PRSA, 2001-2003) and also served as Vice President (1999-2000) of this organization. She was Chair of the LASA XVIII Congress Program Committee in Atlanta (1994) and has co-chaired LASA's Task Force on Women (1988-1991), Latino Studies Section (1997-1998), and Gender and Feminist Studies Section (2000-2001). She also served on LASA's Development Committee (1995-97), LASA's Executive Director Search Committee, and the Puerto Rico Congress Advisory Committee (2005-2006). She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. Her specialty areas are Hispanic Caribbean and U.S. Latino cultural studies and literature; and feminist and postcolonial studies. She has been a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton and Yale Universities, and a Visiting Professor at Cornell University. She has received numerous grants and fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Southern Fellowship Fund, among others. She is serving or has served on the Editorial Boards of the journals *Signs*, *Meridians*, *The Americas Review*, *Centro Journal*, and *Ethnic Explorations*. Among Dr. Acosta-Belén's book publications are:

Puerto Ricans in the United States: A Contemporary Portrait (with C.E. Santiago); "Adiós, Borinquen querida"; *The Puerto Rican Diaspora, Its History, and Contributions* (with M. Benítez et al.); *The Puerto Rican Woman: Perspectives on Culture, History, and Society*, *La mujer en la sociedad puertorriqueña*; *The Hispanic Experience in the United States* (with B.R. Sjoström); *Researching Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (with C.E. Bose); *Women in the Latin American Development Process* (with C.E. Bose); and *The Way It Was and Other Writings by Jesús Colón* (with V. Sánchez Korrol). In addition, she has over 50 articles published in a variety of refereed journals and edited volumes. A promoter of gender studies, she has been an organizer and participant in several feminist *encuentros* in Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and at the University at Albany that have involved scholars and activists from several other Latin American and Caribbean countries, the United States, as well as other regions of the world. She developed and co-directed three major projects funded by the Ford Foundation to internationalize women's studies with a focus on Latin American and the Caribbean, Africa, and Eastern Europe, and to incorporate the study of women into the area and ethnic studies curriculum. She also has written extensively about the intersections between area, ethnic, and women's studies and has been a promoter of a transnational hemispheric approach to the study of the Latin American and Caribbean regions and their (im)migrant Latino(a) populations in the United States. For over a decade, she was part of a team of scholars who collaborated with the University of Houston's *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage*. Dr. Acosta-Belén was born and raised in Puerto Rico, but has lived in the United States for almost four decades.

Acosta-Belén Statement

For many years LASA has been fortunate to choose the kind of leadership that strives to be responsive to the multiplicity of interests and disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches of its diverse membership. Most recently, this has included engaging the organization in a stimulating and promising process of “decentering” the field in order to make it more attuned to the different or alternative forms of knowledge and experiences that are being produced in Latin America and the Caribbean, not only by those privileged to be part of the academy, but also by those learning from a variety of lived experiences and practices. At a time when contemporary globalization processes continue to impinge on and change the lives of many peoples and nations around the globe—often in unforeseen or unimaginable ways—it becomes increasingly difficult (and perhaps even shortsighted) for producers of knowledge to remain solely within the confines of their own disciplinary or geographic area studies training in order to address the myriad of challenging interrelated issues faced by a more interdependent human community. As a product of interdisciplinary Latin American Studies training, and after many years of my own involvement in what were once fledgling (and for a long time considered) “marginal” interdisciplinary fields (e.g., women’s studies, Puerto Rican/Latino Studies), it is now the case that these, as well as other non-traditional areas, have been contributing to some of the most stimulating and innovative knowledge about the populations of our hemisphere. Thus, I continue to envision networks of scholars and activists pooling their perspectives and resources across the confines of their disciplinary boundaries and sites of knowledge coming together to share their professional expertise and practical experiences in addressing some of the new problems and challenges posed by the professed era of globalization. While

globalization is only a new term to refer to processes that have been shaping the lives of peoples and nations for many centuries, its impact is consistently felt in more immediate, discernible, and profound ways, and there is an unavoidable convergence of pressing conditions and issues that fall beyond the competence or capacity of any single discipline or field to address, in seeking and articulating alternative solutions and policies. Critical environmental and human rights issues, unrestrained manipulations of labor and capital that often exacerbate socioeconomic and gender inequalities, unfettered worldwide migration flows and population displacements from developing countries to metropolitan centers, and new modes of social organizing and collective action are only a few of the themes that are opening up new opportunities for area studies scholars to join together and focus their expertise around specific issues that transcend the populations of our particular geographic areas of interest and connect us to a wider global community. What better place than LASA for this sort of collaboration, comparative work, and networking opportunities to continue being cultivated and promoted! In more local organizational terms, I see a need for LASA to intensify its efforts in forging a more welcoming environment for students by spearheading initiatives that further encourage and facilitate their Congress participation. Mentoring younger generations of engaged scholars and activists, and contributing to their continuous presence, successful career development, and integration into the professions, are goals that we should continue to pursue more proactively. Of course, for those of us who have witnessed the evolution of LASA over three decades and have been privileged to learn a great deal from leaders and colleagues who preceded us, it is of paramount importance to encourage a new crop of students to give continuity to the

meaningful work that scholars and activists have been carrying out since the creation of this esteemed organization. A great deal of this work has made a difference for the academy and for the communities of the Americas, but in the process we also need a more embedded awareness of the mutual interdependence as knowledge producers and learners that should continue to be nurtured among U.S.-based scholars and activists, and those based in Latin America, the Caribbean or other countries.

John H. Coatsworth recently left Harvard University for Columbia, where he is professor of history and international public affairs, and director of Columbia’s Institute for Latin American Studies. He is the author or editor of seven books and many scholarly articles on Latin American economic and international history. He is a former president of the American Historical Association. At Harvard, he served as the founding Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies from its creation in 1994 until 2006. He chaired the ACLS/SSRC Joint Committee on Latin American Studies from 1985 to 1990. He served twice on the LASA Executive Council and as LASA Treasurer. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Directors of the Tinker Foundation, and numerous professional associations. Coatsworth received his BA degree in History from Wesleyan University (1963) and his MA (1967) and Ph.D. (1972) degrees in Economic History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He taught at the University of Chicago from 1969 until he joined the Harvard faculty in 1992. His other academic posts have included visiting professorships at El Colegio de México, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the National University of Buenos Aires, the Instituto Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires, and the Instituto Ortega y Gasset in Madrid. He

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has served on the editorial boards of numerous scholarly journals including the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of Economic History*, and the *Hispanic American Historical Review* and as well as social science and history journals published in Britain, Germany, Mexico, Peru, and Spain. Professor Coatsworth's most recent book is *The Cambridge Economic History of Latin America* (2 vols., Cambridge University Press, 2006), edited with Victor Bulmer-Thomas and Roberto Cortes Conde. His research and publications have focused on comparative economic, social, and international history of Latin America, especially Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Other recent books include *The United States and Central America: The Clients and the Colossus* (New York: Twayne, 1994); *Latin America and the World Economy Since 1800* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998), edited with Alan M. Taylor; *Culturas Encontradas: Cuba y los Estados Unidos* edited with Rafael Hernández and published jointly by the David Rockefeller Center and Cuba's Juan Marinello Center in 2001. Professor Coatsworth was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1986, served as Senior Fulbright Lecturer three times (for appointments in Argentina and Mexico), and has received research and institutional grants from public agencies and private foundations in the United States and elsewhere. He has also acted as consultant for program design or review to numerous U.S. universities and private foundations. In 2005, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Coatsworth Statement

LASA plays a vital role in encouraging research, teaching, professional development, and civic engagement. Its Congresses bring us together, enrich our understanding of this vast region in all its diversity, and help to focus attention on the intellectual and

practical challenges we face as scholars and citizens. The Congresses, together with the LASA sections, committees, publications, and special projects, also create opportunities for scholarly collaboration within and across disciplines and between scholars based in the United States and those who work in Latin America and elsewhere. These vital activities contribute significantly to advances in many fields of knowledge and to the professional development of thousands of teachers and scholars. As president, I would work to expand the LASA endowment devoted to supporting Latin American participation in LASA Congresses and other activities. The decision to move LASA 2007 to Montreal to make it possible for Cuban colleagues to attend, exchange ideas, and participate fully also demonstrates LASA's commitment to the principles of academic freedom and open debate. LASA should continue to work to lift the intellectual embargo on U.S. scholars that limit and distort relations with our Cuban colleagues. LASA's commitment to academic freedom and civil liberties is especially significant now, when a hyper-inflated "war on terror" has begun to erode civil liberties in the United States and is making it more difficult, at times even impossible, for foreign students and scholars to enter the United States. LASA's principles have also and quite appropriately led it to express solidarity with colleagues experiencing persecution wherever they may be. As president, I would use my experience developing academic exchange and study abroad programs with Cuba to help LASA's longstanding campaign to end restrictions on travel to Cuba and on the travel of Cuban scholars to the United States. LASA's vitality strengthens area, regional and international studies in all their forms. LASA members debate the meanings of these terms and the utility of the diverse perspectives they imply. But we all understand that the ubiquity of English and the Internet has not yet

suspended the laws of physics. It is still impossible to do empirical research (or heal patients or negotiate a treaty) in more than one place, with its unique language and culture, at a time. Even in fields where abstract modeling has acquired a well-deserved prestige, testing models (and even much of the inspiration that inspires their design) depends crucially on advances in the kind of knowledge that LASA members produce. As president, I would renew efforts to entice more of our colleagues in the model building and quantitative human sciences to participate in LASA Congresses. Given the significance of the Internet, I would work to expand LASA's electronic publishing capabilities, focused initially on papers related to each Congress's overall theme. LASA has been a uniquely consistent voice of reason on issues of in inter-American relations. Repeated disasters and failures attributable to U.S. policies have imposed heavy human and material costs on many Latin American societies. Since LASA is a U.S.-based organization, it seems reasonable to me that the organization has made it a point to express its concern whenever U.S. policy turned especially ugly or stupid, even when the authors of such policies prove to be predictably unresponsive. The consolidation of democracy over the past two decades has led governments with priorities better aligned to voter preferences and pledged to confront the region's notorious inequality and poverty while restoring economic growth. It would be a tragedy if the United States reverted to Cold War policies that treated such governments as potential enemies. As president, I would look for ways that LASA's members can be more consistently informed and mobilized to improve the quality of U.S. policymaking toward Latin America.

Florence E. Babb is the Vada Allen Yeomans Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Florida, where she is also Affiliate Professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies. She serves on the Advisory Council and is Coordinator for the Gender Specialization in the Center for Latin American Studies. She studied at Tufts University (BA Anthropology and French) and the State University of New York at Buffalo (MA, PhD Anthropology) and has taught at Colgate University (1979-1982) and the University of Iowa (1982-2004), where she held joint appointments in Anthropology and Women's Studies. At Iowa, she served terms as chair of the two departments as well as of programs in international studies, including Latin American Studies. Babb is the author of *Between Field and Cooking Pot: The Political Economy of Marketwomen in Peru* (1989, second edition 1998) and *After Revolution: Mapping Gender and Cultural Politics in Neoliberal Nicaragua* (2001), both with University of Texas Press. Her articles have appeared in many journals, including *American Anthropologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, *Ethnology*, *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, *Latin American Research Review*, and *GLQ*. She has co-edited special issues of *Latin American Perspectives* on *Gender and Same-Sex Desire* (with James Green, 2002) and on *Youth, Culture and Politics* (with Jon Wolseth, in preparation) and *Critique of Anthropology on Autonomy in an Age of Globalization: The Vision of June Nash* (with Lynn Stephen, 2005). Babb's current book project, *Touring Revolution, Fashioning Nations*, focuses on the cultural impact of tourism in post-revolutionary and post-conflict areas, including Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, and Mexico. She has served on the editorial boards of *Latin American Perspectives* (1992-present) and the *Journal*

of Latin American Anthropology (1999-2004), and is a past Chair (2000-2001) and Program Editor of the LASA Section on Lesbian and Gay Issues. She won the Elsa Chaney Prize for her paper presented at the 2001 LASA Congress. She served as a member of the 2006 Martin Diskin Memorial Lecture selection committee. She was a member of the Area Advisory Committee for Latin America: Andean Countries / Central America, Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright Program) (1992-1994) and of the Latin America Advisory Panel for CIES, Fulbright Senior Scholar Program (1999-2001). She has received research awards from the Fulbright Foundation (1990-1991), the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (1991-1992), and the Ford Foundation (2001), and she was a Resident Scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy (2003). Babb has served as a member of the Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology (2002-2005) and currently she is President of the Association for Feminist Anthropology (2005-2007).

Babb Statement

At a time when Latin America is experiencing a political sea change, LASA's broad membership across the Americas is poised to play an increasingly important role in engaged scholarly work. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Council with others who are committed to building on LASA's long tradition of research and activism. Among the areas that I would like to address through service on the EC are enhancing relations with counterpart associations at the international level and Latin Americanist sections of disciplinary organizations in the Americas. I would like to see LASA embrace the Americas as a whole, with greater attention to Latinas/as in the United States and transnational, diasporic populations more broadly. I

would wish to see continued emphasis on issues of race, gender, and indigenous identity, even as we become more cognizant of urbanization and cosmopolitanism. While we must remain critical of the forces of neoliberalism and globalization, we should take heart in the social movements and currents of change that are under way. As a cultural anthropologist who has played an active part in Latin American Studies programs at several universities, I would like to emphasize accountability to the peoples who are the subjects of our research and teaching. LASA can be supportive of progressive currents through the association's selection of Congress locations and its efforts to build a strong membership base throughout Latin America. We can consider ways to draw younger members and those from less-represented areas, and to support the work of public intellectuals whose reach extends well beyond the academy. LASA has an outstanding record of accomplishment as an association and I would welcome the challenge of building on this strong record.

Jonathan Hartlyn is Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He has served as Director of UNC's Institute of Latin American Studies and of the Carolina-Duke Consortium in Latin American Studies, which has been a joint NRC Title VI Center since 1991. He has also served as Chair of UNC's Department of Political Science. Born in Peru and reared in Latin America (including pre-revolutionary Cuba and Mexico), he received his Ph.D. at Yale University (1981) and taught at Vanderbilt University from 1981 to 1988. He is the author of *The Politics of Coalition Rule in Colombia* (Cambridge University Press, 1988); *La política del régimen de coalición: La experiencia del Frente Nacional en Colombia*, 1993) and of *The Struggle for Democratic Politics in the Dominican*

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Republic (UNC Press, 1998; Spanish translation forthcoming 2007). He is the co-author (with Manuel Antonio Garretón, Marcelo Cavarozzi, Peter Cleaves and Gary Gereffi) of *Latin America in the Twenty First Century: Toward a New Socio-Political Matrix* (North-South Center and Lynne Rienner Press, 2003; *América Latina en el siglo XXI: Hacia una nueva matriz sociopolítica*, 2004 and Portuguese translation forthcoming 2007). He has co-edited three books: *Latin American Political Economy* (with Samuel Morley), 1986; *The United States and Latin America in the 1990s: Beyond the Cold War* (with Lars Schoultz and Augusto Varas), 1992; and *Democracy in Developing Countries: Latin America, 2nd edition* (with Larry Diamond and Juan Linz), 1999. He has authored or co-authored articles in journals, including in *Asian Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Current History*, *Estudios Jurídicos*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Journal of Interamerican Studies* and *World Affairs*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Revista Opinión Pública*, and *Studies in Comparative International Development*. And, he has contributed chapters to numerous edited books, including *Cambridge History of Latin America*; *Democracia y Reestructuración Económica en América Latina*; *Cambio Político en el Caribe*; *Democratic Governance and Social Inequality*; *Miradas Desencadenantes: Los Estudios de Género en la República Dominicana al Inicio del Tercer Milenio*; and *Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. He serves on the editorial boards of *América Latina Hoy*, *Anuario Social y Político de América Latina y el Caribe*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. He is on the Academic Advisory Committee of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the Executive Committee of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política (ALACIP), and is Chair of the

Comparative Democratization section of the American Political Science Association (2005-2007). He has served as a program reviewer for the Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Relaciones Internacionales (IEPRI), Universidad Nacional de Colombia; the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (Dominican Republic); the Departamento de Ciencia Política, Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia); and the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, Vanderbilt University, among others. He has been on the Advisory Council of LASA's Colombia Section, as well as a member of the selection committee for LASA's Premio Iberoamericano (for the best book published in Spanish or Portuguese). In 2000, he received UNC's Johnston Award for Teaching Excellence. His current research includes four collaborative projects: analyzing the nature of the gap between intentions and outcomes in contemporary constitutional reforms in Latin America; critically examining the quality of electoral processes in Latin America; examining the evolution of citizen evaluation of government institutions, government performance and women in politics in the Dominican Republic through the use of surveys and other data; and completing an edited volume in Spanish applying the concept of the *matriz socio-política* to five country case studies in the region.

Hartlyn Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Executive Council of LASA. I have been a regular participant at LASA Congresses since 1979. For me, the value of the Congresses lies in the extraordinary mix of people, intellectual content, richness and variety of the panels, centrality in facilitating regional networking and connections, and substantive and moral concerns engaged, all, crucially, with the ability also to have fun. I would bring to LASA a decades-long

commitment to Latin American and Caribbean studies. I would particularly like to apply myself to finding more ways for LASA to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative research regionally and inter-regionally as well as within and across disciplinary lines. As a Center Director and board member, I have helped structure programs and working groups to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, and recognize its benefits and challenges. In my research, I discovered early on the joys of collaborative scholarship, and I have co-edited three books, authored another with four colleagues (!), and co-authored numerous articles. I would seek to bring this collaborative spirit to the LASA Council, as it continues to reach out to under-represented disciplines while encouraging an appropriate balance across disciplinary concerns. LASA could do more to encourage inter-regional work with Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe; as a first step it could join with other regional associations to seek foundation support for collaborative inter-regional projects. I would also like to work with others in further strengthening LASA as an organization which can better meet the needs of all of its current members while reaching out to new members and advocating for core academic and human rights values. The establishment of the LASA Sections has been an important innovation. It may be appropriate now to take a step back and examine ways in which LASA as an association can find ways to facilitate their daily management, invigorate their on-going activities, and encourage cross-fertilization across Sections to ensure they don't ultimately serve more to fragment the association than to strengthen it. To remain a vigorous association, LASA must constantly examine its success in incorporating the Latin American studies community in its broadest sense, including not just college and university-based scholars. Given continuing financial

limitations that face many colleagues in Latin America and the Caribbean, LASA must continue to find ways to facilitate their continuing participation in LASA and foster their professional development.

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Associate Professor of Romance Languages. (B.A. University of Puerto Rico, 1989; M.A. Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley 1991, 1996). Martínez-San Miguel was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Her areas of research and teaching include: Colonial Latin American discourses and contemporary Caribbean and Latino narratives; colonial and postcolonial theory, migration and cultural studies. She has been a faculty member at the University of Puerto Rico (1996-1997); Princeton University (1997-2000); Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (2000-2003); and the University of Pennsylvania (2003-present). Professor Martínez-San Miguel is author of two books. *Saberes americanos: subalternidad y epistemología en los escritos de Sor Juana* (Pittsburgh: Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, 1999) is the first book-length analysis of the constitution of an epistemological subjectivity in the works of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. This critical reading explores three specific dimensions in the constitution of a cognitive subject: her feminine condition, the colonial context in which knowledge was produced, and the emergence of a “Creole” perspective during the second half of the seventeenth century. *Caribe Two Ways: cultura de la migración en el Caribe insular hispánico* (Ediciones Callejón, 2003) focuses on the representation of displacement and the reconfiguration of a contemporary Caribbean identity in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Caribbean enclaves in New York City. This study is an attempt to assess what impact this displacement of the “national” has had on the reformulation of those subjectivities that

are not “migrating subjects” themselves, but are experiencing both massive emigration and immigration to and from their places of origin. Another objective of this project is to identify some of the most significant cultural manifestations—such as literature, cinema, graffiti, music, and graphic arts—that incorporate migration into their definition of national and Caribbean identities, to explore the limits of some of the theoretical categories produced within Regional, Migration and Cultural Studies in the United States. Professor Martínez-San Miguel has also edited with Mabel Moraña the compilation of essays “*Nictimene sacrilega: homenaje a Georgina Sabat de Rivers*” (México: Iberoamericana and Claustro de Sor Juana 2003). She has published articles in *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*, *Revista Iberoamericana*, *Posdata*, *Nómada*, *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, *Journal of Caribbean Literatures*, *Centro Journal*, *Colonial Latin American Review*, and *Debate Feminista*. Martínez-San Miguel just finished her third book project entitled “From Lack to Excess: ‘Minor’ Readings of Latin American Colonial Discourse.” This book analyzes the narrative and rhetorical structures of Latin American colonial texts by establishing a dialogue with studies on minority discourse, minor literatures, and colonial and postcolonial theory. The manuscript includes analysis of texts by Hernán Cortés, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. She is working on a fourth book manuscript entitled “Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Ethnic Minorities in a Comparative Context.” This project proposes a comparative study of Martinique and Puerto Rico to explore two cases of internal migration between former/actual metropolis and colonies. Using Aníbal Quijano’s notion of the “coloniality of power,” Martínez-San Miguel proposes

“coloniality of diasporas” as a theoretical framework to study literary works by Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Luis Muñoz Marín and Piri Thomas. Honors and Awards include the Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral (1990-1995), Dissertation (1995-1996) and Post-doctoral Fellowships (1999-2000), and a Research Grant for the Bellagio Study and Conference Center entitled *Collaborative Writing on Translocal Flows in the Americas* (co-authored with Marcial Godoy-Anativia) and sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Program on Latin America and the Caribbean, Social Science Research Council (October 20-27, 2004).

Martínez-San Miguel Statement
Since I became a member of LASA in 1991, I have valued the interdisciplinary dialogues promoted by the association in its publications and in its Congresses. The conceptualization of Latin American culture has traditionally been a common area of research in the humanities and the social sciences. In the last twenty years, however, the intersections between these two disciplines have produced a new generation of scholars who combine the empirical data of the social sciences with the discursive analysis of literary studies, in order to conceptualize cultural productions as part of a social, cultural, artistic, and political continuum. Latin American Studies, Migration Studies, Comparative Literature, Spanish, English, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Latino and Cultural Studies have all been home departments or programs in which “culture” is analyzed and reconceptualized from this interdisciplinary perspective. LASA has been crucial in the configuration of an academic community that includes scholars based in the United States and Latin America. Humanistic studies and research within the United States have been traditionally conceived as an extension of Lucien Goldman’s classical model known as the “sociology of

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literature," while in Latin American and Caribbean Studies this interdisciplinary dialogue between the social sciences and the humanities has been a vital characteristic of the most prominent scholarship in the field (Fernando Ortiz, Gilberto Freyre, Frantz Fanon, Darcy Ribeiro, Antonio Cornejo Polar, Néstor García Canclini, Stuart Hall, Nelly Richard, Beatriz Sarlo, Walter Dignolo, among others). This critical difference informs not only how research fields are conceived, but also how scholars are formed. I am interested in broadening and fostering the intersections between the social sciences and the humanities in the study of cultural representation in Latin America and the Caribbean. We should address how these disciplines are epistemologically constructed in Latin America and the United States. How do Latin American and U.S. Latino critics read each other? How do their questions and methodologies overlap or diverge? These disciplinary distinctions are central to how we approach a field, and how we use its methodology in transnational intellectual contexts. I would like LASA to provide a space to analyze the implications of how Latin American Cultural Studies is articulated or imagined in the United States vis-à-vis different institutions in Latin America or the Caribbean. If elected to LASA's Executive Council, I would also like to foster debates that promote paradigm shifts among disciplines in the conceptualization of Latin American cultures.

Silvio Torres-Saillant, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Latino-Latin American Studies Program at Syracuse University, was the founding Director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at City College of the City University of New York, where he served in the Hostos Community College faculty until 2000. He spent academic year 2005-2006 at Harvard

University as the Wilbur Marvin Visiting Scholar affiliated with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. He has sat on the boards of the New York Council for the Humanities, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research, the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project, the Dominican-American National Roundtable, the New York State Council on the Arts, Ollantay Center for the Arts, the Latin American Writers Institute, the Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Committee of the Fulbright Scholars Program, the MLA Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, the MLA Delegate Assembly, and the American Social History Project, among others. He has served on the editorial boards of *Callaloo*, the *Latino (a) Research Review*, *Brújula/Compass*, among other serial publications. He is Associate Editor of *Latino Studies* and was one of the Senior Editors of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States*. He is the Guest Editor of the spring 2007 issue of *Review: Literature and Arts in the Americas*. The author of numerous journal essays, book chapters, and magazine articles, Torres-Saillant has published widely on Caribbean, Dominican, Latino, and Latin American topics, with a focus on cultural history, race and ethnicity, diasporic identity, and intellectual history. He has lectured widely in the United States and abroad, and in 2005 he was decorated with the Order of Merit of Duarte, Sanchez y Mella conferred by the government of the Dominican Republic. He has co-edited the collections *Desde la Orilla: hacia una nacionalidad sin desalojos* (Santo Domingo 2004), *The Challenge of Public Higher Education in the Hispanic Caribbean* (Princeton 2004), and *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage*, Vol. 4. (Houston 2002). With sociologist Ramona Hernández, he co-authored *The Dominican Americans* (Greenwood 1998). His book-length, single-

author publications include *An Intellectual History of the Caribbean* (Palgrave 2006), *El retorno de las yolas: Ensayos sobre diáspora, democracia y dominicanidad* (Ediciones Librería La Trinitaria/Editora Manatí 1999), and *Caribbean Poetics: Toward an Aesthetic of West Indian Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 1997). A native of the Dominican Republic, Torres-Saillant came to the United States in 1973, subsequently settling in the Dominican enclave of Washington Heights, in northern Manhattan, where he participated actively in community activism for over fifteen years.

Torres-Saillant Statement

A certain view of blackness may affect the study of Hispaniola. I once frequented a college where the Afro-American faculty asserted their primacy over Haiti, and their Latin American counterparts claimed the Dominican Republic. Monolingual training, legacies of fragmentation, and enduring biases that devalue heritages partition the hemisphere, discouraging our having a tolerably well-informed idea of the whole. Brazil may appear off limits to Latin Americanists unsensitized to the multiplicity of tongues spoken in the region. Indigenous voices will seldom reach beyond their immediate communities if not dignified with translation into Spanish or Portuguese. The educated in the hemisphere thus deprive ourselves of the wisdom of entire civilizations, cultural prejudice and linguistic limitations robbing us of it. Equally troubling, a student may graduate from the University of the West Indies without knowing about José Martí, as George Lamming once noted with sadness. We recognize connection and interdependence between populations in Latin America and in U.S. Hispanic settlements while sensing their apartness: their seamlessness interrupted by migration to an alien land, emergence of minoritized identities, and cultural changes stemming from diminished

contact with lands of origin. Pan-hemispheric paradigms typically gain ascendancy in the profession due to scholarly desire and our viewing borderlessness as an inevitable result of the fierce force of globalizing, capitalist dynamics. But we have yet to develop clearly explicable notions of the precise continuities existing between the Latino and Latin American experiences. We lack a coherent discourse to speak efficiently about the socio-cultural and intellectual link of Caribbean societies with their respective diasporas in the United States. If granted the honor of serving on the LASA Executive Council, I would hope to contribute to ongoing efforts to articulate viable ways of tackling the challenge of seeing the Americas as a difficult totality with inter- and intra-regional complexities and a perplexing rapport of diasporas and native lands. I expect my experience as a Comparatist, a Caribbeanist, a timid Latin Americanist, an advocate of Latino Studies, and a student of diasporic formations to serve me in such an endeavor. I envision a time when the numerous culture areas within our region will become equally visible to scholars. I envision scholars trained to recognize the reality of the phenomena that have split the hemisphere into distinct geographies of knowledge with contours tenuous enough to interlace with adjacent geographies and steady enough to render the interlacing toilsome.

Teresa Valdes is currently a senior researcher of the Center for the Study and Development of Women (CEDEM) in Santiago, Chile. For 25 years, she was a researcher and professor at the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Chile, where she also has been Deputy Director (1996-2001) as well as the founder and coordinator of the Gender Studies Area (1993-2006). She is also a visiting professor at the Stanford University's Program in Chile (since 1995), teaches at the Alberto Hurtado Jesuit

University (Santiago) and has been a Tinker Larocque Visiting Professor at Columbia University (New York, 1986). She studied Sociology at the Catholic University (Chile) and is a Social Sciences Ph.D. candidate at the Buenos Aires University, Argentina. A human rights activist, imprisoned by the dictatorship, she became a leader of the Women's Movement and contributed to the development of its political agenda—later institutionalized by the first democratic government. Member of the Sociology Group of the National Council for Science and Technology (Chile) and the Editorial Committee of the Latin American Research Review (México), she received in 2003 the “Elena Caffarena” Award given by the government of Chile in the category “Woman Researcher in Science and Education”. She coordinated the regional project “Latin American Women in Numbers” in 19 countries (1990-1995) that led to the publication of 17 national studies and a comparative volume (translated to English). For the first time in Latin America, an integral vision of the situation of women compared to that of men was achieved and many countries used their volume to prepare national reports to regional forums. She later led the regional project “The Index of Fulfilled Commitments” that published a “Social Watch Instrument for Women” in 18 countries (1997-2004) and developed gender indicators for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Cairo Programme of Action (ICPD). She is currently part of the international project “Introducing Gender and Sexualities in the Academic Curricula” (Colegio de México) and the Latin American Center for Sexuality and Human Rights (Brasil). She is currently preparing two books of the Index of Fulfilled Commitments project and coordinating a Social Observatory of President Bachelet's Commitments with Gender and Social Equity. A consultant for international organizations (UNDP,

UNIFEM, UNFPA, IADB, World Bank, JICA) and Chilean ministries (Women's Affairs, Health, Education, Housing), she also has been member of two national governmental commissions: the Citizen Council for the Strengthening of Civil Society (Rapporteur, 2000) and the Commission for the Analysis and Proposals on Sexual Education (2004). Author of *Venid, Benditas de mi Padre. Las Pobladoras, sus Rutinas y sus Sueños* (FLACSO, 1988); *De lo social a lo político. La acción de las mujeres latinoamericanas* (FLACSO-LOM, 2000); co-author of *Mujeres que sueñan: Las organizaciones de pobladoras en Chile 1973-1989* with M. Weinstein (FLACSO, 1993); *El poder en la pareja, la sexualidad y la reproducción. Mujeres de Santiago* with J. Gysling and C. Benavente (FLACSO, 1999); *El Índice de Compromiso Cumplido-ICC. Un instrumento para el control ciudadano de la equidad de género* with a group of researchers (two volumes for Chile and other countries and a comparative volume, FLACSO, 2001 and 2005); *Puertas adentro. Mujeres, vulnerabilidades y riesgo frente al VIH/SIDA* with C. Dides, A. Márquez and K. Barrales (FLACSO-MINSAL (Chilean Health Ministry), 2006). Editor of *Masculinidad/es. Poder y crisis* with J. Olavarria (Ediciones de las Mujeres N° 24, ISIS Internacional, 1997); *Masculinidades y equidad de género en América Latina y el Caribe* with J. Olavarria (FLACSO-UNFPA, 1998); *Familia y vida privada: ¿transformaciones, tensiones, resistencias o nuevos sentidos?* with X. Valdés (FLACSO-CEDEM-UNFPA, 2005).

Valdes Statement

I feel committed to pursue the strategy adopted by the actual directive of LASA toward the strengthening of dialogue and collaboration among academic researchers in the Americas regarding Latin America and the study of its profile, especially in the

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE continued...

prevalent moment of great transformations and political and social opportunities in our region. The presence and leadership capacity of new actors on the political scene who emerged from the social processes of the last decades, as well as the redefinition of the national and regional development agendas, summon social scientists to a rapprochement and a comprehension that go beyond simple visions and stereotypes—a concern that calls for a renewal in the discussions around leftisms, indigenism, feminism, popular movements and populisms as a necessary agenda. I believe in the richness of LASA as an academic and political forum able to nurture the role and commitment of the social sciences with the possibility to build societies that guarantee the full validity of human rights and social and gender justice, in the framework of a globalization that tightens human bonds as well as economic and politic dependencies. At the same time, I am deeply interested by the contribution of LASA to the unfolding and elaboration of history and memory processes that may further these new understandings, together with fortifying a wide array of social actors. Finally, I would like to bring closer and invigorate the bonds between Latin American academicians besides the institutional spaces that are more traditionally linked to LASA, in order to pay attention to the great transformations undergone by universities as well as to the emergence of new academic spaces and networks that seek to attend local needs. It is also very important that all the components of this praxis be gathered in the best possible manner by the Latin American Research Review.

Deborah J. Yashar is Associate Professor of Politics and International Affairs and Director of the Program in Latin American Studies at Princeton University. She is the author of various articles and chapters on democracy, citizenship, indigenous movements, collective action, and globalization. She has also written two books: *Demanding Democracy: Reform and Reaction in Costa Rica and Guatemala* (Stanford University Press, 1997); and *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America: The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge* (Cambridge University Press, 2005). The latter received the 2006 best book award from the New England Council on Latin American Studies (NECLAS) and the 2006 Mattei Dogan Honorable Mention, awarded by the Society for Comparative Research. She is currently writing a book, tentatively entitled *Violence, Citizenship, and Security in Post-Authoritarian Latin America*, which sets out to explain both the contemporary rise in violent crime and the uneven record of Latin America's third wave democracies to secure the rule of law. She is on the editorial boards of *Latin American Research Review*, *World Politics*, and *Studies in Comparative and International Development*, as well as the international advisory board for *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*. As a whole, Yashar's work addresses broad social science debates about Latin America while drawing heavily on work from political science, sociology, economics, history, and anthropology. If elected, she would bring this commitment to interdisciplinary conversations to the table.

Yashar Statement

Professor Yashar has been a member of LASA since 1992, during which time she has joined the editorial board of LARR (2006), served on the nominations committee (2003-2004), and participated as a member of the Ford-LASA Special Projects Fund Committee (2001). She was also an elected council member (1998-2001) of the New England Council of Latin American Studies. If elected to the LASA council, Yashar would advocate to further expand opportunities for travel and participation by Latin American scholars at LASA; would vote for Congress venues that are politically accessible and financially affordable to our international membership; and would continue to support the creation of political task forces to address pressing political issues. Yashar would also support the formation of research task forces to tackle more long-term issues of academic and political interest to the region; themes would be proposed by the LASA community but examples for consideration might include international task forces on enduring inequalities; violence; citizenship, mobilization, and representation; the new Latin American left(?); revisiting empire; migration and diaspora; etc. These research task forces would be designed to promote academic collaboration and to sustain agenda-setting scholarly exchange in the 18 months between LASA Congresses. ■

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