

Final Report from the LASA2007 Program Chairs

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After eighteen months of interesting and occasionally intense and demanding work, we are able to take satisfaction from the resulting program of the LASA2007 Congress in Montréal. During this period of ups and downs we were helped by the constant communication between ourselves, as well as with Charlie Hale, Milagros Pereyra, María Cecilia Dancisin and Sandy Klinzing.

The main activities that we carried out included the selection of tracks within the Congress theme. We decided to retain some of the tracks from previous Congresses, change the name of others, especially when they were the same as Sections, revive the track on International Relations and add several others. We also gave special importance to the track on *Otros Saberes*, given the grant support that this initiative had obtained.

Another decision was to select two chairs for each track in order to make the work a little easier, especially for the tracks that received many proposals. In addition, we aimed for a balance among track chairs from Latin American, U.S. and European universities. This turned out to be a good decision as the teams of track chairs worked well in making their joint evaluations of proposals.

Another task was to evaluate the requests for travel grants made by LASA Sections. In this regard, we disqualified all incomplete proposals, usually because they lacked the curriculum vitae of the proposed colleagues. We then applied the following criteria in making our decisions: we favored students from Latin America, indigenous and Afro-Latin American minorities, proposals that more closely fitted the overall Congress theme, the possibilities for



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securing travel funds from the home country or other sources of financial support. We gave a point score on each criterion in order to rank proposals. For example, well known colleagues with institutional affiliations had fewer possibilities for obtaining a grant than indigenous students who presented strong proposals.

Given that there was no specific rejection rate, we had to extend the Congress to four days due to the high number of proposals and the rejection rate in some of the tracks. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the track chairs for generously giving their time to LASA.

Putting the program together was an interesting process. We assigned sessions to different days on the basis of their evaluations.

In general, the experience was very interesting and allowed us to learn more about the Association and its functioning. In addition to the four individuals we mentioned at the outset, we acknowledge the superb work of Claudia Ferman, Director of the Film Festival. With Claudia at the helm we have grown accustomed to seeing the Festival as significantly enriching the proceedings of our grand-scale meetings. ■