

Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

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publications in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Technology has allowed a significant increase in the journal's accessibility and it is now available via nearly three thousand libraries, via which articles and whole journals may be downloaded.

In 2007, in conjunction with Blackwell Publishers, SLAS launched its Book Series Project to publish one interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary work a year that addresses and reflects the interests of SLAS members. Whilst beginning as an annual publication, it is hoped that the series will expand to several publications per year once it is established. A copy of the book is included in the membership subscription.

Finally, SLAS contributes to wider issues in research and policy through its membership of key UK organizations such as UKCASA (UK Council of Area Studies Associations), the British Academy Panel on Latin America and the Caribbean, the Standing Conference for Centres of Latin American Studies, and the Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean. These organizations give SLAS an important voice at the national level on a wide range of issues from research funding to government policy.

During its forty year history, the Society has faced many challenges in terms of interest in Latin American studies, at academic, student, and governmental levels. However, SLAS has proven itself very resilient, not only due to the quality of its publications and the strength of Latin American studies in the UK, but also to the dedication of its members and the supportive and collegial nature of the Society. ■

In September 2007, Michaëlle Jean, Canada's Governor-General, addressed the LASA Congress in Montréal. Shifting effortlessly from English to French to Spanish to Portuguese, she recalled her youth in Haiti, her family's move to Canada, and her work across the Caribbean and the Americas as a reporter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Her personal experience embodies Canada's growing connections with Latin America and the Caribbean over the past half-century—through migrations and myriad other exchanges. Academic research in Canada also reflected these changes. In 1969 a group of scholars organized the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS). As a Canadian organization, it operates in two official languages—English and French—with Spanish and Portuguese also playing important roles. The association will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary next year, and its membership has grown to some three hundred members.

The association's main activity is its conference, held every eighteen months, generally off-cycle from the LASA Congress. Many Latin Americanists attend both the CALACS and the LASA congresses, and are members of both organizations. CALACS conferences have been held across Canada, and as far afield as Guatemala. The last two conferences have been held in Western Canada, reflecting the strong and growing community of Latin Americanists in that part of the country. The 2006 conference was hosted by the University of Calgary, while the 2008 conference is being jointly hosted by two institutions in Vancouver: the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. The 2008 CALACS congress also marks the first time in almost twenty years that CALACS has held its congress as part of the broader congress of the Canadian Federation of Humanities and

Social Sciences (CFHSS). The CFHSS congress is, in the words of its organizers "the largest annual academic gathering in Canada, bringing together over 8,000 delegates who represent over 75 learned societies." In the future, CALACS may hold its meetings in conjunction with the CFHSS more frequently, in order to take advantage of the critical mass of scholars and associations, and the opportunity to meet with related organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Hispanists, and the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID).

The Caribbeanist presence in CALACS has also grown considerably in the past few years. Canada is home to a vibrant community of scholars studying the former British, French, and Dutch colonies in the Caribbean. For many years, this community was underrepresented in CALACS. However, over the past two conferences, CALACS has sponsored targeted initiatives to encourage Caribbeanist participation in the congresses and the broader life of CALACS. These initiatives, led by an energetic committee of Caribbeanists, have helped expand the presence and profile of Caribbean scholars and Caribbean studies within CALACS.

In addition to the large conference, CALACS has also begun to promote smaller regional workshops—with roughly 50 participants—and other grassroots initiatives. Over the past several years, for example, CALACS has supported workshops on economic and demographic change in Latin America, hosted by the University of Guelph; a graduate student conference on Latin American and Caribbean representations of the nation at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver; and a workshop in Quebec City. In the future, as funds permit, CALACS hopes to support other similar endeavors.

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CALACS also sponsors several electronic and print publications. The CALACS website underwent a major overhaul in 2006. The association also publishes several times a year a newsletter containing news of the profession. As of September 2007, the newsletter has been published electronically and circulated to CALACS members via email. CALACS's most important publication is the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CJLACS)*. Founded in 1976, *CJLACS* publishes peer-reviewed articles based on original research. Published twice yearly, the journal celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2006. The journal has, as its editor Victor Armony notes, a "pan-Canadian reach." *CJLACS* editorial offices are located at the Université du Québec à Montréal and production service are provided by the University of Calgary Press; *CJLACS* publishes articles in both of Canada's official languages. It is also important to note *CJLACS*'s global reach. *CJLACS* regularly publishes articles in Spanish and Portuguese, including work by scholars across the Americas and Europe, as well as from Canada. Articles published in *CJLACS* are indexed in leading electronic indexes such as the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* and the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*, and recent issues of the journal are also available online through several commercial academic databases provided by GaleGroup and Proquest.

CALACS is, like Canada itself, a perennial work-in-progress. Compared to LASA, it is a small organization—in a very large country. Because of this, it can be a challenge for CALACS to fully represent the wide-ranging linguistic, geographical, regional, and disciplinary interests of its members. The association can only provide financial support for a small fraction of the ideas and initiatives proposed by its members. At the same time, the

association's small size can also be an advantage; for example, its conferences are comparatively intimate events. CALACS has also collaborated with other area studies organizations both in Canada and abroad. Mostly recently, CALACS organized and sponsored several events in conjunction with the LASA conference in Montréal. For such a small association, CALACS is active and vibrant; as its membership grows in the future, it will be able to do even more. ■

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Applicants should have a doctoral degree (or expect to complete in 2009), promise of excellence in research, and good teaching potential. Applications will be treated in confidence and should include a letter of application with a statement of interest and research and teaching ability, curriculum vitae, and a list of publications. Applicants should also provide the names, addresses and phone/fax/email of three referees. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 31, 2008, until the position is filled.

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