

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Elections 2008

Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for vice president and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from May 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010 and as president from November 1, 2010 until April 30, 2012. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a three-year term from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2012.

Nominees for Vice President:

Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida
University of São Paulo

Rosemary Thorp
Oxford University

Nominees for Executive Council:

Roberto Blancarte
El Colegio de México

Paul Gootenberg
Stony Brook University

Robert Hoffmann
German Institute of Global and Area Studies

Gwen Kirkpatrick
Georgetown University

Nicolas Shumway
University of Texas

Kimberly Theidon
Harvard University

The Candidates

Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida is Professor at the University of São Paulo where she teaches in the Undergraduate Program of International Relations and in the Graduate Program of Political Science. She presently is deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at the University of São Paulo. She has a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences (1969) and a Ph.D. in Political Science (1979) from the University of São Paulo and engaged in post-doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley (1984). Her research interests focus on public policies and Brazilian political institutions, especially federal structures and intergovernmental relations. She published the book *Economic Crisis and Organized Interests* (São Paulo: Edusp) and some 100 articles in academic journals and books, among which are "Brazil - Privatization: reform through negotiation" and "Federalism and social policies in Brazil." She has been Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London (1992); Tinker Visiting Professor, Stanford University (1996); Visiting Professor, Latin America Program, Ortega y Gasset Institute (1999, 2000 and 2002); Visiting Professor, Political Science Department, Université de Montréal (2006). She served on LASA's Executive Committee (2001-2004) and has been President of the Brazilian Political Science Association (2006-2008). Presently, she is a member of the Brazilian Institute Advisory Council, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, and of the International Political Science Association's Executive Committee. She holds the Brazil National Order of Scientific Merit (2006).

Tavares de Almeida Statement

As a longtime LASA member, and having served on the Executive Committee for

three years, I took my nomination to the vice presidency as a challenge and an exciting academic endeavor. I consider LASA an invaluable tool for furthering our common knowledge about Latin America through exchange between academic fields and academic communities in the Americas and, secondarily, elsewhere. LASA is a successful organization and therefore needs little change. In this sense, as vice president and then president I would basically build upon what previous presidents and ECs have achieved. But since LASA's success can be interpreted in different ways, I would like to note the achievements that have impressed me and that I would further develop. I think LASA is an academic professional organization of enormous importance in the development of shared standards of scholarship and should continue to be so. LASA's main achievement, in my opinion, is its capacity to be a multidisciplinary organization where fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue is possible. Multidisciplinary organizations face the challenges of their diversity. Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines have evolved in quite different—and, sometimes, divergent—theoretical, epistemological and methodological directions, besides having their own internal differences of styles, approaches and methods. LASA has succeeded in including new areas, themes and analytical approaches in the academy. The Association's present challenge is to draw from its ingrained pluralist tradition to accommodate diversity in ways comfortable to all its members—and especially to create opportunities and venues for a productive intellectual exchange about our shared views on specific topics as well as about divergent views on where Latin American studies are and should head. Although something has already been done through the LASA

Forum, more can be achieved in LARR and during our Congresses. LASA decided to go South, and that was an important decision. The 2008 Congress, in Rio de Janeiro, will be a landmark in this process of approaching academic communities dedicated to the study of Latin American issues in different countries across the Continent. This will happen in an opportune moment, since in the democratic systems now prevailing in almost all Latin American countries, Social Sciences and Humanities communities are developing in the old institutions in which they resisted the authoritarian sieges, as well as in new ones, at universities or research centers. Professional academic associations, either disciplinary or getting together different fields, have been established. Many of these can cooperate with LASA and help increase its membership. In countries where academic institutions are still weak, participation in LASA can be of great help in connecting scattered intellectual communities to the international flow of information and knowledge. For scholars living in Latin America, LASA has been a forum in which their work can reach a public well beyond national borders. The Association has also allowed for their participation in international scholarly networks as partners in building a better understanding of Latin America within a broad comparative perspective. After decades of authoritarianism and economic distress, Latin America may be about to enter a new and promising era. The combination of growth and democracy creates favorable conditions for countries to begin facing secular problems of poverty, inequalities, waste of resources by privileged elites—and also new problems regarding environmental issues, promising paths to sustainable development, ways of enforcing citizens' rights and recognizing the legitimacy of new social identities. Scholars devoted to the study of Latin

America, across the Americas, cannot replace political and social actors facing the challenge of taking advantage of favorable conditions to build a better future. But scholars certainly can produce knowledge that may help clarify the issues at stake. As an academic, professional and multidisciplinary organization, able as no other in the region to bring together an immense array of qualified scholars from different countries, fields of knowledge and specialization, LASA enjoys a privileged position as it contributes to an educated debate about Latin America's present dilemmas and perspectives.

Rosemary Thorp has been Lecturer and then Reader in the Economics of Latin America at the University of Oxford since 1970. She has been a fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, since 1978. In 1995 she elected to move from the Economics department to Queen Elizabeth House, the university's Department of International Development, to support Frances Stewart as the new Director, in a move to give new life to interdisciplinary development studies in the university. She has held the rotating post of Director of the Latin American Centre for three periods. She has also been acting director, then interim director of Queen Elizabeth House. In her period on the Social Science Divisional Board she was heavily involved in creating and embedding an institutional mechanism to protect area and development studies in the course of a major university reform which aimed to decentralise and strengthen disciplines. She has taught and supervised masters and doctoral students throughout her time and been responsible for the development of new courses. She has had extensive voluntary sector and international experience. For seventeen years she was a trustee of Oxfam GB, a non-governmental organisation with an annual income of

£300 million. As chair for the last five years, she led the board of trustees in having overall responsibility for all of Oxfam GB's work and strategic thinking. It was an important part of the role to spend as much time as possible gaining experience of Oxfam's work on the ground and at the policy level. She was ex officio a member of the Oxfam International Board. Other international experience has included three years' teaching at Berkeley, and extensive involvement in a range of Latin American countries, but especially Peru, where she has taught and lectured widely, and in 2002 was the first holder of the Carlos Rodríguez Pastor Visiting Chair at the Catholic University, Lima. The university has recently awarded her an honorary degree. She graduated from Oxford in 1962 in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Her first major book was an economic history of Peru, with Geoff Bertram: *Peru 1890-1977: Growth and Policy in an Open Economy*, 1978 (also in Spanish). In the 1980s she ran a series of comparative economic history workshops resulting in published volumes, working closely with Carlos Díaz Alejandro until his death. In 1995 she was invited by Enrique Iglesias, president of the IDB, to write an economic history of Latin America in the twentieth century. She organised this as a collaborative project, building on the earlier workshops, and eventually included some eighty colleagues from throughout the Latin Americanist community. The result was: *Progress, Poverty and Exclusion: an Economic History of Latin America in the Twentieth Century* (also published in Spanish, French and Portuguese). Other books include: *Economic Doctrines in Latin America: their origin, evolution and embedding* (edited with Valpy Fitzgerald, 2006); *Group Behaviour and Development* (edited with Judith Heyer and Frances Stewart) 2005; *Decentralising Development: the*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE continued...

Political Economy of Institutional Change in Chile and Colombia. Alan Angell, Pam Lowden and Rosemary Thorp, 2001; *The Export Age: the Latin American Economies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries* (edited with Enrique Cárdenas and José Antonio Ocampo, 2000, also in Spanish); *Industrialization and the State in Latin America: the Black Legend and the Post-War Years* (edited with Enrique Cárdenas and José Antonio Ocampo, 2000, also in Spanish); *Economic Management and Economic Development in Peru and Colombia*, 1991 (also in Spanish); with L.Whitehead (eds.), *Latin American Debt and the Adjustment Crisis*, 1987 (also in Spanish); *Latin America in the 1930's: The Role of the Periphery in World Crisis* (ed), 1984 (also in Spanish); with L. Whitehead (eds.), *Inflation and Stabilization in Latin America*, 1979. Her recent research has returned to Peru and become more interdisciplinary in nature. She is working on the persistence of inequality, and especially the role of inequality between groups, above all ethnic groups. Recent articles from this work are: "Collective Action, Gender and Ethnicity in Peru: a case study of the comedores populares," not yet published, available from the author; "Group Inequalities and the Nature and Power of Collective Action: Case studies from Peru," with Ismael Muñoz and Maritza Paredes, *World Development* Nov. 2007; "Inequality, Ethnicity, Political Mobilisation and Political Violence in Latin America: the cases of Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru," with Corinne Caumartin and George Gray-Molina, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 2006; "Acción Colectiva, Violencia Política y Etnicidad en el Perú," with Ismael Muñoz and Maritza Paredes, Lima 2006; *Cuadernos de Investigación Política* N° 1, Department of Politics, Catholic University, Lima; "When and How Far is Group Formation a Route out

of Chronic Poverty?" *World Development* July 2005 (with Frances Stewart and Amrik Heyer). On retirement from her university appointment, she will remain as research associate in Queen Elizabeth House, and as Emeritus Fellow, St Antony's College.

Thorp Statement

I have been an enthusiastic supporter of LASA throughout my career, for the same reason as I have chosen to dedicate my career in Oxford to building interdisciplinary studies, and in particular Latin American Studies. As an economist I learnt in working on Peru that rooting my interpretation of the economy in the history, society, politics, geography and culture of the region gave me insights and understanding that I relished. And as many of us have found, Latin America is also a continent that engages and doesn't let go: the bonds of friendship and affection I have developed have sustained my commitment to Latin American Studies and therefore to LASA. The latter allows people like me to mix and cooperate, and defends the 'space' of interdisciplinarity in a world where increasingly complex disciplinary training can appear to threaten it. The growing complexity of disciplinary work is only one among many challenges which LASA faces and where I would seek to help. The organisation faces new challenges as Asia and Africa appear to absorb the attention of policy makers and funders alike. It faces new challenges as it grows—sheer numbers threaten to overwhelm efforts at dialogue and communication. It has always faced special in-built tensions. As a professional organisation originating outside Latin America, LASA has a delicate responsibility to support and enrich academic life within Latin America, not stifle it in some dependency nightmare. This is an in-built tension as we all want

our own institutions to grow stronger. And as a multi-disciplinary organisation, it has to hold in balance the interests of a shifting disciplinary composition of its membership: again an inherent tension requiring management. Perhaps here my experience in Oxfam would help me, should I be elected: Oxfam is an organisation abounding in such tensions—between the claims of advocacy, humanitarian need and long-run on-the-ground development work, or again in Oxfam International, as a confederation of 14 Oxfams. Oxfam and running my College's governing body have also shaped my view of governance. My career has taught me that consensus needs to be built and valued but in non-manipulative ways. The leadership needs to be strong in values: I hope LASA will always continue to be characterised by respect for human rights. I have always admired it as a professional organisation for strength and clarity on issues of human rights. The decision not to meet in the United States while this would prevent the attendance of Cuban colleagues is a good example. And finally, the leadership needs to be creative and self-critical in being genuinely inclusive. In short, I see LASA as more needed than ever, while it faces huge challenges to maintain quality and defend the field. If I were elected, it would give me enormous satisfaction to try to help it on its way.

Roberto J. Blancarte (born in Mazatlán, Mexico in 1957) is Professor and Director of the Center of Sociological Studies at El Colegio de México in Mexico City. He obtained his Ph.D. at the Écoles des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, France (1988). Founder and main counselor of the Interdisciplinary Program for the Study of Religions (PIER) of El Colegio Mexiquense in Zinacantepec, Mexico.

Associate researcher of the Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités in France. Member of the National Committee of Bioethics (2006-2007) and the National Commission to Prevent Discrimination of Mexico (2005-2008). He has been counselor at the Mexican Embassy to the Holy See and Chief of Staff of the Vice-ministry of Religious Affairs. His research work has dealt with sociology of religion, particularly Church-State relations, secularisation, “laicity” and lately around the connection between secular State and sexual and reproductive rights. He has been Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College (NH, USA) and the École Pratique des Hautes Études (France). Author and editor of several books, including *Historia de la Iglesia católica en México* (1992); *Religión, Iglesias y democracia* (1995); *Laicidad y valores en un estado democrático* (2000); *Afganistán, la revolución islámica frente al mundo occidental* (2001); *El sucesor de Juan Pablo II: Escenarios y candidatos del próximo cónclave* (2002); *Entre la fe y el poder: Política y religión en México* (2004); *Sexo, religión y democracia* (2008); *Los retos de la laicidad y la secularización en el mundo contemporáneo* (2008); *Para entender el Estado laico* (2008) and numerous articles in scientific reviews. He writes weekly a column on politics and religion for a national newspaper (*Milenio*) and participates actively in local politics, particularly around the subject of civil freedoms.

Blancarte Statement

A few years ago, I was asked by James Beckford and N. J. Demerath III, to contribute a chapter to the Handbook on Sociology of Religion (Sage, 2007). What I finally said in that contribution was that one of the good reasons for analyzing Mexico's religion and society is the fact that the country, and in fact the entire

region of Latin America, is simultaneously host to both a Western and a non-Western society. I tried to explain that Mexico, like many other Latin American or Caribbean countries, experiences modernity or post-modernity with all the ambivalence and paradoxes of any country that was colonized and partially Westernized. Precisely because of that, Latin America could and should be a perfect reminder that theories devised to explain particular situations are not always automatically applicable in general. Furthermore—I stated—in order to achieve global reach, concepts and theories should incorporate particular experiences. “Theory construction can then become a two-way process, not only in the sense of a dialogue between theory and empirical data—between analysis and facts—but also between the different experiences of Western, semi-Western and non-Western societies.” I insisted that I perceived this as a permanent dialogue between different perspectives in an attempt to create universal tools for a broader understanding of society: we could call this a “system of cultural mirrors in social sciences” that would seek to elaborate new universal paradigms, theories and concepts. This is how I see the role of the Latin American Studies Association. If elected to the Executive Council, I would like to promote in that direction this important and inevitable exchange, in order to increase the understanding of our societies and of our disciplines.

Paul Gootenberg

I trained as an historian in the early 1980s at St. Antony's College, Oxford and the University of Chicago, specializing in the Andes and Mexico. Those two institutions left me with an indelible appreciation for vibrant interdisciplinary communities. I have taught at Stony Brook University

since 1991, contributing to the growth of its international Ph.D. program in Latin American history. My early work, in books like *Between Silver and Guano: Commercial Policy and the State in Postindependence Peru* (Princeton, 1989), looked at the political economy of early Latin American state formation from the angle of historical sociology. In recent years I have published widely in the emerging field of drug history: my new book, *Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug* (UNC Press, 2009), uses a global commodity lens on cocaine's long-term history. As the director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Stony Brook (2000-05), I developed a Rockefeller Foundation funded program on “Durable Inequalities in Latin America” which tried to shed new historical and cultural light on this central dilemma of Latin American societies and social sciences. Over the past decade, I have been active in a number of projects at the Social Science Research Council, which keeps me close to my interdisciplinary roots. I live in Brooklyn and have two young kids.

Gootenberg Statement

As LASA continues to vigorously grow and diversify in the 21st century, we need to continually expand its global reach and inclusiveness. LASA must continue to foster the participation and leadership of Latin American and Caribbean scholars, as well as reach out concertedly to younger scholars, such as graduate students. LASA can act as a wide bridge between the area studies tradition, with its keen sense of place, history, and culture, and the diversity of disciplinary and theoretical traditions from which we come. As the United States enters this more hopeful stage of its political life in 2009, socially-informed scholarship may indeed make a difference. LASA can help shape the renewed public debates that will

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE continued...

undoubtedly ensue about an informed, multilateral, multicultural, and constructive engagement with the world, including of course Latin America.

Bert Hoffmann is vice-director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg, Germany. He studied at the Free University of Berlin, where he received his doctorate in political science with a thesis on the politics of the Internet in Third World development. After working as a journalist he joined the Institute of Iberoamerican Studies in Hamburg as a researcher in 1993. In 1998 he became assistant professor at the Latin American Institute of the Free University of Berlin, and since 2003 he has been a senior researcher at the GIGA Institute of Latin American Studies. A LASA member since 1998, he currently serves as secretary of LASA's Europe-Latin America Section. Over the course of his career, Hoffman has worked on a diverse range of issues in a variety of settings, both in academia and beyond. In 1998 he was awarded a research grant from the Instituto Rio Branco in Brasília. He was invited to be a visiting scholar at Nuffield College, Oxford University from February to April 2007. And in 2007/08 he was a visiting professor at the Free University of Berlin's "Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood" research center. Alongside his academic research, he has also worked for or advised NGOs in the fields of solidarity and human rights, and has served as a consultant on development cooperation. In his role as academic coordinator of GIGA's publications, Bert Hoffmann led the GIGA to embrace open-access publishing; this has culminated in the current transformation of the institute's five area-focused journals from print and subscription periodicals into full open-access publications. As part

of this initiative, the *Journal of Politics in Latin America (JPLA)* will be launched at the beginning of 2009 as a new and ambitious open-access journal with an international editorial team and board (see www.jpla.org). Hoffmann's publications include, among others, *Debating Cuban Exceptionalism* (coedited with Laurence Whitehead), New York/London: Palgrave 2007; *Cuba. Apertura y reforma económica. Perfil de un debate*. Caracas: Nueva Sociedad 1995; and numerous journal articles and book chapters such as "Why Reform Fails: The 'Politics of Policies' in Costa Rican Telecommunications Liberalization," in *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* No. 84, April 2008; "Los retos del desarrollo social en la era digital," in Müller, Ulrich / Bodemer, Klaus (eds.): *Nuevos paradigmas de desarrollo para América Latina*; Hamburg 2004; "Transformation and Continuity in Cuba," in *Review of Radical Political Economics*, Vol. 33, No. 1, Elsevier 2001; "¿Subvirtiéndolo los 'intereses nacionales'?" *Los latinos y la política exterior de EE UU*," in Ingrid Wehr (Hg.): *Un continente en movimiento: Migraciones en América Latina*, Frankfurt/M., Madrid: Vervuert 2006; "How Do you Download Democracy? Potential and Limitations of the Internet for Advancing Citizens' rights in the Third World: Lessons from Latin America," in *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft - International Politics and Society*, 3/2005; "Cuba: Civil Society Within Socialism—and its Limits," in Henke, Holger / Reno, Fred (ed.): *Modern Political Culture in the Caribbean*; Barbados et al.: University of the West Indies Press 2003. From 1993 to 2005 he was coeditor of the German-language Latin America yearbook *Lateinamerika Analysen und Berichte*.

Hoffmann Statement

It is a great honor to have been nominated to serve on LASA's Executive Council. Over the Association's history we have witnessed its impressive growth and transformation from a U.S. organization into a truly international forum for all scholars working on Latin America, wherever they reside. The choice of Rio de Janeiro as the site for the upcoming Congress perfectly symbolizes how strong and successful the participation of scholars from Latin America has become. In this context, LASA's longstanding commitment to scholarly exchanges with Cuba obliges the association to take a strong public stance against U.S. restrictions on travel to and from the island. If elected, I would strive to contribute to LASA's development with three priority concerns:

- 1) Reaching out beyond the Americas: In addition to the continuing outreach to the academic communities in Latin America, LASA's drive to become a fully global association should aim to include an enhanced presence of scholarship on Latin America from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.*
- 2) Coping with size: As proud as LASA should be of its growth, the ever-increasing number of members and Congress participants also poses new challenges. The creation of LASA Sections has been a vital step in the past, and an expanded role for the Sections within LASA's activities and Congresses could help cope with growth-related challenges. At the same time, LASA should strengthen its core identity as a professional association in which scholars from all relevant disciplines and from the most diverse approaches find an intellectual home. This should also lead to renewed efforts to build bridges with scholars from the discipline of economics. While we seem to have become accustomed*

to the rather marginal presence of this discipline within LASA over the years, this remains an unsatisfactory situation given the truly interdisciplinary approach we need in area studies and for which LASA stands.

3) *Open access: LASA is committed to the democratization of scholarly communication and to overcoming barriers that restrict access to the results of research. It is precisely these goals that are at the core of the open-access movement, which has been spreading dynamically in Latin America and other parts of the world in recent years. Accordingly, I would like LASA to engage in a more active debate about the promotion of open-access publishing—a matter that pertains directly to the professional interests of the Association's members.*

Gwen Kirkpatrick (U Alabama, BA1971; Princeton U, PhD 1979) is Professor of Spanish at Georgetown University since 2004. Her publications include: *Dissonant Legacy of Modernismo*, the co-authored *Women, Culture and Politics in Latin America*, and editions and co-editions on Sarmiento, Lugones, and Guiraldes. Her most recent publications are studies on the contemporary poetry of Carmen Berenguer, Francisco Leal and Lorenzo Helguero; the novels of Diamela Eltit; and nineteenth century literature and culture. In 2008 she was elected president of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana. She has served on editorial boards of *Revista Iberoamericana*, *LARR*, *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*, and other journals, and is a contributor to the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. At Georgetown and at UC Berkeley, where she taught 1982-2003, she has been an active collaborator in Latin American Studies, as CLAS graduate director and center

director, department chair, and most recently teaching in the LAS graduate program at Georgetown. She has received NEH, Fulbright, and UC Humanities Center fellowships and has been a reviewer for fellowship programs of the Ford Foundation, NEH, Fulbright, ACLS, and SSRC. From 1999 to 2001 she resided in Santiago, Chile, as director of the University of California Education Abroad Program. This fall she is also teaching a graduate seminar at the University of Maryland in addition to her teaching duties at Georgetown University.

Kirkpatrick Statement

LASA has long attracted members from several disciplines. This juxtaposition and interaction among the disciplines have produced LASA's astounding growth and vitality in recent years. I see three primary challenges for LASA. One of LASA's challenges is to confront the asymmetry of an organization focused on Latin America, but whose membership resides largely in the United States. Another is to recognize the membership shift among the disciplines, with a much larger percentage now in the humanities. A third is to continue to address the need to include Brazil and the Portuguese language as a central part of LASA's range. LASA's leadership has vigorously addressed the first issue, the asymmetry with Latin America itself, and has attempted to incorporate participants from Latin America in meaningful ways, through collaborative projects, publications, and conference attendance. This is an ongoing challenge. Attention to the dynamics of publishing in both the United States and Latin America is an area that could potentially engage members and potential participants in meaningful dialogue. Additionally, the wave of creation of new doctoral programs in Latin America can be a way to evaluate graduate education

throughout the hemisphere. The shift among disciplines within LASA reflects changes within the disciplines themselves, where some fields no longer encourage area specializations. To maintain the vitality of true multidisciplinary, however, LASA must encourage the widest range of disciplinary participation. LASA has been fairly successful at incorporating recently formed or emergent disciplines, such as U.S. Latino studies or sexuality studies, but less successful in retaining the interest of scholars in, say, agricultural economics or political science. How do we structure an organizational discourse that is inclusive of disciplines that do not share a culturalist language? The third issue is a critical one, for LASA will be much impoverished without the inclusion of scholars focusing primarily or partly on Brazil. LASA should work toward promoting competence in Portuguese as well as Spanish for specialists of Latin America. Such a posture might go a long way in reincorporating Brazilianist scholars within LASA.

Nicolas Shumway has enjoyed a long and varied career as a scholar, teacher, administrator, and musician. As an undergraduate at BYU, he majored in Spanish and Music, after which he completed an MA and a PhD at UCLA in Hispanic Languages and Literatures. While his doctoral major was in literature, he accrued sufficient course credits for a second doctoral major in Hispanic linguistics. He has continued active in all these fields. His language textbook, *Español en Español*, which went through four successful editions, grew out of his interest in applied linguistics. Similarly, he continues active in music performance and for several years sang professionally with the Roger Wagner Chorale and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. He has also held

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE continued...

positions of choir director and organist in several churches. In 1976, he began his first tenure-track teaching position at Indiana University Northwest. Two years later, he accepted a position at Yale University where he taught literature and applied linguistics while also directing the Yale Spanish language program. He was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure at Yale in 1987 and to Full Professor in 1992. In 1993 he accepted his current appointment at the University of Texas at Austin as the Tomás Rivera Regents Professor of Spanish Literature and Language. In 1995, he was appointed Director of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS) at UT-Austin, a position he held for eleven years, during which he submitted four applications for NRC and FLAS funding under the NEA Title VI programs, all of them successful. As director, he expanded LLILAS programs and was instrumental in securing endowment and grant funding that has helped maintain UT's international prominence in Latin American Studies. He also enjoyed frequent interaction with other NRC directors and developed a broad understanding of all that Latin American Studies entails. In fall of 2006, he stepped down as Director of LLILAS to become Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, a position he continues to hold, although he is on research leave for the current academic year. Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, he has held visiting appointments in Brazil at the Universidade de São Paulo and in Argentina at the Universidad Torcuato di Tella and the Universidad de San Andrés. He thus would bring to the LASA EC an unusually broad range of experience that includes directing a language program, heading a major center in Latin American Studies, and chairing a large and highly regarded academic department. As a

scholar, Prof. Shumway has written widely on Hispanic literature, Hispanic cultural history, and language teaching. Still in print, his book *The Invention of Argentina* received honorable mention for the LASA Bryce Wood Prize. It was also selected by *The New York Times* as a "Notable Book of the Year." The book was later translated into Spanish and published in Argentina under the slightly amended title, *La invención de la Argentina: historia de una idea*. A revised and expanded edition of the Spanish edition was published in Argentina in 2005, a Portuguese translation of which just appeared in Brazil. He has also published on a variety of Hispanic authors, including Pedro Calderón de la Barca, José Joaquín de Lizardi, Ricardo Palma, Teresa de la Parra, Raúl Scalabrini Ortiz, Tomás Eloy Martínez and—an enduring favorite—Jorge Luis Borges. As a citizen in the profession, Professor Shumway has long been active in LASA and the Modern Language Association. He has served on several key MLA committees, including the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities, the Radio Program Committee, and most recently the MLA Executive Council.

Shumway Statement

I begin with dos grandes obviedades: Latin America is a very big place, and Latin American Studies is a very big subject consisting of myriad sub-subjects, many waiting to be thought of. However obvious these statements might be, they suggest a direction for LASA that I will promote, that direction being one that can include as many topics, institutions, and people as academic responsibility will allow. With this in mind, I list below areas I would support as a member of the EC. LASA must continue to provide space for traditional disciplines to discuss explore, challenge and enhance their particular approaches to Latin American subjects.

While challenging traditional disciplinary methods and boundaries is both healthy and necessary, let's not forget that academic rigor is often linked to the standards of traditional disciplines. No one should feel that LASA has moved beyond them, or that there is not a place in LASA for any academically responsible debate, including debates on politics. LASA must also welcome new ways of approaching Latin America, ways that make room for discussions on gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, and new theoretical approaches. Similarly, we must also continue developing strategies for including the traditionally excluded. LASA must continue its efforts to become a genuinely global organization. We need particularly to cultivate institutional contacts with universities throughout the world and particularly in Latin America. LASA should develop aggressive fundraising strategies to underwrite the needs of a global organization in which not all partners have the same economic wherewithal. While LASA has a good record for supporting research, we should pay more attention to teaching. For example, the most likely place for students to first encounter Latin American topics is in language classrooms. Language-teaching professionals have been talking about "language across the curriculum" for some time. LASA needs to cultivate a corresponding interest in how specialists in anthropology, history or gender studies might enrich language instruction. Similarly, LASA should continue exploring ways for bringing technological innovations into the classroom to enhance collaborative learning and research, and give both students and scholars greater control of digital research materials and methods. But most of all, LASA must continue being an organization where defenders of all approaches to Latin American Studies can meet, discuss,

disagree and learn in an environment of mutual concern and respect. For indeed, Latin America is a very big place, and Latin American Studies is a very big subject.

Kimberly Theidon is a medical anthropologist focusing on Latin America. Her research interests include political violence, forms and theories of subjectivity, transitional justice, and human rights. From 2001-2003 she directed a research project on community mental health, reparations and the micropolitics of reconciliation with the Ayacuchan office of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A book based upon this research, *Entre Prójimos: el conflicto armado interno y la política de la reconciliación en el Perú*, was published in 2004 by the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos. Her second book, *Intimate Enemies: Violence and Reconciliation in Peru*, is forthcoming from Stanford University Press. Dr. Theidon is currently conducting research in Colombia and Ecuador on two interrelated themes: the causes and consequences of populations in displacement, refuge and return, with a particular interest in the role of humanitarian organizations in zones of armed conflict; and the paramilitary demobilization process in Colombia. She is the director of Praxis Institute for Social Justice, and is an Associate professor of Anthropology at Harvard University.

Theidon Statement

Sería un privilegio servir como miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de LASA, y trabajar para hacer la organización más relevante por nuestr@s colegas quienes viven en Latinoamérica. Mi enfoque sería en elaborar más oportunidades y formas de apoyo para jóvenes investigadores, especialmente aquellos que viven afuera de las grandes capitales de sus países y por lo tanto tienen menos acceso a las redes transnacionales de becas, estudios posgrado y mentoring. Los intercambios académicos han tendido a favorecer a los y las alumnos norteamericanos, pero los intercambios unidireccionales empobrecen nuestros diálogos intelectuales y oscurecen los importantes aportes teóricos producidos afuera de los centros de poder académico y económico. En colaboración con colegas quienes comparten mi compromiso, intentaré establecer un programa que sea sostenible y contribuya a multiplicar las oportunidades disponibles a jóvenes investigadores y, en turno, diversificar lo que se considera “conocimiento”. ■

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