

Report from the Program Chairs

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As we anticipated after seeing the record number of proposals—43 percent more than for the Montréal Congress—we have had to schedule the Rio meeting over three and a half days, from Thursday morning through Sunday morning. This is true even though we shall have a record number of rooms available. Except for Sunday, when the sessions will end at noon, the meetings will run from 9:00 am until 6:45 pm at the Catholic University and will be followed by receptions, probably mainly at the hotels (negotiations about venues for receptions continue).

We can also now report that the number of submissions from Brazilian scholars has been unprecedented—1663 individual submissions. Because of this huge response from LASA members, and despite extending the meeting calendar to Sunday, we found it necessary to reject nearly 20 percent of the panels and papers proposed. On the other hand, some 7,200 of those who submitted proposals will be receiving news of *acceptance* from the Secretariat in late October. Please be mindful of the fact that it was only possible to accommodate such a large number of proposals because we have so many rooms available and therefore can run a large number of concurrent sessions.

This necessitates running concurrent sessions from the same track, so attendees inevitably will not be able to visit all the sessions of interest to them.

We are enormously grateful to the chairs of the 35 tracks who reviewed the thousands of proposal submissions for the Rio Congress, including those who signed on as second or third co-chairs once the volume of submissions became clear: Mirta Antonelli (Culture, Power and Political Subjectivities), Rodrigo Cánovas (Literary Studies: Contemporary), Jorge Papadopoulos (Politics and Public Policy), Maria Aparecida Andrade Salgueiro (Literature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches), Nestor Rodriguez (Crossborder Studies and Migration), Gonzalo Rojas-Ortuste (Literary Studies: Contemporary), Ben Schneider (Economics and Development), and Elliott Young (Transnationalism.) However, literally hundreds of panel proposals and individual paper proposal submissions were sent to the wrong tracks—something to note for future Congresses. (Errors were particularly common for the Culture, Power and Political Subjectivities track, which received over a hundred proposals that should have gone to political and other social science tracks.)

We also scheduled an exciting series of presidential panels, including sessions on inequality as it relates to the social sciences, history, and economics; ecological issues; welfare states; the politics of racial/ethnic categorization; literature and recent political turns to the left and right; and new Brazilian and Mexican Cinema. There will also be a LARR-sponsored series of workshops on scholarly publishing and keynote lectures by several distinguished Brazilian scholars.

We could not have accomplished our task of scheduling all the sessions in Pittsburgh last week without the invaluable preparatory work and collaboration of Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, Executive Director of LASA; Monica Davis, the LASA Staff Coordinator for the Rio Congress; Sandra Klinzing, Assistant Director for Institutional Advancement, and Israel R. Perlov, Administrative Coordinator. As always, Eric Herschberg's overall vision and leadership has been essential to the Congress planning.

All in all, this promises to be the most ambitious and international LASA Congress ever! ■

Target Dates for LASA2009

December 15, 2008	Deadline to submit changes/corrections for Program Book (lasacong@pitt.edu)
January 19, 2009	Notification of travel grant requests (date subject to change based upon availability of funds)
February 15, 2009	Pre-registration deadline
February 15, 2009	Deadline for canceling pre-registration without penalty
March 9, 2009	Deadline to submit electronic paper for Congress proceedings (lasacong@pitt.edu)