

Report of the LASA Business Meeting

XXVIII International Congress | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | June 12, 2009

Presenting were President Eric Hershberg, President-elect John Coatsworth, Treasurer Kevin Middlebrook, *LARR* Editor Philip Oxhorn, LASA2009 Program Co-chair Evelyn Huber, and Executive Director Milagros Pereyra.

President's Report

President Hershberg greeted the audience and indicated that LASA2009 was a Congress of larger scale than any that had taken place previously. The long lines at registration the day before were one symptom of that. Hershberg was pleased that despite the economic difficulties in the United States more than \$350,000 had been secured for travel grants for Latin Americans and for graduate students. The cancellation of the Book Exhibit had been a major disappointment; however he was confident that it would return for LASA2010 in Toronto. LASA's request for licenses for Cuban scholars to participate in LASA2009 had been approved just prior to the Congress. (The approval of licenses is required in order that LASA may provide funding to Cuban residents.) The granting of licenses bodes well not only for LASA but for other institutions that seek to fund Cuban travel to conferences.

Treasurer's Report

LASA Treasurer Kevin Middlebrook indicated that the annual audit and all financial management procedures were well up to par. Efficient management of finances by the Secretariat had meant that no funds had been drawn from the Endowment. During the economic downturn in the past year the Endowment had declined by a little less than a quarter, but as of June 2009 it was valued at \$3.1 million. With cash reserves at \$1.3 million, total assets at the end of the month will be \$4.4 million. The Endowment is managed by Ways and Means,

in association with a private sector-based investment advisory committee. The strong consensus over the past months had been to maintain a very conservative profile, with 40 percent in fixed income and 60 percent in equities (down from 80 percent in equities a year ago). LASA remains committed to moving further with socially responsible investing (SRI), and eventually SRI will represent approximately 40 percent of the Endowment.

LASA2009 Congress Program Chair Report

Congress Co-chair Evelyn Huber reported on what she and Co-chair Cynthia Steele had done in organizing the Congress. The co-chairs had reviewed the numbers of sessions from LASA2007 to redefine the tracks, collapsing some with fewer panels and subdividing a huge track on Democratization into three tracks. They then selected track chairs, who then assigned points to each panel and individual paper proposal. Submissions were up 43 percent over LASA2007, and despite extending the Congress to three and one-half days and having 72 rooms at PUC, track chairs were instructed to reject more proposals to accommodate the sessions, resulting in a 25 percent rejection rate for LASA2009. All the submissions had been received by the Secretariat and then sent to the track chairs, who then reported to the program chairs. The program co-chairs then assembled the program. In some situations where track chairs did not follow instructions and allowed for a 98 percent acceptance rate, the program co-chairs themselves had to reject more of those panels. After the program was compiled, acceptance notices were sent. Some accepted participants canceled and others failed to pre-register, resulting in about a 20 percent drop-off rate off for participants. Ultimately the program finished with some panels of only one or two papers. Believing that the damage would be too great

if panels were cancelled at that point those panels were allowed to remain. For the next Congress, however, preventive measures will be taken.

LASA Executive Director Report

Executive Director Milagros Pereyra focused on two issues: the growth in membership associated with the Congress and the increase in the number of travel grants. During the past year membership had grown to a record 5,900 individual members. Of this number, 54 percent represented U.S. residents and 46 percent residents of other countries, the majority from Latin America. (Prior to 2009 approximately 25 percent of the membership had resided in Latin America.) Various foundations, individual donors, and LASA itself provided funding for travel grants, and ultimately 40 percent of panel participants requesting funding were provided grant support. (For LASA2007 approximately 28 percent of solicitations had been funded.) Congress pre-registrations numbered 5,100—more than ever before. The longer lines at registration had resulted from the implementation of a new procedure to better determine who among the pre-registrants did not attend the Congress. In previous years many individuals had pre-registered but did not travel to the Congress to participate in their sessions, resulting in a number of sessions with fewer participants and some cancelled sessions as well. The new procedure allows the Secretariat to determine who these individuals are and to take preventive measures as needed.

Latin American Research Review (LARR) Editor Report

LARR Editor Philip Oxhorn reported that since it is an established journal, there is not much change with *LARR* from year to year. The journal had received 120 submissions over the past 12 months, a record number of

LASA BUSINESS MEETING *continued*

submissions. Slightly fewer than 40 percent of the articles emanate from political science, and the rest are distributed over a variety of disciplines. Oxhorn expressed his desire to have more submissions from anthropologists and historians, who represent a large part of LASA. *LARR* is sponsoring five panels at LASA2009; three concern environmental issues, and these will be part of a special issue of *LARR* in two years. (*LARR*'s first special issue "Living in Actually Existing Democracies" will be out by the end of 2009.) A fourth Congress panel will feature editors discussing journal publication and a fifth will present editors from Spanish, Portuguese, and English journals talking about what constitutes a good article or manuscript.

President-elect Report

President-elect John Coatsworth reported on plans for the LASA2010 Congress. The theme will be "Crisis, Response and Recovery." There will be a series of presidential panels devoted to the crisis as well as to particular anniversaries. Three panels will focus on the Congress theme: one on the debate among economists regarding the nature of the crisis; a second on the impact of the crisis on government and social movements; and the third will attempt to capture some aspect of the cultural expressions that have been inspired by events of the last year and the economic crisis. The anniversaries to be honored include the bicentennial of the Latin American independence movements, the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, and the 40th anniversary of The Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS).

Coatsworth continued with a discussion of the anticipated changes in the Congress program and how it will be constructed. It will be necessary to be more selective for LASA2010; there will be only 52 rooms

available for sessions and there is a desire to limit the program to three days. The number of approved panels will need to be reduced; the new rate will be two of three approved, instead of the three of four approved for LASA2009. With the escalation in the number of individual proposals (3,000 for LASA2009), the LASA Executive Council (EC) approved announcing the acceptance of only one in three individual proposals. Members will be encouraged to construct and submit panels for a better chance of acceptance. The Secretariat will provide an electronic bulletin board to facilitate networking and the construction of panels.

Measures also will be implemented to reduce the number of panels that are cancelled because of a lack of participation. Accepted participants will be notified of the deadline for pre-registration; after this date those who fail to register will be dropped from the Congress program. Panels with only one or two remaining participants will be recombined by the program chair into new panels. With these new procedures the program committee hopes to reduce the number of individual papers organized into panels to about 250, and also to reduce the overall number of panels.

Coatsworth introduced his third issue: abandoning the 18-month Congress cycle in favor of an annual meeting. This had been discussed by the EC, and they had recommended making no change before the 2012 Congress, which presumably will take place in the United States. However, after 2012 there is likely to be a switch to an annual meeting. LASA will survey the members to determine what time of year might be best for the Congress.

The EC did not raise membership or Congress registration fees. The fall issue of the *LASA Forum* will present comparative data on the member fees of other area studies associations; LASA charges a smaller membership fee than all others with one

exception. However the EC did vote to make one adjustment to the membership rate for Latin American members: a new income class was added for Latin American residents with annual incomes over \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Lastly, Coatsworth indicated that the Association is in "terrific hands." He will do his best to "not fix anything that is not broken."

An invitation came from the floor to hold the 2012 Congress in Salamanca, Spain, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the founding of the University of Salamanca. Hershberg indicated that the EC had recommended putting this on the agenda for later discussion. He himself found the idea very interesting.

A question was posed regarding which panels would be removed from the program. Coatsworth responded that only those panels where the majority of participants had not pre-registered would be removed. However, before this is done the track chairs would be asked to contact those on panels who had not pre-registered. Only after the deadline had passed and there had been no response would the individuals remaining be placed on a new panel.

Hershberg reported on the resolution on Cuba that had been presented to the EC. The EC had approved the resolution for submission to the membership. The originator of the resolution, Jean Weisman, then asked that the words "by students from the United States" be removed from the resolution before it goes forward. There was agreement that the words should be struck.

Hershberg called for any new business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned. ■

Photos from LASA2009

Committee Chair Alejandra Bronfman presents the Bryce Wood Book Award to Winifred Tate



Padre Jesus Hortal, Reitor of PUC/Rio, addresses Congress participants at the Welcoming Reception



Committee Member Frederick Moehn presents the Media Award to Mario Osava



Eric Hershberg presents the Premio Iberoamericano to Vicente Palermo

ON LASA2009

Photos from LASA2009

Pat and John Coatsworth with
Marysa Navarro and Milagros Pereyra



Padre Jesus Hortal, Rosa Marina de Brito, Karl Eric Schollhammer,
Eric Hershberg and the Capoeira Group of PUC



Sonia Álvarez, Claudia de Lima Costa and friends enjoying the Welcoming Reception



Presidential Plenary speaker Diego Garcia Sayán
addresses the audience

Presidential Plenary Speaker Joseph Stiglitz



Kalman Silvert Awardee Alfred Stepan with Evelyne Huber and Charlie Hale



credit: Julian Asenjo (University of Pittsburgh)



Diskin Dissertation Fellowship Awardee Augusto dos Santos Sales with Eric Hershberg

From Rio to Toronto: What to Expect for LASA2010

by JAVIER CORRALES, *Program Co-Chair* | Amherst College | jcorrales@amherst.edu

and NINA GERASSI-NAVARRO, *Program Co-Chair* | Tufts University | Nina.Gerassi_Navarro@tufts.edu

Months before the Rio Congress took place in June 2009, the LASA Secretariat was already busy preparing for the next Congress, scheduled for October 2010 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. LASA Congresses have become such a massive operation that it takes almost two years of full-time planning to ensure the success of those few days we meet. As program co-chairs for the LASA2010 congress, we would like to offer a preview of what to expect. While the program for LASA2010 remains a long way from being finalized, it is already clear that some things will change, while many others will stay the same.

In terms of changes, the meeting in Toronto will undergo some slight downscaling, but also some significant upscaling. If you can forgive the cliché, LASA is becoming the victim of its own success. The number of paper proposals for LASA has expanded dramatically, from 1,406 in 2004 to a record number 4,184 in 2009. Nothing speaks more about the resounding success of our organization than this expansion of interest in presenting papers at our meetings. But this growth poses challenges. The actual time devoted for the conference cannot exceed much beyond the three-to-four days we typically meet. In Toronto in particular, we will have 52 rooms per day, which is more than in years past, but far less than the 70 plus rooms per day we enjoyed in Rio. These time and space constraints will require some inevitable downscaling: unless the number of proposals drops sharply, it will simply be impossible to repeat the acceptance rate of the past.

Downscaling the acceptance rate will be a difficult challenge for the Association. LASA has been known for its commitment to a policy of opening doors to as many academic papers and artistic productions as possible even if that meant paying less attention to each paper's stage of

development. For 2010, even if we add an extra day to our meeting, structural factors together with expanded demand will simply not allow as many acceptances as in the past.

To help us navigate through this lower acceptance rate, we are introducing some changes that we hope will ensure fairness and clarity.

- 1) Most tracks will now have two and sometimes three co-chairs. Track chairs play a vital role. They are volunteer scholars responsible for ranking paper and panel proposals. They also make travel grant recommendations. We hope that the co-chair system will ensure more diversity in the ranking of proposals. By September, we hope to have the complete list of track co-chairs.
- 2) In recruiting chairs, we have adhered to the philosophy of our predecessors, Evelyne Huber and Cynthia Steele, to choose not just reputable scholars but also open-minded, non-dogmatic thinkers who embrace LASA's spirit of multidisciplinary and plurality of methods.
- 3) We will also increase the number of tracks (a new track on Technology and Pedagogy has already been approved) and consolidate some of the tracks that in the past attracted less interest. This change should lessen the problem of double submissions.
- 4) Clearer guidelines will be posted to help presenters write better proposals.
- 5) A page on the LASA website will be created to allow authors of "orphan" papers to find other authors working on similar subjects. We hope that this new page, inspired on the already existing

Roommates-Wanted list, will help authors find potential panels to form, and even discover co-authorship opportunities.

In short, acceptance downscaling will be accompanied by an upscaling of the fairness and clarity of the application process. And yet, the list of planned upscales extends beyond the review process. Under the stewardship of LASA's new president, John Coatsworth, the LASA Secretariat hopes to replicate the success achieved by our outgoing president, Eric Hershsberg, in raising outside funding for our Congress. Our hope is to increase substantially the monies available to subsidize student travel (a very distinctive LASA feature), to finance the ever-richer LASA film festival (one of LASA's most successful outreach activities), and to invite world-class speakers to our presidential panels. If successful, this fundraising effort will allow us to deliver a more enhanced program of activities while preserving LASA's commitment to offering some of the most affordable registration fees among peer conferences.

We are also committed to restoring two old-time LASA favorites that were missing in Rio: the *Gran Baile* and the Book Exhibit. For all kinds of complicated logistical reasons, LASA2009 was unable to deliver these delights. We don't expect those logistical challenges to exist at our Toronto site.

The 2010 Congress already has a theme: "Crisis, Response, and Recovery." Having themes for meetings has proven to help prospective panel organizers consider new angles as they put their sessions together, as well as guide program chairs and LASA officers in the formation of presidential panels, plenaries, and special sessions. A solid and attractive theme can also help with fundraising. The 2010 theme appears timely

and appropriate as well as suitable for the kind of multidisciplinary debates that are the hallmark of every LASA meeting.

We may have one main theme, but LASA2010 will also focus on two academic themes of wide interest as well. In 2010 we will be commemorating the bicentennial of Latin America's independence movements and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution. The Toronto Congress will offer an array of opportunities for both the scholar and the curious to learn more about these momentous events in the history of the Americas.

In short, LASA2010 will have its share of downscaling, upscaling, and restorations. But more importantly, we will have plenty of continuities. LASA2010 will remain committed to providing an affordable meeting place to see colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. While we won't be able to replicate Rio's beaches and vegetation, we hope nonetheless to make LASA's XXIX International Congress equally worth our time. ■

Participatory Institutions in Democratic Brazil

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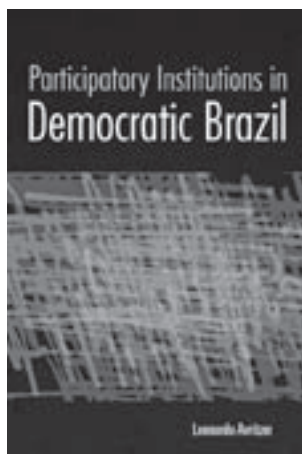
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We invite scholars to submit abstracts to be considered for this interdisciplinary book which will examine the technological revolution over the twentieth century. Suggested topics include: TV, radio, transportation, and the relationship between technology and literature, art, music, and popular culture. Please send one page of each—all single-spaced: 1) proposal, 2) bibliography, and 3) biobibliography by October 30, 2009. Final 20-page chapter submissions by April 30, 2010.

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J. Brian Freeman – The Graduate Center, CUNY
jfreeman1@gc.cuny.edu

LASA2010 – XXIX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

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Call for Papers

CRISIS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

The U.S. financial crisis of 2008 quickly became a global economic crisis. It destroyed jobs, increased poverty and disease, exacerbated social tensions, raised skepticism about the efficacy of democratic governance, led to policy experimentation, complicated efforts to deal with global problems multilaterally, and fueled civil and international conflict. The impact of the crisis in Latin America has varied from country to country, community to community, even neighborhood to neighborhood. In Latin America, the crisis was both reminiscent of previous crises but also different, in terms of transmission mechanisms, impact, and responses. Understanding the effects of the crisis, and the varied responses to it, calls for insights from multiple disciplines. Recovery, when it comes, will be shaped by the way citizens, governments, and international organizations understand the causes and consequences of the crisis itself.

John Coatsworth
Columbia University
LASA PRESIDENT

Javier Corrales
Amherst College
PROGRAM CHAIR

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

You are invited to submit a paper or panel proposal addressing either the Congress theme or any topics related to the program tracks. LASA also invites requests for travel grants from proposers residing in Latin America or the Caribbean as well as from students. Visit the LASA website for eligibility criteria. All proposals for papers, panels, and travel grants must be submitted electronically to the LASA Secretariat by *September 15, 2009*.

The deadline to submit proposals is September 15, 2009.

Proposal forms and instructions are available on the LASA website: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>.

No submissions by regular mail will be accepted. The Secretariat will send confirmation of the receipt of the proposal via e-mail.

All participants will be required to pre-register for the Congress.

PROGRAM TRACKS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Select the most appropriate track for your proposal from the following list and enter it in the designated place on the form. Names of Program Committee members are provided for information only. Direct your correspondence to the LASA Secretariat ONLY.

Afro-Latin and Indigenous Peoples

Manuela Picq, Amherst College and Universidad de San Francisco, Ecuador

Agrarian and Rural Issues

Rick A. López, Amherst College

Biodiversity, Natural Resources and Environmental Policies

Carlos García, Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela and Harvard University

Children, Youth and Youth Cultures

Bianca Premo, Florida International University

Cities, Planning and Social Services

Al Montero, Carleton College

Citizenship, Rights and Justice

Ariel Armony, Colby College

Civil Society and Social Movements

*Carlos de la Torre, FLACSO, Ecuador
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Crossborder Studies and Migration

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Culture, Power and Political Subjectivities

*Michelle Bigenho, Hampshire College
Valentina Napolitano, University of Toronto*

Defense, Violence and (in)security

*Mark Peceny, University of New Mexico
William Stanley, University of New Mexico*

Democratization

Kurt Weyland, University of Texas, Austin

Economics and Development

*Nora Lustig, George Washington University
Jaime Ros, University of Notre Dame*

Education, Pedagogy and Scholarly Resources

Daniel Schugurensky, University of Toronto

Film Studies

*Beatriz Urraca, Widener University
Laura Podalsky, Ohio State University*

Gender Studies

Mala Htun, New School for Social Research

Health, Medicine and Body Politics

Richard Parker, Columbia University

Histories and Historiographies

Luis Ortega, Universidad de Santiago, Chile

Human Rights and Memory

Catalina Smulovitz, Universidad Di Tella, Argentina

International Relations

*Carlos Romero, Universidad Central de Venezuela
David Mares, University of California, San Diego*

Labor Studies and Class Relations

Mark Anner, Penn State University

Latino(as) in the United States and Canada

*Michael Innis-Jiménez, University of Alabama
Mérida M. Rúa, Williams College*

Law, Jurisprudence and Society

Kif Augustine Adams, Boston College/Brigham Young University

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Literary Studies: Colonial and 19th Century

*Eyda Merediz, University of Maryland
Laura Demaria, University of Maryland*

Literary Studies: Contemporary

*Ignacio Corona, Ohio State University
Fernando Rosenberg, Brandeis University*

Literature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches

Lucía Suárez, Amherst College

Mass Media and Popular Culture

*Carolina Rocha, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Anne Rubenstein, York University*

Migration and Latin American Diasporas

Maxine Margolis, University of Florida

Performance, Art and Architecture: Critical and Historical Perspectives

Dana Leibsohn, Smith College

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*Kent Eaton, University of California, Santa Cruz
William Barndt, University of California, Riverside*

Politics and Public Policy

Peter Kingstone, University of Connecticut

Religion and Spirituality

Ana María Bidegain, Florida International University

Sexualities and LGBT Studies

Mario Pecheny, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Technology and Learning

Julie Sykes, University of New Mexico

Transnationalism and Globalization

Joe Tulchin, Woodrow Wilson Center

Violence and (In)security

Mark Peceny and Bill Sanley, University of New Mexico



**LATIN AMERICAN
STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

ABOUT LASA

Membership Report 2008

Individual Memberships

Total memberships	4501	(18 percent decrease from 2007)
New members	1356	(30 percent of total membership)
Renewed from 2007	2646	(59 percent of total membership) (48 percent renewal rate)
Renewed lapsed members	499	(11 percent of total membership)

Member type

Traditional members	3282	(73 percent of total membership)
Student members	979	(22 percent of total membership)
Life members	78	(68 paid and 10 honorary)
Joint memberships	162	(4 percent of total membership)

Member residency

U.S. residents	2838	(63 percent of total membership; includes 65 residents of Puerto Rico)
Latin American residents	1001	(22 percent of total membership)
Other non-U.S. residents	662	(15 percent of total membership)

Three-year memberships initiated in 2008 79**Major disciplines represented**

History	694
Literature	658
Political Science	654
Anthropology	432
Sociology	320
Latin American Studies	229
Economics	123
Cultural Studies	117
Education	115
International Relations	105

Institutional Memberships

Total memberships	659	(468 percent increase over 2007*)
New members	551	(84 percent of total membership)
Renewed from 2007	72	(11 percent of total membership)
Renewed lapsed members	36	(5 percent of total membership)
Institution location		
United States	470	(71 percent of total membership)
Latin America	53	(8 percent of total membership)
Other non-U.S.	136	(21 percent of total membership)

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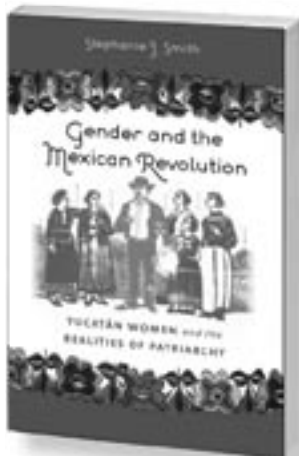
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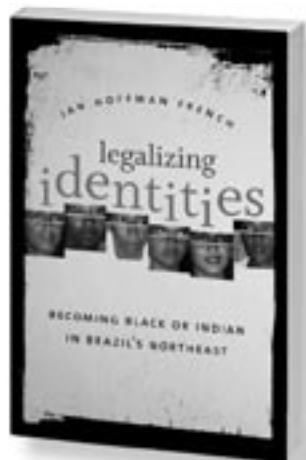
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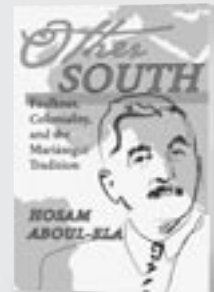
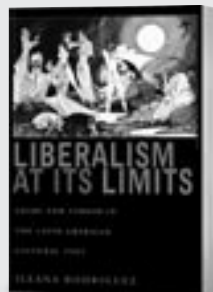
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