

Section Reports

Brazil

Susan Canty Quinlan and Hélio Seixas Guimarães, Co-Chairs

The Brazil Section Business Meeting was held on June 13, 2009, conducted by Susan Quinlan and Hélio Guimarães. César Braga-Pinto (Rutgers University) and Eduardo Gomes (UERJ) were elected Section Co-Chairs for 2009-2012. Since Eduardo was a member of the Section Executive Council, four new Council members had to be elected. They were David Fleischer (UNB), Iris Costa McElroy (Arizona State University), Cristina F. Pinto Bailey (Mary College), and Desmond Arias (CUNY). Jean François Mayer (Concordia University, Canada) was elected as an advisor for the preparation of the 2010 Toronto Congress. Emanuelle Oliveira (Vanderbilt University) was elected as Treasurer for the period 2009-2012. Elisabete Leal (UFRGS) and Ana Beatriz Gonçalves (Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora) are members of the Executive Council until 2010, when new elections will be held for two members of the Council. As of June 1, Section membership stood at 489.

The prize for the best book in Portuguese was announced during the meeting. Tania Pellegrini's *Despropósitos* won the prize. The Section did not receive any nomination for essays this year. The Council voted to award two prizes for the best books in English for this year only. These prizes will be announced on September 1, 2009.

Central America

Ana Patricia Rodríguez and Chris Chiappari, Co-Chairs

The Central American Section (CAS) held its Business Meeting on Friday, June 12, 2009. Fifteen Section members attended the meeting along with Section Co-Chairs Ana

Patricia Rodríguez and Chris Chiappari, and Section Secretary, Yajaira M. Padilla. At the time of the meeting, Section membership stood at 221 members, entitling the Section to four Congress sessions.

The first item on the agenda was the simultaneous scheduling of Section panels at LASA2009, which affected attendance at panels and other Section-sponsored events, including the Business Meeting.

The second item was the need to "revitalize" the Section website. A lack of resources was duly noted. Ideas for Central America-related online projects to be supported at the website include a bibliography initiated in 2007 by Dr. Miguel Angel Castillo and his students, a filmography, a database of publications, and a calendar.

The third item was the use of the Section listserv to promote further critical debate among members. (In response to the coup d'état in Honduras on July 28, 2009, CAS members collectively used the listserv to generate several official statements that were widely disseminated to government agencies, both in the United States and Central America, non-governmental organizations, and other groups.)

There was discussion of plans and activities for the coming term. These include hosting inter-LASA conferences, symposia, and other activities, preparing for LASA2010 in Toronto, and moving forward with the initiative proposed by Dr. Arturo Arias and others to nominate Dr. Edelberto Torres Rivas for the Kalman Silvert Award at LASA2010.

An online election for Section officers was announced. As of August 15, 2009, the newly elected officers of the Section are: Yajaira M. Padilla (Co-Chair); Ellen Moodie (Secretary); Aaron Schneider (Treasurer);

Yansi Pérez (Advisory Board Member); and M. Gabriela Torres (Webmaster). Continuing officers are Chris Chiappari (Co-Chair); Héctor Perla Jr. and Rhina Toruño-Haensly (Advisory Board Members); and Arely Zimmerman (Graduate Student Representative).

Colombia

Virginia Bouvier and Patricia Tovar, Co-Chairs

On June 12, 2009, the Colombia Section held its Business Meeting. Section Co-Chairs Patricia Tovar and Virginia (Ginny) Bouvier presided, with some 55 of the 142 dues-paying members of the Section in attendance.

Patricia Tovar summarized the Section activities of the previous 18 months. She noted that members of the advisory council served as this year's LASA program committee for the Section. They selected three out of seven panel proposals for sponsorship by the Section at the Rio meeting. Tovar described the selection process, and noted that at least two Council members recused themselves in order to present their own panels for consideration.

Ana María Bidegain discussed the letter that the Section sent to the Colombian Attorney General in December 2007 and its impact on the Palace of Justice case. The letter, signed by nearly 200 academics, communicated the Section's support for the investigation of the Army's occupation of the Palace of Justice in November 1985 and the forced disappearance and killing of those inside the Palace, including among others, the magistrate Carlos Horacio Urán. In particular, the letter calls for the preservation of evidence and the pursuit of truth and justice. (The letter can be found at the Section website.) Ginny Bouvier reported on

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the Colombia Section delegation she organized with Herbert Tico Braun, Marc Chernick, Joanne Rappaport, Ana María Bidegain, and Mairee Urán-Bidegain to present the letter to Ambassador Carolina Barco at the Embassy in Washington. They noted the need for further monitoring and action on the case.

Bouvier outlined initiatives to institutionalize the workings of the Section, streamline communications and clarify the division of labor among the Section leadership and committees, increase member participation in the Section, and better address the needs of Section members. Plans for the coming term include enacting a new Constitution and Bylaws, a membership survey, upgrading the Section website, mentoring graduate students, and establishing new committees.

Members raised concerns about Miguel Beltrán, a Colombian academic who disappeared in Mexico. A human rights committee was established to evaluate this case, to follow up on the Palace of Justice case, to explore existing human rights mechanisms in LASA, and to refine protocols for responding to these and other requests brought to the attention of the Section. The new committee will recommend actions to the Advisory Council.

Juana Suárez noted that we currently provide space for members to note information of interest in the monthly newsletter. A student committee was established to develop ideas for Section outreach to students. Members discussed adding a blog to the Colombia Section website.

Members discussed whether a U.S. or Colombian university might hold a "mini-LASA" of the Section at a mid-term interval between LASA Congresses. Members were encouraged to consider putting together panels on Colombia for the regional council meetings (MACLAS, NECLAS, PCCLAS, SECOLAS, etc.), and to seek other opportunities to network with Section members, including regional meetings or activities of the Section. Section members are also encouraged to develop proposals for the next Congress in Toronto.

Lina del Castillo, chair of the Nominating Committee, and Council liaison Juana Suárez thanked the other nominating committee members, the jury for the Michael Jiménez Prize and the jury for the Montserrat Ordóñez Prize for their work. Lina and Juana read the communiqués from the jurors that awarded first place for the \$500 Michael Jiménez Prize posthumously to author Alberto Juajibioy Chindoy (and his daughter) for the book, *Lenguaje ceremonial y narraciones tradicionales en la cultura kamëntsa* (Bogotá, Fondo de Cultura Económica--Fundación de Investigaciones Arqueológicas Nacionales del Banco de la República, Colombia, 2008). Honorable Mention (\$200) was awarded to Aviva Chomsky for *Linked Labor Histories: New England, Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class* (Durham: Duke University Press). The Montserrat Ordóñez Prize was not awarded due to lack of sufficient competition and the jury urged Section leadership to address this problem.

The Section Awards for Distinguished Service were granted to Leah Carroll, founder of the Colombia Section, and to Juana Suárez, for her work as director of communications. Elections for various Section offices were conducted. Results with contact information and institutional affiliations of the new officers are posted at the Section website. Officers for the next period include Virginia Bouvier (Chair), María Clemencia Ramírez (Co-Chair), Yolanda Forero-Villegas (Secretary-Treasurer), Juana Suárez (Communications and Newsletter Director), and Leah Carroll (Web/Listserv Manager).

At the Section Business Meeting in Montréal in 2007 members had voted to explore soliciting member contributions to provide 1-2 travel fellowships for presenters on Section panels who could prove economic need.

Following the meeting a reception was held, where more than 100 members and their guests socialized and enjoyed Brazilian drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Cuba

La Sección Cuba de LASA continuó desarrollando acciones para promover los contactos entre los académicos cubanos especializados en los asuntos latinoamericanos y sus colegas, fundamentalmente los que residen en Estados Unidos. Con ese fin trabajó activamente por llevar el máximo número de académicos a LASA2009, evento al que asistieron 92 profesores e investigadores cubanos, de ellos 10 fueron becarios de LASA al concederse por la OFAC (Departamento del Tesoro) una licencia que lo permitía.

En esta etapa además se laboró en la renovación de la página web de la Sección y se sentaron las bases para iniciar una actividad que ayude a la realización de eventos e investigaciones conjuntas en áreas de interés común, a la vez que se exploran vías para incentivar estudios e investigaciones de los más jóvenes miembros de la Sección. Entre las iniciativas se incluye una convocatoria para menores de 35 años interesados en presentar trabajos para un Premio de Ensayo sobre Estudios Cubanos convocado conjuntamente con la revista *Temas*.

Terminaron su mandato por dos períodos de 18 meses los anteriores copresidentes, la Dra. Cristina Díaz López y el Dr. Félix Masud Piloto, y se reconoció la labor realizada por ambos, así como las acciones realizadas por los doctores Carmen Diana Deere y Lisandro Pérez contra las restricciones que obstaculizan, y de hecho impiden, el fluido intercambio académico entre los colegas e instituciones cubanas residentes en la isla y los que viven en Estados Unidos así como entre las instituciones académicas entre ambas orillas. Jean Weisman y Philip Brenner redactaron una resolución, ahora en vías de aprobación, solicitando al presidente Barack Obama la normalización de relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Cuba. Una vez aprobada, la resolución se le enviará al mandatario norteamericano y a todos los miembros del Congreso de Estados Unidos.

La Sección Cuba que cuenta actualmente con 225 miembros, realizó su reunión el

viernes 10 de junio y tuvo, como ya es tradicional, una nutrida asistencia. Un aproximado de 150 miembros estuvieron allí, y se honró la memoria de la recientemente fallecida profesora Nara Araújo y los 50 años de Casa de las Américas. Durante la reunión, se le hizo entrega a la doctora Helen Safá el premio que otorga la Sección por la obra de la vida. También fueron muy concurridos los tres talleres que organizó la Sección, los que abordaron las siguientes temáticas: Las relaciones internacionales de Cuba después de 1959; Estudios sobre Cuba, y Justicia Social en Cuba: retos y desafíos.

Se desarrollaron las elecciones internas estando pendiente aún el voto electrónico por lo que no se pueden presentar los resultados finales. Se mantienen en sus cargos como miembros de la directiva hasta octubre de 2010, los profesores Phillip Brenner y Milagros Martínez, y como tesorera la Dra. Iraida López.

En el contexto de LASA2009 los miembros salientes y los que posiblemente se incorporen a la directiva de la Sección sostuvieron un encuentro en el que se acordó un plan inicial de acciones que se dará a conocer oportunamente a los miembros a través del correo electrónico y la página web.

Culture, Power and Politics

Susana Kaiser, Chair

The Culture Power and Politics (CPP) Section organized four special sessions for the Congress. The three panels and the workshop reflected current research interests of CPP membership: an ongoing focus on the links between politics, power, and culture with an increased concentration on human rights, indigenous rights, social movements, race, ethnicity, and gender. The four sessions were very successful and well attended. One panel addressed the challenges faced by new social actors and movements. Another explored cultural politics in academia and their impact on social movements. The third panel focused on issues of race, gender, and power in Brazil and presenters were local scholars and activists, a lively session with over 60 participants. The workshop theme

was the current situation and debates on major human rights issues affecting the Americas.

The Section had conducted elections via e-mail before the Congress. Sylvia Escárcega is now Chair, Benjamín Ardití, Vice-Chair, Juan Zevallos, Treasurer, and Robin DeLugan, David Smilde, and Tracy Duvall are Council Members.

The Business Meeting took place June 12. Several issues were discussed: the Section's history and goals, the year's activities, the need to increase participation of Section members, investing resources in updating the website and improving the communication systems, including considering the adoption of Facebook and starting a blog, ways to encourage participation of graduate students and junior faculty through paper awards and publication projects. Among some concerns raised was the lack of options for activists (the "subjects" of many of our research projects) to participate in the Congress for the lack of reduced registration fees for them.

CPP continued to offer travel grants to help our colleagues attend the Congress. Four travel grants of US\$500 each were awarded. In evaluating the applications, the Council followed the following criteria: the relevance and contribution to the Section's objectives and themes, the economic need for Congress assistance, and the number of times that the applicant had attended the LASA Congress (giving preference to those who will attend for the first time). We gave priority to those who had not received a CPP Travel Award previously in order to benefit a larger number of members.

The Section held a reception for its members and guests. Once again, CPP has a sufficient number of members to permit four sessions for the 2010 Congress in Toronto.

Decentralization and Sub-national Governance

Al Montero, Chair

The Decentralization and Subnational Governance Section's two panels at the Rio de Janeiro meeting were first-rate and we

had a good discussion of issues during the Business Meeting that followed the second panel.

The Section has focused its organizational efforts and financial resources on providing the best Congress experience for its members. To that end, we have grown to organize two panels at the LASA meeting, one of which was set up initially to focus on a theme (the quality of subnational democracy), while the second developed organically based on proposals from the membership. Both panels ended up bringing together scholars with similar interests in the field. We also made use of Section funds to subsidize the travel costs of two of our members, who are advanced graduate students (Carlos Gervasoni and Tracy Fenwick). Both of these members presented on the Section panels in Rio.

The Section Business Meeting was attended by eleven members. The following actions were taken at the meeting: 1) The Section decided to provide for a paper award that would be titular but have no money associated with it; 2) Tyler Dickovick and Julián Durazo-Herrmann were elected to the positions of Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section, respectively. They replace Al Montero (Chair) and María Escobar-Lemmon (Secretary-Treasurer). Al Montero agreed to stay on in an advising capacity as a member of the Section board; 3) The Section will make available to the members a listing of the papers relevant to the field that were presented at the 2009 Congress in Rio. Al Montero will take care of this task.

The group discussed submitting a proposal for a special issue of the *LASA Forum* focusing on decentralization and subnational governance. Julián expressed an interest in taking the lead on this.

Thinking ahead, Tyler and Julián will work on the call for papers for LASA2010, using a format similar to the one employed for the Rio meeting (i.e., one thematic panel and one organic panel). Steps are being taken in August to realize this, since the deadline falls in September.

Martin Mendoza-Botelho then suggested that the Section make contact with several

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official organizations that currently maintain an interest in decentralization: OAS, UNDP, CEPAL, IDB, World Bank, USAID, and the Ottawa-based Forum of Federations.

The meeting closed with an expression of gratitude to Al and María for their work on the Section over the last few years.

Defense, Public Security and Democracy
David Pion-Berlin, Co-Chair

The Business Meeting was held on June 13, with 25 members in attendance. The first order of business was to memorialize Pablo Dreyfus, a young scholar whom we tragically lost on the Air France flight. Then the discussion centered on the formation of a track that parallels our Section. At LASA2007 members had expressed a desire for a track that would correspond more closely to our thematic interests. I reported on my efforts to effect such a change. Though LASA ultimately decided against creating a new track, the new program chair for LASA2010 has agreed to change the name of one of the pre-existing tracks. Hence "Violence and (In)security" was renamed "Defense, Violence and (In)security." All in attendance agreed it was a step in the right direction, and by a unanimous vote endorsed the name change. However, members also felt that efforts should continue in the future to secure a track that more closely paralleled our Section.

The Section elected new officers. Orlando Pérez and Bertha García-Gallegos were unanimously elected as the new Co-Chairs, replacing outgoing Chairs David Pion-Berlin and Paz Tibiletti. We also elected David Pion-Berlin and Maria Celina D'Araujo as new Program Committee members. Kristina Mani and Héctor Luis Saint-Pierre will serve out their terms on that Committee.

Term activities: aside from the Co-Chair's track initiatives described above, the Section selected an outstanding paper funded for \$250, and awarded two travel grants of \$500 each to junior scholars. We also set up a web page which is linked to RESDAL (Red de Seguridad y Defensa de América Latina), a page devoted to disseminating security and

defense information. In the future, the Section will work to include new members, secure a new track, and encourage junior scholars to attend LASA.

Economics and Politics

Leslie Elliott Armijo and Andrew Schrank, Co-Chairs

The Section is dedicated to the promotion of policy relevant dialogue as well as to pure scholarship at the intersection of economics and politics. We therefore organized two roundtables for the LASA2009 Congress. The first roundtable focused on the international finance in Latin America in a time of crisis. Panelists with experience in the international donor community, the financial sector, and academia discussed the role of finance and the current crisis before a large audience of academics and policymakers. The second roundtable addressed inequality in Latin America in cross-national and interdisciplinary perspective. Panelists with a number of different institutional and disciplinary backgrounds discussed "old and new approaches to the study of inequality" and entertained an array of questions and comments from a standing room only audience.

Our Section Business Meeting took place first thing Saturday morning (June 13) and was attended by seven Section members. We discussed the Section's history and goals; the year's activities and achievements; the possible uses of Section resources; and Section governance. Tricia Olsen from the University of Wisconsin volunteered to help resurrect the Section website and Andrew Schrank (University of New Mexico) and Diego Sánchez Ancochea (Oxford University) were re-elected Co-Chairs of the Section for the coming term.

Ecuadorian Studies

Will Waters, Chair

President Will Waters called the meeting to order; all the members in attendance introduced themselves. This was followed by the Report on the Status of the Section. Ecuadorian Studies is nine years old, and has

99 members in Latin America, Europe, Japan, and North America. Travel expenses of \$500 per person will be taken from our funds to pay for travel for the organizers of the two Section panels.

The members then addressed the need to begin organizing the next *Encuentro* in Quito. We also spoke of calling for session proposals for the Toronto Congress. It was announced that the collection of articles from the last *Encuentro* was available.

One member asked how he could join the Section at this date; McKinney will check with Sandy Klinzing at the Secretariat and report back. Carmen Martínez reported the publication of *The Ecuador Reader* from Duke University Press. It was suggested that we should announce this on the listserv.

There was discussion concerning the pattern of rise and fall in the membership, the *revista* on the webpage, and the isolation of researchers doing work in Guayaquil. In response to the last item, Will Waters responded that one could use the listserv or get in touch with the president of the Section.

Waters called for nominations, indicating that the President and Secretary-Treasurer were retiring. By acclamation Carmen Martínez was elected President, Manuela Picq Vice President, Julianne Hazlewood Secretary-Treasurer, and Victor Breton, Ketty Wong, and John L. Walker to the *directorio*.

Discussion followed regarding the next *Encuentro*. A focus on the arts: music, painting, and dance was recommended. Waters suggested that the next one will be held in 2011 so as not to conflict with the LASA meetings. It is always held in conjunction with FLACSO because of the substantial support that that organization provides. A member raised the issue of coordinating with the "*Ecuadorianistas*," a group dealing with Ecuadorian literature and commented on the lamentable absence of many *gringos* at the last *Encuentro*. It would be interesting to hold the *Encuentro* in another city, but the advantages of using FLACSO's facilities would be lost; we have offered to pay for transportation to Quito but this has not been heavily used. Another

raised the issue of making contact with scholars in Guayaquil. Another member suggested that we need to find ways of including those who don't have a tradition of doing research. Other groups were invited to the last *Encuentro*, most memorably a group of incarcerated women. Sessions on culture were suggested. It was suggested that the Section needs a database on the research being done. Finally, a member recommended that the Section add a membership chair. The Section *directorío* could take on this task.

Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina

Rodolfo Rincones, Chair

A partir de la elección de la nueva mesa directiva el 6 de septiembre de 2007 en Montréal, Canadá, los integrantes de ésta nos avocamos a darle continuidad a las ideas surgidas en la reunión de la Sección en el 2007 y que se propusieron como ideas prioritarias: 1) promover la afiliación de más miembros a LASA y a la Sección de Educación; 2) diseñar una página de la Sección, donde se pueda interactuar más con sus integrantes y se llegue fortalecidos a LASA2009 en Río de Janeiro, Brasil; 3) se diera más importancia a los temas que se relacionen con la realidad socio-política-económica de la educación en América Latina; y 4) se promovieran más paneles para el próximo Congreso.

Los integrantes de la mesa directiva estuvimos en constante coordinación vía correo electrónico para llevar a cabo las propuestas arriba mencionadas y fortalecer las actividades de la Sección. Éstas sin duda, se cumplieron, sobre todo la de promover la afiliación; la membresía de la Sección, en un período de casi dos años, tuvo variaciones, pero se incrementó de 85 miembros en septiembre de 2007 a 96 miembros en diciembre de 2008.

A pesar de que fue difícil establecer una relación entre integrantes de la Sección y productos, de manera informal se pudo constatar que el trabajo de algunos de sus miembros y de sus productos de investigación estuvo relacionado con temas relevantes y actuales de la educación en sus

países de origen, y en algunas ocasiones realizando trabajos comparativos. Además se enfatizaron los aspectos de tipo social, político y económico que actualmente se viven en Latinoamérica.

Como coordinador de la Sección, me avoque a la creación de una página web para la Sección y su posible anidamiento por parte de la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. Este proyecto se inició pero no se concluyó debido a problemas institucionales y la temporalidad de mi cargo en la sección de LASA.

Se promovió y se invitó a los miembros a participar, a partir de la emisión de la convocatoria para el Congreso del 2010 en Toronto Canadá, esperando que las propuestas de paneles y participaciones individuales sean numerosas por parte de los miembros.

En la reunión de la Sección en Río de Janeiro, Brasil, en la cual no pude participar debido a problemas con el otorgamiento de la visa, se llevaron a cabo las elecciones para el bienio 2009-2010. Fueron electos como Chair al Dr. Danilo Streck de la UNISINOS de São Leopoldo, Brasil, y como vocales a Dr. Elías García Rosas de la UAEM de Toluca, EdoMex y Martha Nepomneschi de la Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Environment

Sherrie Baver and Kate McCaffrey, Co-Chairs

As of May 2009, the Section had 116 members. Keeping our membership numbers high guarantees us a number of innovative panels without going through the Congress program committee. In Río, the Section sponsored one workshop and two panels: a) a workshop on research priorities in Latin American environmentalism; b) a panel on environmental governance; and c) a panel on sociocultural responses to the environment. At the Business Meeting, there was support for another workshop on research priorities at LASA2010, and it's never too early to start brainstorming about other panels.

Some of our Section funds were spent on two travel grants, one to Colleen Scanlon-Lyons of the University of Colorado and a second to Carlos Soria of El Instituto del Bien Común in Lima. In addition, the Section supported the LASA Film Festival, which included several environmentally themed works. Finally, we sponsored a Saturday afternoon field trip/cruise on Guanabara Bay. The cruise was great due to the weather, the *caipirinhas*, and the excellent organizational skills of Brazilian environmental historian Lise Sedrez. Lise gave a running commentary on the history of the Bay and brought along the director of the Guanabara Bay Institute to discuss efforts to oversee Guanabara's cleanup. For this, we gave an honorarium/donation to the Director and the Institute.

In the absence of other candidates, Baver and McCaffrey agreed to serve as Section Co-Chairs for another term.

Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples

Jerome Branche, Chair

The ERIP Section met on June 13th in Río. The Business Meeting was very poorly attended. Elections had therefore to be further postponed and were held electronically between July 28 and August 1. Former Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Carranza was elected Chair, replacing Jerome Branche. Shannon Speed and Richard Stalhler-Sholk will replace Sylvia Escárcega and Marc Becker on the Council. The new Council will appoint a Secretary-Treasurer.

The most important item on our agenda over the past cycle has been ERIP's first conference, co-organized with the Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies Journal, and held on May 22-24, 2008 at the University of California, San Diego.

The ERIP/LACES conference was a massive success. Its Program Committee consisted of Christine Hunefeldt, Director of the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, UCSD, Leon Zamosc, Editor of the Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies, and Jerome Branche, then Chair of ERIP. The conference attracted some 280 of our

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colleagues from the United States, Europe and Latin America. Their papers covered a wide range of topics related to ethnicity, indigenous, and afro-descendant peoples in both the humanities and the social sciences, and were organized into some 50 panels across eight sessions. Conference highlights included the Keynote Address by Professor Rodolfo Stavenhagen, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, the Distinguished Scholars Panel, featuring Professors Xavier Albó (Bolivia), Christian Gros (Université de Paris-III, France), Guillermo de la Peña, (Mexico), Reid Andrews (USA), and Peter Wade (UK), and the Best Graduate Student Paper competition. Special credit is due the host organization for its hospitality, its attention to organizational detail, and its fundraising. The current proposal is for the next ERIIP conference to be held at the California State University, Northridge, in 2011.

Europe and Latin America
Laurence Whitehead, Chair

The Europe-Latin America Section successfully participated at the LASA2009 Congress held in Rio with two panels: one on "Políticas Europeas hacia América Latina - Una perspectiva comparativa", chaired by Peter Birle, and one on "Brazil: Between European Union and South America," chaired by Miriam Saraiva. (More information on the panels can be found at the Section's website at <www.giga-hamburg.de/ilas/elas>.)

At the Section's Business Meeting, Carlos Quenan (IHEAL, Paris) was elected as new Section Chair and Miriam Gómez Saraiva (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) as new Section Secretary. Elected as members of the new Executive Committee were Susanne Gratiús (FRIDE, Madrid), Bert Hoffmann (GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg), Joaquín Roy (University of Miami), and Laurence Whitehead (Oxford University). As of June 2009, the Section had 88 members, of which 19 were present at the meeting. No dissertation prize for 2008-2009 was awarded.

At the upcoming LASA2010 Congress to be held in Toronto, Canada, the Section will sponsor two panels, one on "Experiencias latinoamericanas y europeas con el populismo", organized by Susanne Gratiús, and one entitled "Reversing Perspectives: Learning from Latin America," convened by Bert Hoffmann.

Film Studies

Rafael Hernández Rodríguez and Emperatriz Arreaza-Camero, Co-Chairs

La Sección ha sido uno de los grupos en LASA de mayor crecimiento en los últimos años. La lista actualizada para el Congreso de LASA2009 es de más de 120 miembros. En el XXVIII Congreso hubo 1 panel organizado por el presidente de LASA con invitados, 3 mesas organizadas como Sección y 19 agrupadas en el área de Film Studies, con un promedio de 4 a 5 ponencias en cada una de las mesas. El creciente interés en Film Studies también se demuestra en la sección *On the Profession* del último *LASA Forum* (Winter 2009), donde presentaron el estado actual de esta disciplina los destacados Profesores Claudia Ferman, Fernão Pessoa Ramos, Gustavo Remedi, Kathleen Newman y John King.

La Sección participa activamente en el *LASA Film Festival*, el cual cuenta con público masivo en cada nueva edición. Entre los proyectos a mediano plazo de la Sección Film Studies se encuentran: 1) Organizar una Red de Investigadores sobre Cine Latinoamericano con investigadores, docentes y estudiantes de Universidades de todo el mundo, incluyendo USA, Canadá, Australia, países de Europa, Asia y América Latina y el Caribe; 2) contribuir con películas, publicaciones y otros materiales afines con los departamentos de Cine y/o de Estudios Latinoamericanos en USA y Canadá, que están organizando seminarios y festivales dedicados al Cine Latinoamericano; 3) incrementar el intercambio de artículos para publicar en revistas arbitradas en Universidades de USA, Canadá, Australia y países de Europa y América Latina, sobre estudios en el área de cine latinoamericano; 4) impulsar la realización de talleres especiales (workshops) con cineastas (directores, productores o

guionistas latinos o latinoamericanos) como parte de las actividades de la Sección en los próximos Congresos de LASA. Ésta podría realizarse como una actividad pre-Congreso; 5) mantener intercambio académico con asociaciones similares como el Latino Caucus de la *Society for Cinema Studies*, y otras afines en países latinoamericanos; 6) crear una página web que permita actualizar permanentemente la lista, los programas y las actividades de los miembros de la Sección; y 7) organizar para el próximo Congreso mesas dedicadas al análisis fílmico sobre los temas que serán centrales en este Congreso, a saber: Crisis, Response and Recovery; Crisis and Social Movements; Cultural Expressions of the Recession; 40th anniversary de CALACS, Commemoration of the Bicentennial of many Latin American countries, and the Centenary of the Mexican Revolution.

Gender and Feminist Studies

Clara Araujo and María Amelia Viteri, Co-Chairs

During 2007-2009, the Section organized the 2009 pre-conference, held the Elsa Chaney Award competition, announced a call for papers and reviewed proposals for four Section-sponsored sessions, and established its own website and wiki. Elections were held at the Business Meeting: Clara Araujo (Latin America/Caribbean) and María-Amelia Viteri (North America/Europe) are the new Co-Chairs; Gabriela Torres is Secretary-Treasurer. Council members include Maylei Blackwell, Claudia de Lima Costa, Elisabeth Jay Friedman, Sara Poggio, Verónica Schild, and Millie Thayer.

Also at the Business Meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Clara Araujo discussed the Section's budget, including support for the reception, the pre-conference and the Section website. There was general discussion about the future goals and purpose of the Section, including how to structure future pre-conferences and how to foster better cross-dialogue with other Sections and address inter-Section concerns related to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, and religion. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting.

The Section's 2009 pre-conference, "New Political Orders, New Subjects of Feminism?" included a keynote lecture by Verónica Schild and three panels, including one on Brazilian feminisms.

At the conference reception, the Elsa Chaney Award winners, awarded to junior faculty for best unpublished papers, were announced: Megan Rivers-Moore (1st place, \$1000), Graciela Morgade (2nd place, \$500), and María-Amelia Viteri (Honorable Mention). Award winners' papers will be published in an anthology co-edited by Section members and sponsored by UNIFEM.

Haiti/Dominican Republic

Henry A.(Chip) Carey and Emelio Betances, Co-Chairs

Twelve people attended the Section panel and the attendees showed interest in the topics presented, particularly by the two Brazilians and the one French citizen.

We once again tried to recruit new Section leadership. We asked the 12 in the audience, but none of them was willing to participate as Chair or Co-Chair of the Section. Robin Derby said that she was interested in participating, but not in taking charge of the Section. Brooke Woolbridge, a young woman who works for a library, expressed interest in seeing the Section expand beyond Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We explained to her why we had separate Sections for the two countries.

We heard that LASA wants to cut 30 percent of the papers it receives for the next meeting in Toronto. I do not know, however, what that means for our Section. One thing that we did stress at the Business Meeting is that we must make written paper presentations mandatory in our Section. Presenters must send their written papers to the discussant and then to LASA.

Health, Science, and Society

Adam Warren, Chair

The Health, Science, and Society Section approved a new mission statement in the

past eighteen months, which is now translated and posted on the LASA website. We also developed a new email discussion list that distributes announcements in the humanistic and social scientific study of the health sciences.

At the Rio Congress, the Section sponsored two sessions: "História, Saúde, e Cultura nas Américas," and "Historical Perspectives on Medicine, Inequality, and the State in Latin America." These sessions brought together scholars from across the Americas while also highlighting the scholarship produced at Rio's Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. Health, Science, and Society also hosted its first reception at LASA and held a meeting with fifteen members present.

For 2009-2010 we have elected Mariola Espinosa and Adam Warren as Co-Chairs, and Marcos Cueto and Nielan Barnes as Board members. Florencia Peña continues for the second half of her term as Secretary-Treasurer, as do Gilberto Hochman and Julia Rodríguez as members of the Board.

Health, Science, and Society enthusiastically encourages members of LASA to join our Section. For more information about us, please contact Adam Warren or Mariola Espinosa (email addresses available at LASA website).

Historia Reciente y Memoria

Peter Winn, Co-Chair

The first Business Meeting of the new LASA Section on Historia Reciente y Memoria was held at the Rio de Janeiro Congress on June 11. Although attendance was reduced by conflicts that many members of the Section had with panels to which they had made prior commitments, a quorum of thirteen members was present, with Daniel Lvovich and Peter Winn as Co-Chairs. Lvovich and Winn reported on the process that led to the creation of the Section. The meeting then agreed on the nomination of Marina Franco and Peter Winn as Co-Chairs and Florencia Levin as Secretary-Treasurer, and also agreed that elections should be by electronic ballot, as should the nominations and elections for the Executive Council. The meeting discussed the future activities of the Section

and agreed to establish prizes for best book and best theses. Members also agreed to recommend to the Council the creation of an electronic forum and a listserv. The meeting adjourned with the expectation that this new LASA Section would expand its membership and its participation at the Toronto Congress.

Labor Studies

Kirsten Sehnbruch, Chair, and Maggie Gray, Secretary-Treasurer

The Labor Studies Section is enthusiastic about its growing membership and the diversification of labor research among LASA members. We plan outreach to LASA members working on interdisciplinary projects related to labor and work. The Section leadership has also begun to contact the labor sections of other professional scholarly associations to raise awareness of and participation in labor research.

Our annual business meeting was held on the 12th of June in Rio de Janeiro. Discussion centered on how to build a better identity for the Section and establish a more solid community of labor scholars. The Section members present at the business meeting joined the panel on Labor Policies and Macroeconomic Regimes, organised by Marta Novick. The panel was well attended, united the Section, and offered the opportunity to meet and engage in discussions with members when the panel concluded.

Since the Rio Congress, the Labor Section has revived its webpage <sites.google.com/site/lasalabor> and is working on expanding the site as a forum for members to post their work, information about themselves and any other information they wish to share. The website also allows members to sign up for our listserv, which facilitates the sharing of information and the organising of future LASA panels.

At present, the Labor Section has 107 members. We expect to increase this membership number to 140 for the Toronto LASA Congress.

SECTION REPORTS *continued...*

Latin America and the Pacific Rim

Shigeru Kochi, Co-Chair

As it has happened in other occasions, we were short of the quorum needed to have a formal session at the Business Meeting. Two Executive Council (EC) members (Neanthro Saavedra-Rivano and Won-Ho Kim) were in attendance, as well as four other Section members. After discussing the selection of new officers, they reached an agreement on a proposal for new Section officers. However, only six members of the Section agreed to this proposal in an e-mail ballot. As a result, the EC decided by majority rule to call a second election for all positions. The new nominees for Chair were Neantro Saavedra-Rivano and Adrian Hearn, and for Secretary-Treasurer, Russ Smith. For the four posts of Executive Council Member, Gonzalo Paz was the only candidate nominated. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the EC decided to call a third and final election only for Chair in order to minimize costs of collective action and re-start our activities quickly. After the Chair election, the new Chair, Neantro Saavedra-Rivano, provided the outgoing EC with a complete list of the following Section Officers: Vladimir Rouvinski (Colombia, Secretary-Treasurer); Ricardo Ffrench-Davis (Chile); Adrian Hearn (Australia); Won-Ho Kim (Korea); and Ursula Prutsch (Germany). A new activity is the creation of a Facebook page for the Section, which we hope will become an area of academic exchanges and interaction among members.

Latino/a Studies

Lorena García, Mérida M. Rúa, and Mari Castañeda

The Latina/o Studies Section of LASA continues to grow and provide an important forum for scholars and activists. The Section sponsored four panels at the 2009 Rio Congress, and presented a total of three awards for best book, best dissertation and a new award for best article, following a suggestion made in the October 2004 final report regarding the future development of the Section. While the Section maintains a formidable presence at LASA, circumstances arose that further illuminate the necessity of maintaining a strong and active membership.

The most pressing concern was the omission of a Latina/o studies-themed program track for the next LASA. The other concern has to do with the fact that we have little control over the program schedule, which meant that all of our features panels were scheduled on Thursday, with two at the exact same time slot.

Awards were announced at the Section reception, which was co-sponsored with Palgrave, the publisher of Latino Studies, edited by Suzanne Oboler, and by the Latina/o Studies Program at Williams College. We had an impressive turnout with more than 50 scholars attending the reception. The Section Business Meeting, held the day before, generated a lively discussion and an initial action plan to address the elimination of a Latino Studies-themed program track for LASA 2010. We welcome and thank the 2009-2011 Section officers, Nancy R. Mirabal and Katynka Z. Martinez (Co-Chairs), Carlos Alamo-Pastrana (Secretary), and Melissa Huerta (Graduate Student Representative) for their willingness to serve the Section. We look forward to continuing the Section's intellectual and community contributions to the LASA.

Law & Society in Latin America

Kif Augustine Adams and Mark Ungar, Co-Chairs

Se llevó a cabo la reunión de negocios de la Sección de "Law & Society in Latin America" (LASLA) el 13 de junio de 2009 en Rio de Janeiro. Por causas mayores, faltaron Kif Augustine-Adams y Mark Ungar, los Co-Chairs. Por la pedida de los Co-Chairs, Mauricio Rojas se encargó de dirigir la reunión.

En la reunión, se agradeció la labor realizada por Mark Ungar, quien en este Congreso culminó su período como Co-Chair. Se explicó que debe elegirse un nuevo Co-Chair, por votación directa. Por unanimidad se eligió a Mauricio Rojas Gómez, de la Universidad del Bío-Bío (Chile), para que cumpla esa función.

Se comentó que por falta de postulantes al Premio Maggi Popkin, éste no se entregó. El Premio fue inaugurado por la Sección en

LASA2009 en memoria de Margaret Popkin, ex-Co-Chair de LASLA, quien murió en 2005 justo antes de cumplir 55 años. Maggi fue un activista y académica quien trabajó tenazmente para los derechos humanos en Latina America. Un postulante para este premio en LASA2010 debe cumplir los siguientes requisitos: 1) ser miembro de LASLA; 2) presentar la ponencia en LASA2010 si mismo o por medio de otra persona si se presentan dificultades en viajar; 3) reflejar en la presentación la excelencia académica y un compromiso con valores de dignidad de la persona y los derechos humanos, valores que magnificó Maggi Popkin en su vida.

Sigan dificultades con la página web de la Sección.

Peru

Elena Álvarez, Co-Chair

The Section's main activities have been selecting panels for the LASA Congress in Rio, and providing travel grants to three young professionals. The Business Meeting took place on June 12 at 6:45 pm. The Section also co-hosted a reception with the Ecuadorian Studies Section on June 12 at 9:45.

The Section panels included: 1) "Rethinking Inequality in El Quinto Suyu;" 2) "Grand Theory Through the Lens of Peru;" and 3) "La izquierda peruana: nuevas prácticas y discursos sobre la desigualdad".

The Section had a surplus after LASA2007 because not all that year's grant recipients attended the Congress and picked up their funds. Our major expense was for LASA2009 travel grants; we also paid half the cost of food for our traditional reception organized with the Ecuadorian Studies Section.

We received 10 applications for travel grants and the selection committee made up of Elena Álvarez, Joanna Drzewieniecki and Mary Beth Tierney-Tello chose three grantees based on merit and the criteria agreed upon during the Peru Section Business Meeting at LASA2007. Each candidate was required to present a budget

and each received a full grant to cover travel and other expenses. The grantees were: Mariella Arredondo (University of Indiana), Panel: "The Urban" in Latin America, Paper "Mira a esas cholas: An ethnographic study of an urban public school in Peru;" Denisse Roca Servat (Arizona State University-Tempe), Panel: Proyectos Mineros: Conflictos y exclusión social, Paper: "El Dominio de la Gobernanza Privada: Corporaciones Mineras y Comunidades Locales en el Perú;" y Néstor Valdivia (Colegio de México), Panel: Afro-Latin and Indigenous Peoples, Paper: "Inequidades étnico/raciales en el Perú: Relevancia relativa de lugares, modalidades y motivos de discriminación en Lima y Cusco."

As of June 1, 2009, the Peru Section had 174 members. No Book awards were presented.

Political Institutions (LAPIS)

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Chair

The LAPIS Business Meeting took place on June 12. Thirty-four Section members (about 28 percent of the total membership) were present at the meeting. The Section awarded the LAPIS Best Paper award to Bruce Wilson (University of Central Florida) and travel grants to Felipe Botero (Universidad de los Andes) and Valeria Palanza (Princeton). The committees who selected the awardees were integrated by Cynthia McClintock (George Washington University), Ryan Carlin (Georgia State), and Patricio Navia (Diego Portales) for the Best Paper Award; and Todd Eisenstadt (American University), Flavia Freidenberg (Salamanca), and Gabriel Negretto (CIDE) for the travel grants. The Section agreed to support additional awards in the future, and renewed its commitment to represent political scientists at LASA. At the meeting, Jorge Gordín (GIGA, Hamburg) introduced the new *Journal of Politics in Latin America*. The members at the meeting selected Todd Eisenstadt (American University) as the new Section Chair for 2009-10, and Santiago Basabe (CIPEC), Felipe Botero (Universidad de los Andes), Miguel Centellas (University of Mississippi), and Kirk Hawkins (Brigham Young) as Council members. Following the procedure established at the

Montréal Congress, the former Chair, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán remained as Secretary-Treasurer.

Rural Studies

Cliff Welch, Chair

The Rural Studies Section held its LASA2009 Business Meeting on June 12. Thirteen members attended, as well as four nonmembers, for a total of 17. With a quorum, Section chair Cliff Welch initiated the meeting and Council member Nashiele Loera took notes. Discussion centered on growing the membership, the Section budget, the success of a field trip, the outcome of two Section panels, the Section's LASA Rural Studies Forum listserv, problems in the Section's relationship with the Agrarian and Rural Issues track, questions for the Section chair meeting held the following day, future Section plans, and the election of new officers.

The field trip to Terra Livre, a Landless Workers Movement (MST) encampment in Resende, Rio de Janeiro, involved 32 researchers from around the world and was considered such a success that the meeting resolved to ask the officers to plan a field trip for the Toronto Congress in 2010. The Section panel organized by Rosaria Pisa, "Comparative Perspectives on Agrarian Popular Movements in Latin America, Then and Now," was attended by 40 people and generated significant discussion. Another gratifying activity was the evening cocktail party, which attracted more than 100 people. It was noted that the Section would benefit from having available a flyer or brochure to help attract more LASA members to the Section.

At the meeting, the following officers were elected: Steven Zahniser as Chair-Elect, John Cameron as Secretary and, as Council members, Yolanda Massieu Trigo and Juan Ignacio Romero Cabrera. They join Chair Kirsten Albrechtsen de Appendini and continuing Council members Nashieli and Steven in forming the Council of the Rural Studies Section.

Sexualities Studies

Horacio F. Sívori and Rubén Ríos, Co-Chairs

The Section sponsored two panels at the LASA2009 Congress. One of the panels addressed inequality and sexual rights in Latin America, while the other focused on queer communities and sexual rights in Brazil.

Additionally, a day-long pre-conference was organized in partnership with the Latin American Center on Sexuality and Human Rights at the Institute of Social Medicine, State University of Rio de Janeiro (CLAM/IMS/UERJ). The forum, held at UERJ's Maracanã campus on June 10, addressed Sexualities, Social Movements and Academia: Research and Interventions in Brazil. It congregated key names from several generations of Brazilian research and activism in sexual politics, and was attended by 180 students, scholars and activists.

In 2007 the Section had created the Sylvia Molloy and Carlos Monsiváis awards, for original articles on sexuality, published by peer-reviewed journals. The first recipients of the awards were: Gisela Kozak (Universidad Central de Venezuela), Sylvia Molloy Award; Brad Epps (Harvard University), Carlos Monsiváis Award; and Rafael De La Dehesa, (CUNY-Staten Island), Honorable Mention. The awards will be offered again for articles published in the 2008-09 period, with each prize raised from US\$100 to US\$200.

The Business Meeting was attended by 26 members. Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba (University of Texas-Austin) and Jordi Díez (University of Guelph) were elected Co-Chairs for 2009-10. Guillermo de los Reyes remains as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Section plans its third pre-conference, to be held in October 2010, in partnership with institutions from the greater Toronto area.

SECTION REPORTS *continued...*

Southern Cone Studies

Laura Demaría and Ángel Tuninetti,
Co-Chairs

En el mes de mayo, la Sección Estudios sobre el Cono Sur llevó a cabo sus elecciones, las cuales fueron confirmadas por los asistentes durante nuestro encuentro en Río de Janeiro. Como nuevo Chair fue elegido Álvaro Fernández Bravo (University of New York in Buenos Aires), mientras que Roberto Genoves (The City University of New York) es ahora el nuevo Tesorero. Con la elección de Fernández Bravo y Genoves, la Sección entra en una nueva fase ya que el período de consolidación de la misma creemos se ha cerrado. La Sección cuenta con una red de más de trescientos especialistas de distintas disciplinas. Desde su fundación en el 2001, la Sección ha incrementado su presencia en el Congreso con mesas redondas que se han propuesto trazar inter-relaciones entre los espacios culturales y entre las disciplinas. También la Sección ha iniciado su propio "Fondo para viajes" conformado por las donaciones de sus propios miembros. Se espera poder entregar las primeras becas de viaje para el próximo congreso en Toronto (2010).

Venezuelan Studies

Dan Levine, Chair

The Venezuelan Studies Section held its regular meeting during the LASA Rio Congress in June 2009. Attendance was relatively low (30) for three reasons. There were numerous scheduling conflicts between the Section meeting and various panels in which our members were participating. Many members also had difficulty finding the assigned room, which was indeed not easy to find. Finally, a fair number of members could not make it to Rio in the first place, often because of restrictions on travel support in their home institutions. The meeting was chaired by myself and Elizabeth Nichols. The main business of the meeting was to announce the results of elections for the Section Chair and Council, to announce the winners of prizes that the Section gives every year for best paper (one in the social sciences and one in the humanities) to review the very successful meeting held in May 2008 in Caracas as an

interim LASA (LASA Venezuela) and to take up any matters arising.

Daniel H. Levine was re-elected Section Chair. The following Council members were elected: Members residing within Venezuela: Tomás Straka (Universidad Católica Andrés Bello), and members residing outside Venezuela: Javier Corrales (Amherst College).

The Section awards two prizes at each LASA Congress for best paper, published or unpublished: one in the social sciences and one in the humanities. Because there were no submissions in the humanities, two prizes were given in the social sciences. The winners were Alejandro Velasco (NYU), "A Weapon as Powerful as the Vote: Urban Protest and Electoral Politics in Venezuela 1978-1983" and John Jonakin (Tennessee Technological University), "Labor and its Discontents. The Consequences of Orthodox Economic Policy in Venezuela and Mexico."

The Interim Meeting held in Caracas May 2008 was organized by members of the Section residing in Venezuela and was held at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. This is the second such interim meeting. There was very high attendance, not only from Venezuela but from many members residing elsewhere. There are hopes to repeat this in the future.

Several issues raised from the floor included the need to encourage more humanities scholars to submit work for the Section's regular prize competition, and the experience of several members with the Fulbright Commission in Caracas. Members reported receiving a hostile and highly ideological grilling in their interviews. It was decided that various other members, all former Fulbright scholars, would make inquiries to determine precisely what had happened and why. They would then report to the Section Council which will decide on further steps to be taken. ■