

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

On the Profession

Building a Career in Latin America
Do Southern Scholars Have to Please
Northern Gatekeepers?

by FRED ROSEN

Where to Publish?
The Latinamericanist's Dilemma

by RORY M. MILLER

North and South
Inequalities in Access
to Scholarship Persist

by MIGUEL TINKER-SALAS

Hacer economía heterodoxa en México
por CARLOS SALAS

Debates

The Crisis Comes to Latin America

América Latina y la Crisis Financiera
Internacional

por JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO

An Assessment of the Subprime Crisis with
Special Reference to Latin America

by GUILLERMO CALVO

El Gran Descalabro
La Crisis y América Latina

por SEBASTIÁN EDWARDS

Table of Contents

1 From the President | by JOHN COATSWORTH

ON THE PROFESSION

- 3 Building a Career in Latin America: Do Southern Scholars Have to Please Northern Gatekeepers? | by FRED ROSEN
- 4 Where to Publish? The Latinamericanist's Dilemma | by RORY M. MILLER
- 6 North and South: Inequalities in Access to Scholarship Persist
by MIGUEL TINKER-SALAS
- 8 Hacer economía heterodoxa en México | por CARLOS SALAS

DEBATES

The Crisis Comes to Latin America

- 9 América Latina y la Crisis Financiera Internacional | por JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO
- 13 An Assessment of the Subprime Crisis with Special Reference to Latin America | by GUILLERMO CALVO
- 16 El Gran Descalabro: La Crisis y América Latina | por SEBASTIÁN EDWARDS

ON LASA2010

- 19 Report from the LASA2010 Program Chairs
by JAVIER CORRALES and NINA GERASSI-NAVARRO
- 20 Reservation Form for the LASA2010 Exhibit
- 21 Film Festival and Exhibit LASA2010

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

- 22 Nominations Invited: Bryce Wood Book Award; Premio Iberoamericano Book Award; LASA Media Award; LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship; LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award
- 26 Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

LASA SECTIONS

- 27 Section Reports
- 37 New LASA Sections

NEWS FROM LASA

- 38 Voluntary Support | by SANDY KLINZING
- 41 Resolution on Cuba

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The *LASA Forum* is published four times a year. It is the official vehicle for conveying news about the Latin American Studies Association to its members. Articles appearing in the *On the Profession* and *Debates* sections of the Forum are commissioned by the Editorial Committee and deal with selected themes. The Committee welcomes responses to any material published in the *Forum*.

Opinions expressed herein are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Latin American Studies Association or its officers.

President's Report

by JOHN COATSWORTH | Columbia University | jhc2125@columbia.edu

LASA will enter the second decade (already!) of our new century stronger, more diverse and intellectually vibrant, and larger than ever before. The turnout (over 5,000), enthusiasm, and intensity of the LASA XXVIII Congress in Rio de Janeiro last June exceeded all expectations despite the higher travel costs for some participants and the occasional inconvenience of holding the sessions at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)—wonderful hosts, but some distance by shuttle buses from the Congress hotels.

The two main reasons for the steady growth of LASA Congresses are the increasing participation of Latin American scholars and LASA's policy of keeping membership and registration costs as low as possible. The LASA Executive Council (EC) reaffirmed

this policy at its meeting in Rio when it decided unanimously not to raise the cost of membership. Membership dues have not changed since they were raised slightly in 2006. As Table 1 below demonstrates, LASA's dues are below those of most other area studies and disciplinary associations.

The EC did decide, however, to revise its dues structure for Latin American members beginning in 2010. Currently, as Table 1 shows, Latin American members are divided into two groups: those earning more or less than the equivalent of US\$20,000 per year. The EC made two changes. First it extended the benefits of the heavily subsidized "Under \$20,000" category to include everyone earning less than \$40,000. Then it created two new income classes with higher, but still subsidized membership dues for those



earning between \$40,000 and \$60,000 and those earning above \$60,000. The old and new dues structure for Latin American members is shown in Table 2.

While membership dues have not risen in the past four years, registration fees have risen for each of the recent Congresses due to increases in meeting costs. In comparison with other associations, however, LASA's registration fees are still among the lowest, as shown in Table 3. No major increase in registration fees is expected for the next LASA Congress in Toronto on October 6-9, 2010.

Relatively low dues and registration fees have undoubtedly contributed to the sharp increases in Congress attendance, along with other factors. LASA is committed to maintaining the scale and quality of its Congresses, both of which depend on the broad participation of members from throughout the hemisphere.

To accommodate increased participation at LASA meetings, the EC decided at its meeting in Rio (reported in the last *Forum*) to explore the feasibility of converting to an annual meeting schedule (like other area studies associations) from its current 18-month cycle. It also decided to consult the membership on this issue, by including questions on this issue in the post-Rio questionnaire sent to all LASA members last August. The decision to change to an annual meeting schedule (or not) will be taken by the EC when it assembles at the Toronto meeting, so if you have strong views on this subject, this would be a good time to start lobbying EC members. However, even

Table 1: LASA Membership Dues Compared with Other Academic Associations

Other Area Studies Associations

Membership Categories	LASA 2009 & 2010	Asian 2009	African 2009	Middle East 2009	Slavic 2009
Under \$20,000	\$35	\$35	\$70	\$55	\$50
\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$45	\$50	\$70	\$55	\$50
\$30,000 - \$39,999	\$56	\$70	\$70	\$75	\$65
\$40,000 - \$49,999	\$68	\$80	\$115	\$90	\$80
\$50,000 - \$64,999	\$81	\$95	\$115	\$100	\$100
\$65,000 - \$74,999	\$95	\$105	\$115	\$110	\$115
\$75,000 and over	\$110	\$125	\$115	\$120	\$135
\$90,000 and over	\$110	\$125	\$115	\$135	\$160
\$125,000 and over	\$110	\$125	\$115	\$135	\$180
Student	\$27	\$35	\$70	\$40	\$35
Latin America under \$20,000	\$27				
Latin America over \$20,000	\$40				

Other Disciplinary Associations

Membership Categories	LASA 2009 & 2010	APSA 2009	AAA 2009	AHA 2009	MLA 2009
Under \$20,000	\$35	\$90	\$132	\$43	\$40
\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$45	\$90	\$158	\$80	\$50
\$30,000 - \$39,999	\$56	\$90	\$158	\$92	\$65
\$40,000 - \$49,999	\$68	\$134	\$158	\$109	\$75
\$50,000 - \$64,999	\$81	\$157	\$185	\$121	\$85
\$65,000 - \$74,999	\$95	\$170	\$185	\$146	\$95
\$75,000 and over (or - \$99,000)	\$110	\$180	\$210	\$146	\$105
\$100,000 - \$134,000	\$110	\$220	\$245	\$146	\$145
\$125,000 - \$149,000	\$110	\$220	\$275	\$146	\$165
\$135,000 and over	\$110	\$295	\$300	\$146	\$175
Student	\$27	\$42	\$69	\$38	\$20

COATSWORTH *continued...*

if LASA does switch to an annual meeting, the new schedule could not begin until after 2012. Hotel contracts and other arrangements for the spring 2012 Congress will have been made well before the decision to switch, if it is made, at Toronto.

This issue of the *Forum* contains short essays on the causes and impact of the current global economic recession written by three distinguished economists, each written from a distinct perspective. They follow on the keynote address to the Rio Congress by Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz. Presidential panels at the Toronto meeting will explore various dimensions of the crisis, social and cultural as well as economic.

Finally, as this *Forum* goes to press, the de facto government of Honduras remains in place, despite condemnation of the June 28 military coup by every other government in the hemisphere. Latin Americanists know that it was another military coup against in Honduras—in October 1963—that helped to trigger a tragic era of violence and authoritarian rule in Latin America. When the United States and the inter-American community failed to respond vigorously to defend the elected constitutional government of president Ramón Villeda Morales, military coups soon followed throughout the region. Reversing this latest coup, and the long list of arbitrary and illegal actions taken by the de facto government, would help to brighten prospects for continued democratic rule elsewhere in Latin America.

One of the most arbitrary and illegal actions taken by the de facto government was the abrupt dismissal of our LASA colleague, the distinguished historian Darío Euraque, from his post as director of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (INAH). He should be restored to his post and permitted to continue the outstanding work he was doing on behalf of all Hondurans and the community of scholars who work, or will ever work, on Honduras. ■

Table 2: Old and New Dues Categories for Latin American Members of LASA

Old Membership Categories	Dues (US dollars)
Latin America under \$20,000	\$27
Latin America over \$20,000	\$40

New Membership Categories	Dues (US dollars)
Latin America under \$40,000	\$27
Latin America between \$40,000 and \$60,000	\$40
Latin America over \$60,000	\$53

Table 3: LASA Registration Fees Compared with Other Academic Associations

Other Area Studies Associations	LASA	Asian	African	Middle East	Slavic
Pre-registration					
Members	100	95	160	80	140
Non Members	180	145	200	110	190
Students	55	45	100	40	30
Non Member Students	100	60	120	60	40
On Site-Registration					
Members	180	120	180	100	TBD
Non Members	240	170	240	130	TBD
Students	100	60	105	60	TBD
Non Member Students	145	75	135	80	TBD

Other Disciplinary Associations	LASA	APSA	AAA	AHA	MLA
Pre-registration					
Members	100	170	206	152	175
Non Members	180	305	361	173	225
Students	55	65	88	74	40
Non Member Students	100	305	160	84	65
On Site-Registration					
Members	180	210	258	179	TBD
Non Members	240	395	448	200	TBD
Students	100	95	98	79	TBD
Non Member Students	145	395	196	89	TBD

Building a Career in Latin America Do Southern Scholars Have to Please Northern Gatekeepers?

by FRED ROSEN | NACLA | frosen144@hotmail.com

All fields of academic endeavor maintain deliberately constructed barriers to advancement. In part, these barriers are created to ensure the competence of the profession's practitioners, in part to provide incentives to the creative production of scholarship, and in part to allow dominant scholars and institutions to reproduce their standing and dominance by populating the field with individuals who think, teach and write like they do. The following *On the Profession* essays add the North-South relation to the discussion of barriers to career building in Latin America. These essays examine some of the barriers faced by Southern scholars—and some of the related pressures experienced by their U.S. and European colleagues—as they try to build careers in Latin American Studies. The essays recognize that while some of these barriers are deliberately imposed, others are structurally, and/or inadvertently created by North-South relationship.

One of those barriers is language. The North-South divide is reflected in, and exacerbated by, the preferred and rewarded language of scholarship: English. In this sense, the North-South divide is reproduced within the community of scholars who study, among other things, the North-South divide. The discipline replicates what the discipline studies: the hegemony of North America and its principal language.

There may be little the discipline, as such, can do about this. Over the past year, for example, spanning issues 44.2 through 45.2, LASA's flagship publication, the *Latin American Research Review* (*LARR*) has published or accepted for publication six articles written by Brazilian scholars. Of the six, four are written in English, one in Spanish and only one in Portuguese—this despite *LARR's* (like *LASA Forum's*) well-known official policy of accepting articles for publication in English, Spanish or

Portuguese, without prejudice. The decision of these Brazilian scholars to publish in English (or in one case, Spanish) is logical: in the hegemonic language, their work will find a much larger and more influential readership. For reasons outlined by Rory Miller and Miguel Tinker-Salas, publication in English is more likely to lead to a successful career in Latin American studies. And since within the discipline's institutions, Spanish is more widely read and understood than Portuguese, a Portuguese speaker's decision to publish in Spanish makes sense as well.

Language is not the only barrier. Northern universities, research centers, public policy institutes, foundations, publishing houses and academic journals currently dominate the field of Latin American studies. This situation makes access to Northern scholarship imperative for all those who wish to remain on top the most recent research findings and analytical debates, and in the loop of recognized and sanctioned scholarship.

This is the way that the North influences the research agenda of the South. The desire to stay current is not just a case of not wanting to spend time trying to discover what has already been discovered, but rather, stems from the realization that, if one wants to advance in Latin American studies, one can't spend the bulk of one's professional time studying questions the field considers irrelevant or of minor importance, or making use of research methodologies the field considers unproductive. It is in this context, as demonstrated by Miller and Tinker-Salas, that the South's widespread lack of access to current Northern research presents a major barrier to career advancement.

This is the case, as Carlos Salas points out, even in subfields that dissent from Northern

wisdom. Even in critical or dissenting communities of scholars, like Salas's field of heterodox economics, the mode of discourse and the paradigm of understanding that inform research and scholarly analysis, both North and South, require constant monitoring and communication with like-minded colleagues. Access to current arguments and scholarship is thus vital.

Meanwhile, as Miller reminds us, dominant approaches to scholarship, especially in the social sciences, have become increasingly narrow and exclusionary. Work across disciplines has become more difficult, and scholars—especially young scholars—feel pressured to study, write and teach within the circumscribed areas that their discipline's dominant forces consider to be useful and appropriate. Those dominant forces—both personal and institutional—are typically based in the North. ■

Where to Publish? The Latinamericanist's Dilemma

by RORY M. MILLER | University of Liverpool Management School | rory@liv.ac.uk

Where to publish articles has long been a great dilemma facing Latinamericanist scholars, particularly those of us who live in English-speaking countries. This is inevitable in a multidisciplinary field like Latin American studies, where researchers confront some stark choices: first, whether to publish a particular piece of research in a disciplinary or area studies journal; and second, whether to publish in English or Spanish/Portuguese.

Given that most of us, in the early stages of our careers, sought jobs either in our home country or elsewhere in the Anglophone world, we inevitably faced pressures to publish in English. In order to attract the attention of those who control the academic and institutional environment, and hence the hiring decisions, and who frequently know little about Latin America, academics have been pushed towards publishing at least some of their papers in mainstream disciplinary journals, even if the primary audience they would like to reach is a Latin American(ist) one. After all, positions specifically in Latin American studies continue to be rather less common than those in discipline-based departments.

Professional pressures, for confirmation of tenure or for promotion, normally mean continuing to publish primarily in English. Particularly as family and professional commitments restrict our fieldwork, we may become “magpie academics,” flying in to Latin America for a short time, collecting a few tasty research trinkets, and taking them back to our own nests, there to rearrange them in a way that pleases senior colleagues in our own countries. We thus run the risk of neglecting the academic communities of the countries in which we undertake our fieldwork and speaking to North Atlantic academic debates rather than Latin American ones.

At least around 1970, when I started my own research career, some common ground existed among scholars from North America, Europe, and Latin America in the form of the shared, if contested, paradigm of dependency theory. Concepts of dependency also had international significance, beyond Latin American studies. In addition, the methodologies that researchers in different disciplines tended to use allowed them to speak to one another across disciplinary lines. In the past two decades, however, a process of disciplinary fragmentation and reorientation has created enormous problems for Latin American scholars and for foreign specialists committed to multidisciplinary research.

First, the dominant approaches in many disciplines, especially in North America, have become more exclusionary, most obviously in economics, though increasingly in political science, and even in disciplines like history where the cultural turn and neglect of economic history that has characterized many U.S. departments since the 1990s has found few echoes in Latin America. For those who retain a commitment to work that is comprehensible across disciplines and relevant within Latin America this narrowing of focus and increasing “tunnel vision” within the social sciences has created enormous difficulties.

Second, leading researchers in Latin America have themselves come under pressure to publish in English, either from national research councils or from their own universities and research institutes. Publishing in English-language journals has become a synonym for international reputation and performance, often rewarded with financial incentives. In one leading research council, I am informed, this has been accompanied by persistent denigration of well-respected international journals of long standing such as *El Trimestre*

Económico, Desarrollo Económico, and even *Revista de la CEPAL*.

Third, research assessment exercises and other performance indicators have become increasingly common. Such reviews often depend on journal ranking lists, especially in well-populated disciplines. Examples of these are the European Science Foundation's disastrous and misguided attempts to rank humanities journals on a European scale, or the many lists produced in economics, accounting, business and management. “Impact factors,” especially those determined by the Thomson-ISI *Web of Knowledge* or Elsevier's *Scopus*, have become critical to departmental and individual reputations as well as those of the journals concerned. Given the overwhelming English-language bias of the *Web of Knowledge* and other such ranking lists, this has created further pressure on authors to publish outside Latin America and within the context of North Atlantic debates in their disciplines.

There are, of course, some benefits from the growth of on-line databases and electronic access to articles. A carefully constructed abstract and selection of keywords can bring research on Latin America to the attention of those in the disciplinary mainstream. Consortia and other arrangements developed by publishers have made English-language journals much more accessible both within Latin America and across the world. However, they have also had the effect of making North American, and to a lesser extent European, approaches to scholarship the expected norm.

Editors of English-language journals on Latin America, judging from conversations with colleagues at LASA, now receive a markedly increased number of article submissions each year, and this is partly a result of these changes. But, while grateful

for this as editors, we are also, I think, concerned about the proportion we receive that are unlikely to be suitable for publication in area studies journals that seek to connect the North Atlantic and Latin American worlds.

Part of the problem is that authors may submit an article that is pitched entirely in terms of a broader English-language debate and methodology, paying no attention to local scholarship and, in effect, conveying the unspoken assumption that local scholarship is not worthwhile. Authors in political science departments in the United States, for example, have been known to submit articles analyzing key Latin American presidential elections without referring to a single source in Spanish or Portuguese, despite the wealth of local literature. Such an approach totally ignores the work of vibrant social science communities in Latin America that have gained in strength since the 1960s.

On the other side of the coin, authors in Latin America seeking to publish in English may not realize the need to contextualize an article so that it grabs the attention of a researcher working in a North American or European university on a related topic in a different Latin American country. Those best placed to publish in English, therefore, are often those Latin American scholars who have studied or worked in North America or Europe themselves, and have therefore internalized North Atlantic methodologies and research priorities. Latin American researchers who have come through their own country's higher education system rather than studying abroad, one suspects, often make discouraging mistakes in their selection of possible outlets, with the result that their work does not receive the exposure to the wider Anglophone social science community that it may deserve.

Overcoming these information asymmetries, linguistic obstacles, and disciplinary biases is a difficult task, but one that we need to address. The journal editors' sessions at recent LASA Congresses, begun by Peter Ward and continued by Phil Oxhorn, have been valuable in developing a dialogue among editors, and between editors and authors, but we need to consider how we might do more. There is scope, perhaps, for smaller meetings at disciplinary conferences, especially within Latin America. It is, after all, in our collective interests to ensure that scholarship on and from Latin America is taken much more into account in the mainstream humanities and social sciences disciplines. The contemporary world of on-line searching and wider access to journals in Latin American studies, wherever they are published, provides us with a path to this.

But these are also issues that we need to consider in our own individual publication strategies, whether we work in Europe, North America, or Latin America itself. The dilemmas of where to publish, whether in English or Spanish/Portuguese, whether in disciplinary or area studies journals, how to pitch and place our articles successfully, and how to bring them to the attention of the readers whom we wish to influence are ones that we all face throughout our careers. ■

North and South Inequalities in Access to Scholarship Persist

by MIGUEL TINKER-SALAS | Pomona College | miguel.tinkersalas@pomona.edu

At the recent LASA meeting in Rio de Janeiro, I participated on a panel called “What Constitutes Good Research? Perspectives on Research Practice, Research Ethics, and Research Standards of ‘Truth’ from the North and South.” The panel was made up of editors or contributing editors of several leading journals published in the United States, Britain and Latin America. I represented *Latin American Perspectives*, which recently celebrated its 35th year of publication. The session was scheduled for early Saturday evening, and in all honesty, I assumed that given the late hour and the weekend attractions of Rio, there would be sparse attendance and panelists would end up talking to each other.

I was wrong! As the time for the panel approached, it was clear that there was a surprisingly great amount of interest in the topic; the room soon filled, and people started lining up along the walls, sitting on the floor and spilling out into the hallway. From the mood of the audience it was clear that this would not be your typical discussion of good research and academic standards. As the panelists presented, mostly in English, many in the audience seemed to feel excluded and urged presenters to speak in the various languages recognized by LASA. The animated conversations that followed the short presentations served to highlight the persistence of an important divide between colleagues in academic institutions in the North and the South. This divide centered on something as fundamental as access to academic journals, which in the age of the Internet, by and large remains limited to institutions who have funding to purchase electronically packaged journals as part of their collections.

As the discussion wore on, there were the usual questions about “how to get an article published.” These questions provoked discussion of the process of submissions, the

necessity that authors understand the unique character of each journal, the frequently inordinate amount of time taken by journal referees to submit critiques, and the need to include an overarching theoretical framework that highlighted the importance of the work to the field. There was general consensus on the part of the editors about the need to review and incorporate, however possible, the state of scholarship on any given topic in both the North and the South. For example, several editors mentioned that articles that relied overwhelmingly on literature published only in the United States or Britain, and did not include recent scholarship in Latin America would have a more difficult time being published in their journals.

Quickly and rather abruptly, however, questions from the audience moved away from these general matters of publication and began to focus on the more thorny and complex issue of the lack of broad access to academic journals in the South.

For scholars in the North, where colleges and universities typically subscribe to several services and provide faculty and students electronic access to journals, this did not appear to be a major matter of concern. Nonetheless some colleagues noted the hierarchy that exists even in the North between well-funded schools and those that lack resources and must make difficult choices concerning selective access to electronic materials.

For scholars in the South, however, access to journals, and thus to the most recent scholarship is a persistent problem. Despite the best intentions of editors on the panel, the reality is that most journals maintain contractual relations to publishing houses that package and sell electronic access to journals to university libraries. The economic requirements of the publishing

world create barriers that limit the full democratization of knowledge and aggravate structural differences between the North and the South. Invariably, many resource-strapped universities in Latin America are unable to purchase these services; thus colleagues in the region confront a structural disadvantage in gaining access to these materials.

As is the case in the North, institutions of higher education in the South also confront structures of hierarchy, where prestigious national universities compete for government funding with an expanding number of regional, state, and even local institutions. Private universities, those administered by the Catholic Church or the whole host of so-called technical institutes that have gained popularity in recent decades also compete for limited resources. Though the Internet has expanded access to general information, the reality is that the ability to read most scholarly journals still remains limited. The contractual relations between journals and their publishing houses, in some cases, limit how and where journals can be distributed.

In any case, over the course of the discussion, it became clear that the issue of access to journals had many facets, including the uncomfortable reality that many mainstream journals published in the North dominate the field and subfields of Latin American studies. This situation persists at a time when standards for scholarly publication and academic life in Latin America are either similar to or in some cases more rigorous than in the North. In addition to having to meet the academic standards at their home institutions, many scholars at leading universities in the region also belong to national research systems such as the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI) in Mexico and the Programa de Promoción del Investigador

(PPI) in Venezuela. These programs reward and promote an active record of publication in peer-reviewed journals, and participation in national and international conferences. Repeatedly, Latin American colleagues in the audience, many from prestigious institutions, criticized the lack of access to recent scholarship and how this left them at a structural disadvantage.

These questions remain unresolved, challenging scholars, journals, and authors who find that the current economic realities of the publishing world clash with the notion of democratization of knowledge. In the end, all the editors on the panel agreed that we have to develop creative strategies to address this inequality and ensure that structural differences do not continue to privilege scholars in the North and disadvantage those in the South.

The fact that a room full of academics willingly sacrificed “a night on the town in Rio” underscores the importance of these issues to the membership of LASA. Holding the LASA meeting in Brazil provided the context that allowed many Latin American scholars to voice their concerns and highlight the challenges of conducting scholarship in the South. Hopefully, next time we address “Perspectives on Research Practice, Ethics, and Standards of ‘Truth’ from the North and South” we will have found creative ways to resolve some of these structural contradictions and break down barriers between the North and South. ■

THE ANDEAN DEMOCRACY RESEARCH NETWORK

The Andean Democracy Research Network is a pilot project funded by the Glyn Berry Program in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada. It seeks to monitor and report on the state of democracy in the Americas, with a focus on the Andes.

The ADRN provides independent, arms-length contributions to public policy and debate by means of timely, impartial, and high quality research from within the region. Reports on democracy, which encompass its electoral, constitutional, and citizenship dimensions, provide evidence to enable judgments about the trends in the region, with the intention of mobilizing political will to support democracy within the framework of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and related policy instruments.

Please visit our website for more information:
<http://blogs.ubc.ca/andeandemocracy>



Hacer economía heterodoxa en México

por CARLOS SALAS | El Colegio de Tlaxcala | csalas51@gmail.com

Durante años, el horizonte intelectual de la economía académica en México, como en el mundo entero, estuvo marcado por el predominio de los puntos de vista de la escuela neoclásica. A pesar de esto, los grupos de economistas heterodoxos de las instituciones de educación superior consiguieron sobrevivir y proliferar. Hoy en día, tales grupos están consolidados a pesar de una sistemática ofensiva de los practicantes neoclásicos para desprestigiar, minimizar y hacer de lado a las corrientes económicas no neoclásicas. Esto se expresaba en los obstáculos para ingresar al Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SIN) en los primeros años de existencia del sistema, en obstáculos para obtener apoyos para investigación por medio del Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), y en la falta de reconocimiento de la calidad de los posgrados heterodoxos. Lo anterior no es extraño en vista del predominio neoclásico en la esfera gubernamental.

Aun hoy en día, cuando la presencia del pensamiento económico heterodoxo está consolidado en las facultades y departamentos de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) y la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) y en algunas universidades fuera del Distrito Federal, los resultados de la ofensiva ortodoxa se expresan en la presencia de cursos obligatorios de teoría microeconómica, los cuales se imparten sin una revisión crítica adecuada de los límites de la teoría dominante.

Los recursos materiales disponibles en la UNAM y la UAM permitieron la suscripción a múltiples revistas especializadas, el intercambio académico con universidades del exterior, y sobre todo en la UNAM, facilitaron la compra de importantes materiales bibliográficos.

En particular se debe destacar la creación de redes de investigación que permiten el constante intercambio con académicos de muchas partes del mundo, aún cuando los intercambios con países de habla inglesa sean los más comunes.

El predominio de la literatura en lengua inglesa, en el marco de las publicaciones con orientación neoclásica, hacen absolutamente necesario el conocimiento de dicho idioma. Ciertamente, la posibilidad de publicar en inglés abre muchos caminos al reconocimiento del trabajo hecho en México, aun cuando existan revistas nacionales especializadas de creciente importancia internacional, como es el caso de la revista *Investigación Económica*, de la Facultad de Economía de la UNAM.

Frente a la crisis financiera internacional, y la creciente crítica a los planteamientos neoclásicos que están detrás de dicha crisis, la economía heterodoxa tiene retos importantes, en especial en México.

El primero es consolidar grupos de investigación nacionales, con amplios contactos en el exterior, en áreas de interés inmediato como la macroeconomía, la economía del medio ambiente y la economía laboral. Solo mediante el intercambio de experiencias, recursos y contactos será posible avanzar en el proceso de reconstrucción de la teoría económica contemporánea y en los necesarios cambios de los contenidos curriculares. En este sentido, las iniciativas de la *Heterodox Economics Newsletter*, editada por Fred Lee <<http://www.heterodoxnews.com>>, y el movimiento inicialmente conocido como *Economía Post Autista (Post-Autistic Economics)*, <<http://www.paecon.net>>, son muy relevantes.

Para alcanzar este objetivo es importante generalizar el acceso a revistas en formato

electrónico y facilitar el intercambio de material bibliográfico con universidades y centros de investigación a lo largo del territorio nacional. Hoy en día, un investigador en un centro pequeño, fuera de las grandes áreas metropolitanas, difícilmente tiene acceso a esos materiales, debido a los altos costos que representa su adquisición. Sería deseable impulsar suscripciones nacionales, a las cuales todos los centros y universidades nacionales, pudieran acceder.

Adicionalmente, se hace necesario comenzar un proceso doble de revisión de la disciplina—tanto en los aspectos de carácter teórico, como en el área de la enseñanza. Por ejemplo, es necesaria la búsqueda de un reemplazo de los fundamentos neoclásicos de buena parte de la economía que se enseña a nivel superior, en especial recuperar el estudio de la historia económica y el de la historia de la propia disciplina.

Frente al doble reto de preservar los logros alcanzados y, por otro lado, avanzar en el conocimiento de la realidad, en esta época de crisis financiera y de crisis teórica es necesario la concentración de esfuerzos y recursos. ■

The Crisis Comes to Latin America

América Latina y la Crisis Financiera Internacional

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El impacto de la crisis

América Latina no fue afectada en forma importante durante las primeras fases de la crisis financiera internacional, que se desató en agosto de 2007 en Estados Unidos. La persistente alza de precios de productos básicos permitió que el auge regional se prolongara hasta el primer semestre de 2008. El colapso financiero internacional que se generó con la quiebra del banco de inversión Lehman Brothers en septiembre de 2008 sumió, sin embargo, a América Latina, como al mundo entero, en una fuerte recesión.

Todas las proyecciones existentes indican que la región se contraerá entre 2 y 2.5 por ciento en 2009 (CEPAL, 2009a; FMI, 2009). La crisis es, además, generalizada. México es la economía más afectada, con una caída estimada en torno al 7 por ciento, pero la mayoría de las economías de la región registrarán contracciones o a lo sumo pequeñas expansiones de su actividad económica. Vista en perspectiva, esta recesión sería peor que las de 1990 ó 2002, aunque mejor que la peor recesión de la posguerra, de comienzos de los años ochenta, que marcó el inicio de la “década perdida” (Gráfico 1). La mayoría de los pronósticos también indican que el producto interno bruto (PIB) per cápita de 2008 sólo se recuperará en 2011, aunque algunos escenarios son más pesimistas (BID, 2009).

Los canales de transmisión de la crisis muestran algunas sorpresas y contrastes con el pasado. El crecimiento de las remesas

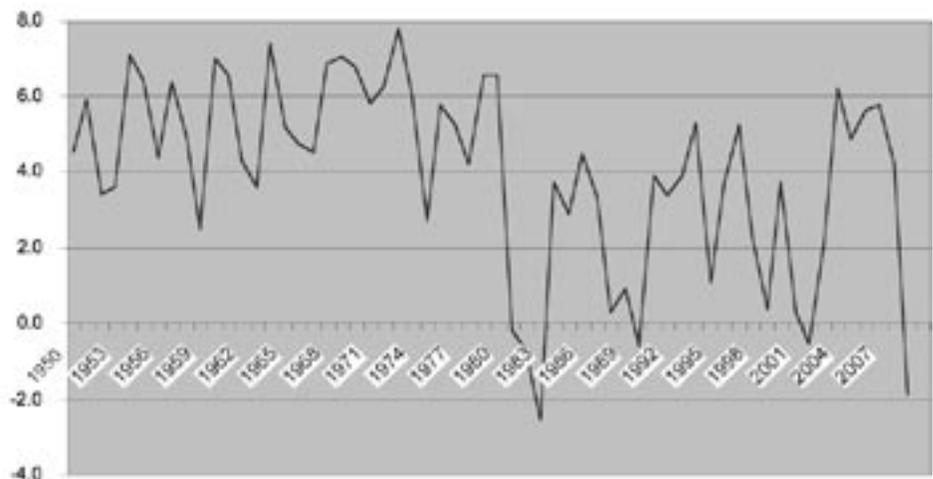
comenzó a desacelerarse desde 2006, como producto de las menores oportunidades de empleo para los migrantes, especialmente en el sector de la construcción en los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, su contracción fue relativamente moderada en el último trimestre de 2008 y el primero de 2009 (5.3 y 6.7 por ciento, respectivamente, en relación con los mismos períodos un año antes), aunque se aceleró en el segundo trimestre del presente año, cuando cayeron un 16.6 por ciento.¹

La mayor sorpresa ha sido el buen comportamiento de los indicadores financieros (Jara et al, 2009; Ocampo, 2009). Aunque los márgenes de riesgo y la tasa de retorno (yield) de los bonos soberanos de los principales países de la región se elevaron desde mediados de 2008 y se dispararon en septiembre y octubre del mismo año, tendieron a disminuir desde entonces, especialmente durante el segundo trimestre de 2009. A fines de agosto de

2009 se colocaban en niveles muy similares a los anteriores a la crisis (en torno al 7.5 por ciento) y muy inferiores a los que prevalecieron durante la crisis previa (entre 12 y 17 por ciento).

La disponibilidad de financiamiento externo también se redujo desde mediados de 2008 y se secó a partir de septiembre, pero ha venido mejorando desde comienzos del presente año. Las reservas internacionales sólo se redujeron marginalmente durante los peores meses de la crisis (de US\$435.000 millones en septiembre de 2008 para las siete economías más grandes de la región a US\$411.000 en febrero de 2009) y se han recuperado desde entonces. No ha habido, además, colapsos financieros internos en ningún país de la región y, aunque las bolsas se desplomaron desde mediados de 2008, se sostuvieron en niveles más altos que en otras regiones del mundo y participaron del auge bursátil mundial que tuvo lugar en el segundo trimestre de 2009.

Gráfico 1
Crecimiento económico de América Latina



Fuente: CEPAL

OCAMPO *continued...*

En perspectiva histórica, esto permite afirmar que, aunque el ojo de la tormenta ha sido el sector financiero de los países industrializados, en términos estrictamente financieros ésta ha sido para América Latina una crisis mucho menos severa que la de la deuda y la crisis financiera de las economías emergentes de fines del siglo XX.

En términos comerciales, por el contrario, la crisis actual es mucho más profunda. El colapso que viene experimentando el comercio mundial no tiene antecedentes. De acuerdo con las estadísticas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), durante el primer semestre de 2009 el valor de las exportaciones mundiales se colocó un 30.3 por ciento por debajo del mismo semestre de 2008. A ello contribuyó tanto la caída de los precios de productos básicos, como la fuerte contracción del comercio mundial de manufacturas. El Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI, 2009) prevé una contracción de los volúmenes de comercio mundial del 12 por ciento en 2009 y a lo sumo una recuperación parcial en 2010. En el caso de América Latina, el valor y volumen de sus exportaciones cayeron 30.9 y 15.3 por ciento, respectivamente, en el primer semestre del año en relación con igual período en 2008 (CEPAL, 2009b), y la caída esperada de los volúmenes de exportación de la región durante 2009 es similar al promedio mundial, 11 por ciento.

Como la magnitud de la fuerte recesión en curso en la región difícilmente puede explicarse por la fuerza de la crisis financiera, se puede decir que *ésta es una crisis comercial más que financiera*. Esto indica que, aunque la región ha logrado reducir sus vulnerabilidades financieras, las comerciales son mucho más pronunciadas que en el pasado. Este hecho tiene implicaciones profundas sobre la estrategia de desarrollo que ha seguido la región durante la última década.

Las respuestas a la crisis

La mayor solidez financiera que ha tenido la región ha dado lugar a un espacio para adoptar políticas macroeconómicas anticíclicas. Este resultado se explica tanto por factores externos como internos. En términos externos, el hecho de que la crisis se originó en el mundo industrializado ha generado una respuesta activa de las autoridades económicas, que estuvo ausente en el pasado durante las crisis que originaron en el mundo en desarrollo (con la notable excepción de la crisis mexicana de 1994-1995). Las razones internas están asociadas a la mayor solidez macroeconómica de las economías latinoamericanas.

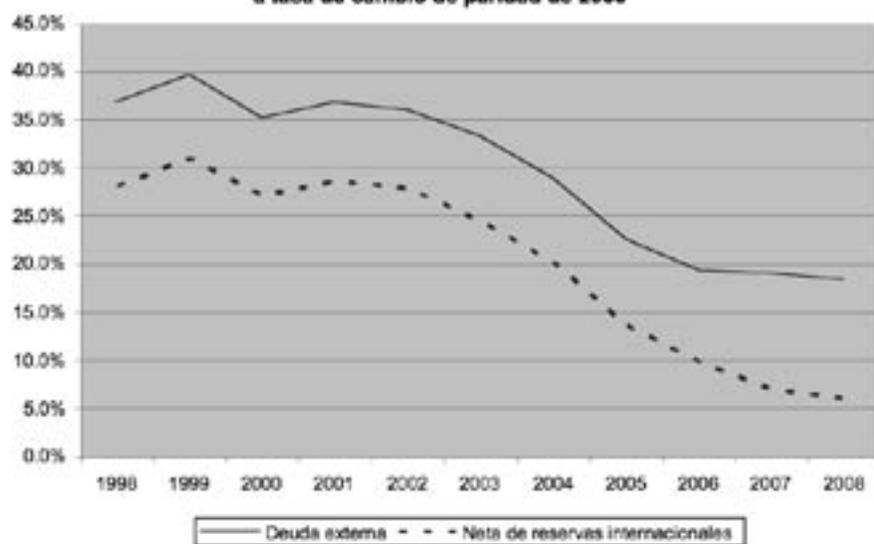
En contra de algunas lecturas optimistas, esta última no proviene en general de un cambio importante en la política macroeconómica durante los años de auge. En realidad, con contadas excepciones (Chile, por ejemplo, en el caso de las finanzas públicas), la fortaleza de la región, tanto en el frente fiscal como en el externo, fue mucho más el resultado de ingresos excepcionales (fiscales y auge de precios de productos básicos, respectivamente) que de un manejo anticíclico orientado a “garantizar los equilibrios macroeconómicos”.² De hecho, y de nuevo con algunas excepciones, el término “anticíclico” sólo ha venido a ser parte del léxico de las autoridades económicas durante la crisis, no durante el auge.

La clave de los mayores márgenes en materia de política macroeconómica con los que cuenta la región es, por lo tanto, la combinación del auge externo excepcional que precedió a la crisis con la mejora en la hoja de balance externo. Los dos factores que fueron decisivos en este último caso fueron la fuerte reducción del endeudamiento externo, sobre todo de los

gobiernos, y los altos niveles de reservas internacionales. El primero es el desarrollo de los mercados internos de bonos, que se han constituido en una fuente dinámica de financiamiento público en muchos países. El segundo es la decisión de la mayoría de los bancos centrales de absorber el exceso de financiamiento externo durante el auge a través de la acumulación de reservas internacionales. La combinación de estos dos factores redujo la deuda externa, neta de reservas internacionales, de un nivel equivalente al 30 por ciento del PIB antes del auge a un 6 por ciento en 2008 (Gráfico 2). En cierto sentido, el auge permitió borrar los efectos de la crisis de la deuda, que afectaron a la economía latinoamericana por un cuarto de siglo.

La solidez de la hoja de balance externo es la que ha proporcionado el margen para políticas macroeconómicas anticíclicas. Esta última ha estado constituida básicamente por medias monetarias expansivas (reducción de encajes, reversión de las medidas de contracción monetaria adoptadas durante la fase previa de aceleración de la inflación y la creación de algunas líneas de crédito en los bancos centrales), la utilización de los bancos de desarrollo con que todavía cuentan varios países para facilitar la reactivación del crédito, la provisión de liquidez en dólares a algunos agentes privados que carecían temporalmente de acceso al mercado externo de capitales y, aunque mucho menos que en la retórica de los gobiernos, medidas de expansión del gasto público. Como un todo, sin embargo, estas medidas sólo han amortiguado ligeramente el impacto de la crisis. La gran ganancia ha sido, en cualquier caso, haber podido evitar las alzas bruscas de las tasas de interés y los ajustes fiscales draconianos que caracterizaron las crisis anteriores.

Gráfico 2
Deuda externa neta de reservas internacionales,
a tasa de cambio de paridad de 2000



Fuente: Cálculos del autor con base en estadísticas de la CEPAL.
 En el caso de Chile incluye recursos de los fondos soberanos.

Las implicaciones de la crisis

Las implicaciones más importantes de la crisis se derivarán, en primer término, del deterioro en los indicadores sociales. La información suministrada por la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) y la Organización Internacional de Trabajo (OIT) (2009) muestra un deterioro laboral, que se refleja en una caída en la tasa de ocupación, una reducción fuerte del crecimiento del empleo formal (cotizantes a la seguridad social) y un aumento del desempleo en el primer trimestre de 2009 en relación con el mismo período en 2008. Sin embargo, los impactos eran todavía pequeños entonces y de hecho compatibles con un crecimiento modesto del empleo. Preocupa, en particular, la situación de México, que podría estar frente a una de las

coyunturas labores más severas de su historia, no sólo por la fuerte recesión que está experimentando sino también por el cambio radical en las condiciones migratorias hacia Estados Unidos. Para 2009, CEPAL (2009a) ha proyectado un aumento de la tasa de desempleo de la región del 7.5 al 9 por ciento, que implicará tres millones adicionales de personas sin puestos de trabajo.

En materia de pobreza, la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (2009) ha proyectado un aumento de 3.6 millones de indigentes en América Latina, un efecto modesto y susceptible de enfrentarse con políticas focalizadas. Sin embargo, los impactos sobre el empleo y la pobreza se irán acumulando si la fase de lento crecimiento económico se prolonga en el tiempo. Como

lo indica la experiencia del pasado, lo más preocupante será el aumento en la informalidad laboral. Consistente con estos efectos todavía modestos, las movilizaciones políticas asociadas a la crisis no han sido importantes hasta mediados de 2009.

Un segundo impacto significativo es, sin duda, el giro hacia concepciones más activas del papel del Estado, como parte de un proceso que tiene ahora alcance mundial. En América Latina, este giro precedió, sin embargo, a la crisis, y se reflejó en el surgimiento de varios regímenes que se identifican claramente como de izquierda (con diferentes variantes), así como en el mayor pragmatismo sobre el papel del Estado de los gobiernos de centro y derecha. Un efecto importante de la crisis es la renovada atención al papel del mercado interno y de los bancos de desarrollo. Brasil ha sido el pionero en uno y otro tema. Los paquetes anticíclicos se refieren precisamente a cómo dinamizar la demanda interna en un ambiente económico externo desfavorable. La banca de desarrollo sería el instrumento más importante para renovar el interés por las políticas de desarrollo productivo, pero este proceso no parece tener hasta ahora mucho vigor, excepto nuevamente en Brasil y, con menor intensidad, en Chile y Colombia.

La pregunta económica más importante se refiere a cuál será el motor de crecimiento económico futuro de la región. Después de más de un cuarto de siglo apostando a una estrategia de inserción en las corrientes de comercio e inversión internacionales, el colapso del comercio mundial y de la inversión extranjera genera grandes interrogantes, que se harán evidentes con cada vez más intensidad si la falta de dinamismo de uno y otra se prolonga en el tiempo, como es probable. Si esto ocurre, los países o regiones con mercados internos importantes saldrán ganando, como ganaron

OCAMPO *continued...*

durante la Gran Depresión de los años treinta. Es posible, además, que esto se imponga, como entonces, por los hechos más que por las concepciones, que en general siguen siendo favorables a la integración en la economía mundial.

Una alternativa interesante es apostar a una mayor integración con China. Todo indica que ese país será el motor económico del Asia, del cual carecerán los países más integrados con Estados Unidos y Europa, como acontece con los latinoamericanos. Profundizar los lazos comerciales con China será importante, pero dependerá de la capacidad de diversificar las exportaciones hacia el gigante asiático, que en el caso de América Latina depende todavía de un puñado de productos básicos (soya, cobre, petróleo y mineral del hierro) (Gallagher y Porzecanski, 2009). El mercado “interno” de América Latina es su mercado regional. Esto es especialmente cierto de las economías más pequeñas. Sin embargo, la división política regional, que se ha reflejado en la crisis de la Comunidad Andina y en el menor vigor de otros procesos, se ha convertido en un gran obstáculo. Pero hay también factores económicos en juego. Como en las crisis precedentes, la contracción del comercio intrarregional está multiplicando, no frenando la crisis, y las diferencias en políticas cambiarias siguen siendo un obstáculo importante a la profundización de la integración (como ya he señalado, la dolarización ha hecho que la única opción de ajuste de Ecuador sea la restricción del comercio, que afecta a los socios regionales).

Hay algunas iniciativas interesantes en materia de pagos intrarregionales, entre ellas la iniciativa de Argentina y Brasil de permitir pagos en sus propias monedas y la de en los países miembros de la Alternativa Bolivariana para los pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA) de introducir una moneda

subregional, el Sucre. Ambas iniciativas podrían adoptarse para todos los países en el marco del Convenio de Pagos y Créditos Recíprocos de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI). La región cuenta con los mejores mecanismos de cooperación financiera regional de cualquier región del mundo en desarrollo, que se podrían potenciar enormemente durante la crisis. En este sentido, la tarea inconclusa más importante es convertir al Fondo Latinoamericano de Reservas (FLAR) en un verdadero fondo latinoamericano de reservas, como indica su nombre.

La cooperación regional requiere, por lo tanto, un esfuerzo importante para aprovechar las oportunidades que brinda la coyuntura para impulsar los procesos de integración regional. La superación de las diferencias políticas entre los países de la región es un requisito esencial para ello. La dinámica en curso parece ser, sin embargo, la opuesta.

Notas

- ¹ Estos datos se refieren a seis importantes países de origen de migrantes (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México).
- ² Véase un análisis mucho más extenso de este tema en BID (2008) y Ocampo (2007 y 2009)

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An Assessment of the Subprime Crisis with Special Reference to Latin America

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Surprise—big surprise—has been a central characteristic of recent financial crises.¹ We have been confronted by surprise not only because the events have been largely unanticipated but also because the shocks have been so large. Beginning with the Tequila crisis of 1994/5, and up to, but not including, the current *subprime* crisis, the most notorious crises have been centered in specific countries—not just sectors within a country or a group of countries—and a salient feature has been a large and generally unanticipated fall in *net capital inflows*, i.e., the net flow of external credit, a phenomenon that has been labeled *Sudden Stop* (see Calvo (1998)).

Sudden Stops are characterized by large *real* devaluations and sharp decelerations of the output growth rate, in many cases involving output collapse. They do not come in isolation. Rather, the general rule is for Sudden Stops to come in bunches; several economies are involved at much the same time. The most impressive episode was linked to the Russian default on its domestic debt in August 1998. This episode made it evident that financial contagion plays a significant role in the generation of economic crises. Prior to that, economists tended to single out domestic factors like fiscal deficit or exchange-rate pegging. These factors were not absent from the Russian episode but they played a secondary role—magnifying the impact of the crisis, but probably not acting as the driving force behind its global spread. The Russian crisis spread across emerging markets like wildfire even though Russia represented less than one percent of the world's GDP and was not

a major financial center. Markets quickly entered into panic mode because it was not easy to track down the mechanisms driving the crisis. To observers, even savvy ones, the global impact of the initial shock could not be easily explained. As a result, a crisis that started in a small corner of the world led to a massive flight to quality investments, and away from emerging markets. It was the start of the capital-inflow episode in the United States, which arguably precipitated the dotcom and real estate bubbles.

I highlight the Russian crisis to remind us that we have been here before and the impact has been major and painful, especially for those parts of the world in which credit flows have dried up, not only instantly but for an extended period of time. The subprime crisis shares many of the Russian crisis features. It started in a small corner of the mortgage market, quickly spread to the whole mortgage market and eventually infected banks and quasi-banks, threatening a replay of the Great Depression of the 1930s. No mainstream economist predicted the size and extent of the catastrophe. There were isolated voices expressing concern about developments in the subprime mortgage market, but I am aware of no one who offered solid grounds to expect the virulence of the subprime crisis.² The same was true in the Russian episode. It was vox populi that Russia would sooner or later undergo a balance-of-payment crisis as a result of unsustainable fiscal deficit but, again, global repercussions escaped the imagination of mainstream economists.

Where the Russian and subprime crises part their ways is in regard to policy response. The collapse of emerging market bonds following the Russian default was met by utter indifference from advanced countries' central banks. Emerging markets were at a serious disadvantage because their global

bonds were denominated in foreign exchange. Their central banks could only sustain that market by drawing on their international reserves, which, at the time, were not large enough to make a significant dent. Thus, the collapse in emerging-market bond prices could not be stopped, and it got worse when it triggered margin calls that prompted additional bond liquidation. This led to a spectacular rise in interest rate spreads in emerging markets. The spreads crossed the 15 percent barrier and took several years to get back to normal. In contrast, the subprime crisis was very quickly met by unprecedented expansive central bank policy. Central banks' interest rates *fell*, not rose, and in a matter of months plummeted to near-zero levels. Moreover, as this conventional policy lost steam, central banks engineered monetary expansion by direct loans to the private sector (e.g., buying commercial paper and “toxic” assets), a policy labeled *quantitative easing* (QE).

My guess is that this central bank hyperactivity nourished the expectation that there would be a *decoupling* of advanced and emerging-market economies. This belief may have been based on the conventional wisdom among mainstream economists that a key error of Fed policy in the 1930s was that it failed to prevent *price deflation*. The Fed was now in the hands of Ben Bernanke, an expert on the Great Depression who shares that view (see Bernanke 2008), so it was to be expected that this time the Fed (and the other advanced-countries' central banks) would not make the same mistake. In addition, there was also consensus that there had been excessive investment in the real estate sector and, more generally, that capital inflows to the United States had been excessive (the *global imbalances* view). Therefore, if central bank policy was going to succeed in bringing economies back to full employment, the world would have to

CALVO *continued...*

display a new configuration of expenditures. The United States should spend less, while the rest of the world should spend more. The U.S. dollar devaluation and the sharp increase in U.S. exports in the last quarter of 2007 were taken as hopeful signs that the world was moving in that direction.

Furthermore, confidence in the decoupling conjecture was probably behind a sharp increase in 2007/2008 capital flows into emerging markets—at least prior to the Lehman episode. In Latin America, for example, private capital flows jumped from US\$10 billion in 2006 to US\$107 billion in 2007, slipping to a still-impressive US\$58 billion in 2008 (see WEO 2009). Moreover, this surge in capital flows was accompanied by an unprecedented increase in commodity prices in the first quarter of 2008,³ all of which continued to fuel high growth in Latin America until the Lehman Brothers debacle in September 2008.⁴

In sum, the Russian and subprime crises show that a financial crisis can hit sinners and saints alike; moreover, until the Lehman episode there were good reasons to believe that prompt central bank policy could rapidly help to restore full-employment equilibrium. However, the outlook drastically changed after Lehman's collapse. The collapse had a major negative effect on stock and bond markets around the world, and brought about a large fall in capital flows towards emerging markets. Private capital flows to Latin America, for example, are expected to fall to US\$13 billion in 2009 (see WEO 2009). Why?

A possible explanation is that the Fed drew a line in the sand long before recovery looked imminent. Lehman Brothers played a central role in the derivatives market and, moreover, it is likely that important market participants were aware that AIG had feet of clay and was bound to need a bailout.

Drawing the line so soon risked triggering a major round of financial bankruptcies that might undo the beneficial effects of easy money. Russia 1998 was still fresh in investors' memory and the refusal to bail out Lehman Brothers looked eerily similar to the former episode. It was not only that emerging markets were left unprotected by hard-currency central banks but, contrary to expectations, the IMF refused to bail out Russia. Not surprisingly then, the market response was panic, much like what happened in August 1998. In Latin America, even in a stellar performer like Chile, output is expected to fall by four percent peak to trough, about the same fall experienced by Chile during the Russian crisis—with dormant advanced-country central banks and a quasi-fixed exchange rate!

My reading of the situation is that the market perceived that central banks were ready to go home before their work was completed. Financial markets are highly discontinuous in their response. Good but half-cooked remedies may fail to stop a financial crash. It is much like an operation that leaves live cancer cells. To be successful the operation must annihilate all the sources of infection. Fortunately, the U.S. government was quick in realizing that it had made a mistake. The bailout continued, including large purchases of "toxic" assets, especially those linked to the real estate sector. However, this was not enough to turn back the clock in the short run. Investors realized that they were walking on shifty ground and, once again, took refuge in U.S. Treasury securities. This makes sense because the new situation brought back the specter of price deflation which, combined with the fact that Treasury bills and bonds exhibit non-negative nominal yields, made investment in those securities an attractive proposition relative to private sector securities in the midst of a possible financial crash.

However, the persistent expansionary monetary policy in the United States and Europe seems to be yielding fruits by lifting investors' confidence. As a result, signs of decoupling are beginning to show up. This is reflected in the rally in global stock markets and commodity prices. The evidence is still uncertain but "green shoots" can already be seen in Latin America, likely reflecting the sense that the Lehman episode was short-lived and capital will return to the region.

It should be noted, incidentally, that during the subprime crisis Latin America's current account has deteriorated, contrary to 1998 when it showed a marked improvement. A more negative (or, as in this case, less positive) current account implies that expenditure is not declining as sharply as output. Thus, a deteriorating current account allows for a less draconian adjustment in expenditure in the face of worsening international financial conditions. This could take place because Latin American economies exhibited positive current accounts and thus were able to lower them without relying on new external credit. Much of the deterioration in the current account was financed by declining international reserves. This shows, incidentally, the potential benefits of large reserve accumulation, a policy that did not enjoy widespread support before the current crisis.⁵

This analysis suggests very strongly that future developments hinge on the health of the financial sector, for which central banks play a pivotal role. As of now, all indications are that central banks will not lower their guard until the financial system is back on its feet. However, an important lesson from financial crises is that there may be important sources of infection that are largely hidden from even the regulator's view. Therefore, one cannot discount

surprises or simply rumors that may have a significant effect on the stock market and even the real economy, especially in emerging markets. Barring accidents of that sort, however, I believe that there are good prospects looking forward. I believe this is already being reflected in commodity prices. The price of oil, for example, is now hovering above US\$70 a gallon after falling to the US\$40's range.

This bodes well for Latin America. The region could well be heading back to the bonanza days of late-2007 and early-2008. Such a good scenario, however, may be accompanied by a surge in the rate of inflation, as in the first quarter of 2008. Given the exchange rate, a commodity price surge is quickly reflected in higher domestic prices.⁶ Although technically this is not “inflation”—because it would, in principle, only be a change in *relative* prices—statistical offices will likely report it as higher inflation. This situation puts central banks in an awkward position because to comply with inflation targets they would have to raise their policy interest rate and run the risk of recession, just when everyone is eager to leave recession well behind. On the other hand, if a central bank follows an accommodative monetary policy, it could ignite inflationary expectations, a possibility that cannot be discounted in a region in which inflation was so hard to uproot. Moreover, monetary policy in advanced economies is unlikely to be geared to stem commodity price hikes because, particularly in the United States, in the short run their CPIs are largely impervious to changes in commodity prices, especially if they are still recovering from the crisis.

All in all, there are good reasons for optimism in emerging markets, especially in Latin America. Inflation is a risk but the good news is that, if monetary policy is not unduly hard, inflation will come

accompanied by a healthy rebound in output and employment.

Endnotes

- ¹ I am thankful to Sara Calvo and Ernesto Talvi for useful comments.
- ² Mainstream economists showed greater concern about *global imbalances*, i.e., large U.S. current account deficits, and predicted a correction that would cause major dollar devaluation. Again, however, I am aware of no one predicting anything near the ensuing debacle.
- ³ The boom in commodity prices could also be linked to the expectation of decoupling, and a change in Sovereign Wealth Funds' portfolio composition, against public sector securities and into real assets, including commodity-linked assets. See Calvo (2008).
- ⁴ Exceptions to this bonanza are, among others, several Eastern European countries and Iceland, which exposed themselves to balance of payments crises by exhibiting very large current account deficits and incurring sizable foreign-exchange denominated debt, even by households.
- ⁵ The reserve accumulation strategy, aimed partly to cushion the effects of Sudden Stop, was also followed in Asia, most notably by China. Ongoing research on the basis of Calvo et al (2008) shows that the probability of suffering a Sudden Stop during a systemic event declines with the level of international reserves.
- ⁶ High pass-through is a feature in many emerging markets, unlike the United States, for example, where domestic prices are largely insulated from external prices.

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El Gran Descalabro La Crisis y América Latina

por SEBASTIÁN EDWARDS

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A partir de 2006, y después de casi dos siglos de crisis recurrentes, un mito—ligado a una esperanza—se apoderó de las mentes de los analistas latinoamericanos. Se dijo, con vehemencia y convicción, que las economías de la región se habían “desacoplado” de las de los países avanzados y del ciclo económico internacional. Desde un punto de vista práctico ello implicaba que una desaceleración en el “centro”—en los Estados Unidos, Europa o Japón—no tendría efectos sobre la “periferia” latinoamericana. Además, se pensó que los precios elevados de los recursos naturales, prevalecientes desde el 2005 y hasta mediados del 2008, asegurarían una bonanza casi permanente, la que pondría fin a la costosa inestabilidad del pasado.

Los acontecimientos de octubre del 2008 desmintieron con fuerza este mito, y demostraron que las economías latinoamericanas siguen siendo muy vulnerables y dependientes de lo que sucede en el resto del mundo. Durante la segunda mitad de 2008, en Chile la moneda perdió un tercio de su valor; en el Perú el costo del financiamiento externo se disparó; y en la Argentina el gobierno tuvo que recurrir a medidas extremas—como la nacionalización del sistema de pensiones—para enfrentar un inminente descalabro fiscal.

De la Gran Depresión al Gran Descalabro

Al centro mismo de la crisis financiera global se encuentra la burbuja inmobiliaria de los años 2001 al 2006 en los Estados Unidos.

Pero la burbuja en sí no hubiera producido una crisis de esta magnitud si no hubiera sido por la contribución de una serie de elementos adicionales, incluyendo el que los bancos de Wall Street hayan creado instrumentos financieros complejos, los que fueron vendidos a inversionistas tan codiciosos como ingenuos, y que tanto bancos como personas se hayan endeudado a tasas sin precedentes.

Pero ni siquiera esto es suficiente para generar la tormenta perfecta. Para completar la historia aún tenemos que identificar a otros villanos y culpables. Entre ellos destacan una regulación financiera excesivamente laxa, compañías evaluadoras de riesgo financiero altamente incompetentes, y la presión por parte del Congreso estadounidense a las instituciones cuasi- estatales Fannie Mae y Freddie Mac para que prestaran dinero a personas de bajos recursos y poca capacidad de pago.

Pero si bien estos factores explican los orígenes de la crisis, no explican su profundidad. El pánico, la caída en espiral de los mercados, y el contagio al resto del mundo—incluyendo a América Latina—fueron la consecuencia directa de la ineptitud con la que el gobierno del presidente George W. Bush enfrentó el problema: dejar caer al banco de inversiones Lehman Brothers en septiembre de 2008 fue, claramente, un error, como lo fue el haberle presentado al Congreso un plan de rescate incompleto, mal armado, incongruente, y que nadie pudo explicar con claridad. Detrás de esta incompetencia encontramos el dogmatismo y rigidez ideológica de los fundamentalistas del mercado, esa banda de políticos y economistas enamorados de un sistema puro e idealizado, que nunca ha existido y del que ni siquiera Adam Smith se sentiría orgulloso.

Atajos y Populismos

En la mayoría de los países Latinoamérica las autoridades económicas se convencieron, a partir del año 2005, de que sus respectivos países gozarían de una bonanza exportadora (casi) permanente. Creyeron que la demanda creciente de China e India por estos productos mantendría sus precios elevados para siempre, y llevaría a América Latina a la prosperidad. Lo que no entendieron era que este boom de precios reflejaba una situación de corto plazo.

Al confiar en el boom de *commodities*, las autoridades de la región descuidaron lo verdaderamente importante, lo que crea riqueza y desarrollo; descuidaron la construcción de instituciones sólidas que protegen los derechos de propiedad, minimizan las disputas y los conflictos, y aseguran el imperio de la ley; se olvidaron de las políticas económicas que fomentan la innovación y la creatividad, la productividad y la eficiencia. En una palabra, al creerse el cuento de que los altos precios de los recursos naturales se mantendrían en el largo plazo, las autoridades de muchos países latinoamericanos optaron por una estrategia de desarrollo basada en un atajo. Pero la historia es majadera, y una y otra vez nos enseña que los atajos no funcionan en el largo plazo. Los atajos sólo nos llevan a mitad de camino; ilusionan a la población, pero al final fracasan. Eso lo vemos ahora que el precio del petróleo ha caído en relación a sus picos del año 2008, como lo ha hecho el del maíz, el trigo, la soja, el cobre, el hierro y el gas natural.

En los últimos años, esta “política de los atajos” ha sido practicada con especial entusiasmo por un grupo de países cuyos líderes han rechazado la globalización y la economía de mercado, incluyendo Argentina, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador, y Bolivia. En todos ellos, políticos carismáticos y

populares han desarrollado discursos que plantean un conflicto entre “la gente” y “el capital”, “el país” y las “multinacionales”, “ricos” y “pobres”. Esta retórica populista ha sustituido el discurso modernizador y técnico impulsado en la época del llamado Consenso de Washington y que habla de eficiencia, competitividad, crecimiento, esfuerzo, y mayor productividad.

Estos países están, precisamente, entre los que más han sufrido—y continuarán sufriendo—con la crisis financiera global.

Orden y un Poco de Progreso

México sufrirá también por la larga recesión global. Al mirar el horizonte económico de los próximos años uno no puede dejar de recordar la frase de Porfirio Díaz: “Pobre México, tan lejos de Dios y tan cerca de los Estados Unidos”. La relación histórica entre ambos países experimentó un fuerte aumento con el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC), el acuerdo que entró en vigor en enero de 1994. Desde ese año un porcentaje creciente de las exportaciones mexicanas se han dirigido a Estados Unidos, por lo que problemas económicos al norte del Río Grande tienen una severa repercusión en México. Pero eso no es todo: a pesar de los esfuerzos de las autoridades por reducir las vulnerabilidades de la economía mexicana, ésta tiene enormes requerimientos de financiamiento para el año 2010. Obtener estos dineros en medio de una crisis crediticia global, será un desafío de proporciones enormes.

Posiblemente, la pregunta más importante es ¿qué sucederá en Brasil, el gigante latinoamericano? Durante los últimos años analistas e inversores del mundo entero empezaron a mirar a Brasil como una potencia económica en ciernes. Se habló de un milagro, y muchos aseveraron que,

finalmente, Brasil dejaría de ser el eterno país del “mañana” y que, al igual que China e India, crecería a ritmos espectaculares.

El boom de Brasil de los años recientes se apoyó sobre cimientos macroeconómicos—como una baja en la tasa de inflación—y incrementos en la inversión extranjera. El presidente Lula decidió evitar el populismo rampante de Hugo Chávez, y se comprometió a derrotar la inflación y mantener el déficit fiscal bajo control. Pero esto no es suficiente para mantener una elevada tasa de crecimiento en el largo plazo y llegar a ser una gran potencia económica.

Lo de Lula no fue otra cosa que optar por ser un país “normal”. Pero para crecer a tasas elevadas y sostenibles, y para crear una economía robusta y resistente, se requiere más que tener una inflación controlada. Se requiere agilidad, dinamismo, productividad, y políticas económicas que fomenten los emprendimientos y la eficiencia. Y como numerosos estudios han mostrado, Brasil no ha podido—o no ha querido—hacer reformas modernizadoras que verdaderamente fomenten una explosión de productividad. Brasil continúa siendo un país enormemente burocrático, con un sistema educacional en crisis, con impuestos elevadísimos, infraestructura mediocre, trabas a la formación de empresas, legislación económica anquilosada, instituciones débiles, un sistema judicial ineficiente, un escaso respeto por la regla de la ley, y un elevado nivel de corrupción.

Una serie de indicadores sobre la eficiencia y competitividad de 178 países, realizado por el Banco Mundial, sugiere que Brasil tiene mucho camino por recorrer si quiere ser una fuerza productiva en el mundo. Por ejemplo, en la categoría de “facilidad para hacer negocios” Brasil está en el 128 lugar. Por otro lado, en Brasil toma 152 días obtener una licencia para iniciar un emprendimiento

y crear una empresa; en contraste en Chile toma 23 días y en los llamados Tigres Asiáticos toma 33 días. Este patrón se repite en un infinidad de medidas de eficiencia, las que claramente indican que ese emperador llamado Brasil lleva escasas ropas.

Los próximos años serán difíciles para los países emergentes, en general. Sólo aquellas naciones que sean innovadoras y eficientes podrán aumentar su participación en el mercado global, crecer a tasas razonables y moverse hacia la prosperidad. Pero la eficiencia no se improvisa ni se logra de un día a otro; la historia económica moderna ha mostrado que para lograr aumentos permanentes y sostenibles de productividad es necesario modernizar las instituciones, reducir la burocracia y los laberintos de los papeleos, y contar con sistemas educativos sólidos. Tristemente, la educación en América Latina es paupérrima, como lo señalan todas las pruebas internacionales. También se requiere de políticas económicas que incentiven la creatividad y la eficiencia.

Numerosos estudios internacionales realizados en los más diversos lugares—universidades, institutos de investigación, foros internacionales, y agencias de cooperación internacional—muestran que sólo Chile, en toda América Latina, ha logrado un avance sistemático en la senda hacia la eficiencia y el progreso social.

No cabe duda que Chile será el país menos golpeado por el Gran Descalabro de 2008. Su mayor flexibilidad—la que, sin duda, podría ser aún mayor—la diversificación de sus exportaciones, su sistema financiero sólido, sus cuantiosos recursos líquidos invertidos en monedas duras, sus políticas sociales y de anti-pobreza, y sus gobiernos de izquierda pragmática aseguran que la crisis va a tener un efecto menos devastador que en el resto de América Latina. Otro país

EDWARDS *continued...*

que logrará llevar la crisis con cierta holgura es el Perú.

El Futuro del Capitalismo Global

Joseph Schumpeter, el gran economista austriaco, fue quien mejor describió al sistema capitalista. Dijo que se trataba una sucesión interminable de “destrucción creativa”, donde nuevas ideas y tecnologías desplazaban a compañías antiguas que se volvían obsoletas y desaparecían. Siempre hemos sabido que el mercado necesita regulación. Pero esta regulación debe ser inteligente, flexible, dinámica; no debe ser excesivamente intrusa ni asfixiante. No cabe duda que en los últimos años este desafío no se enfrentó con éxito. Y es por ello que en el futuro veremos nuevos esfuerzos dirigidos a proteger a los inversionistas, a mejorar la transparencia e información en el mercado, y a ponerle una cota al endeudamiento.

Sí, veremos mayores regulaciones en el mercado financiero—y las necesitamos—pero no veremos impuestos excesivos, ni trabas a la inversión real, ni restricciones al comercio minorista, ni un movimiento hacia un estado del bienestar. Los emprendedores seguirán adelante; nuevos Silicon Valley surgirán, y en ellos se desarrollarán nuevas tecnologías para enfrentar los desafíos medioambientales y energéticos. Como antes, los que tengan audacia y creatividad amasarán enormes fortunas, y al morir dejarán casi la totalidad de su dinero a obras benéficas; como en el pasado el individuo y su libertad tendrán un rol político central; independientemente de la crisis y de quién gane las elecciones nada se hará para que esto cambie.

Ésta no es la crisis final del capitalismo. Esto *es* el capitalismo: desordenado e imperfecto, creador de enorme bienestar y riqueza. De vez en cuando tropieza, porque

tomó un ritmo demasiado rápido o vertiginoso o porque temporalmente equivocó el camino. Éste es el capitalismo que cae, se golpea, y retrocede temporalmente. Lame sus heridas, mientras se prepara para volver a ponerse en movimiento, con su enorme fuerza creativa y su eficiencia.

[Este artículo está basado en “Al Sur de la Crisis”, publicado en *Letras Libres* en Diciembre de 2008.] ■

Report from the LASA2010 Program Chairs

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

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In our previous column we discussed how the LASA2010 program will be somewhat downscaled: there will be fewer meeting rooms, and thus fewer acceptances than in Rio. We also mentioned some upscaling. We elaborate here on some of these improvements.

LASA2010 will be more convenient in several respects. In September, we visited our meeting facilities in Toronto and were quite impressed by their accessibility. The LASA Congress will take place at two downtown hotels, the Sheraton Centre and the Toronto Hilton, kitty-corner to each other. The meeting rooms themselves are comfortable and right on the premises. If you decide to stay in either hotel, your commute to any of the LASA sessions will be no more complicated than a quick elevator ride or a less than 3-minute walk across the street to the other hotel. In addition, plenty of shops and eateries for all budgets are located both above and under the two hotels and within walking distance. Furthermore, the LASA Secretariat negotiated free Internet wireless service both to the guestrooms and to another location that will be accessible to all LASA2010 attendees.

Of more immediate concern for those who applied to attend LASA2010 is the question of evaluations and acceptance, and here too, there have been some changes, also intended to enhance access. The evaluations for LASA2010, as always, will be handled by track chairs. However, one of the most important decisions made by the LASA Executive Council after the 2009 Rio Congress was to create a system of co-chairships for LASA2010 tracks, whenever possible. Track chairs play a vital role: they evaluate all panel and paper proposals, assign stand-alone papers to new panels, and rank travel grant applications. In many cases, track chairs evaluate 150-200 papers, all in a strictly volunteer capacity. By

moving to a system of co-chairships we hoped not only to alleviate each chair's workload, but also to maximize fairness. We are happy to report that thus far more than 67 chairs have been recruited for the 35 tracks. This means that the vast majority of tracks will have two chairs, and in some cases, three. We also are pleased that 17 track chairs are based outside the United States, mostly in Latin America, and a few in Europe. They are expected to do the bulk of the work in the first quarter of 2010.

Another successful innovation is the "panels wanted" link in the LASA website. The link served as an online bulletin board allowing people to post and obtain information on who is working on what topic. It has always proven difficult for members, especially junior colleagues, to figure out who is interested in forming panels. Given the large number of postings on the "panels wanted" site, we have reason to believe that this innovation has been very useful.

We hope that you also noticed a change in the rules for travel grant applications to make the process more open to everyone. In the past, LASA accepted only one travel grant application per panel. This year each eligible paper presenter was permitted to submit a travel grant application, regardless of how many other applicants were on the same proposed panel. LASA remains seriously committed to helping scholars resident in Latin America, as well as Latin American graduate students attending universities abroad, to attend the Congresses; removing this restriction was one more step in that direction. The downside is that competition for grants will be tougher because of an increased number of applications. However, LASA President John Coatsworth and the entire LASA Executive Committee are working hard to effect savings and obtain more sponsorships so that we can preserve—and perhaps

improve—the level of funding for travel grants.

To help us achieve these goals, a local arrangements committee of Canada-based LASA members has been organized. The committee will work hard to establish fruitful relations between LASA and local officials and sponsors—indispensable for a smooth running and cost-effective meeting.

The deadline for submitting proposals and grant applications to participate in the LASA2010 Congress has passed. The workload now shifts from you the members, who worked hard all through September trying to organize panels and complete applications, to the LASA Secretariat, which must now process all the proposals and generate a program for the Congress no later than the end of spring of 2010. We are confident that we have a spectacular team of track chairs and LASA staff to handle this workload. We want to thank all of you who submitted proposals. All that is left for you to do is to wait until April 2010, when the LASA Secretariat will announce the results of this evaluation process. We look forward to reading all your applications and, hopefully, seeing you in Toronto in October 2010. ■

RESERVATION FORM FOR THE LASA2010 EXHIBIT

Organization Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Submitted by _____ Title of submitter _____
Phone (office) _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Internet site _____

Payment

Enclosed Check in the amount of _____

FULL EXHIBIT SPACE (10" x 8")

_____ \$ 725 Commercial / University Press
_____ \$ 625 Charitable Organization (no items for sale)

_____ \$ 625 each additional commercial
_____ \$ 525 each additional charitable

LASA2009 PROGRAM BOOKLET ADVERTISING

_____ \$ 400 Full page (7.5" w x 10.5" h)
_____ \$ 250 Half page (7.5" w x 4 3/4 h)

TERMS OF PAYMENT/CANCELLATION

Cancellations

If an exhibitor is forced to withdraw from participation by July 1 2010, all sums paid by the exhibitor less a \$250 service fee will be refunded. No refunds will be issued after July 1, 2010. Cancellations are not effective until received in writing by LASA. No refund will be made if an exhibitor fails to occupy the space. No refund on late or no arrival materials.

Payment

A minimum deposit of 50% of the total booth rental fee is required. Booths will not be assigned without the 50% deposit. Failure to remit payment for the booth rental by June 1, 2010 constitutes cancellation of the contract, and the space will be subject to resale without refund.

Return form to:

LASA Book Exhibit
416 Bellefield Hall
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260.
Telephone: 412-648-7929
Email: lasa@pitt.edu

FILM FESTIVAL AND EXHIBIT LASA2010

XXIX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

October 6-9, 2010 Toronto, Canada

Film and video materials that are not integrated into a panel, workshop, or other regular Congress session may be featured at LASA2010 in two separate venues:

I. LASA2010 FILM FESTIVAL

You may submit a film or video for selection to participate in the LASA Film Festival & Exhibit. Selection criteria are: artistic, technical, and cinematographic excellence; uniqueness of contribution to the visual presentation of materials on Latin America; and relevance to disciplinary, geographic, and thematic interests of LASA members, as evidenced by topics proposed for panels, workshops, and special sessions at recent Congresses.

These films and videos will be screened free of charge in the LASA2010 Film Festival, and compete for the juried designation of *LASA2010 Award of Merit in Film*, which is given for "excellence in the visual presentation of educational and artistic materials on Latin America."

Films and videos released *after January 2009* and those that *premiere* at the LASA Congress will be given special consideration, if they also meet the above criteria. LASA membership is not required to compete. Films must be received **no earlier than November 1, 2009, and no later than February 1, 2010**. Selection will be announced by **August 1, 2010**. Entries constitute acceptance of the rules and regulations of the LASA Film Festival and Exhibit. Film screeners will not be returned and will be deposited in the festival archives.

II. LASA2010 FILM EXHIBIT

Films and videos entered or not entered for the Festival competition, may be screened in the LASA2010 Film Exhibit, for a fee of \$100 for the first 30 minutes of screening time, and \$2.00 per minute thereafter.

To submit film or video materials directly to the non-competitive LASA2010 Film Exhibit, fill out the submission form on this page and check only the category "Film Exhibit." Exhibit time is limited—film selection will be contingent upon quality of the film submitted and the amount of time available. A confirmation and invoice for the cost of this commercial screening will be issued by July 1, 2010.

Interested in a booth at the LASA2010 BOOK EXHIBIT or an ad in the LASA2010 Program booklet?

Distributors of visual materials who wish to publicize their products at LASA2010 may do so by reserving space in the Book Exhibit or by placing an ad in the LASA2010 program booklet.

Please contact lasa@pitt.edu

LASA2010 FILM FESTIVAL AND EXHIBIT SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions for the Film Festival and Film Exhibit will be received **only from November 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010**.

I. LASA2010 Film Festival _____ II. LASA 2010 Film Exhibit _____ III. Both _____

Title of work enclosed _____

Format: _____

Director _____

Producer _____

Year of release _____

Screening time _____

Country of release _____

Languages / subtitles _____

Brief description of subject matter, including countries or areas treated (or attach descriptive brochure)

Distributor name _____

Email _____

Phone / Fax _____

Address _____

If your film/video is not selected for the LASA2010 Film Festival, do you want it included in the LASA Film Exhibit for the fees stated above? YES _____ NO _____

Your name _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____

Phone / Fax _____

Email _____

To enter the competition for the LASA2010 Film Festival or Film Exhibit

Mail the completed Submission Form, along with a VHS or DVD copy of your film or video to the Festival director. To ensure consideration, all submissions should be mailed through express services (i.e., UPS, DHL, FedEx). Please, keep your tracking number to guarantee delivery. Films without a submission form will not be considered.

Claudia Ferman / Director, LASA2010 Film Festival
 LAIS – University of Richmond – 28 Westhampton Way – Richmond VA 23173 – USA
 Email: cferman@richmond.edu

Calling All Members

Call For Silvert Award Nominations

Deadline: *January 20, 2010*

The Kalman Silvert Award Committee invites nominations of candidates for the year 2010 award. The Silvert Award recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America. The Award is given every 18 months. Past recipients of the Award were: John J. Johnson (1983); Federico Gil (1985); Albert O. Hirschman (1986); Charles Wagley (1988); Lewis Hanke (1989); Victor L. Urquidi (1991); George Kubler (1992); Osvaldo Sunkel (1994); Richard Fagen (1995); Alain Touraine (1997); Richard Adams (1998); Jean Franco (2000); Thomas Skidmore (2001); Guillermo O'Donnell (2003); June Nash (2004); Miguel León-Portilla (2006), Helen Safa (2007), and Alfred Stepan (2009).

The selection committee consists of: Eric Hershberg (chair), LASA immediate past president; Charles R. Hale and Sonia E. Álvarez, past presidents; Philip Oxhorn, editor of the *Latin American Research Review*; and Alfred Stepan, 2009 Kalman Silvert awardee. Nominations should be sent by *January 20, 2010* to LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas at the LASA Secretariat, 416 Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260. E-mail: lasa@pitt.edu. *Please include biographic information and a rationale for each nomination.*

Call For Bryce Wood Book Award Nominations

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

At each International Congress, the Latin American Studies Association presents the Bryce Wood Book Award to the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in English. Eligible books for the 2010 LASA International Congress will be those published between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. Although no book may compete more than once, translations may be considered. Anthologies of selections by several authors or re-editions of works published previously normally are not in contention for the award. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Persons who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to each member of the Award Committee, at the expense of the authors or publishers.

All books nominated must reach *each member* of the Award Committee by *January 15, 2010*. By June 1, 2010 the committee will select a winning book.

It may also name an honorable mention. The award will be announced at the LASA Congress, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA membership is not a requirement to receive the award.

Members of the 2010 committee are:

Shannon O'Neil, Chair
Council on Foreign Relations
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New York NY 10065

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Washington DC 20036

Hillel Soifer
Temple University
407 Gladfelter Hall
1115 West Berks St
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James Mahoney
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601 University Place
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Latin American Studies Association
Attn: Bryce Wood Book Award Nominations
University of Pittsburgh
315 South Bellefield Avenue
416 Bellefield Hall
Pittsburgh PA 15260

**Call For *Premio Iberoamericano* Book
Award Nominations**

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

The *Premio Iberoamericano* is presented at each of LASA's International Congresses for the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in Spanish or Portuguese in any country. Eligible books for the 2010 award must have been published between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. No book may compete more than once. Normally not in contention for the award are anthologies of selections by several authors or reprints or re-editions of works published previously. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Individuals who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to *each member* of the award committee, at the expense of those submitting the books.

All books must reach each member of the committee by *January 15, 2010*. LASA membership is not a requirement for receiving the award. The award will be announced at the LASA Congress, and the awardee will be publicly honored.

Members of the 2010 committee are:

Judit Bosker Liwerant, Co-Chair
Monte Blanco 1255
Lomas Virreyes
México DF 11000
México

Donna Guy, Co-Chair
Ohio State University
Department of History
106 Dulles Hall
230 W 17th Ave
Columbus OH 43210-1367

Guillermo Alonso
Paraná 145 4^o piso
Buenos Aires 1017
Argentina

Luis Roniger
Wake Forest University
Department of Political Science
Winston-Salem NC 27109-7568

Latin American Studies Association
Attn: Premio Iberoamericano Book Award
Nominations
University of Pittsburgh
315 South Bellefield Avenue
416 Bellefield Hall
Pittsburgh PA 15260

CALLING ALL MEMBERS *continued...*

**Call For Nominations
LASA Media Award**

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

The Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce its competition for the year 2010 LASA Media Awards for outstanding media coverage of Latin America. These awards are made every eighteen months to recognize long-term journalistic contributions to analysis and public debate about Latin America in the United States and in Latin America, as well as breakthrough journalism. Nominations are invited from LASA members and from journalists. Journalists from both the print and electronic media are eligible. The Committee will carefully review each nominee's work and select an award recipient. The award will be announced at the LASA Congress, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA may invite the awardee to submit materials for possible publication in the *LASA Forum*. Recent recipients of the awards include: Mario Osava, América Latina Inter Press Service (2009); Hollman Morris, Colombia (2007); María Ester Gilio (2006); Julio Scherer, journalist, Mexico (2004); Eduardo Anguita, freelance journalist, Buenos Aires (2003); Guillermo González Uribe of *Número*, Bogotá (2001); Patricia Verdugo Aguirre of Conama, Chile and *Diario 16*, Spain (2000); Gustavo Gorriti of *Caretas*, Lima, Perú (1998).

To make a nomination, please email one copy of the journalist's portfolio of recent relevant work by *January 15, 2010*, to: Milagros Pereyra, LASA Executive Director <milagros@pitt.edu>.

Members of the Media Award committee are: John Dinges, Columbia University, Chair; Josh Friedman, Columbia University Cabot Prize Director; and Alma Guillemprieto, Reporter/Writer.

**LASA/Oxfam America
Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship**

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

The Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding individual who combines Professor Diskin's commitment to both activism and scholarship.

This distinguished lectureship is made possible largely by a generous contribution from Oxfam America, an organization committed to grassroots work and one with which Martin Diskin was closely associated. Ricardo Falla, S.J., was the 1998 Diskin Lecturer. Professor Gonzalo Sánchez Gómez of the Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Relaciones Internacionales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, was the Lecturer in 2000. At LASA2001, Professor Elizabeth Lira Kornfeld, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile, delivered the Memorial Lecture. In 2003, the Lectureship was shared by Rodolfo Stavenhagen, El Colegio de México, and Rosalva Aída Hernández Castillo, CIESAS, Mexico City. Professor Jonathan Fox, University of California/Santa Cruz presented the 2004 Lecture, and Professor William Leogrande, American University, was the Lecturer in 2006. Dr. Orlando Fals-Borda delivered the Lecture in 2007 and Professor Terry Karl was selected in 2009 (her lecture will be presented at LASA2010).

Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. A nomination should include a statement justifying the nomination, the complete mailing address of the nominee, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. To nominate a candidate, send these materials no later than *January 15, 2010*, to Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, LASA Executive Director <milagros@pitt.edu>.

Members of the 2010 Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Committee are: Laura Enriquez, University of California/Berkeley, Chair; Cecilia Blondet, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos; Cecilia Menjivar, Arizona State University; Greg Grandin, New York University; Kathryn Sikkink, University of Minnesota; Kimberly Theidon, Harvard University; and Jonathan Fox, Oxfam America.

**LASA/Oxfam America
Martin Diskin Dissertation Award**

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

The Martin Diskin Dissertation Award is made possible through the generosity of Oxfam America, LASA, and LASA members. This award is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding junior scholar who combines Professor Diskin's commitment to the creative combination of activism and scholarship. Sales Augusto dos Santos received the award in 2009.

The award will be presented to an advanced doctoral student or recent Ph.D. All advanced doctoral candidates must demonstrate that they will complete their dissertations prior to the LASA International Congress. LASA considers *recent Ph.D. recipients* to be individuals who received their degrees after the LASA Congress prior to the one at which the award is to be presented. LASA welcomes dissertations written in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

The Award Committee will evaluate candidates using three criteria: 1) Overall scholarly credentials, based on the CV; 2) The quality of the dissertation writing, research, and analysis as determined by the dissertation outline and sample chapter submitted; 3) The primary advisor's letter of recommendation. The definition of activist scholarship shall remain broad and pluralist, to be discussed and interpreted by each selection committee.

An interested applicant should submit a current CV; a dissertation abstract of 250 words; the dissertation outline or table of contents; one sample chapter which exemplifies the approach to activist scholarship; and a letter of recommendation from the primary advisor which focuses

explicitly on the candidate's qualifications for the Martin Diskin Dissertation Award.

All application materials must be submitted electronically, and received at the LASA Secretariat by *January 15, 2010*. The email address is <lasa@pitt.edu>. The Martin Diskin Dissertation Award recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend. LASA members are encouraged to distribute this call for nominations as widely as possible, with particular attention to their colleagues and students.

The selection committee consists of Laura Enriquez, University of California/Berkeley, Chair; Cecilia Blondet, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos; Cecilia Menjivar, Arizona State University; Greg Grandin, New York University; Kathryn Sikkink, University of Minnesota; Kimberly Theidon, Harvard University and Jonathan Fox, Oxfam America. ■

CALLING ALL MEMBERS *continued...*

Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

Deadline: *January 15, 2010*

Description

This Fellowship will reward excellence in historical research on Mexico at the dissertation level. It will be awarded every 18 months to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his or her doctoral research in Mexican history, broadly defined. Selection will be based on scholarly merit, and on the candidate's potential contribution to the advancement of humanist understanding between Mexico and its global neighbors.

Selection Process

Selection will be made by a committee named by the LASA President. One member will hold a permanent position in the history department of the Colegio de México, and one will be a member of the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH). Deliberations will be carried out electronically and a decision made three months prior to the Congress. The Fellowship winner will be announced in the Award Ceremony of the LASA Congress.

Eligibility

Fellowships will be awarded exclusively to Mexican citizens. At the time of the application deadline, candidates must be in the final phase of their doctoral programs, i.e., finished with coursework and exams, but not yet granted the Ph.D.

Applications

Each applicant must submit the following materials by January 15, 2010: 1) a brief current CV, two pages maximum; 2) a statement (one page single space) summarizing the dissertation project; 3) a letter from the dissertation committee chair verifying good standing in the doctoral program; 4) applicant's complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

Materials are due no later than *January 15, 2010* by email to Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, LASA Executive Director (milagros@pitt.edu).

Donations for the CAH Fellowship Fund should be sent to LASA, 416 Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260. The Fellowship will be drawn from interest earnings to ensure that it will continue in perpetuity. The award amount will be determined by the size of the endowment. All donations to LASA are tax deductible.

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

SECTION REPORTS *continued...*

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 kamëntzá* (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

SECTION REPORTS *continued...*

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 *directorio* 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 Rio 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 Rio, 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 Rio. 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

SECTION REPORTS *continued...*

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 ERIP 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 Gratius (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 Gratius, 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 cholos: 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), Honorary 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. ■

New LASA Sections

Three new Sections have been added for LASA members: Historia Reciente y Memoria; Mexico; and Bolivia. Their mission statements and contact information follow. This brings to 31 the number of LASA Sections.

Historia Reciente y Memoria

The central goals of the Historia Reciente y Memoria Section are to promote interdisciplinary and international dialogue and collaboration among scholars interested in analyzing the recent past of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the use and/or the abuse of memory of that past in the present. The Section sponsors panels and roundtables at LASA Congresses, and uses the Internet (including an electronic newsletter and listserv) to facilitate a fluid and continuous communication among Section members around themes of mutual interest.

For additional information on the Section please contact Co-Chairs Peter Winn <peter.winn@tufts.edu> and Marina Franco <mfranco@unsam.edu.ar>.

Mexico

The fundamental goal of this Section is to facilitate communication and interaction among members of LASA (academic researchers, students, non-academics) who study any aspect of Mexico, including the Mexican diaspora and Mexico's relations within and beyond the Americas. The Section seeks to promote activities (including the organization of panels, roundtables, and other events at LASA Congresses and awarding prizes for noteworthy books, journal articles, and papers) that highlight these and related topics. The Section embraces scholarship, artistic production, and public policy debate across all disciplines and time periods.

For additional information please contact Co-Chairs Sandra Kuntz Ficker <skuntz@colmex.mx> and Kevin Middlebrook <kevinmiddlebrook@aol.com>.

Bolivia

La Sección Bolivia, en estrecha relación con otras asociaciones y centros especializados en estudios sobre Bolivia, tiene como propósito principal: profundizar y extender el conocimiento y la comunicación entre los estudiosos, tanto profesionales como estudiantes, líderes y comunicadores en distintas disciplinas y espacios públicos, sobre los procesos políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales, tanto del pasado como del presente, que abarcan a Bolivia y su gente, y sus relaciones con otros países y pueblos del mundo.

Esta misión se llevará a cabo a través de:

- 1) un sitio web que funcione como biblioteca virtual en temas pertinentes a Bolivia; vínculo con otros sitios y fuentes dedicadas a Bolivia; además de un foro para la interactividad entre los usuarios;
- 2) publicación periódica de un boletín electrónico de noticias de la Sección;
- 3) sesiones de la Sección en los Congresos de LASA;
- 4) patrocinio de conferencias y actividades de investigación y divulgación que sean relevantes para la misión de la Sección.

The Section is in the process of conducting its election for officers. For additional information please contact Chris Krueger <kruegerchris@hotmail.com>. ■

Voluntary Support

by SANDY KLINZING

We continue to be amazed at the generosity of LASA members and friends. Difficult economic times have forced us all to cut back, but donors to the various LASA funds continue to provide critical support for Congress travel (Latin American and Caribbean, student, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant) and for the distinguished LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureships and the LASA/Oxfam America Diskin Dissertation Fellowship program.

Over \$79,000 was contributed since our last report in the winter 2009 *Forum*. Of this amount, a good portion was designated for LASA's newest fund, the Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, which will reward excellence in historical research on Mexico at the dissertation level. (See page 26.)

Support was also generous for LASA2009 grantees, who benefited from proceeds derived from the Endowment, as well as direct contributions to the LASA Travel Fund (over \$15,000) and the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund (over \$6,000).

We send our most sincere thank you to the following generous donors, many of whom contributed to multiple funds and made repeated gifts throughout the year. It is your continued support that helps LASA to meet its mission of fostering intellectual discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas.

Special gratitude is owed to the Open Society Institute for its generous three-to-one match of employee contributions, and to George Vickers for making the match possible.

For additional information on obtaining a Life Membership or on any of the LASA Funds please contact the Secretariat at 412-648-1907 or at lasa@pitt.edu.

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The Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

Thanks to the support of the following donors to the Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, we are well on our way toward our goal of \$100,000 dollars, which will endow the Fellowship in perpetuity. Your commitment to and participation in initiatives like this one are what helps make LASA a vibrant organization, deeply engaged with the issues of the day.

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Note: The endowed fellowship fund will gladly accept additional donations, which would allow us to meet our goal and increase the value of the dissertation fellowship over time. Please send tax-deductible donations to: LASA, 416 Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260. ■

Resolution on Cuba

The following resolution on Cuba has been approved by the membership. As requested, it will be mailed to President Barack Obama and all members of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Latin American Studies Association, which represents over 5,500 professors, researchers and graduate students who are concerned about Latin America, has consistently opposed the United States embargo against Cuba and favored the establishment of diplomatic relations. Following is an updated version of our resolution that was passed in 1994:

Whereas the United States has built a wall between two nations by banning travel and restricting cultural exchanges with Cuba, preventing the free flow of people and ideas between two countries in contradiction with the principles of freedom of thought and civil liberties for all peoples, and reducing the potential for dialogue;

Whereas the U. S. State Department's denial of visas for Cuban scholars to participate in the 2003, 2004 and 2006 congresses of the Latin American Studies Association damaged the intellectual and academic exchange essential to the organization, and led to the relocation of the 2007 congress from Boston to Montreal;

Whereas the U. S. embargo against Cuba causes human suffering, raises the cost of needed food and medicines and has an especially deleterious impact on the lives of children, the elderly and the sick;

Whereas current rules forbid purchase of Cuban exports, so ships carrying food to Cuba must depart empty and thus charge higher rates;

Whereas even the most recent report of the U.S. National Intelligence Council recognizes that Cuba is not a threat to U.S. national security;

Whereas the international community has condemned the unilateral U.S. embargo, by voting with overwhelming majorities in the U.N. General Assembly and by trading with Cuba;

Whereas the opposition to U.S. policy is widespread within U.S. civil society, including calls for an end to the embargo from the Cuban-American community, business executives, leading newspapers such as *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times*;

Whereas many U.S. citizens, some in defiance of U.S. law, are traveling to Cuba and delivering needed medicines and supplies;

Whereas more than 900 artists, arts educators and presenters signed a letter directed to President Barack Obama in March 2009 asking for the elimination of barriers to cultural and educational exchanges between Cuba and the United States;

Whereas every country in the Western Hemisphere other than the United States now has normal diplomatic and trading relations with Cuba;

Whereas changes were authorized in section 621 of the Omnibus Appropriation Act, 2009 and the general license authorizing family travel to Cuba has been reinstated (sections 515.560 and 515.561 of 31 CFR Chapter V);

Therefore be it resolved that:

1) The Latin American Studies Association strongly supports the elimination of unilateral U.S. sanctions against Cuba and the establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States.

2) The Latin American Studies Association urges the United States (a) to take immediate steps to allow unrestricted travel to Cuba from the United States, and (b) to facilitate the travel of Cuban students to study in the United States at all levels.

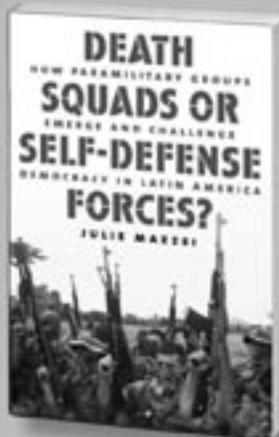
3) The Latin American Studies Association further urges both the United States and Cuba to eliminate or minimize barriers to scholarly communication by permitting: (a) access to research materials in each country, including library databases; b) people-to-people exchanges by educational organizations; and (c) travel by Cuban scholars to attend professional meetings and to lecture and teach in the United States.

4) This resolution will be mailed to President Barack Obama and all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. ■

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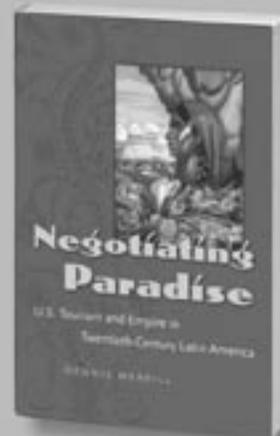
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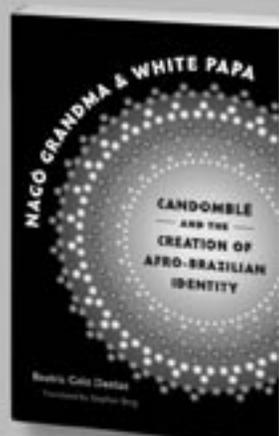
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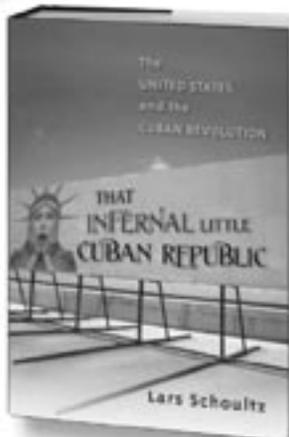
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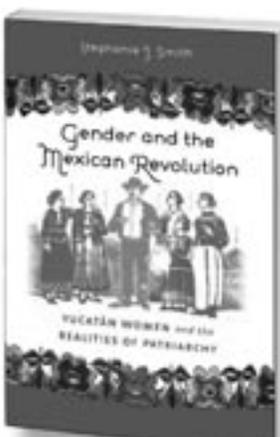
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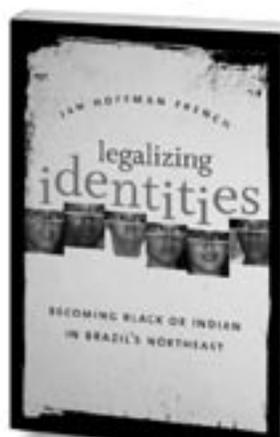
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University of Miami (UM) Director – Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)

The University of Miami seeks an accomplished senior scholar who will serve as Director of the Center for Latin American Studies and hold a tenured primary appointment in the College of Arts and Sciences as the first occupant of its new Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies. This search reflects a new initiative in support of Latin American and Caribbean Studies across a wide range of disciplines. The Center engages faculty throughout the University and includes participation in undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as outreach and training programs. Located in an institution at the crossroads of intense economic, social, cultural and academic exchanges between North and South, CLAS has expanded substantially since its creation in 2000, increasing the number of high-profile Latin Americanists and Caribbeanists on campus, raising new resources for faculty and student research, particularly interdisciplinary initiatives, and enhancing facilities. The search for a new director is part of a new plan to establish CLAS as a major national and international research center in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, further expanding resources (postdoctoral and research fellowships) and venues (conferences, observatories, lectures, workshop and publication series) for faculty and students.

The Director and Weeks Professor must be a distinguished scholar whose academic achievement merits a tenured appointment in one of the College of Arts & Sciences' social science or humanities departments. Candidates from fields that are housed within one of the University's other academic areas (e.g., Business, Communication, Law, Marine and Atmospheric Science, Medicine) whose research, publications and administrative interests qualify them for a primary appointment in either the social sciences or humanities disciplines of the College will be considered. In addition to scholarly excellence, candidates should have a proven record of international program development in the Americas, experience in leading interdisciplinary research efforts, and a record of success in external fund raising.

CLAS Responsibilities will require that the Director possess the following qualities:

- Intellectual leadership and vision: In the role of sustaining and expanding the University's community of Latin American/Caribbean scholars, s/he must be capable of providing intellectual leadership and vision for the Center. A demonstrated record of commitment to ethical, transparent, and broadly participatory governance of academic programs is essential.
- Administrative experience and managerial skills: The Director will oversee the Center's staff, manage the budget, oversee the current academic programs in Latin American Studies, spearhead new fundraising initiatives, and implement new academic and programmatic initiatives. A significant portion of CLAS funding is expected to come from external sources that the Director will be expected to secure in collaboration with both faculty and advancement professionals.
- Public presence: The Director must persuasively convey the Center's mission to individuals, organizations, and agencies that can provide financial and administrative support.
- Scholarly Research and Publication: S/he will be expected to maintain an on-going program of scholarly research and publication.
- Academic instruction: Responsibilities include instruction at graduate and undergraduate levels; these duties will be appropriately reduced to accommodate service in the capacity of director.
- Minimum qualifications: Ph.D. in a relevant discipline, with publications and experience appropriate to appointment as a tenured professor; it is essential that the Director write and speak in English, Spanish and/or Portuguese fluently, with Kreyòl a plus.

The Center Director will report directly to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The Search Committee will begin reviewing materials immediately. Review of applications and nominations will continue until the position is filled. Application materials should include:

1. A letter that expresses interest in and demonstrates qualifications for the position, including a coherent vision for promoting contextually sensitive scholarship on the Americas across academic disciplines.
2. Curriculum vitae.
3. The names, addresses, and contact information of five professional references.

Please direct inquiries to:

Professor George Yúdice
Chair, CLAS Search Committee
University of Miami
College of Arts & Sciences
P.O. Box 248004
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4620

Inquiries, nominations, and applications may also be submitted via email to: CLASDirectorSearch@as.miami.edu.

The University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Consolidating Mexico's Democracy

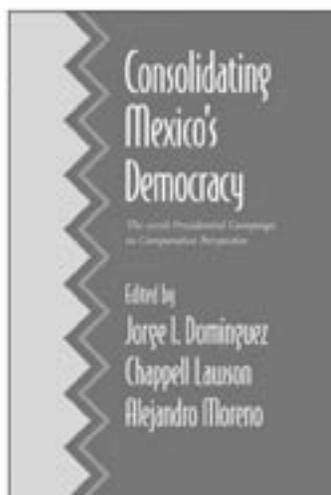
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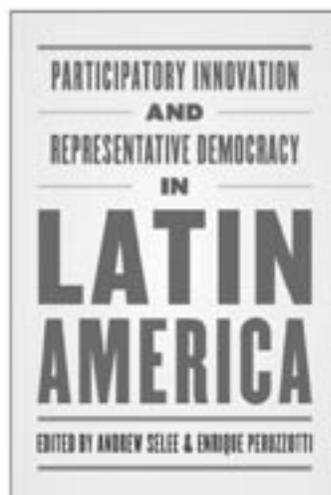
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