

# Report from the LASA2010 Program Chairs

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previously operated at the secondary school level have been converted into technical schools at the university level. This has not improved the country's quality of higher education.

Finally, a new higher education law, still in gestation, will hopefully deal with the impact of the era of modernization and globalization on the reconstruction of academic institutions in Haiti. It is here that we must link the most important questions: What sort of academic and political practice is most appropriate for the strategic exploitation of the "human development index"? What is the relationship between the general culture and the specific formation of university administrative and technical personnel? How do we best make use of new technologies, like the use of the Internet in the schools? How do we plan for the use of school and university locations? How do we control the measure of the nation's rate of growth as compared with the human criteria at the base of every civilization?

International cooperation should reign in these areas of human intervention, and Haiti should take its bad fortune as something positive for the leaps forward based not on its "backwardness" (a word we should use no more), but on the archaic nature of its present stage of development.

[This article integrates portions of a longer essay, the author's "Breve esbozo histórico de la evolución de las instituciones universitarias en Haití," (unpublished manuscript, 2010), with the founding statement of the International Committee for the Construction of a University Campus for l'Université d'Etat d'Haiti (2010), the group the author chairs.] ■

In case you are still debating whether to attend this year's LASA Congress, here are 11 reasons not to miss our Toronto meeting this October 6-9:

## • Pre-Congress Program

We are pleased to announce the first-ever Pre-Congress Program, to take place at 2:00PM on October 6, right before the official opening of the meeting. The program consists of *three academic seminars* on:

- 1) the political economy of the economic crisis in Latin America;
- 2) new scholarship on the Independence bicentennial; and
- 3) new trends in films and documentaries from Latin America.

In addition, we are offering a *symposium on publishing trends* in journals, books, and new media, starting at 4:30PM the same day. To learn more, visit: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/pr>.

## • Presidential Panels

Prominent scholars, invited by the LASA president, will address topics such as Obama's foreign policy, disaster relief in Chile and Haiti, the bicentennial of Independence movements, and the region's response to the latest economic crisis.

## • Cultural Dialogues

This is another new feature. It consists of three debates every evening by leading intellectuals. One debate will focus on the role of the humanities; another will deal with the role of the social sciences; and the final debate centers on the role of policy innovation in the Americas today.

## • Sessions and Workshops

More than 880 sessions with panelists from 48 countries.

## • Grant-writing

This new feature consists of a special workshop on writing successful research grant applications, led by representatives from the Fulbright Association and the Inter-American Foundation.

## • Book Exhibit

LASA2010 will have the largest exhibit of books and instructional materials on Latin America and the Caribbean, and a chance to meet with editors.

## • Film Festival

This award-winning festival of films and documentaries from Latin America provides opportunities to meet some prominent directors.

## • The Gran Baile

A LASA favorite will return this year!

## • Convenient Facilities

All sessions will take place in the meeting space of two hotels, the Sheraton Center and the Toronto Hilton, within a five-minute walk of each other. The hotels are connected by a network of underground tunnels filled with shops and places to eat for all budgets. The hotels are centrally located, with most downtown attractions within walking distance.

ON LASA2010

## Session Highlights

CORRALES y  
GERASSI-NAVARRO *continued...*

### • Great City

Toronto has become one of North America's most economically powerful, culturally vibrant, ethnically diverse, and eco-friendly cities. With 45 percent of its population born outside of Canada and a low crime rate, Toronto is now one of North America's safest and most cosmopolitan cities.

### • Professional Networking

LASA's International Congress is the largest meeting of Latin Americanists and Caribbeanists in the world, offering a rare chance to meet scholars interested in the region from a vast array of disciplines and professional backgrounds.

We have enjoyed working with LASA president John Coatsworth, the entire LASA Secretariat and Executive Council, the Track Chairs, Section Members, and the Toronto-based Local Arrangements Committee to organize this meeting. We hope to see you in Toronto! ■

## Wednesday

### Pre-Congress Workshop – Democracy, Economic Growth, and Equity after the Crisis

Organizer: Evelyne Huber, University of North Carolina and Robert R. Kaufman, Rutgers University/Columbia University

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

### Pre-Congress Workshop – Latin American Independence, a Bicentennial Perspective

Organizer: John Chasteen, University of North Carolina

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Pre-Congress Workshop – Recent Trends in Latin American Cinema

Organizer: Ernesto Livon-Grosman, Boston College and Ana M. López, Tulane University

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### Pre-Congress Workshop – Exploring the Ins and Outs of Academic Publishing: An Insider's View

Organizer: Philip Oxhorn, McGill University and *Latin American Research Review*

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### Gender and Feminist Studies Section Meeting, LASA Homage to Helen Safa

Book Presentation: Women's Activism in Latin America and the Caribbean: Engendering Social Justice, Democratizing Citizenship, by Elizabeth Maier and Nathalie Lebon

6:30 pm

## Thursday

### Featured Event – Inequality: Forms of Legitimation and Conflict in Latin American Societies

Organizer: Alejandra González Celis

8:30 am - 10:15 am

### Presidential Session – Helping Haiti Transform Itself

Organizer: John Coatsworth

10:30 am - 12:15 pm

### Presidential Session – Canada in the Americas: Regulating Canadian Extractive Industries in the Hemisphere

Organizer: John Coatsworth

12:30 pm - 2:15 pm

### Featured Event – Canada's Strategy for the Americas

Organizer: Philip Oxhorn

2:30 pm - 4:15 pm

### Featured Event – Subnational Democratization: Latin America, the United States, Russia and India in Comparative Perspective

Organizer: Jacqueline Behrend

2:30 pm - 4:15 pm

### Featured Event – “Managed Migration:” A Comparison of Agricultural Contract Work in Canada, the United States, and Spain

Organizer: Judith Adler Hellman

4:30 pm - 6:15 pm

### Presidential Session – The Bicentennial of the Independence Movements In Latin America

Organizer: John Coatsworth

4:30 pm - 6:15 pm

### Cultural Dialogue I: America's Quarterly Magazine

Organizer: Javier Corrales and Chris Sabatini

6:30 pm - 8:15 pm followed by reception

### Presidential Session – Democrats, Billionaires and Drug Lords. Has Mexican Democracy Failed?

Organizer: John Coatsworth

6:30 pm - 8:15 pm