

Section News

Sexualities Studies and Gender and Feminist Studies Sections Host Pre-Conference

On October 5, just prior to the opening of LASA2010, the Sexualities Studies Section and the Gender and Feminist Studies Section together organized and facilitated a full-day pre-conference hosted at the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto. The event, entitled “Dialogues between Women’s and LGTB Rights in the Americas,” featured several panel discussions focused on interrogating the relationships between these movements in their struggles for expanded rights.

Within this framework, the theme for this year’s event was “Dialogues” with discussions along four different lines: 1) North and South viewpoints; 2) academics and social activists outlooks; 3) various migration experiences; and 4) LGTTTBI and gender/feminist perspectives. Panels were then organized on the topics of success stories, counter-movements, migration, and intersectionality. The event concluded with a viewing of the documentary *¿Oye qué bola? Cuban Voices on Sexual Diversity*. Presenters and attendees included not only academics and researchers but also featured many grassroots activists and policymakers. For example, Dr. Leticia Bonifaz, legal advisor to Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard, spoke about the city’s recent decriminalization of abortion, while Esteban Paulón, President of Federación Argentina LGBT, discussed the country’s recent passage of same-sex marriage legislation.

Participants of both the Gender and Feminist Studies Section and the Sexualities Studies Section overwhelmingly considered the event a great success and hope to expand on its accomplishments with another jointly hosted pre-conference in San Francisco at LASA2012.

The Reinvention of the Film Studies Section

The many debates around audio-visual language in the digital age have led to the reinvention of film theory and practice as we know it. The LASA Film Studies Section is no exception.

The Film Studies Section promotes the study of Latin American, Latino, and diasporic cinema, as well as cinema on topics related to Latin America. It also fosters cinema studies (including New Media and other audiovisual modalities) within LASA through specialized approaches as well as those that allow for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary dialogue. Its goal is to attract members that include cinema lovers, academics (faculty and students), critics, and cinema professionals working in different parts of the world, who represent a plurality of approaches and interests, methodologies, and theories in the fields of academic research, artistic creation, and the cinema industry.

The activities of the Section are oriented toward collaboration among members as well as toward coordination with other LASA Sections whose objects of study intersect with cinema studies. These goals will be facilitated through the creation of interactive online forums that will allow members to share resources (calls for papers, events, reviews, databases, a virtual library), to exchange ideas, and to plan the activities of the Congress, and will encourage the creation of group research and management projects. The Section also supports financially the LASA Film Festival. We are interested in a membership that reflects the rich and complex experience of the cinematic apparatus. ■