

Elections 2012

Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for vice president, members of the Executive Council (EC) and treasurer. The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014 and as president from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015.

Nominees for Vice President

Debra Castillo
Cornell University

Timothy P. Wickham-Crowley
Georgetown University

Nominees for Executive Council

Claudio A. Fuentes
Universidad Diego Portales

Katherine Hite
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

Peter Guardino
Indiana University

Laura A. Podalsky
Ohio State University

Mary Louise Pratt
New York University

William C. Smith
University of Miami

Nominees for Treasurer

Timothy J. Power
University of Oxford

Thomas J. Trebat
Columbia University Global Center,
Rio de Janeiro

The Candidates

Debra Castillo is Emerson Hinchliff Chair of Hispanic Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University, and former director of the Latin American Studies Program (two separate terms) at that university. She is the author, co-author, translator, or editor of a dozen books and over 100 scholarly articles. She specializes in contemporary narrative from the Spanish-speaking world (including the United States), gender studies, and cultural theory. Her books include *The Translated World: A Postmodern Tour of Libraries in Literature* (1984); *Talking Back: Strategies for a Latin American Feminist Literary Criticism* (1992); *Easy Women: Sex and Gender in Modern Mexican Fiction* (1998); and (co-written with María Socorro Tabuenca Córdoba) *Border Women: Writing from La Frontera* (2002). Her latest single-authored book is *Re-dreaming America: Toward a Bilingual Understanding of American Literature* (SUNY, 2004).

More recently, she has been collaborating with colleagues in the area of South-South cultural studies, especially focusing on border studies in the hemispheric American context and partition studies in south Asia (represented in a recent co-edited volume with Kavita Panjabi and her work with Anindita Banerjee), and she has also been very interested in exploring the new possibilities for knowledge exchange beyond the traditional print book. Her co-edited volume with Christine Henseler, *Hybrid Storyspaces*, represents this strand of her work, and points toward the challenges and opportunities represented by the new media ecologies of the 21st century—something she is also vigorously exploring in her administrative and pedagogical roles, ranging from participation in co-taught, live video-

streamed courses with international participation, to her advocacy for new platforms for academic exchange.

Debra is frequently called on nationally and internationally for conference keynote addresses, invited lectures, and distinguished lecturer appointments in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America (Mexico, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Peru, Costa Rica, and Chile), India, and Taiwan.

She is an active member of the editorial boards of several journals, and is also past editor of *Diacritics*, current Senior Consulting Editor of the *Latin American Literary Review*, and the former Book Review editor for *Letras Femeninas*. She is past president of the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica, serves or has recently served on the boards of the Cornell University Press, the North Carolina Series in Romance Languages and Literatures, and the State University of New York Press (where she co-edits a new series on Genders in the Global South). She has participated in numerous national and international prize committees (LASA, Kovacs, Luce, Fulbright, Ford, Monserrat Ordóñez). She is a collaborator in a European research group on border poetics, and a Mexican research group on memory and citizenship. She frequently reads tenure and promotion files for other universities (about a dozen a year) and manuscripts for academic presses (another dozen a year or so). She has served on the Modern Language Association executive council, the delegate assembly organizing committee, the steering committee for new structures for languages in Higher Education, the delegate assembly, several executive division committees, the elections committee, the nominating committee, the publications committee, and the radio committee, and

has been asked to serve as the chair of most of these committees. She has been Culture Studies Section co-chair (with Javier Durán) for LASA.

She is also the holder of a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship, which is Cornell University's highest teaching award, and is granted for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Perhaps the course with which she has been most identified is "Hispanic Theater Production." She has taught this course except when on leave for the past 20 years, and coordinates summer productions as well on a volunteer basis. Graduate and undergraduate students, as well as some community members participate. Under the troupe name "Teatrotaller," three times a year the group chooses a play from Spanish, Latin American, or U.S. Latino/a writer in Spanish or Spanglish and brings it to full production (generally presented in August/September, November, and April). The group has achieved an international reputation for excellence, and has accepted invitations to present their plays in various regional universities (Tufts, Penn State, Barnard, and Syracuse) as well as in festivals in Mexico, Canada, Israel, Ecuador, Romania and Belgium.

Debra is profoundly committed to mentoring at all levels, and is amply compensated through sustained dialogue with exciting young scholars. She has enjoyed the privilege of working closely with over one hundred graduate students (mostly Ph.D.), and has been the chair or co-chair of a little over fifty graduate student committees. While not everyone has chosen an academic career, most of her former students have ended up teaching and doing research in some combination. Some of them are located in far-flung sites like Kolkata or Buenos Aires; most are in Spanish programs in the United States,

including people at liberal arts colleges, state universities, and distinguished private research institutions.

Castillo Statement

I've been thinking about precariousness a good deal lately, focusing on three large and very different realms: social issues in Latin America (related to my research); the academic workplace (as administrator and student mentor); and modalities of knowledge exchange (how work and network are evolving). All of these realms have implications for ways that LASA can demonstrate leadership in our multiple communities and practices. Recently, I've been teaching Judith Butler's short book, Precarious Life, and in class we talk about the right to have rights, about what it means that some lives and some forms of grief and suffering are validated and others denied. These are large questions that have a bearing on many forms of human expression, from the literary and cultural works that are my discipline's primary resources, to the political and social upheavals so familiar to us throughout Latin America. To take one important instance: in the U.S. context, the plight of 12 million undocumented immigrants has been one of the most important issues of our time, striking to the heart of how we think of democracy in a neoliberal hemispheric context. In my professional circuits, I have also had to think about precariousness in other senses as well. While the conditions of the academic workplace vary tremendously throughout the Americas, one of the huge shifts in higher education in the United States has been to move away from the tenure system towards a system of contingent, contract labor. The recently released Delphi Project report, for example, confirms that approximately 70 percent of all instructors in U.S. colleges and universities are now contingent faculty. The squeeze on tenure

line positions and their replacement by short-term contracts has made the job market very challenging for many of our young colleagues, who can now look forward to little more than poverty-level income with no benefits. Even more precarious is the status of our students from Latin America, who increasingly find green card or citizenship requirements as the bar they must meet for consideration. If on the one hand, financial pressures have made it particularly difficult for brilliant scholars from Latin America to enter into the largest academic network in the Americas, it has also drained resources formerly linking colleges and universities throughout the hemisphere. Finally, I have been thinking about the precariousness of our traditional concepts of knowledge production and sharing—the book, the academic article, the conference—as well as the challenge to old understandings of creative practice that are suggested by new forms of expression, often finding their homes on the vast world we call the internet. Here I would like to turn the negative connotation of precariousness on its head: the new media—but not just the new media—have suggested to us new and more supple forms of exchange, opening up exciting possibilities for the future. LASA can intervene in each of these realms, strengthening strategic alliances with other like-minded professional organizations as well as promoting discussion and more agile forms of interaction among our members,

Timothy P. Wickham-Crowley, first in his family line to earn a college degree, was educated at Princeton (A.B.) and Cornell (M.A., Ph.D.), and has taught with the Department of Sociology at Georgetown University for the last quarter-century, where he is currently chair. He has sole-authored two books, *Exploring*

Revolution: Essays on Latin American Insurgency and Revolutionary Theory (M. E. Sharpe, 1991), and *Guerrillas and Revolution in Latin America: A Comparative Study of Insurgents and Regimes since 1956* (Princeton, 1992). The latter book was nominated for the Distinguished Publication Award of the American Sociological Association, and his work and biography were among those of ten scholars featured in Stephen Sanderson's *Revolutions: A Worldwide Introduction to Political and Social Change*. He has authored a dozen articles or book-chapters on guerrilla movements, revolution, and associated subjects appearing in edited collections and in journals such as *Sociological Forum*, *Politics and Society*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, *Social Science History*, *Theory and Society*, and (co-authored with Susan Eckstein) *Revue Internationale de Politique Comparée*. Several of his writings have been reprinted in English or Spanish, especially in collected writings on revolution. He has contributed entries in scholarly encyclopedias and sociological research reviews to the Library of Congress's *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. With Susan Eckstein he also co-edited and co-wrote introductory chapters to two justice-oriented books of 2003: *Struggles for Social Rights in Latin America* (Routledge) and *What Justice? Whose Justice? Fighting for Fairness in Latin America* (California). Toward his next major project, he has created most of a massive data set indexing varying social and economic development patterns across and within all the nations of the Americas, has pursued complementary efforts in comparative historical researches of those nations, and has partly written the book-project, tentatively titled *The Social Origins of Development and*

Underdevelopment: Social Structures and Political Economies in the New World, 1500-2000. Over the years he has sought to serve the scholarly community by being a diligent reviewer of unpublished book manuscripts, and is delighted to have helped push toward publication books by colleagues as diverse as Charles Brockett, John Foran, Jeff Goodwin, James Mahoney, Cynthia McClintock, Eric Selbin, David Stoll, Jocelyn Viterna, and Elisabeth Wood (not that any of them required his push). Yet his main vocation over these years remains that of a Georgetown teacher, in which office he has taught twenty different course-titles to some 4,000 undergraduates (*sans* T.A. assistance), and to scores of graduate students. He has successfully instructed both future NBA-stars and later Ph.D.-earning LASA colleagues. Early in his career, his students promoted his elevation to honorary membership in Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society; he has been nominated by students of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service for a teaching award; and was multiple times put forward by his departmental colleagues for a College teaching award bestowed by a faculty committee. In 2009 he won that award, the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Within Georgetown's Center for Latin American Studies he has worked on its Executive Committee and served as its M.A. Program Director in the years 2002-2007, with duties focused on advising and admissions. He has been a member of LASA and attended and presented at many LASA Congresses since the late 1980s. He served as Program Chair of the 21st LASA International Congress held in 1998 in Chicago (and is both embarrassed and oddly proud to say that he never left the hotel while the Congress was ongoing, so caught up was he in his duties). Thereafter he was elected to LASA's Executive Council, serving in the years 2000-2003.

Wickham-Crowley Statement

While I will always be a sociologist in the head, my heart more truly belongs to LASA. In either group's conference settings, those with dual interests like myself can always benefit from the constructively congenial (we hope) collegial criticisms that serve to improve our later published works; but only a LASA Congress adds thoughtful voices from outside my own field. As several predecessors in these LASA electoral settings have noted, the sheer interdisciplinarity of LASA and its Congresses is a delight—the program, the participants, and the collected papers—and it generates a certain intellectual electricity that is hard to match. I became a deeper fan of LASA's variety of voices when I served as Program Chair; as I reviewed all of the Congress sessions and papers that lay before me, I finally had to state in print that "nothing LASA to me is alien." Out of that Chicago gathering came two 2003 books which Susan Eckstein and I co-edited on justice matters, with contributors drawn from more than a half-dozen fields—from political science to sociology to anthropology to history to literary and cultural studies to ethnomusicology. In the same spirit, as an officer I would widen yet further our welcome, and seek to bring our colleagues from archaeology more so into regular Congress participation and also more scholars who study Latin American music; those fields and other mostly absent ones would naturally enrich our proceedings. Yet even as I myself contribute to and revel in these festivals of scholarship, it seems that we mostly ignore a core concern common to most of us: we are generally teachers, or teachers in training, yet our Congresses seem not to be celebrations of nor systematically supportive of those efforts. While the Congress itself may at best offer only a limited venue for improving that situation,

I would like LASA to pursue teacher outreach and support efforts in a manner practiced for some time among the sociologists. We would ask LASA colleagues to submit their own topic-specific syllabi and related course materials, have volume editors do a critical sifting and assessment, and finally distribute to LASA members at modest cost (online surely, hard-copy perhaps) collections of many of their peers' parallel course materials. Such a series might include separate volumes devoted to survey courses commonly offered in history (usually two terms), politics, literature and culture, or economics. The same procedure could gather materials for more advanced or specialty topics (e.g., history of Brazil; democratization; poetry; or film), and even graduate-level offerings. The boon to instructors both younger and older—the former just setting out to teach, the latter perhaps moving into new fields of interest—lies in access to, not just models, but models of excellence for helping them to teach a variety of topics commonly expected of professors and other instructors.

LASA does certain things exceptionally well; perhaps we can make such silvery efforts more golden. LASA's basic communications structure maintained by the Secretariat staff is quite wonderful and still evolving: a website wanderer encounters great riches (increasingly varied and digital) available to our members at the click of a mouse, and thus an egalitarian resource for those constrained by local and limited library resources. Our financial support for Latin America-based scholars to attend our Congresses now becomes more important than ever as we move to once-yearly Congresses in a world of rising air-travel costs. In a like manner, our support for graduate students and untenured colleagues to attend LASA

Congresses is another virtue at which LASA excels. Both of those programs deserve special efforts by LASA's officers to maintain and increase their relevant special funding. One thing we do not wish to gold-plate, however, are the costs of LASA membership, which have remained admirably modest, at least in comparison to other professional organizations with much steeper costs even for basic membership (my own ASA, to put it bluntly). As we gather at LASA Congresses we have long provided some special, signature elements which make us LASA, notably the loudly delightful Gran Baile on Friday evening and the treasure that is our Film Festival: may neither of those ever fade! We might also seek to hold more Congresses in workable sites (re: our huge numbers) in selected South American cities, embracing the spirit of former LASA President Arturo Arias, and still keep to the other north-south and east-west geographical spreads of recent years. We must also continue our principled and longstanding commitment to a variety of publicly announced moral and political positions, especially those directly rooted in LASA's essence, and thus oppose all censorship and attempts to restrict scholarly travel or the free exchange of scholarly ideas. (Yes: the Cuban visa problem is decades old.) Finally, many past officers and candidates have talked about LASA's kinship with other area studies associations, and I share in the view that our voice will be better heard if we can harmonize it with other region-centered scholarly associations, whether to pursue certain joint venture scholarly gatherings wherein regions "touch" (e.g., Pacific Rim or Atlantic World studies), or simply to join voices with our peer associations when confronted with events or policies which violate scholarly principles, here in the U.S. or elsewhere.

Claudio A. Fuentes is professor of political science and the Director of the Social Science Research Institute (ICSO) at Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile. He is the former director of FLACSO-Chile (2004-2008) and former President of the Chilean Political Science Association (ACCP, 2004-2006). He attended the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, where he earned a B.A. in History, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Political Science (2003). His dissertation received the American Political Science Association Award for Best Dissertation from the Human Rights Section. In 2011 he held the Andronico Luksic Fellowship as Visiting Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. At the Universidad Diego Portales he teaches courses on legislative politics and comparative institutions, and he has also been a professor at Stanford University's Santiago campus, teaching a course on Latin American political and economic development.

Fuentes' work focuses on several dimensions of democratic politics. His early research focused on human rights and civil military relations during transitions to democracy in Latin America, followed by studies of the protection of citizens' rights within a democratic framework, especially police violence in Argentina and Chile. His most recent work addresses the formal and informal dynamics of constitutional reform in Chile.

He is the author of four books, including *La Transición de los militares* (LOM, 2006) and *Contesting the Iron Fist: Advocacy Networks and Police Violence in Argentina and Chile* (Routledge, 2004). He has edited five additional volumes, including

En nombre del pueblo: debate sobre el cambio constitucional en Chile (Universidad Diego Portales and Fundación Boell, 2010), *Influencia y resistencias: Militares y poder en América Latina* (Catalonia, 2009) and *Desafíos democráticos* (LOM and FLACSO, 2006). His book chapters and journal articles have also focused on the protection of citizens' rights, with a special emphasis on the right to democratic institutional reforms.

Fuentes has held research grants from the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the Böll Foundation, and Chile's Council of Science and Technology (1995, 1997, 2005, 2010, 2012). He has served as the editor of the journal *Fuerzas Armadas y Sociedad* (FLACSO-Chile, 1994-1996) and is currently a member of the editorial board of the *Revista de Ciencia Política* (Universidad Católica de Chile). In addition to the regular participation on LASA panels, in 2011-12 he served as member of the Bryce Wood Award Committee, and he is an active member of the International Political Science Association and the Chilean Political Science Association.

Fuentes Statement

As a member of the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association, I would focus on three issues.

First is the development of cross-national research collaboration. Over 45 percent of LASA members now live outside the United States, the majority of them in Latin America. Many have close ties with researchers in other countries, particularly if they pursued graduate study or fieldwork abroad, but far too many Latin American scholars are isolated or semi-isolated and find it extremely difficult to create and then maintain linkages to their broader disciplines. LASA has always helped to

bring scholars together, of course, but the growth of Latin American expertise in almost every discipline provides an opportunity for collaboration that until now has existed only on a much smaller scale. The promotion of collaborative research with the support of funding agencies and foundations should be a LASA priority. Moreover, I will encourage the promotion of interdisciplinary research and outreach in order to highlight a broad scope of disciplinary developments.

Second is a concerted effort to bring the very youngest Latin American scholars—graduate students in Latin American institutions—into LASA. The Association's dues structure has always been highly progressive, and certainly that will continue, but even the least expensive membership dues are often beyond the means of MA students in many Latin American institutions. Need-based assistance is often essential, and if LASA cannot afford a modest effort to subsidize for a limited number of years the dues of young graduate students in Latin America, particularly students from less-privileged backgrounds, then I would like to work with the Executive Council to seek support from foundations and other funding agencies.

Finally, we need to encourage the constant commitment of new generations within the governing structure of LASA. I will encourage the participation of scholars coming from different backgrounds and generations in order to keep developing LASA in the future.

Katherine Hite is the Frederick Ferris Thompson Chair and Professor of Political Science, as well as the chair of the political science department at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. From 2007-

2012, Hite directed Vassar's Latin American and Latina/o Studies program. Hite is the author of *Politics and the Art of Commemoration: Memorials to Struggle in Latin America and Spain* (Routledge Press, 2011) and *When the Romance Ended: Leaders of the Chilean Left, 1968-1998* (Columbia University Press, 2000). In addition to several recent articles on the politics of memory, Hite is also co-editor with Cath Collins and Alfredo Joignant of *The Politics of Memory in Chile: From Pinochet to Bachelet* (Lynne Rienner Press, forthcoming); co-editor with Mark Ungar of *Human Rights: Challenges of the Past, Challenges for the Future* (Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming); co-editor with Paola Cesarini of *Authoritarian Legacies and Democracy in Southern Europe and Latin America* (Notre Dame University Press, 2004) and co-editor with Douglas Chalmers, Carlos Vilas, Scott Martin, Kerianne Piester, and Monique Segarra of *The New Politics of Inequality in Latin America: Rethinking Participation and Representation* (Oxford University Press, 1997). Professor Hite teaches courses in comparative politics, Latin American politics, contemporary social movements, and the politics of memory. Hite has been active in building and sustaining faculty and student diversity at Vassar. In addition, she has been an advocate in her community for migrants and workers' rights and for K-12 and higher education access and equity. She is president of the board of the Center for Creative Education, a community-based performing arts and education organization for youth in Kingston, New York.

Hite Statement

I will work to expand LASA as a prime arena for dynamic cross-disciplinary thinking and activism. The realities of Latin America and the Caribbean today

suggest much-needed rethinking of the dominant theoretical and empirical approaches of the past. Through its conferences, workshops and research projects, LASA can provide a major stimulus for cutting edge work in this respect. Such an effort requires increases in Latina/o as well as Latin American participation. In addition, special efforts should be made to incorporate the increasing number of scholars and activists from Asia and Africa in LASA activities. Furthermore, at a time of heightened inequality and violence in the United States, Latin American political projects and social justice movements are serving as important models for U.S. rights organizing and movements. LASA has a unique capacity to engage academics, journalists, political activists, human rights advocates, and community organizers in collective efforts and projects that emphasize the common good. I will also focus on amplifying programmatic and other opportunities for younger scholars. This will involve identifying new sources of funding and, in particular, advocating for monies for collaborative research and for mentoring, as well as for travel support. I would be deeply honored to serve and work with others on the LASA Executive Council to expand LASA's resources and impact.

Peter Guardino is Professor of History at Indiana University. He teaches courses in Latin American history and world history. Before taking up his appointment as an assistant professor at Indiana nineteen years ago Guardino taught classes at Central Washington University, the University of Illinois Chicago, and Loyola University.

Guardino is the author of two books, *Peasants, Politics and the Formation of Mexico's National State: Guerrero,*

1800-1857 (Stanford University Press, 1996) and *The Time of Liberty: Popular Political Culture in Oaxaca, 1750-1850* (Duke University Press, 2005) as well as numerous articles. Both books have also been published in translation in Mexico, and during his career Guardino has published a number of articles in both journals and edited volumes in Mexico, and a handful in Peru. Most of his research focuses on eighteenth and nineteenth century Mexico, and in particular on the political culture of the urban and rural poor, including indigenous peasants. He is currently writing a social and cultural history of the 1846-1848 war between Mexico and the United States.

Guardino has received a number of awards and honors during his career, including an appointment as the Cátedra Primo Feliciano Velázquez at the Colegio de San Luis, a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers, an Advanced Research Grant from the Social Sciences Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies of the University of California San Diego, a Social Sciences Research Council Dissertation Fellowship, a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship and a Lincoln-Juárez Fellowship from Mexico's Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

Guardino is currently chair of the Department of History at Indiana University and has served as Interim Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies there. He has chaired two committees for the Conference on Latin American History, the Mexican Studies Committee and the Bolton-Johnson Prize Committee. He has been Associate

Editor of the *American Historical Review*, and has been an Area Editor for *The Americas*. He has also served as a manuscript referee for many publishers and journals both in the United States and Latin America, including Duke University Press, Stanford University Press, Penn State Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Arizona Press, Houghton Mifflin, Oxford University Press, La Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, El Colegio de San Luis, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, *Latin American Research Review*, *The Americas*, *American Historical Review*, *Signos Históricos*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and the *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*. He is currently a member of the Consejo Asesor of the *Revista de Historia* (Costa Rica), the Comité Externo de Evaluación of the Colegio de San Luis (México), the Organizing Committee of the XIV Conference of Mexican, United States and Canadian Historians, and the Final Selection Committee of the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Fellowship Abroad.

Guardino received his BA, MA and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago and while studying for his BA he spent a year as an exchange student at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Guardino Statement

I have been a member of LASA for many years. It has been a pleasure to see it grow and change during this time. I have been particularly excited by the growth in membership of Latin American scholars. Despite the very effective administrative work done by the staff at LASA headquarters at the University of Pittsburgh, LASA, which of course was never centered on a particular discipline, is

also no longer a professional organization centered in the United States.

Although LASA has been changing in healthy and exciting ways, the challenge is always to be ready for yet more change. Despite our new lack of a geographic center we remain in many ways an organization centered on a conference and a journal. Access to both of these institutions can be a problem for scholars from Latin America, mostly due to the issue of cost. Most Latin American scholars do not have access to the quantity of personal and institutional resources which those of us from wealthier nations often take for granted. LASA has quite correctly placed great emphasis on raising money to support Congress participation by Latin American scholars, and this needs to continue. Yet, conference travel and hotels stays have steadily grown more expensive during the last twenty years, and we need to understand that this trend will only continue. Looking toward the medium and far future, how sustainable is this trend for LASA? At what point might airfares and other costs cause us to reduce our long and treasured emphasis on the Congress? What other ways can we imagine to promote the kind of scholarly communication and discussion which is the lifeblood of the organization? Can we somehow try to inject the social interaction which makes the Congress so satisfying into new, less expensive ways of communication and discussion? We certainly aren't there yet, but what will LASA look like twenty years from now? I do not suggest that changes are imminent, but we should start to brainstorm about them. Regarding the journal, online availability of the Latin American Research Review helps to make it more accessible to Latin American scholars, but the business model behind the Internet is of course subject to change and should not be taken

for granted. We need to be incessantly vigilant about how we negotiate the problems of on-line access, and the costs which scholars incur for access to the journal.

Laura Podalsky is an Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University. She received her B.A. in Latin American Studies at Yale University and her Ph.D. in Latin American Studies at Tulane University. As part of a Fulbright-García Robles fellowship, Dr. Podalsky served as a Visiting Professor in the Departamento de Imagen y Sonido at the Universidad de Guadalajara (2003-2004). At OSU, she teaches courses on Latin American film, urban culture, and youth cultures in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other courses in the Film Studies and International Studies programs. Dr. Podalsky is the author of *The Politics of Affect and Emotion in Contemporary Latin American Cinema: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico* (2011) and *Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption, and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973* (2004). She has published articles on a variety of topics including youth markets and contemporary Mexican cinema, telenovelas and globalization, cosmopolitanism in tango films, Brazilian women directors, and pre-revolutionary films in Cuba which have appeared in journals such as *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas*, *Framework*, *El ojo que piensa* (México), *Screen*, *Cinemas* (Brazil), *Archivos de la Filmoteca* (Spain), and *Nuevo Texto Crítico* as well as in several edited collections. Her current book project compares the role of young adults in the development of national cinemas in Mexico and Argentina by juxtaposing the emergence of youth as privileged subject matter as well as niche market in the 1960s (alongside rock-n-roll and TV) with what is

happening in the contemporary moment in both countries. The project treats youth as a discursive figure as well as a social group and brings together three lines of inquiry: i) scholarship by historians and sociologists from Argentina and Mexico on the role of young adults in larger socio-historical processes; ii) film studies debates about “youth films”; and iii) recent critical studies on the representation of youth in contemporary Latin American cinemas. She was the Acting Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at OSU in 2011 (January-December). She served as Co-Chair of the Latino/a Caucus of the Society for Cinema Studies (2000-2002) and as Track Co-Chair for the Film and Documentary Section for LASA (2011). She is Associate Editor of *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas* and a member of the advisory board of *El ojo que piensa*.

Podalsky Statement

It would be an honor to serve on the Executive Council and to work with colleagues to further strengthen LASA's efforts to promote multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary debates about Latin/a America, as well as to foster intellectual exchanges between scholars based within and outside Latin America. As we all know, LASA is an organization that recognizes and supports the work of Latin/a Americanists from diverse disciplines. While bolstering interactions between scholars from the same discipline or between those who study the same geo-cultural region, it also acknowledges the potential productivity of interdisciplinary exchange through Sections and International Congress tracks organized around themes or problematics of shared concern. Nonetheless, more can be done to support and promote interdisciplinary collaborations, particularly between the social sciences and the humanities. While such work is often

celebrated in the abstract, carrying it out can be challenging; it depends upon sustained engagement with the theories, methods, and critical traditions of other disciplines as well as institutional/university contexts that frequently do not provide sufficient support for such work. Given LASA's existing structures, resources, robust membership, the organization can enhance its efforts to thicken interdisciplinary exchange through a two-prong approach. On the one hand, LASA could routinely showcase existing, substantive collaborations between scholars in the social science and those in the humanities through special panels and workshops held during the Congresses; on the other, the organization could offer seed support to nascent projects put together by collaborators from different disciplines whose work would then be featured at an upcoming conference and/or on the LASA website. Aside from searching for new ways to foster interdisciplinary exchanges, I would advocate expanding the organization's existing website so that it might serve as a platform for intellectual exchanges among Latin Americanists located in different regions. One place to start might be uploading selected public presentations by underrepresented groups.

Mary Louise Pratt is Silver Professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, and the Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies at New York University, where she is affiliated with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics. From 1976-2002 she taught at Stanford University, where she held the Olive H. Palmer Professorship of Humanities and received the Dean's award for Distinguished Teaching and the Bing Distinguished Teaching Award. She has held fellowships

from the Guggenheim Foundation, NEH, ACLA, Pew and Hewlett Foundations, and the Canada Council. In 1998-99 she was awarded a Cátedra Patrimonial (CONACYT, México) at CIESAS Guadalajara, and in 2000-01 was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. She served on the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association from 1986-1990, and as its President and Vice President from 2001-2003. Her teaching areas include 19th and 20th century Latin American literature and thought; theory and critique of empire, colonialism, and neocolonialism; women and print culture in Latin America; Latin American cultural theory; globalization studies; language and geopolitics. Her research in the 1980s and 90s focused on the history of women's writing in Latin America. From the late 90s on, she studied the neoliberal imagination and the modernity debates. She is currently studying contemporary indigenous thought and the emergence of global indigeneity.

Pratt holds a PhD from Stanford in Comparative Literature (1975), an MA in Linguistics from the University of Illinois (1971), and a BA in Modern Languages and Literatures from the University of Toronto (1970). Her book publications include: *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (Routledge 1992; 2nd ed. 2007; trans. to Spanish by Quilmes (1997) and FCE (2010) and to Portuguese by EDUSC (1999); *Women, Politics, and Culture in Latin America*, co-authored with the Seminar for Feminism and Culture in Latin America (UC Press 1990); *Amor brujo: cultura e imagen del amor en los Andes* (Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, co-authored with Luis Millones; *Critical Passions: Collected Essays of Jean Franco*, co-edited with Kathleen Newman (Duke 1999). Her articles have appeared

in *PMLA*, *Nueva Sociedad*, *Social Text*, *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*, *Debate Feminista*, *MLQ*, *Cadernos Pagu*, *Casa de las Américas* and other journals. Her essays have appeared in *Race, Writing, and Difference* (Gates 1986); *Writing Culture* (Clifford and Marcus 1986); *Culture of Politics/Politics of Culture* (Alvarez, Dagnino and Escobar 1997); *The Rigoberta Menchú Controversy* (Arias 2001), *Espacio urbano, comunicación y violencia en América Latina* (Moraña 2001). Recent publications include "Why the Virgin of Zapopan went to Los Angeles," in *Images of Power: Iconography, Culture and State in Latin America*, eds. J. Andermann and W. Rowe, Bergahn 2005; "Indigeneity Today," in *Indigenous Experience Today*, eds. M. de la Cadena and O. Starn, NY: Berg 2007; "Los imaginarios planetarios," in *De márgenes y silencios: Homenaje a Martín Lienhard*, ed. M. Mendes, Frankfurt: Iberoamericana; "In the Neocolony: Destiny, Destination and the Traffic in Meaning," in *Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate*, eds. M. Moraña, E. Dussel and C. Jauregui, Duke 2008; "Globalización, desmodernización y el retorno de los monstruos," in R. Pajuelo y P. Sandoval, eds., *Globalización y diversidad cultural: Una mirada desde América Latina*, Lima: IEP 2004; "Entre la diferencia y la transformación: ¿cómo cambiar las lógicas culturales sin morir en el intento? en *Literatura, prácticas críticas y transformación cultural* ed. C. Acosta et al, Bogotá: JALLA 2008. "La antropología y la desmonopolización del pensamiento social," *Antropología ahora: Debates sobre la alteridad*, eds. A. Grimson, S. Merenson, G. Noel, BsAs: Siglo XXI, 2011; "Los Quedados," in *Los viajeros y el Río de la Plata: Un siglo de escritura*, Montevideo. Pratt lectures widely in Latin America, the U.S., and Canada.

Pratt Statement

I attended my first LASA meeting in 1980 in Bloomington, Indiana. The guests of honor were Nicaragua's newly triumphant Sandinista leadership—those were heady times. I became part of a research collective of west coast Latin Americanists, aimed at empowering women and the study of gender issues, particularly in LASA. For over a decade, as the Seminar on Feminism and Culture in Latin America, we presented panels at every LASA meeting, and watched the gender gap steadily narrow. LASA remains my favorite academic meeting, hands down. Our transhemispheric and multidisciplinary dynamics are a source of unceasing intellectual and political vitality. Today, as an EC member, my priorities would be three. First, I would seek ways to promote serious intellectual interaction between the social sciences and the humanities, identifying areas where their objects of study intersect, their methods complement each other, and their theories resonate or clash in intellectually revealing ways. The fruitfulness of such interaction has been brought home to me as a founding member of the new interdisciplinary Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU. An amalgam of humanists and social scientists from urban, ethnic, area, and gender studies, the department thrives above all on the profoundly illuminating dialogue across these lines. Chairing this department also taught me the challenges of making this work. The second priority is to engage with the rapidly changing labor conditions in higher education in the United States, as they impact our LASA constituencies. Fully 70 percent of the teaching in U.S. higher education today is done by non-tenure track faculty. Years of work with the Modern Language Association, on its Executive Council and as its president and vice-president, taught me how essential it is that academic organizations engage

proactively with these realities and work to create lasting structures of support for academic work. I would promote collaboration between LASA and other academic organizations (MLA, AHA, AAA, AATSP, for instance) to address these issues. Third, our organizations need to continue to engage with the evolving digital revolution, spreading its gifts and counteracting its ills. Innovative work in the digital humanities, and in language teaching, has much to offer on this front.

William C. Smith teaches Latin American and Comparative Politics at the University of Miami, where he is Professor of Political Science and International Studies. He is a representative of the Center for Latin American Studies to the Executive Committee of the Miami Consortium, the joint Title VI program of the University of Miami and Florida International University. Smith has served as editor of *Latin American Politics and Society* since 1997. Smith completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at Stanford University. Throughout his career he has been a comparativist with primary research interests in Brazil and Argentina. Smith has worked on region-wide questions concerning democratic governance, the political economy of economic restructuring, and contentious politics and transnational social movements. He taught and conducted research in Brazil during four years at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, and subsequently for briefer periods at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica and the Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ). He also has been a visiting researcher in Argentina affiliated with the Instituto Torcuato Di Tella and the Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES). His scholarship has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, The Ford Foundation, the

Fulbright Commission (several fellowships in Argentina and Brazil), the North-South Center, the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq, Brazil), and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO, Argentina). Smith is the author of *Authoritarianism and the Crisis of the Argentine Political Economy* (Stanford University Press, 1991) and the editor of numerous edited volumes, including *Latin American Political Economy in the Age of Neoliberal Reform* (1994), *Latin America in the World- Economy* (1996), *Politics, Social Change, and Economic Restructuring in Latin America* (1997), and, most recently, *Latin American Democratic Transformations* (2009) and *Market, State, and Society in Contemporary Latin America* (2010). His scholarly articles have been published in the *Latin American Research Review*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*, *Dados - Revista de Ciências Sociais*, *Desarrollo Económico*, *América Latina Hoy*, *Nova Economia*, *Nueva Sociedad*, *Fuerzas Armadas y Sociedad*, and *Political Power and Social Theory*, among others. He has served on the editorial boards of several academic journals, including the *Luso-Brazilian Review*, *Contexto Internacional* (Brazil), *Lua Nova* (Brazil), *Colombia Internacional* (Colombia), and *Teoria & Sociedade* (Brazil). Between 2004 and 2008 he served on the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA).

Smith Statement

LASA has always been central to my intellectual work. If I am elected it would be an honor to participate in building upon and strengthening the Association's long tradition of transdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching. As a member of the LASA Executive Council, my priorities

would include strengthening our individual and collective voice as scholars and public intellectuals fully engaged in contemporary issues concerning democracy, social justice and human rights as well as in debates about Latin America's past, present and future in an increasingly complex, conflictive, and globalizing world. This commitment means expanding current efforts to ensure the presence of colleagues from the Latin American and Caribbean region representing all humanities and social science disciplines at our annual meetings and in the Association's governance. Similarly, it is essential to foster greater equality in the production and dissemination of research by expanding intellectual exchanges across the Americas. As the editor of *Latin American Politics and Society*, I have been committed to promoting the research and publications of colleagues, junior and senior, from all corners of the Americas. One of my crucial priorities will be to broaden the initiatives (spearheaded by LARR's current editor) at recent Congresses to organize conversations between journal editors and representatives of academic and commercial presses in the interest of identifying emerging intellectual trends and new research frontiers and to expand print and electronic means for the dissemination of our scholarly research to broad international audiences in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as English. As a member of the editorial boards of several Latin American scholarly journals, I am particularly committed to encouraging the participation of editors of Spanish- and Portuguese-language journals and presses in these important discussions. Part of this effort will be my strong advocacy of strengthening of LASA's institutional linkages with universities, research centers, and academic associations throughout the region (e.g., FLACSO, CLACSO, ANPOCS, etc.), including the promotion of joint research initiatives and joint

conferences. Finally, I will also strongly support building upon recent successful efforts to make the LASA Forum a vital medium for deepening our collective dialogue regarding teaching, research and relevant political and policy debates. I admire the efforts made by LASA presidents and Executive Council members to improve our meetings. The shift to annual conferences will demand even greater commitment by the LASA leadership to expanding essential services—such as safe, affordable and flexible daycare—in order to ensure equitable opportunities for the full participation of all our members.

Timothy J. Power is University Lecturer in Brazilian Studies at the University of Oxford, where he is a fellow of St Cross College. He holds a joint post between the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) and the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). He grew up in Massachusetts and in Puerto Rico before attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he studied Latin American literature and politics in the early 1980s. He then completed an MA at the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida (1986) and a PhD in political science at the University of Notre Dame (1993). Power then taught at Louisiana State University and Florida International University before moving to the UK in 2005. He served as Director of the Latin American Centre of the University of Oxford from 2008 to 2012.

Power's research has focused on democratization and political institutions in Latin America, with a particular focus on Brazil. He is the author of *The Political Right in Postauthoritarian Brazil* (Penn State University Press, 2000) as well as

co-editor with Peter Kingstone of *Democratic Brazil* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000) and its sequel *Democratic Brazil Revisited* (2008). Most recently he co-edited, with Matthew Taylor, a volume on *Corruption and Democracy in Brazil* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2011). In Brazil, his books include (with Scott Mainwaring and Rachel Meneguello) *Partidos Conservadores no Brasil* (Editora Paz e Terra, 2000). He has also published two co-edited volumes with Editora UFMG in Belo Horizonte: *Instituições Representativas no Brasil* (with Jairo Nicolau, 2007) and *O Congresso por Ele Mesmo* (with Cesar Zucco, 2011). Power has also published in numerous journals such as *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. Power is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Politics in Latin America* and serves on the editorial boards of *Latin American Politics and Society* and *América Latina Hoy*. A founding member of the *Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política* (ALACIP), he currently serves on its executive council, and he is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) at Vanderbilt University. Power served as the sixth President of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) between 2004 and 2006. Within LASA, Power is a member of the Brazil Section and of the Political Institutions Section (LAPIS). Most recently, he served as Program Co-Chair for LASA's 30th International Congress in San Francisco in 2012.

Power Statement

It is an honor to be nominated as a candidate for Treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association. I joined LASA in 1985, my first year in graduate school, and I have attended every International Congress since 1992. As I

am sure fellow members will agree, citizenship in the LASA community repays itself many times over. This is true not only in terms of intellectual gains (which are always substantial), but also in terms of networking, friendships, social capital, and enriching personal experiences.

LASA is a mature and richly consolidated organization that means a lot to us, and so any stewardship role in the Association comes with significant responsibilities.

That being said, it is evident that LASA is a solvent and well-administered learned society with a highly professional Secretariat. The Executive Council (EC), the Treasurer, and the Investment Committee have wisely taken a long-term view of the Association's finances and have successfully cultivated the present Endowment despite the adverse market conditions of recent years. This has been done while respecting basic principles that are largely consensual within LASA: 1) that LASA should contract professional management of the Endowment, but that financial managers must act in congruence with directives from the EC; 2) that LASA investments should be socially responsible to the maximum extent possible; 3) that returns on investments should be directed toward long-run institution-building initiatives; and 4) that LASA should constantly strive to expand partnerships with funding agencies, foundations, and philanthropies. LASA has been faithful to these goals while happily keeping our annual dues very low in comparison with other academic associations. Moreover, the Association has long been committed to progressive policies aimed at maximizing participation in LASA, such as travel grants and lower dues for residents of Latin America and the Caribbean. These are good policies: they should be maintained by the EC and the Secretariat.

Yet as LASA continues to grow and to internationalize, the Association's financial and administrative mechanisms need to keep pace. Following the example of recent LASA Treasurers, I would seek to identify new sources of funding for travel grants to International Congresses, especially for graduate students and junior faculty. I would also explore ways in which new information technologies, such as social networking tools or the smartphone/tablet app that was such a success in San Francisco, could be used to improve communications and lower expenditures within the Association. However, I think that the main task falling to the next Treasurer will be to closely monitor and evaluate the financial implications of the impending three-year experiment in which LASA will move to annual conferences. The idea behind the experiment is that annualized Congresses may reduce the overall size of the meetings and thereby help us overcome the various pathologies of mega-conferences (few appropriate venues, long registration lines, high rejection rates due to excess demand). Yet we do not know how this experiment will turn out: will demand for LASA Congresses smooth itself out on a new 12-month cycle, or will colleagues simply turn up to every conference like they did on the old 18-month cycle? (I know I will.) Would a decline in conference registrations be offset by more stability in year-to-year membership renewals? These are difficult issues that will have to be monitored closely by the next Treasurer, and the EC should publish a transparent report on this experiment sometime in 2015. The ultimate goal should be to maintain financial stability while preserving the best LASA policies that we already have in place: low dues, ample travel support, and initiatives aimed at maximizing participation by Latin American scholars.

Thomas J. Trebat is Director of the Columbia University Global Center in Rio de Janeiro, one of eight recently established global units of Columbia University and the second to be established in Latin America. Prior to taking up this position in July 2012, Tom was Executive Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia and of the Institute's Center for Brazilian Studies. He joined Columbia University in 2005 after a lengthy career on Wall Street dedicated to economic research on Latin America during which time he worked for a number of financial institutions, including Citigroup, Chemical Bank, and Bankers Trust. Tom Trebat also worked for four years as an executive at The Ford Foundation in New York City where he oversaw the Foundation's programs in Latin America. Mr. Trebat has a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University and remains active in teaching as Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at Columbia and publishes on issues related to economic problems of Latin America with a special focus on Brazil. He is also a member of the U.S. Council of Foreign Relations and taught previously on Latin American economic issues at New York University. His book, "Brazil's State-owned Enterprises: A Case Study of the State as Entrepreneur," was published by Cambridge University Press. His current research interests include the role of the state in the Brazilian economy and poverty and poverty reduction programs in Latin America. Tom's service to LASA has included approximately the last six years of service as a member of the investment committee which analyzes LASA's investment accounts and advises the Treasurer of LASA on financial matters.

Trebat Statement

It is a pleasure to put forth my credentials to serve the membership of LASA as its Treasurer. My academic background as a

macroeconomist focused on contemporary issues has always kept me close to global economic trends and developments in global financial markets. In addition, most of my professional career (approximately 25 years) was spent as an economist working on Latin America in some of the largest banks in the United States, including Citigroup. This experience brought me into close contact with many of the issues and challenges that confront professional money managers seeking to protect and increase investment portfolios during turbulent financial times. For the last seven years, I have held teaching and administrative positions at the Institute for Latin American Studies and the Center for Brazilian Studies at Columbia University and now, as of July 2012, at the new Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro. It has been my privilege to serve for a number of years as a member of LASA's investment committee whose role it is to advise the Treasurer and Executive Committee on management of the LASA endowment. It has been an honor to serve on this committee with other LASA members and to have reported to a series of talented and dedicated LASA treasurers. It is a source of gratification to me that LASA's finances, especially its substantial endowment, are on sound financial footing and available to support careful growth of LASA into the future. If asked to serve as Treasurer of LASA, it would be incumbent upon me to preserve our record of sound financial management so as to provide support for the various initiatives of the Executive Council, including our periodic LASA meetings and the use of travel funds to bring scholars from Latin America to our Congresses who might not otherwise be able to attend. The financial challenges to LASA in the future will surely increase as the organization grows and our meetings occur with more frequently with a consequent increase in expenditures.

My chief concerns as Treasurer will be to work closely with the Executive Council and Secretariat to understand organizational goals, to maintain and motivate a talented group of advisors to keep a close watch on our endowment portfolio, and always to offer my best advice as to how to achieve LASA's goals in the most financially responsible manner. I will seek to increase financial resources through careful financial management and fund-raising efforts. I believe that I will be able to discharge these duties from my new base in Brazil, and that by virtue of my location in the Region, I can add further impetus to LASA's efforts to be a strong and vibrant presence throughout the Americas. ■