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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.

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From the President

by EVELYNE HUBER | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | ehuber@unc.edu

We are in full swing on the new annual Congress schedule. The deadline for panel and paper proposals has passed, and the proposals have been sent to the track chairs. The same is true for nominations for the various awards. Everybody, from panel organizers to award committee members and the Secretariat, is working at an accelerated pace. There have been a few transition pains, but they were and continue to be managed with skill and patience by the outstanding LASA staff.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the staff and all the volunteers who make LASA work. Every year, dozens and dozens of people agree to serve as track chairs, section chairs, and members of award committees, all tasks that can be quite time consuming. All of these collective endeavors by LASA members promote the goals of the Association in that they contribute to advancing knowledge and teaching about Latin America, and to celebrating extraordinary achievements of those engaged in research and knowledge dissemination.

Coordinating all these volunteers and activities requires a full-time staff. In comparison to similar professional associations, the LASA Secretariat actually works with a small staff in relationship to the number of members. What they lack in numbers, they make up in professionalism and dedication and experience. Milagros Pereyra-Rojas has been our Executive Director for eight years, and she has made the LASA Secretariat into a highly efficient operation, skillfully combining the use of both technology and human brain power to perform a multitude of managerial tasks. Sandy Klinzing has been with LASA even longer, and her extensive network of contacts and institutional memory constitute a huge asset in her work with the sections and with fundraising. Israel

Perlov, Maria Cabezas, and Pilar Rodriguez round out the staff who work tirelessly on behalf of LASA members. They try to bend over backwards to help members with all kinds of concerns while strenuously adhering to the standard of equitable treatment of all members.

Looking ahead to the 2013 Congress, we are in the process of organizing invited panels around the Congress theme "Toward a New Social Contract?" as well as panels and workshops of general interest to the membership. We hope to take advantage of the Washington location to get a high-ranking member of the U.S. Administration to talk to us about relations with Latin America. We have also invited Secretary General Insulza, from the Organization of American States, to share his views on hemispheric issues with us.

One issue that has generated considerable energy invested in petitions is the availability of on-site child care. The Secretariat has solicited bids, and the costs are astounding. We are looking at a total cost of around \$7,500, charged by the child care providers and the hotel. Part of this is insurance, and part of it rental of equipment, provision of food (which cannot be brought in from outside and therefore is assessed at hotel prices), and wages. When LASA did offer on-site child care, there were never more than 20 children registered. Unfortunately, most of these are fixed costs. Thus, even if LASA subsidizes child care by a couple of thousand dollars (financed by registration fees), the cost per child to be paid by parents would be between \$250 and \$300.

Turning to this issue of the *Forum*, we have a fascinating discussion of the development of social science institutes and scholars in Latin America. In the time span of roughly a quarter century, since the transitions to



democracy, the social sciences have flourished in Latin America. During the dictatorships, opportunities for social scientists in higher education and research were very restricted, particularly in political science and sociology. Today, scholars at social science institutes in Latin America produce cutting edge research. Within this general trend, there are distinctive national experiences, which are highlighted in the three investigative pieces. Within these national experiences, there are further differences between scholars with different backgrounds and different institutional affiliations. Obviously, the development of the social sciences in Latin America is still in considerable flux, but the contributions to the *Forum* offer us a valuable snapshot of the present.

Our Debates section in this issue focuses on stateness in Latin America. There is no dispute that the state is at the center of the life of a nation, but over the past few decades there has been surprisingly little research done on the state itself in Latin America. Studies have concentrated on society's demands on and reaction to the state, on rules about access to and exercise of state power, and on state policies and their effects, but the nature and capacities of the state apparatus itself have received much less attention. The contributors to the *Forum* throw light on state capacities from different angles, such as state interaction with different kinds of challengers and with citizens demanding assistance, and financial relations between the central state and subnational units. Arguably, the most fundamental aspect of stateness is the capacity to enforce the rule

ON THE PROFESSION

Social Science in Latin America

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of law, to regulate relations both between citizens and the state and among citizens. This capacity is shaped by the strength of challengers in various forms, from organized crime to regional autonomy movements. Another fundamental aspect of stateness is the capacity to provide social services, from health and education to sanitation. These services are typically provided by subnational political entities, which means that overall state capacity is heavily influenced by the fiscal arrangements that provide resources to these subnational entities. State capacity to guarantee the rule of law and provide social services, of course, is central for the capacity of a society and economy to provide citizens with the chance to build the type of life that citizens choose. ■

The three contributions to *On the Profession* analyze different aspects of the political economy of knowledge production in Latin America. Jointly, the three pieces provide a nice overview of how the interaction between local academic structures, funding opportunities, and training options shape different patterns of social science knowledge production in the region.

In the piece by Chernya, Sierra, and Snyder, the authors analyze the ways in which the interaction between national and international funding structures affects the nature and scope of social science research in Peru, Argentina, and Mexico. Malamud and Freidenberg's article looks at the Southern Cone (i.e., Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay) to unveil the different career paths of those who pursue Ph.D programs abroad. They find that while Brazilians usually return to their home country, Argentineans and Uruguayans usually do not. These patterns, they argue, could be explained by the incentives that the academic market provides in each case. David Altman's contribution completes the overview, analyzing the (ISI) productivity of twenty-one political science and international relations departments in the region. This last piece also depicts the varying nature of political science departments in the region. ■

Globalization, Money and the Social Science Profession in Latin America

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Across Latin America we observe striking cross-national variation in how the social sciences are organized and funded (Bautista, et al., 2010; and Bay, Perla and Snyder, 2010). In Argentina, for example, public sector funding for research in anthropology, economics, history, political science and sociology plays a leading role, whereas in Peru public sector support is minimal and most funding comes instead from foreign sources. In Colombia we see a third pattern, with funding from both the domestic private and public sectors playing large roles. Does this variation in funding and institutional support affect the content of research? Do resource constraints produce dependence on funding organizations, and do sponsors have the power to influence the intellectual agenda? To address questions such as these, we draw on the results of a new survey of social scientists in Argentina, Colombia and Peru.¹ The analysis focuses on two crucial aspects of knowledge production: (1) international ties connecting scholars in Latin America to the global research community, and (2) how access to funding, both domestic and foreign, shapes research questions and agendas.

Globalization and the Social Science Profession

How globalized is the social science profession in Latin America? Do Latin American social scientists have strong ties to peers in other countries? Does their research encompass countries other than their own and reach an international audience? To measure the degree of globalization, we focus on five indicators: foreign training; research on foreign countries; membership in international associations; and research published in a foreign language (that is, not Spanish). Because we expect foreign

training to have a strong impact on the other four indicators of globalization, we carry out a statistical analysis of the relationship between location of training and these indicators.

We find a substantial difference in the proportion of scholars with foreign training in Argentina, on one hand, and Colombia and Peru, on the other. Nearly two thirds of respondents in Colombia (64 percent) and Peru (61 percent) earned their highest degree abroad, whereas only one third in Argentina (33 percent) are foreign trained. As seen in Table 1, foreign-trained scholars are more likely to receive foreign funding, study countries other than their own, belong to an international association and publish in a foreign language.²

Regarding *access to foreign funding*, respondents trained abroad are more likely to receive such funding. In Colombia and Peru, foreign-trained scholars are far more likely to get foreign funding than foreign-trained scholars in Argentina. This difference likely reflects the greater availability of domestic funding, especially from the public sector, for social science

research in Argentina (Bautista et al., 2010).

Location of training also affects the *scope of research*: foreign-trained scholars are more likely to study foreign countries. Still, many domestically-trained respondents also report doing research on other countries. A surprisingly large share of respondents—55 percent of Argentines, 59 percent of Colombians and 67 percent of Peruvians—have done research on foreign countries.

A substantial portion of respondents in all three countries belong to *international professional associations* (72 percent of Argentines, 51 percent of Colombians and 40 percent of Peruvians). Although foreign-trained scholars are more likely to belong to an international association, this relationship is statistically significant only in Colombia. Moreover, the proportion of *domestically-trained* scholars who belong to an international association is far higher in Argentina (69.7 percent) than in Colombia (30.0 percent) and Peru (28.6 percent).

Table 1: The Globalization of the Social Science Profession in Argentina, Colombia, and Peru

	Argentina		Colombia		Peru	
	Foreign Trained	Domestic Trained	Foreign Trained	Domestic Trained	Foreign Trained	Domestic Trained
Receive Foreign Funding	40.5% é	26.8%	60.4%	44.4%	58.1% é	25.0%
Study Countries other than Own	63.4% ^	50.6%	68.9% é	42.3%	74.2%	52.9%
Belong to an International Association	76.5%	69.7%	62.9% é	30.0%	44.4%	28.6%
Publish in Language Other than Spanish*	87.2% é	73.5%	77.8% é	31.8%		
Obtained PhD	90.5%	87.5%	70.8% é	7.4%	64.5% é	10.0%

Notes:

é/é: Statistically significantly higher/lower than "Domestic Trained" at the 95% confidence level, using an independent proportions test.

^/V: Statistically significantly higher/lower than "Domestic Trained" at the 90% confidence level, using an independent proportions test.

*: Question not asked for Peru.

The location of training also has an effect on the likelihood of publishing in a language other than Spanish. This, in turn, influences the potential international impact of research, because work published in a foreign language may reach a wider audience. Foreign-trained respondents in Argentina and Colombia, the two countries where the survey included a question about publishing in a foreign language, are more likely to publish in other languages. Interestingly, nearly three quarters (73.5 percent) of domestically-trained Argentines have published in a foreign language, compared to less than one third (31.8 percent) of domestically-trained Colombians.

Finally, we consider the relationship between foreign training and the highest degree earned. In Colombia and Peru, foreign-trained respondents are far more likely to hold a Ph.D. By contrast, in Argentina foreign and domestically-trained respondents hold Ph.Ds in nearly equal proportions. This difference likely reflects the greater capacity of Argentina's "state-

sponsored" model of social science to train researchers domestically, as seen in the higher number of doctoral programs, especially in public universities, and government-funded fellowships for domestic graduate studies.³

The large number of Argentines with domestic Ph.Ds provides an opportunity to compare their characteristics to those of their foreign-trained peers. Foreign degree holders are significantly more likely to receive foreign funding: although less than half of all Argentine respondents received foreign funding, this proportion is even lower for domestically-trained Ph.Ds (28 percent). Foreign-trained scholars are also significantly more likely to study foreign countries and publish in a foreign language. Still, a majority (52 percent) of domestically-trained respondents in Argentina also study foreign countries and publish in a foreign language (75 percent). If studying foreign countries and publishing in foreign languages are attributes of a "globalized" intellectual profile, then the Argentine case shows that foreign-training

is not a necessary condition for acquiring this profile, although it does increase the likelihood of doing so.⁴

Money and Social Science: The Political Economy of Research

Research requires money. Without funding either directly to scholars or to institutions that pay their salaries, research is not possible. Disseminating the results of research through publications, especially books, also requires financial support. Yet reliance on funding raises questions about academic autonomy and even integrity. The potential for extra-university funding to undercut the autonomy of research is exacerbated in low and middle-income countries, where limited resources and low salaries may increase the vulnerability of researchers to the agendas of moneyed interests outside the academy. Moreover, because much funding for scientific research in such countries comes from abroad, the dearth of domestic resources raises thorny issues of national sovereignty.

Table 2: The Impact of Funding on the Research Agenda

	Interest ¹			Autonomy ²			Adaptation ³		
	Argentina	Colombia	Peru	Argentina	Colombia	Peru	Argentina	Colombia	Peru
Always	0.8%	2.7%	2.1%	42.6%	25.7%	13.0%	4.1%	1.4%	4.1%
Almost Always	0.8%	4.1%	4.2%	44.6%	40.5%	50.0%	10.7%	24.7%	16.3%
Sometimes	10.9%	20.3%	10.4%	8.3%	25.7%	23.9%	24.8%	31.5%	32.7%
Almost Never	27.6%	33.8%	47.9%	2.9%	4.1%	6.5%	31.0%	19.2%	22.4%
Never	59.8%	39.2%	35.4%	1.7%	4.1%	6.5%	29.3%	23.3%	24.5%

Notes:

1 "Respecto a la siguiente afirmación, señale la opción que más se acerque a su realidad: 'Trabajo en proyectos de investigación que no son de mi total interés, pero que tienen financiamiento disponible.'"

2 "Respecto a la siguiente afirmación, señale la opción que más se acerque a su realidad: 'Elijo mis propios proyectos de investigación y luego encuentro financiamiento para el proyecto que he definido'"

3 "Respecto a la siguiente afirmación, señale la opción que más se acerque a su realidad: 'Adapto mis proyectos de investigación para aumentar mis oportunidades de conseguir financiamiento para mi trabajo.'"

To explore the impact of funding on the social sciences in Argentina, Colombia and Peru, we asked respondents about three facets of the research process: 1) whether the availability of funding influences their selection of research projects (see the variables *interest* and *autonomy* in Table 2); 2) whether, after choosing a research project, they modify it to increase their chances of getting funding (see the variable *adaptation* in Table 2); and 3) whether funding agencies actively try to influence research (see the variables *suggestions* and *conditionality* in Table 3).

The survey results show that most researchers do not regard issues of funding as having a strong impact on selection of research projects. In all three countries, most respondents report that they “almost never” or “never” work on projects they are not interested in just because funding is available. Moreover, the majority of respondents say they “always” or “almost always” choose their own research project and then seek funding for it. The perception of autonomy is strongest among the Argentines, with 87.2 percent saying they “always” or “almost always” choose their own projects, whereas only two-thirds of Colombians (66.2 percent) and Peruvians (63 percent) hold this view. By contrast, across all three countries a striking proportion of respondents (40 percent in Argentina, 58 percent in Colombia, and 53 percent in Peru) reply that they at least sometimes *adapt* their research projects to increase funding opportunities.

How can we reconcile the fact that most researchers say they *choose* their projects autonomously and then seek out funding, yet most also report that they *adapt* their projects to get funding? Across the three countries, among those who report “always” or “almost always” choosing

their own project and then seeking funding, 25 percent and 50 percent respectively also acknowledge that at least sometimes they adapt their projects to increase funding opportunities. This suggests many researchers follow a two-step process: first, they autonomously define a project and then they adjust it to align with the interests of funders.

Do funding organizations actively try to shape research? As seen in Table 3, the findings are ambiguous. Most respondents—70.6 percent in Argentina, 59 percent in Colombia, and 62.8 percent in Peru—report “almost never” or “never” getting any comments or suggestions from funding organizations on successful applications. By this measure, funding organizations seem to adopt a *laissez-faire* posture much of the time. Still, more than half of respondents in Colombia (63 percent) and Peru (52.4 percent) report that the resources they get are *conditioned* at least sometimes. By contrast, 61.9 percent of Argentine respondents say conditions are “almost never” or “never” attached to funding.

Together, the results suggest that scholars in Colombia, Peru and especially Argentina see themselves as autonomous in defining their research agendas. Yet they also recognize their autonomy is limited by the exigencies of getting funding and by the agendas of funding organizations.

Toward a Stronger Social Science of the Social Sciences in Latin America

Research on the social science profession in Latin America consists mostly of impressionistic studies that offer sweeping generalizations about the region as a whole, or, alternatively, focus narrowly on a single country. By generating and analyzing systematic cross-national survey and bibliometric data about the profession we aim to set the study of knowledge production in Latin America on a stronger empirical and comparative foundation.⁵ This, in turn, will help better test claims about the impact of globalization, foreign training, and foreign funding, such as those made by scholars of “academic dependency” (for example, Alatas and

Table 3: The Influence of Funding Organizations on Research

	Suggestions* ¹			Conditionality ²		
	Argentina	Colombia	Peru	Argentina	Colombia	Peru
Always	7.3%	13.1%	16.3%	11.6%	15.4%	16.7%
Almost Always				14.4%	13.8%	21.4%
Sometimes	22.0%	27.9%	20.9%	12.1%	33.8%	14.3%
Almost Never	38.7%	26.2%	39.5%	17.7%	20.0%	26.2%
Never	31.9%	32.8%	23.3%	44.2%	16.9%	21.4%

Notes:

* The responses for this question are “A Lot”, “Regularly”, “Rarely”, and “Never”.

¹ “¿Con qué frecuencia recibe comentarios o sugerencias a su solicitud de financiamiento de las fundaciones de las cuales recibe el financiamiento?”

² “Respecto a la siguiente afirmación, señale la opción que más se acerque a su realidad: ‘Las fundaciones de las cuales recibo financiamiento condicionan los recursos que recibo’”

Sinha-Kerkoff 2010). We find partial evidence at best of academic dependency: most scholars do not see themselves as dependent on either foreign or domestic funding in choosing their research topics, although many do feel pressure to adapt their projects to appeal to funders and view these organizations as attaching conditions to their support. Moreover, perceptions of dependency vary strikingly across countries, with Argentines consistently reporting far more freedom to pursue autonomous research agendas than their Colombian and Peruvian peers. To explain intriguing cross-national differences such as these, our ongoing work on the political economy of knowledge production focuses on variation in how the social sciences are organized and funded: robust public sector support for research, as in Argentina, may attenuate perceptions of academic dependency.

[Lachen Chernbya and Jazmin Sierra are Ph.D students in the Department of Political Science at Brown University. Richard Snyder is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Brown University. We thank Angelica Duran-Martinez and Hillel Soifer for helpful comments on this material.]

Endnotes

¹ The survey data are drawn from the Snyder Data Set on Social Science Research in Latin America and include 380 respondents, mostly with degrees in anthropology, economics, history, political science, and sociology, although some respondents hold degrees in other disciplines, including law, philosophy, education, linguistics and cultural studies. In Argentina, the questionnaire was distributed electronically across the country in August 2008 via a list-serve of the *Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas* (CONICET) consisting of approximately 1200 researchers. Two-hundred fifty-three completed surveys were received, for a response rate of about 22 percent. In Colombia, the questionnaire was distributed

in July 2008 to social scientists affiliated with the following leading universities in Bogota: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana; Universidad Externado de Colombia; Universidad Nacional de Colombia; Universidad de Los Andes; Universidad del Rosario. Seventy-five completed surveys were received. In Peru, questionnaires were distributed in July 2007 to all the approximately 200 social scientists affiliated with five leading universities and think tanks in Lima: Centro de Estudios de Promoción y Desarrollo (DESCO); Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP); Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP); Universidad del Pacífico; and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM). Fifty-two completed surveys were received, for a response rate of approximately 26 percent. The Snyder Data Set also includes bibliometric data on 23 variables for 740 social science books published between 2000-2008 in Latin America.

- ² Location of training may also have an impact on the productivity of scholars. See Altman (2012).
- ³ On how Argentina's "state-sponsored" model of social science differs from Colombia's "mixed economy" and Peru's "foreign-sponsored" models, see Bautista, et al. (2010).
- ⁴ Malamud and Freidenberg (2012) suggest that domestically-trained Ph.Ds from Argentina may also be exposed to the global research community through their ties with Argentine colleagues based abroad.
- ⁵ See Bautista, et al., 2010; and Bay, Perla and Snyder, 2010 for analyses of bibliometric data.

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La diáspora politológica: Patrones imprevistos de emigración y retorno en el Cono Sur¹

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El 8 de agosto de 2008, en Costa Rica, la Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política (ALACIP) renovó su Consejo Ejecutivo. Entre 24 miembros se eligieron cinco argentinos, tres brasileños y dos uruguayos. Mientras cuatro de los argentinos y un uruguayo residían en el exterior, todos los brasileños habitaban en su país de origen. Algo similar había acontecido en Hamburgo en mayo del mismo año, durante el lanzamiento del *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (JPLA): los cinco participantes argentinos estaban radicados en el exterior, al igual que el único uruguayo, mientras que los dos brasileños vivían en Brasil.

Decidimos profundizar y descubrimos que estos hechos constituyen un patrón: sea en puestos universitarios, cantidad de publicaciones, asistencia a congresos o participación en asociaciones profesionales, los politólogos argentinos residentes en el exterior sobrepasan con creces a los brasileños, que exhiben números cercanos a los uruguayos. El resultado es inesperado si se considera la demografía, el tamaño de las comunidades académicas y las tasas generales de emigración de los tres países. Por eso quisimos conocer la magnitud del fenómeno, sus causas y sus consecuencias.

Circunscribimos el universo de investigación a los politólogos con doctorado que, independientemente de su nacionalidad, cursaron alguna etapa de sus estudios en universidades del Cono Sur y hoy tienen una posición permanente o semipermanente en otro país. Nuestro objetivo fue analizar la emigración académica como opción laboral y no como exilio: por eso, fijamos 1960 como año de nacimiento a partir del cual un individuo podía ser incluido en el análisis.

La Tabla 1 presenta características generales de los países analizados (Chile y

Paraguay fueron excluidos porque su diáspora es minúscula). El objetivo es mostrar que los números brasileños son superiores a los argentinos en varias categorías significativas como demografía, producción científica y emigración calificada... excepto de politólogos, en que el *ratio* se invierte drásticamente.

Demográficamente, Brasil es 53 veces más grande que Uruguay—y Argentina lo es 11 veces. Por ende, Brasil supera a Argentina por cinco a uno. En lo que hace a producción científica, contabilizando las publicaciones en revistas indexadas en Thomson Reuters (ex ISI), Brasil supera a Uruguay por entre 17 y 44 veces y a Argentina por entre 1,2 y 3. Si se considera a los estudiantes inscriptos en universidades

de países de la OCDE, los brasileños duplican a los argentinos en cualquier año de la última década. En relación con los expatriados que residen en dichos países, Brasil sextuplica a Uruguay y supera a Argentina, aunque con registros más cercanos cuando se trata de emigrados calificados.

En síntesis, hay variación entre categorías pero el patrón es inmutable: los brasileños siempre superan a los uruguayos y a los argentinos, en el primer caso por mucho y en el segundo por menos. Sin embargo, esta proporción se invierte en el área profesional de la Ciencia Política: los politólogos argentinos expatriados sobrepasan seis veces a los brasileños, cuyos menguados números son similares a

Tabla 1: Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay – Politólogos emigrados revierten el ratio de población, publicaciones, expatriados y estudiantes en el exterior

	Argentina	Brasil	Uruguay
1 Población 2005 (millones)	38,4 (11,6)	176,6 (53,5)	3,3 (1)
2 Publicaciones ISI: ciencia política y relaciones internacionales, 1975-2005	96 (9,6)	172 (17,2)	10 (1)
3 Publicaciones ISI: SSCI (ciencias sociales), 1975-2005	2.977 (13,5)	9.728 (44,2)	220 (1)
4 Publicaciones ISI: SCI (ciencias), 1975-2005	88.942 (17,2)	106.710 (20,6)	5.163 (1)
5 Expatriados totales en países OCDE, 2000	266.070 (3,8)	351.878 (6,7)	70.093 (1)
6 Expatriados calificados en países OCDE, 2000	104.631 (5,0)	140.358 (6,7)	20.866 (1)
7 Estudiantes en universidades de países de la OCDE, 2004	9.562	19.023	ND
8 Politólogos identificados, agosto 2012	59 (7,4)	10 (1,2)	8 (1)

Nota: entre paréntesis figura el ratio de cada categoría, considerando a Uruguay con base 1 para facilitar la comparación.

Fuentes: las líneas 1 a 4 se basan en Altman (2006), la 5 y 6 en Albornoz, Luchilo y Flores (2007) y la 7 en Luchilo (2010a); la 8 es de elaboración propia. Se mantienen las fechas y datos de las publicaciones originales por razones de consistencia.

los uruguayos. ¿Qué características tiene esta reversión de tendencia?

Fuentes: las líneas 1 a 4 se basan en Altman (2006), la 5 y 6 en Albornoz, Luchilo y Flores (2007) y la 7 en Luchilo (2010a); la 8 es de elaboración propia. Se mantienen las fechas y datos de las publicaciones originales por razones de consistencia.

¿De dónde vienen y dónde están?

Mediante contactos personales, consultas en red y búsqueda por Internet, construimos una base de datos con 78 politólogos que reúnen las características mencionadas. Entre ellos hay 59 argentinos, 10 brasileños, 8 uruguayos y un chileno. Los argentinos están distribuidos equilibradamente entre América de Norte, Europa y América Latina, principalmente México. Los brasileños se concentran en América del Norte, y casi todos los uruguayos residen en América Latina pero, a diferencia de los argentinos, se aglutinan en el Cono Sur

Las trayectorias formativas reconocen una gran variedad a nivel de doctorado. Las licenciaturas, sin embargo, se concentran en dos grandes universidades: la de Buenos Aires para los argentinos (30 sobre 59, con la del Salvador en segundo lugar con 10) y la de la República para los uruguayos (todos). Los brasileños exhiben una mayor diversidad con ligero predominio de la Universidad de Brasilia, aunque existe una institución de convergencia posterior: el Instituto Universitario de Investigaciones de Río de Janeiro (IUPERJ, actual IESP-UERJ), donde varios realizaron una maestría antes de iniciar el doctorado en el exterior.

El destino preferido para cursar el doctorado fue Estados Unidos: la mitad de los uruguayos y argentinos y dos tercios de

los brasileños eligieron ese destino. A distancia aparece el Reino Unido (sólo para argentinos), luego México y a continuación España y Brasil, opciones estas últimas elegidas por argentinos y uruguayos.

El impacto profesional de la diáspora es alto y se infiere del prestigio de las universidades en que se inserta, que incluyen *Ivy Leagues* como Columbia, Pennsylvania y Princeton. A nivel de publicaciones, en abril de 2012, había diez politólogos argentinos y dos brasileños residentes en el exterior con más de 500 citas en *Google Scholar*: se confirma así que la diáspora lusófona tiene un impacto mucho menor en términos absolutos. Para verificar el desempeño de las diásporas respecto de sus comunidades nativas, rastreamos a los politólogos más

destacados de la misma franja etaria que residen en sus países de origen y contabilizamos las citas. El ejercicio mostró que sólo dos argentinos residentes superan las 500 menciones, mientras que cinco brasileños y un uruguayo lo hacen. Esto significa que la mayor producción politológica brasileña es generada por residentes, mientras que la argentina se origina afuera. El caso uruguayo es ambiguo: hay varios residentes que superan las 300 citas, lo que sugiere que la producción doméstica no es inferior a la de la diáspora.

Nuestro análisis se confirmó cuando relevamos las publicaciones indexadas en el *Social Sciences Citation Index* (SSCI – ex ISI): de los 78 casos de la base de datos, cuatro argentinos, un brasileño y un

Tabla 2: Politólogos del Cono Sur (nacidos a partir de 1960) con contratos en el exterior, por país de origen y destino

Residente en	Argentina	Brasil	Uruguay	Chile	TOTAL
Estados Unidos	21	8	-	-	29
Canadá	2	1	-	-	3
América del Norte	23	9	0	0	32
Reino Unido	7	-	-	1	8
España	7	-	-	-	7
Alemania	1	1	-	-	2
Italia	-	-	1	-	1
Portugal	1	-	-	-	1
Suiza	1	-	-	-	1
Europa	17	1	1	1	20
México	11	-	1	-	12
Brasil	4	X	2	-	6
Chile	3	-	2	X	5
Argentina	X	-	2	-	2
Colombia	1	-	-	-	1
América Latina	19	0	7	0	26
TOTAL	59	10	8	1	78

Fuente: Elaboración propia.

uruguayo aparecían con 10 entradas o más, manteniendo así el inesperado *ratio* descubierto por esta investigación.²

¿Por qué no vuelven... y por qué no es grave?

Con sólo dos excepciones, los politólogos emigrantes se doctoraron afuera. Para los profesionales argentinos, a diferencia de los brasileños, los estudios de doctorado en el exterior funcionan como “precursores de la emigración” (Luchilo 2010b: 24).

Sólo el 20 por ciento de los que respondieron a nuestro cuestionario declaró que nunca pretendió regresar a su país. Como nos concentramos sobre los que no volvieron, quedan en la sombra los trayectos y razones de aquéllos que lo hicieron: y, según muestran Chernyha, Sierra y Snyder (2012, en este volumen), la formación de los retornados en el extranjero tiene un impacto positivo sobre otros indicadores de globalización académica como la participación en redes internacionales, el desarrollo de investigación sobre otros países, la participación en asociaciones internacionales y la publicación en idiomas extranjeros. Por eso, dejamos constancia de lo que no afirmamos: que la mayoría de los politólogos brasileños que se doctora en el extranjero regresa a su país mientras la mayoría de los argentinos permanece en el exterior. Al contrario, los datos disponibles indican que la mayoría de los argentinos retorna al concluir el doctorado. Lo notable es la cantidad de los que no lo hacen, en contraste con el pequeño número de brasileños que toma la misma decisión. Los uruguayos exhiben cifras absolutas similares a los brasileños pero su diáspora relativa, tanto en proporción a la población como a la comunidad académica nacional, es incluso mayor que la argentina.

Un elemento diferenciador es el financiamiento público del doctorado, porque genera compromisos legales o morales que promueven el retorno –y está más institucionalizado en el caso brasileño. Argentinos y uruguayos han sido financiados mayoritariamente en los lugares de destino, y como la necesidad aguza el ingenio, han aprendido dónde y cómo procurar financiamiento después del doctorado.

Contra el saber convencional, las consecuencias negativas de la emigración profesional pueden ser compensadas por lo que ha dado en llamarse “recuperación de capacidades” o *brain gain*, por contraposición con la más conocida “fuga de cerebros” o *brain drain*. Las cadenas migratorias abiertas y la constitución de redes entre los científicos que emigran y los que permanecen o retornan favorecen la circulación de información, la transferencia de habilidades y el acceso al financiamiento (Solimano 2008). Las coautorías multinacionales y las candidaturas internacionales son casos en que la “opción diáspora” puede ser tan fructífera para el país de origen como la “opción retorno”. Esto es visible en el caso argentino: el tamaño e impacto de su diáspora le otorgan mayor visibilidad a su Ciencia Política, sea por la capacidad para influenciar las agendas de investigación o por la presencia en instituciones y eventos internacionales. Es cierto que esta tendencia es de larga data: no por nada el único latinoamericano incluido en el libro que Munck y Snyder (2007) realizaron sobre los pioneros “norteamericanos” en política comparada fue un argentino, Guillermo O’Donnell.

La ausencia de políticas consistentes para repatriar profesionales deja en pie dos mecanismos que alientan el regreso o potencian los beneficios de la diáspora: el

mercado de trabajo y los lazos familiares y comunitarios (Kuptsch y Pang 2006). En el caso de Brasil, los tres “motores” funcionan relativamente bien; en Argentina, las políticas son débiles y el mercado de trabajo reducido, aunque está en expansión. En Uruguay, a la inexistencia de políticas se le suma un mercado de trabajo de alta calidad académica pero pequeño y saturado, lo que resalta la potencia del tercer motor: la mayoría de los orientales emigrados quiere retornar, y la manifestación evidente es que todos se integraron laboralmente lo más cerca posible de su país nativo. La tierra tira, y estos factores intangibles ayudan a entender el trayecto e impacto de las diásporas en sus sociedades de origen y de destino.

Notas

- ¹ La investigación que anticipa este resumen será publicada próximamente en *Latin American Politics and Society (LAPS)*.
- ² Se utiliza este indicador como *proxy* en el mismo sentido que Altman (2012, en este volumen), a pesar de las limitaciones que presenta debido a su sesgo lingüístico y a la sobrerepresentación de publicaciones anglosajonas.

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Productividad en la Web of Knowledge de la Ciencia Política en América Latina¹

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Durante largos meses de este año 2012 una espada de Damocles pendió sobre el financiamiento de los proyectos de investigación en ciencia política de la *National Science Foundation* (NSF) a partir de un intento de enmienda de ley en Estados Unidos promovido por el Senador Tom Coburn (R-OK). Si bien por el momento se ha esquivado el peligro, no deja de llamar la atención cómo otros desde fuera de la disciplina miran lo que hacemos y cómo lo hacemos. Se explica así como un examen justo sobre nuestros programas e investigaciones trasciende la simple curiosidad académica de saber cómo estamos, qué producimos y qué estándares de calidad manejamos.

Posiblemente parte del futuro de esta área del conocimiento dependa evaluar aquellas diferencias que trascienden el estudio de la producción científica *per se* y tocan aspectos íntimamente relacionados como el financiamiento de proyectos de investigación o la distribución geográfica de nuestras diásporas científicas.²

Este trabajo pretende contribuir a esta tarea ofreciendo un primer corte de departamentos de ciencia política (y relaciones internacionales) en la región. Entiendo a los departamentos académicos como grupos de individuos que trabajan juntos dentro de los límites de una disciplina con objetivos comunes. Sin embargo, cada miembro tiene un "portafolio" (que incluye, pero no se limita a desempeño y experiencia docente, prestigio, artículos, libros, etc.) que viaja con esa persona de un lugar a otro. Medir el valor de este portafolio es un esfuerzo controversial ya que cada uno le atribuye diferentes pesos relativos a los componentes de estos portafolios e inclusive podemos discutir sobre los componentes necesarios. Este documento no evalúa el peso relativo de los portafolios

individuales que componen un departamento, sino que se limita a la sumatoria de portafolios de investigación todos los miembros de un departamento.

En los EE.UU. y en Europa la ponderación de los departamentos de ciencia política en general ha sido a través de evaluaciones de pares; siendo este un sistema que evidentemente genera suspicacias ya que es fácilmente permeable a la subjetividad. Consecuentemente uno de los debates en esta tarea de comparar departamentos radica en encontrar medidas "objetivas" y/o consensuadas. El problema es que la lista de criterios es casi infinita: el número de profesores de tiempo completo, la formación de los mismos, la cantidad y calidad de sus publicaciones arbitradas, libros disponibles en la biblioteca, computadoras por estudiantes, etc.

Este trabajo ha reunido datos sobre la productividad de los académicos, pero ha dejado de lado criterios ciertamente cruciales en la evaluación de un departamento, incluyendo el éxito en la consecución de fondos competitivos de investigación, o el éxito de los estudiantes en el mercado laboral, entre otros. Lamentablemente, un estudio completo de estos criterios va más allá del alcance de este documento.

En esta breve contribución me baso en la Web of Knowledge (WoK) como proxy para la evaluación de producción científica a través de publicaciones. Aunque esta base de datos tiene un sesgo de selección, ya que las revistas de Estados Unidos y el Reino Unido están sobre-representadas, y un sesgo lingüístico evidente, asumo que estos sesgos afectan de forma más o menos igual a todos los latinoamericanos. Soy, asimismo, plenamente consciente que diferentes tradiciones en la producción científica coexisten en nuestros

departamentos de ciencia política. Consecuentemente, he testeado con una muestra de observaciones la relación entre Google Scholar y WoK y existe una relación positiva y significativa entre las entradas de una persona ($R\ 0,55$, sig. $0,000$). Si bien no es un criterio perfecto (ningún criterio lo es), las entradas al WoK funcionan razonablemente como proxy de la producción en general.

La Tabla 1 muestra información de 21 departamentos de ciencia política y relaciones internacionales de la región. La tabla resume la situación de cada uno de estos departamentos a mediados de 2008 tomando en cuenta la sumatoria de la producción de cada uno de los profesores de planta que cada departamento declaró como suyo en esa oportunidad. Es importante notar que toda esta información es por su propia naturaleza fluida, particularmente en relación a aquellas instituciones que han tenido fuertes recambios en sus plantas académicas (por ejemplo: retiro de sus mayores y contratación de jóvenes colegas).

Con el fin de rescatar tendencias en el peso de la producción científica (entendida muy *simplemente* como entradas a la *WoK*) elegí disminuir suavemente el peso de las publicaciones a medida que la fecha de publicación se aleja del presente. Así, si un documento publicado en los últimos 2 años desde la fecha de corte (2008 o 2007), recibe el valor de 1, y luego cada año que se mueve hacia atrás pierde el 10 por ciento del valor total. Por ejemplo, un artículo publicado en 2005, recibe un valor de 0,8. Este ejercicio se realiza para cada persona incluida en la base de datos (más de 300). Para calcular el impacto de cada publicación, el procedimiento es el mismo que el anterior, excluyendo las auto-citas. Cada entrada al WoK así como cada cita recibida por un trabajo se reparte entre los

autores del mismo (por un artículo de dos autores, cada uno recibe .5 puntos, por uno de tres, .34 puntos y así sucesivamente).

Mientras que los datos son reveladores en si mismos, poco se sabe aun sobre qué es lo que determina las diferencias entre las unidades y cómo interpretarlas. Razonablemente uno podría pensar que existe un conjunto de características personales que tienen un efecto directo sobre la producción de un individuo y el impacto científico de su investigación (por ejemplo, el tipo de educación y grado académico que posea). Pero no creo que se limite a esto ya que hay dos variables críticas de carácter institucional que creo que probablemente tengan un impacto tremendo en la productividad. La primera atañe a las normas de para avanzar la carrera académica, la segunda se relaciona con incentivos impartidos por las universidades a través de subvenciones para las publicaciones (bonos).

Respecto a la carrera académica cabe destacar que solo unos pocos departamentos emplean reglas claras para la promoción académica, en otros departamentos estas reglas son sólo informales y en otros aun coexisten diversas lógicas informales que pueden chocar entre ellas. Relacionado con lo anterior, pero de alguna manera independiente, es el hecho de que un número no menor de escuelas y/o universidades emplean una política proactiva de subsidios a las publicaciones. Cualquiera que sea la posición de uno tenga sobre el tema, es muy poco probable que esta política sea neutral en su impacto sobre la investigación.

La naturaleza de los programas cursados ejerce una presión importante en la lógica de producción científica ya que mientras que los programas europeos tienden a

preparar los estudiantes para la consecución de una *gran* investigación, los programas en USA tienden a tener una mayor carga lectiva y consecuentemente le ayudan a generar al estudiante una batería enorme de mini trabajos de investigación tipo papers, más allá de la propia tesis de doctorado. Muchos de estos papers tienden a convertirse en artículos en un futuro.

Luego incorporé el año de graduación y su término al cuadrado ya que se podría pensar que las personas tienden a producir mucho durante los primeros años después de obtener el doctorado, pero este ritmo pronto comienza a disiparse con el tiempo (una forma de U invertida). Además, controlo por sub-áreas de la disciplina (comparada, teoría e IR). Soy consciente de que esta división es artificial y cruda, ya que hay zonas borrosas de la investigación.

También he incluido una variable llamada endogamia, que indica si la persona considerada se graduó del postgrado en el departamento donde él o ella trabaja en la actualidad. Con respecto a esta variable, espero que los departamentos seleccionen lo mejor de su grupo de alumnos, por lo tanto, debe existir una relación significativa y positiva con la producción y el impacto. Por último, he incluido la cantidad de tiempo promedio de enseñanza cada uno tiene al año. Por supuesto, esta es una de las más débiles variables en lo que respecta a su medición (dadas las manifiestas diferencias dentro de cualquier departamento).

La Tabla 2 muestra los estudios estadísticos multivariados para testear los predictores de producción e impacto científico usando los miembros de los departamentos como universo de análisis. Los grupos de referencia para estos modelos son aquellos individuos cuyos títulos fueron obtenidos en los Estados Unidos en el sub-campo de

la política comparada. Así, cada categoría debe ser leída en relación con el grupo omitido. Mientras que los modelos 1 y 2 en cuenta el valor bruto de todos los documentos y su impacto, los modelos 3 y 4 estudian los modelos con los pesos ponderados en el tiempo de los artículos y sus citas.

La mayoría de las variables se comportan como se esperaba. La distancia de la graduación y su término cuadrado fueron significativamente diferentes de cero, reforzando la idea de una U invertida en el patrón de producción. Asimismo, el grado académico está positivamente relacionado con la productividad y el impacto (en todos los modelos) y, en general, los académicos

con títulos procedentes de países distintos de los EE.UU. tienden a ser menos productivos que el grupo de referencia. Sólo aquellos que se graduaron de “otros países desarrollados” puede ser considerados tan productivos como los que estudiaron en los Estados Unidos (ya que sus coeficiente no es estadísticamente discernible de cero, aunque este es un

Tabla 1: Departamento de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales ordenados por la superficie científica per cápita ponderada por tiempo (2000-2008)

	Tamaño de la planta docente (Total)	Crudo			Ponderado			Ubicación en el orden ponderado v. La ubicación en el orden crudo
		Total de entradas al Web of Science del departamento en consideración	Total impacto de las publicaciones	Promedio Per Cápita del Área científica [Entradas (total) * Impacto (total)/Tamaño de la planta]	Total de entradas al Web of Science del departamento en consideración	Total impacto de las publicaciones	Promedio Per Cápita del Área científica [Entradas (total) * Impacto (total)/Tamaño de la planta]	
MEX-CIDE (CP)	12	31	117	300.958	19.4	66.4	107.347	=
ARG-UTDT	9	15	49.5	82.5	7.1	23.5	18.539	=
CHI-PUC (CP)	12	18.8	25	39.167	15.8	12.8	16.853	â
MEX-CIDE (IR)	12	12.5	26.5	27.604	8.6	21.4	15.337	â
BRA-IUPERJ	10	18.5	22.5	41.625	9	9.3	8.37	â
BRA-USP	22	13.5	41.2	25.282	9	17.1	6.995	=
MEX-ITAM (CP)	9	11.2	8.5	10.578	8.8	6.9	6.747	â
CHI-UDP (CP)	9	10	12	13.333	7.9	7	6.144	â
COL-Los Andes	18	10.3	12.8	7.324	7	8.1	3.15	=
ARG-San Andrés	7	9	5	6.429	4	2.1	1.2	=
BRA-UFGM	23	6	8.5	2.217	3.5	5.6	0.852	â
ARG-UBA	23	4.4	15.2	2.908	2.5	7.7	0.837	â
BRA-UNICAMP	14	5.5	3.5	1.375	4.3	2.6	0.799	=
MEX-COLMEX	26	10.3	3	1.188	7.3	1.8	0.505	=
BRA-UFRGS	15	5.3	2	0.707	3.7	1.4	0.345	=
MEX-ITAM (IR)	15	1.3	0.3	0.026	0.6	0.2	0.008	â
CHI-U Chile (IEI)	15	1	1	0.067	0.3	0.3	0.006	â
ARG-UnSaM	11	0.5	1	0.045	0.1	0.3	0.003	â
URY-UdelaR	27	3	0	0	3	0	0	=
BRA-PUC-RIO (IR)	11	2	0	0	1.3	0	0	=
CHI-U Chile (CP)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	=
Promedio	14.6	9	16.8	6.3	5.8	9.2	1.9	

Fuente: Altman (2012: 78).

coeficiente fuertemente impulsado por un valor atípico).

Tal vez, uno de los hallazgos más contraintuitivos es el hecho de que el aumento de las cargas de enseñanza se relaciona positivamente con la mayor productividad e impacto. Sin embargo, se requiere precaución en la interpretación de este coeficiente ya que las cargas fueron calculadas en una base departamental y no personal. Algunos departamentos distribuyen las actividades docentes muy inequitativamente y estas diferencias no son capturadas por estos modelos en su etapa actual. Por otra parte, dependiendo de otros recursos (por ejemplo, asistentes de profesores o el número de estudiantes), el peso relativo de la carga horaria puede variar significativamente. Las investigaciones futuras tendrán que ahondar más en este asunto.

No debemos olvidar que este trabajo investiga simplemente la producción científica a través de *un* tipo de publicaciones en el contexto de *una* meta-base de datos determinada, no más que eso. Desde este ángulo, muchísimos aspectos quedan sin estudiar, particularmente aquellos relacionados con los distintos criterios de “éxito” en la producción científica, incluso entre las propias sub-áreas de investigación (política comparada, teoría política, etc.). Desde luego soy consciente de que la puesta en marcha de esta sub-agenda de investigación sobre la investigación en ciencia política deja muchos aspectos sin tocar, y que es sin duda perfectible.

Más allá de la ubicación relativa de uno u otro departamento, creo que lo más importante a rescatar es que inclusive tomando un manajo de criterios razonablemente cuantificables, las diferencias en América Latina son notables.

Tabla 2: Análisis multivariado

	<i>Modelo 1</i>	<i>Modelo 2</i>	<i>Modelo 3</i>	<i>Modelo 4</i>
	Cantidad entradas al WoK	Impacto de las entradas	Cantidad de entradas ponderadas al WoK	Impacto ponderado de las entradas al WoK
Grado Académico (3=PhD, 2=MA, 1=BA/Lic.)	0.681 ***	1.743 *	0.437 ***	0.917 *
	0.227	0.918	0.147	0.472
Grado de Gran Bretaña	-0.567 *	-1.354	-0.345	-0.833
	0.341	1.377	0.221	0.709
Grado de Francia	-0.708 *	-1.471	-0.521 **	-0.829
	0.371	1.5	0.241	0.772
Grado de España	-0.935 *	-1.08	-0.594 *	-0.675
	0.48	1.942	0.311	0.999
Grado de Brasil	-0.888 ***	-1.021	-0.64 ***	-0.62
	0.306	1.237	0.198	0.636
Grado de México	-1.014 **	-1.83	-0.73 **	*-1.018
	0.463	1.873	0.3	0.963
Grado de otros AMLAT	-0.754 *	-0.759	-0.493 *	-0.479
	0.441	1.784	0.286	0.918
Grado de otros "desarrollados"	-0.49	3.569 **	-0.421	1.594 *
	0.412	1.665	0.267	0.856
Distancia desde graduación	0.077 **	0.31 **	0.034	0.15 **
	0.032	0.131	0.021	0.067
Distancia desde graduación 2	-0.002 **	-0.007 **	-0.001	-0.003 **
	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.002
Endogamia	0.708 **	1.587	0.428 **	0.746
	0.335	1.354	0.217	0.696
Relaciones Internacionales	-0.404	-1.532	-0.32 **	-0.758
	0.248	1.003	0.161	0.516
Teoría Política	-0.383	-1.987 **	-0.269 *	-1.014 **
	0.245	0.992	0.159	0.511
Tipo subsidios y carrera	-0.312 ***	-1.196 ***	-0.206 ***	-0.666 ***
	0.081	0.328	0.053	0.169
Carga Docente	0 **	0 **	0 *	0 **
	0	0	0	0
Constante	0.529	1.846	0.537	1.365
	0.815	3.293	0.528	1.694
Observaciones	218	218	218	218
F(15, 202)	3.82	2.69	4.34	2.88
Prob>F	0 ***	0 ***	0 ***	0 ***
R-cuadrado	0.2212	0.1667	0.2435	0.0004
R-cuadrado (ajustado)	0.1634	0.1048	0.1874	0.1151

***p<.005, **p<0.01, *p<0.1

DEBATES

Stateness in Latin America

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Ahora bien, las razones del por qué de estas diferencias van más allá de esta breve colaboración, pero indiscutiblemente ameritan un estudio en profundidad mucho más acabado.

Notas

¹ Esta presentación es una versión notablemente abreviada de “Where is Knowledge Generated? On the Productivity and Impact of Political Science Departments in Latin America” publicado este año en el *European Political Science* 11 (1): 71-87.

² Sobre estos dos puntos véase Chernyha, Sierra y Snyder, y Malamud y Freidenberg en este mismo número de *LASA Forum*. ■

States in Latin America vary widely in terms of their capacity to extend their control over the entire national territory and the societies they rule. Whereas in some countries national rulers are able to control most of the territory, in others the presence of a wide variety of challengers, such as guerrilla insurgents and drug traffickers, or subnational conservative autonomy movements, has seriously limited the capacity of some central state rulers to impose order throughout the territory they govern. States in the region also differ in their capacity to deliver public goods and services, such as the rule of law, education, and health, public infrastructure, among others. Whereas some states effectively provide these goods, others lack the means necessary to do so.

The following contributions to the Debates section of this issue of the *Forum* examine, from a variety of analytical standpoints, the sources of this variation and consider concrete examples in which state capacity has been improved. Marta Arretche’s article focuses on Brazil’s incremental gains in state capacity to improve citizens’ well-being and highlights the role that fiscal transfers have played to reduce economic inequality. The second article, by Daniel Brinks, proposes to study two different dimensions of the rule of law—the vertical, which captures effective application of the rules by the state to its citizens and the horizontal, e.g., the effective compliance with the rules by citizens in their dealings with each other—as well as the direction of duties owed between state and citizens. As Brinks demonstrates, this way of unpacking the rule of law is better suited to capture different challenges to state capacity observed in contemporary Latin America. Using different analytic lenses, the third and fourth pieces explore the limits to state capacity when challengers emerge and contest state authority. Kent Eaton’s piece

focuses on recent conservative autonomy movements in Ecuador and Bolivia that have limited state authorities’ capacity to implement policy in subnational territories. Andreas Feldmann and Juan Pablo Luna’s contribution provides new analytical categories to better systematize, understand, and explain the different state-challengers interactions that can be observed in contemporary Latin America. Finally, in an analysis of state response to three recent natural disasters in Latin America, Soifer advances an explanation for the persistence of state weakness and state strength in Latin America. ■

State Effectiveness in Contemporary Brazil¹

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Brazil is world-renowned for its emerging economy, which successfully reduced social inequality in a stable democratic context. Although poverty and inequality are far from being solved, incremental gains in state capacity to improve citizens' well-being were achieved in the last two decades. Contemporary Brazil is therefore a good case to better understand state capacities in the developing world.

This article examines a critical dimension of state effectiveness, namely the spending capacity of local governments. Primary health care, primary school, urban and housing policies, and garbage collection, among others, are delivered by local governments in Brazil. Hence, both state effectiveness and its territorial reach highly depend on municipal-level capacity to fund the delivery of public services.

Additionally, the capacity to frame and execute policies is critical for state autonomy. If state elites lack economic resources or bureaucratic structures, it could imply a weak state (Migdal, 1988).

It is argued here that the capacity of local governments to provide services in Brazil is strongly dependent on the federal government's role in reducing inequality. The literature on decentralized governance stresses the risks posed by transfers on macroeconomic performance (Rodden, 2002; Wibbels, 2000), the revelation of citizen's policy preferences (Tiebout, 1956), economic growth (Weingast, 1995), and free local-level electoral competition (Weingast, 2009). These are indeed relevant aspects to consider when analyzing the role of upper-level transfers. However, this article suggests that reducing horizontal revenue-inequality is critical for state effectiveness. Transfers, by their turn, can play a crucial role in achieving such a goal.

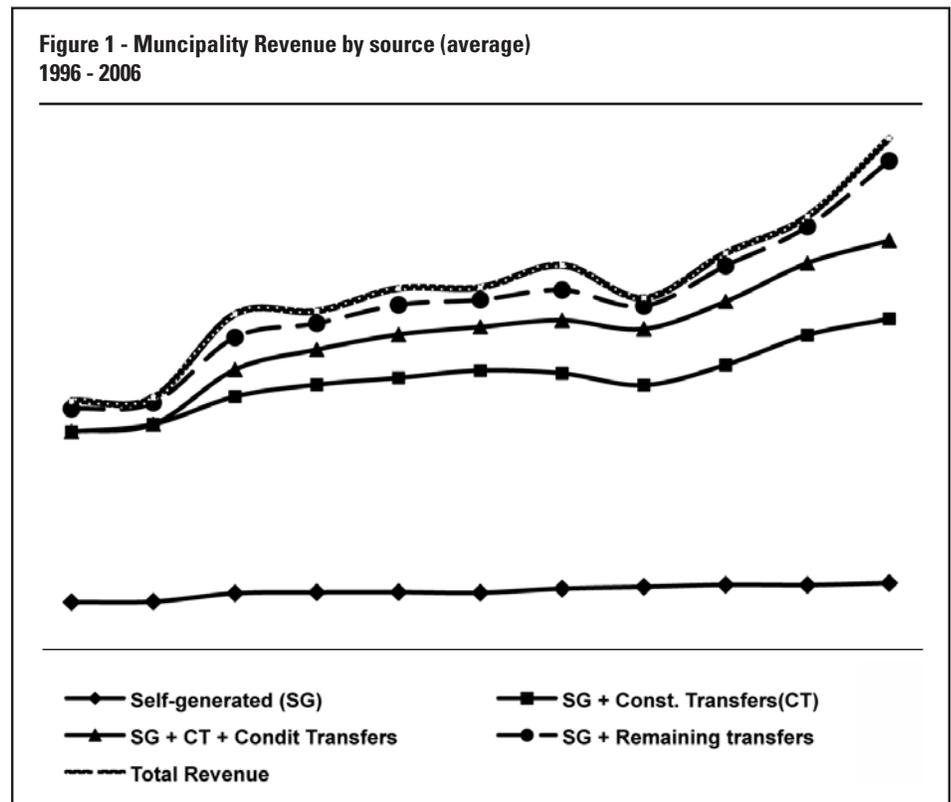
Transfers and horizontal revenue inequality in Brazil

Constitutional transfers are the most important source of municipal revenues in Brazil. The most important of those is composed by 23.5 percent of federal revenues, originating from two taxes: income tax, and the Tax on Industrialized Products. As for its distribution, ten percent is directed to capital cities whereas 90 percent go to the remaining ones. Among these, each individual disbursement is calculated by a formula that is inversely proportional to the population and revenues per capita of each respective state (Afonso and Araújo, 2006).

At the state level, constitutionally mandated transfers operate as tax rebates. States are required to award their municipalities 25 percent of the total revenue collected from IVA tax (the ICMS). They must also distribute 50 percent of the Tax on Motor Vehicle Ownership (IPVA) to their municipalities. Among state-level constitutional transfers, seventy-five percent of the distribution must be calculated according to revenues collected in each jurisdiction.

Finally, a third transfer type is conditional transfers, which became universal in the early 1990s. They are compulsorily earmarked to specific policies. In health care, they became universal in 1998 upon

Figure 1 - Municipality Revenue by source (average) 1996 - 2006



the conclusion of the process which linked subnational governments to the Unified Health System. These earmarked transfers cover services ranging from basic health care to hospitalization. All municipalities which fulfill the rules set by the Ministry of Health are entitled to receive them.

As for education, earmarked transfers are universal because all subnational governments are obliged, by the Federal Constitution, to invest 20 percent of their own tax revenues and federal transfers in an audited account, whose redistribution occurs across each state. Revenues are redistributed according to the number of slots offered.

Figure 1 demonstrates the impact of each revenue source on municipal budgets. Surprisingly, if Brazilian municipalities were to rely only upon their self-generated taxes, their average budget would be around R\$ 100 per capita. Therefore, constitutional transfers—federal and state—are paramount for municipal revenues. These amounts increased to close to R\$ 800 per capita in 2006, but as early as 1996 these transfers were by far the main source of municipal revenue. Conditional transfers have had an additional positive impact. They have grown significantly since their introduction in 1998, and elevated average revenues to circa R\$ 1000 by 2006.

Figure 1 shows that the impact of negotiated transfers on municipal revenues is marginal, contradicting a widespread idea that negotiated transfers play a central role in Brazilian politics.

It is evident that a significant proportion of municipal revenues lies outside the realm of political bargaining. Their distribution is constitutionally mandated. Mayors receive upper-level resources regardless of their

political affiliation. Thus, the supply of local public services does not depend on political relations, whether they be partisan or individual.

Figure 2 disaggregates the different revenue streams and presents their respective Gini coefficients, which are calculated for self-generated tax collection itself and each transfer type. Therefore, the indicators measure the impact of each on horizontal revenue inequality in relation to self-generated tax collection.

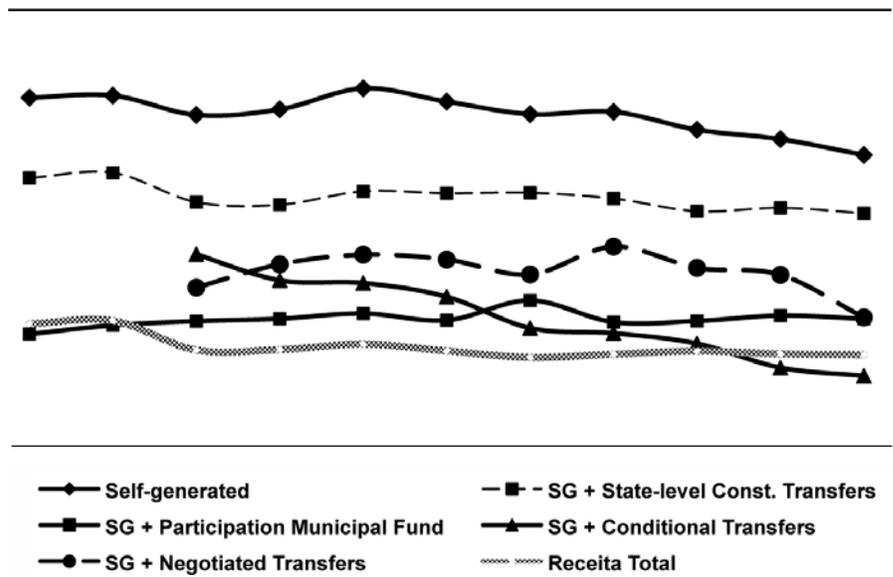
If Brazil’s municipalities were to count only on their own tax collection, their spending capacity would be highly unequal (close to 0.550 in 2006, and, although declining throughout the data series, still showing the highest Gini coefficient values). Furthermore, if Brazil’s municipalities were to count only on state-level transfers, in

addition to their own self-generated tax revenues, horizontal inequality would be slightly lower, since this revenue source reduces the Gini coefficient to approximately 0.450.

Federal transfers reduce, to a great extent, self-generated revenue inequality. Their entry into municipal coffers reduces the Gini coefficient by close to 0.300. That is, if Brazilian municipalities could count only on their own tax revenues and federal constitutional transfers, revenue inequality would be cut by half.

Conditional transfers—intended to give support to the provision of basic health care and fundamental education—were actually implemented in 1998, which explains why they were introduced into the series in this year. Their redistributive impact has been significant. If they were

**Figure 2 - Revenue Inequality by source
Brazilian Municipalities – 1996-2006**



the only transfers municipalities had access to, besides self-generated taxes, their effect on revenue inequality would be similar to federal constitutional transfers. Beginning in 2003, these policies have had a more significant impact than all other revenue sources. In isolation, they are the most redistributive; in 2006, transfers earmarked to health and education reduced the Gini coefficient to 0.220.

Negotiated transfers have had an important effect on reducing revenue inequality too.

In sum, transfers reduce the Gini coefficient to 0.280. Brazil's fiscal rules clearly reduce revenue inequality among municipalities. Whichever federal transfer we take, the data confirms the proposition that the poorest jurisdictions are those that most benefit from upper-level transfers. Moreover, revenue inequality reduction is not associated with political negotiations to form coalitions in support of presidential legislative initiatives. Instead, distributive mechanisms work in highly predictable ways; after all, they are governed by constitutional and infra-constitutional rules.

Therefore, the Brazilian case demonstrates that tax centralization can provide a mechanism to reduce horizontal revenue inequality. In the absence of transfers, the capacity of Brazil's municipalities to provide public services would be highly unequal.

However, transfers are not a sufficient guarantee that local expenditures will be directed to public services. In fact, transfers were adopted together with constitutional rules earmarking subnational revenues to spending on health and education. Hence, far from allowing local governments to freely allocate revenues gleaned from other jurisdictions, the logic of this arrangement

is aimed at binding local governments' spending decisions to health and education. Transfers were accompanied by limiting the authority of local governments, since central legislation constrains how mayors use the revenues they get from other jurisdictions.

Concluding Remarks

The capacity of states to guarantee an equal provision of public goods to all citizens seems to be critical to achieve state effectiveness. However, when public service provision is decentralized and when the jurisdictions are marked by high levels of revenue inequality, equal provision of public goods is endangered. Intergovernmental transfers, as these paper has shown, can play a fundamental role to diminish this unequal provision of public goods and thus to maximize state effectiveness. Instead of empowering backward regional elites, as the literature on fiscal federalism assumes, they can contribute to reduce local inequality, enabling the state to dissociate public service provision from income inequality.

The case of Brazil, long known as a highly unequal country, nicely illustrates how inequality reduction and improvement of public service provision can be achieved through federal transfers progressively allocated to favor the most needed localities of the country.

Endnote

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DEBATES

Castles in the Air: States and the Rule of Law in Latin America

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Already twenty years ago Guillermo O’Donnell argued that we cannot fully understand the state if we simply “conflate [it] with the state apparatus, the public sector, or the aggregation of public bureaucracies” (O’Donnell 1993: 1356). As important as these more concrete manifestations of stateness, he argued, is the set of social relations, or order, which the state enacts in its law and backs with its promise of coercion. “The legal system is a constitutive dimension of the state and of the order that it establishes and guarantees over a given territory” (Id.). In this respect, O’Donnell was clearly correct. Law defines the organization that is the state, assigning roles and obligations in the bureaucracy. Law, plus the informal rules the state permits and enforces, is constitutive of the state in the sense that it establishes state purposes, defines challenges and challengers, and establishes the entitlements, rights and obligations of residents. The clear implication of this is that the extent to which the law “rules”—that is, the extent to which the state’s order is in fact complied with—is an essential dimension of state capacity.

Many discussions of the rule of law have tended to proceed, on the conceptual level, on the premise that the rule of law is a monolithic phenomenon (see, e.g., North et al. 2009). In Latin America, scholars have acknowledged its territorial dimension—since many Latin American states self-evidently fail to extend their control over the entire national territory—but only rarely have they addressed its functional dimension—that is, the variation across different functional legal regimes. When the literature focuses on the failure of a particular legal regime—control of corruption, violence and crime, human rights violations, the lack of adequate mechanisms to enforce contracts and collect on debts—it typically does so without incorporating these particular treatments into an overall discussion of the rule of law or even of state capacity in general.

Closer attention to what we mean by the rule of law can help place these disparate discussions of state capacity into a single framework. While it may fall short of normative ideals, for most descriptive and

social scientific purposes, a minimalist definition of the rule of law is most appropriate.¹ Such a minimalist definition should include a vertical dimension, of course: the effective application of rules by the state to its citizens—what might be called rule *by* law (Holmes 2003). But it must also include a horizontal dimension, involving effective compliance with the rules by citizens in their dealings with each other. Thus, the vertical dimension of the rule of law is violated when the police carry out extrajudicial executions and when taxpayers fail to pay; the horizontal one when employers violate their employees’ labor rights, or kidnappers hold their victims for ransom. We can capture both dimensions in one definition: the rule of law is prevalent to the extent that regulated interactions (a) among citizens or (b) between them and the state are structured by preexisting laws. The definition does not require the law to be fair or just; its only substantive requirement is that these laws be preexisting – the alternative would allow a ruler to dress up arbitrary, ad hoc, rule in legal clothing.

So far so good, but how does this help bring all the possible violations of the law into one conceptual landscape that engages with discussions of state capacity? Once we highlight the two dimensions of the rule of law, it is obvious that the state’s order is comprised of different types of legal regimes that vary depending on whether the obligations run vertically or horizontally, and on the direction in which they run.²

Each of these cells poses very different challenges for the state, and responds to a different set of constraints. In the bottom row, it is private actors who will resist enforcement efforts, and thus social group resources should matter directly. In this row, politics still matters but indirectly,

Table 1: Classifying legal regimes, by the direction of duties owed between state and citizens, with examples

		DUTY OWED TO	
		The state	Private actors
DUTY OWED BY	The state	“Horizontal accountability:” anticorruption laws, separation of powers, limits on executive power	Constitutional rights, administrative law, human rights
	Private actors	Criminal law, ³ taxation	Contracts, torts (including many of the harms caused by violations of criminal law), property law, family law, business law

through the politics of state creation, because it conditions the extent to which resources matter. At the top of the table, on the other hand, it is state actors who are resisting compliance, and thus, politics should matter directly and resources indirectly (because they shape the politics of state resistance). On the left side of the table, where duties are owed to the state, state enforcement capacity matters more, while on the right, where duties are owed to private actors, social group resources are the most important variable. Clearly, then, our discussion of what produces state capacity in regard to the rule of law should respond to this diversity as well.

In the space available I can only make some broad suggestions to expand on this observation. In the lower left corner, the enforcement task should pose greater logistical challenges, because the state must monitor behavior and generate compliance across a vast array of social realities, many of them far removed from state supervision. As we move up toward duties owed by state actors, the violations become more visible, but the challenge becomes increasingly political, dependent on a true separation of interests within the state and the government. Here, some state actors—say, prosecutors and judges—must monitor others—say, cabinet ministers and presidents. This is a problem of politics more than resources.

As we move from left to right in the table, on the other hand, toward duties owed to private actors, enforcement again becomes less a function of state capacity to monitor, since the private beneficiaries of the duties should more easily recognize that their rights have been violated. Here enforcement becomes more dependent on the resources private actors can bring to bear upon those who owe them a duty. At the same time, of course, it is incumbent on

the state, in defense of its order, to provide the resources and venues for these actors to claim and secure their rights.

In the lower row, therefore, where private actors have to comply with duties to the state and each other, it seems likely that the problem has to do with the distribution of resources. The rule of law here becomes a function of the relative capacity of the different social groups (defined by the law) to resist each other or the state. Sometimes it is the challengers who are exceptionally strong—as when organized crime or a guerrilla force challenges both the state and other citizens. Sometimes it is the claimants who are exceptionally weak, as when deeply marginalized communities find their rights violated and have little access to justice or even knowledge of those rights. The problem here is political only indirectly: the state could, given the right politics of state creation and resource allocation, dedicate more resources to assisting claimants in their demands or to confronting the challengers.

Given these premises, we might imagine that the northeast quadrant, when private actors seek to vindicate rights against the state, poses the greatest challenge. Marginalized populations with limited resources with which to engage legal enforcement mechanisms will likely struggle to make their rights effective vis-à-vis state actors. Moreover, in order to succeed, these claimants must engage one part of the state—the courts, prosecutors, or an ombudsman, perhaps—to monitor another. These legal regimes pose all the resource problems of the southeast cell and all the political problems of the northwest cell. The theoretical challenge comparativists have just begun to take on is to work through these diverse regimes and find consistent, coherent explanations

for the failures and successes we observe across the region today.

So where, empirically, are the main failures and main successes? It is evident that one of the greatest challenges to the rule of law and the state in Latin America today is found in well organized, well funded, outside challengers—the drug cartels in Mexico, the *maras* in Central America. These groups are overwhelming state resources and tearing the fabric of state order. Even ordinary crime, below the level of the great cartels and organized gangs, seems on the rise in many countries. And it remains true that judiciaries are slow and inefficient in processing ordinary civil claims. On the other hand, in the seemingly more intractable area of horizontal accountability and restraints on state actors, many countries in Latin America, even those that struggle with violence and organized crime, have made great strides. Mexico, for all its problems with violent drug cartels, and Colombia, for all its history of state challengers, have made significant strides in strengthening the institutions that act to guarantee and enforce duties owed by the state, even for disfavored and marginalized populations. Costa Rica, Argentina, and Brazil have all seen increasingly active high courts. Across the region, courts are working more effectively on horizontal accountability than ever before in the region's history. The burgeoning literature on the judicialization of politics is ample evidence of these changes.

If I am right about the nature of the challenges in each cell, these successes suggest that many countries are slowly getting the politics of law right. Increasing political diversity and the creation of true separation of interests within the state is leading to a greater capacity to hold state actors to their obligations to each other

and their citizens. But the dramatic failures on the horizontal dimension—across the entire bottom row of Table 1, in fact—indicate that the deep imbalances in resources across different social groups continue to bedevil the rule of law. Clearly, until something happens to interrupt the vast amounts of money and guns that flow into organized crime groups, it will be very difficult to establish the rule of law there, without an equally massive investment into state repressive capacity. The problem, of course, is that this has a strong potential to skew the balance of power between the repressive forces and ordinary citizens, shaking the foundations of the rule of law in the northeast quadrant. We would once again purchase security at the expense of uncontrollable state violence.

Latin American states-as-law today find themselves at a crossroads. They are increasingly carrying the hopes of many, leading to the judicialization of politics, increased legal mobilization, and more success in the case of duties owed by state actors. At the same time, they are often discredited by their failure to effectively confront powerful outside challengers and resolve conflicts among citizens. When this happens, the rule of law constructs impressive edifices of constitutional jurisprudence and rights on the vertical dimension, with increasing violent crime and citizen insecurity on the horizontal dimension. In these cases the rule of law is in danger of becoming a fairy tale castle, beautiful to look at, but floating high in the air, without a solid foundation in the horizontal dimension where most ordinary citizens meet the law on a daily basis. The challenge for state builders is to ground these floating castles in everyday reality without tearing them down in the process.

Endnotes

- ¹ The lack of substantive requirements in a thin definition allows us to examine various interesting questions, including, for example, whether the rule of law, regardless of the law's substantive justice, eventually leads to more democracy, or more justice, or more regard for human rights. Although the ultimate goal might be to develop, as O'Donnell (2010) suggests, a democratic rule of law, or a more just rule of law, this definition is more suitable to empirical investigations of the effects of the rule of law.
- ² The table and surrounding discussion is taken from "The State, Concepts and Dimensions," forthcoming in *Revista de Ciencia Política*, published by the Universidad Católica de Chile.
- ³ Criminal law "verticalizes" what are essentially horizontal duties among citizens, by giving the state the right to punish violations.

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Conservative Autonomy Movements and the State in Latin America

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One of the lesser-noted consequences of Latin America's turn to the Left is that it has triggered protests by territorial actors who are now mobilizing in defense of the market. Not unlike neoliberalism itself, which was uneven in the costs and benefits it generated for distinct subnational regions, the repudiation of neoliberal reforms has also been territorially uneven, with important subnational jurisdictions seeking to preserve more market-oriented approaches. In some countries, territorial demands to protect the market from the Left turn have taken the form of conservative autonomy movements. In contrast to indigenous autonomy movements, which seek to defend communal models of governance and end centuries of abusive practices by elite-dominated states, these pro-market autonomy movements can be described as "conservative" because socioeconomic elites form their core constituency, because they occupy right-of-center space in the larger political system, and most importantly because they want autonomy in order to protect the regional status quo from national-level attempts at redistribution. The movements for autonomy in Bolivia's eastern *media luna* departments (Beni, Pando, Santa Cruz and Tarija) and in Ecuador's coastal city of Guayaquil are two salient examples.¹

How do conservative autonomy movements challenge the state? To challenge the state is to contest its monopoly on the legitimate use of violence or to seek to prevent or escape the implementation of its laws and policies. When we think of territorial challengers to the state in Latin America, we tend to imagine actors who deploy armed violence against the state, whether regional caudillos in the 19th century, Marxist-Leninist guerrillas in the second half of the 20th century, or the drug cartels of recent

decades. These actors are animated by the goal of taking over the state (either simply to control it in the caudillos' case or to transform society in the case of the guerrillas), or penetrating it sufficiently to permit the pursuit of illicit practices (in the case of the cartels).² Conservative autonomy movements challenge the state neither by trying to control nor infiltrate it, but by trying to get away from it, not necessarily in the literal sense of wanting to formally leave the state to create a new one, but in the less direct sense of seeking to vastly limit what state authorities can do in subnational territories. In proposals that go well beyond decentralization and federalism but that typically fall short of separatism, a variety of groups are articulating demands for autonomy that deserve to be considered among the most noteworthy of the contemporary challenges to the state's authority in Latin America.

In broader comparative perspective, some of what these conservative autonomy movements want does not pose fundamental challenges to the state, including the demand for the establishment of subnational legislatures and the type of subnational control over police forces that is common in Latin America's federal systems. In another sense, these movements might seem to be challenging specific governments (those headed by Presidents Evo Morales and Rafael Correa, for example) rather than the state *per se*. At the same time, other demands would provoke, if granted, fundamental changes in the traditional prerogatives of the central state. Unlike indigenous autonomy movements, which never controlled national governments, participants in conservative autonomy movements have lost influence at the center, fear that this loss of influence may well be permanent, and seek therefore to secure autonomy as

the only way to limit the authority of the central state in their territories.

First, reflecting their status as home to each country's most productive private sector activities, the *media luna* and Guayaquil movements have sought to secure for local use a much greater percentage of tax revenues derived from these activities. Frustrated by highly centralized budgetary practices and motivated by the belief that they are heavily subsidizing expenditures in other less productive regions, movement leaders have demanded that an autonomous region should be able to keep between one-half (Ecuador) and two-thirds (Bolivia) of the non-trade taxes collected in that region. If granted, such a concession would hamstring the central state's ability to implement redistributive legislation across the national territory. This potential is especially significant in Bolivia given the eastern location of the country's hydrocarbon resources.

Second, and perhaps even more fundamentally, at the heart of each movement is a still more radical demand that subnational regions be allowed to pursue a different development model from that endorsed by the national government. In Santa Cruz and Guayaquil, for instance, movement leaders argue that they simply want to opt out of the return to statism at the national level, and to preserve the outward-looking, market-oriented economic policies that have served their regions well in the past. In the words of one pro-autonomy leader in Guayaquil, "we are asking the national government for nothing but the freedom to maintain our own successful economic system."³ Considering the extent to which Latin America's political history across the centuries has been shaped by recurring, radical and deeply contested shifts in *national* development models (from

mercantilism to liberalism to statism to neoliberalism to “21st century socialism”), this insistence on territorially-differentiated development models would disrupt one of the state’s core prerogatives: the ability to set and pursue a single national path toward development. Is a “one country/ two systems” outcome feasible and/or desirable in Latin America, and if so, what would it mean for the Latin American state?⁴

Whereas violence against the state is the exclusive tactic of most territorial challengers, the demand for territorial autonomy to defend market-oriented models has largely privileged social movement behaviors instead (although the most radical members of these movements have indeed engaged in violence, as in the take-over and sacking of central government institutions in Santa Cruz in the aftermath of Evo Morales’s victory in the August 2008 recall election). In Bolivia and in Ecuador, the leaders of conservative autonomy movements have coordinated signature gathering campaigns for autonomy referenda, organized regionally-specific work stoppages and hunger strikes, and presided over multiple public rallies and demonstrations that have brought out hundreds of thousands of supporters—all in the service of a demand for territorial autonomy. Particularly critical are the long-standing civic associations and business chambers that have emerged as the chief mobilizing structures upon which the movements have depended for financial resources and logistical assistance. Where violence has occurred or been contemplated, as in the September 2008 massacre of MAS supporters in the department of Pando or the April 2009 discovery of an armed cell in Santa Cruz, the response of the central state has been swift (President Evo Morales sent soldiers to capture and arrest Pando Governor

Leopoldo Fernández, and several of Santa Cruz’s civic leaders now face terrorism charges in La Paz or have fled into exile).

The embrace of social movement tactics also means that movement leaders have taken great care in how they frame the demand for autonomy, and their choices in this regard are of special interest for the broader debate over public goods provision by the Latin American state. In Santa Cruz and Guayaquil, for instance, the argument is that the direct provision of public goods by the central state, along with statism more generally, has disproportionately favored the highland regions surrounding the national capital (La Paz and Quito). More importantly, movement leaders claim that it is this very neglect of the central state that has enabled their subnational regions to achieve superior outcomes in the areas of health, education, and infrastructure. Ignored by the central state, regional leaders in Santa Cruz and Guayaquil believe that partnerships with the local private sector explain these better outcomes. According to this framing, a cross-regional comparison of standards of living in the highlands and lowlands offers a damning indictment of statism and a strong argument for more market-friendly approaches.

Conservative autonomy movements are rare, largely because they require the territorial separation of political power, concentrated in national capitals, and economic power, concentrated in a sufficiently dynamic subnational region that is not the capital. In most countries in Latin America, political and economic centers are conjoined in the national capital, and territorial autonomy is not an option for the country’s most powerful private sector interests when they come to oppose the development model adopted by the national government.

While we should therefore not expect full-fledged movements to emerge elsewhere, we are indeed seeing heightened tension between subnational and national governments over the correct approach to development. In Argentina, for instance, when President Cristina Kirchner attacked a major pillar of that country’s neoliberal model by proposing to increase taxes on agricultural exports, the move triggered a prolonged conflict with governors who successfully defended the status quo (and who mostly belonged to her own party). In Venezuela, victories by the opposition in some of the country’s most economically vibrant states and municipalities (e.g. Carabobo, Miranda, Zulia and Caracas) have set the stage for persistent conflicts between President Hugo Chávez and governors and mayors, many of whom favor more market-oriented policies. Thus, while conservative autonomy movements pose particular challenges to the state, in post-decentralization Latin America they do not exhaust the many significant ways that subnational and national officials are now engaging in territorial battles over their preferred models of development.

Mapeando las interacciones entre desafiantes y agentes estatales en América Latina contemporánea

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Endnotes

- ¹ Kent Eaton, "Conservative Autonomy Movements: Territorial Dimensions of Ideological Conflict in Bolivia and Ecuador," *Comparative Politics* 43 (3) 2011: 291-310.
- ² Diane Davis, "Non-State Armed Actors, New Imagined Communities, and Shifting Patterns of Sovereignty and Security in the Modern World," *Contemporary Security Policy* 30 (2) 2009: 221-245.
- ³ Interview with Carlos Baquerizo, President of the Junta Cívica de Guayaquil, June 4, 2008, Guayaquil.
- ⁴ Benjamin Goldfrank and Andrew Schrank, "Municipal Neoliberalism and Municipal Socialism: Urban Political Economy in Latin America," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 33 (2) 2009: 443-62. ■

Introducción

En una región como América Latina en la que se observan evidentes manifestaciones de debilidad y/o precariedad estatal resulta relevante desarrollar categorías analíticas que nos ayuden a entender mejor los contextos sociopolíticos existentes y por ende los desafíos que enfrentan las autoridades y los y las ciudadanas comunes. En ese sentido es trascendental entender cómo la naturaleza, intereses y estrategias de los actores no estatales que desafían al Estado y, en contraposición a ellos, la reacción del Estado para preservar su capacidad infraestructural y su legitimidad, moldean el contexto sociopolítico existente (Feldmann y Luna 2012).

Imagine un barrio homogéneamente pobre y territorialmente segregado en las afueras de una de las grandes metrópolis de América Latina. Asuma que las instituciones estatales no están proyectadas eficientemente en esa área y que, por tanto, los agentes públicos que entregan servicios, como la policía, los profesores o los profesionales de la salud, están escasamente presentes. La infraestructura pública básica es mínima o simplemente inexistente. A pesar de estar geográficamente próximos, la localidad está funcionalmente aislada. Cite *Soleil*, un arrabal en la capital haitiana, Puerto Príncipe, ejemplifica esta situación: el débil Estado haitiano, pese a tener sede administrativa en la capital, casi no tiene presencia allí, por lo que la población está condenada a ingeniárselas para de alguna manera organizar la provisión de servicios públicos básicos, incluyendo la seguridad (Marcelin 2011).

Asuma ahora que después de cierto tiempo, la ausencia de la aplicación de la ley y la proximidad espacial del barrio con la ciudad, generan incentivos para que una

banda de micro tráfico de drogas comience a operar. En este segundo escenario, el Estado es "capturado" por un actor privado que desarrolla operaciones ilegales y que muchas veces termina *de facto* reemplazando al Estado, ya sea amenazando o cooptando a sus funcionarios. Con el tiempo, esta banda puede comenzar a participar en la provisión de protección social y servicios de bienestar con lo que consolida y legitima su presencia ante la población. La situación en muchas *favelas* de Rio de Janeiro ejemplifica esta situación: hay actores que desafían directamente al Estado, en particular traficantes de droga como el *Comando Vermelho*, que han tomado el control reemplazando al Estado. A pesar de su naturaleza violenta, ellos gozan de un alto grado de legitimidad entre los residentes (Arias 2006).

Finalmente, asuma que, por la razón que sea, los funcionarios estatales deciden entrar y "liberar" una zona que ha sido tomada por un grupo ilegal. Para tal efecto, ellos buscarán cerrar un trato con el actor que desafía su poder o alternativamente confrontarlo abiertamente a través de medios violentos en un intento de retomar el control y reintroducir el estado de derecho. Las redadas llevadas a cabo por la policía y los militares en Rio de Janeiro ejemplifican esta situación (Gay 2010; Koonings Kruijt 2007).

De este último ejemplo, conflicto entre el Estado y un desafiante, se pueden desprender tres escenarios adicionales. Primero, una situación en la cual la lucha entre el Estado y el desafiante perdura a lo largo del tiempo y consolida la violencia. Algunos barrios en urbes colombianas (Comuna 13 en Medellín) son ejemplos de lo anterior (Vargas 2009; Moncada 2010). Segundo, un escenario en el cual los funcionarios estatales locales llegan a un

acuerdo con el desafiante, en virtud del cual ambos actores establecen un acuerdo de cooperación que “captura” al Estado. La convivencia y cooperación entre las mafias organizadas y la policía en muchos sectores del conurbano bonaerense ejemplifica esta situación. Allí, a cambio de un “impuesto”, la policía deja en libertad de acción a los grupos delictuales para que lleven a cabo sus operaciones; en algunas oportunidades los agentes del Estado incluso participan directamente en la comisión de delitos (robos, secuestro, contrabando) (Dewey 2012). Tercero, en un tipo de acuerdo de cooperación diferente, el Estado central delega en un desafiante labores vinculadas a sus funciones primarias, en particular la provisión de seguridad. En la mayoría de los casos el desafiante comienza a actuar con total autonomía pero en connivencia con el Estado. Los para-militares y los grupos de autodefensa (vigilantes) en Perú y Colombia ejemplifican este tercer escenario (Starn 1998; Cubides 1999).

Las situaciones que hemos descrito corresponden a distintas interacciones posibles entre el Estado y potenciales desafiante (o sustitutos).² Tal como mencionamos anteriormente, las situaciones arriba descritas dan cuenta de distintas formas a través de las cuales emergen diversos escenarios locales a lo largo del tiempo, contingentes a los patrones de interacción del Estado y diversos tipos de desafiante.³ Estos patrones revisten enorme importancia no sólo porque afectan la vida de los/las ciudadanos/as sino también porque influyen y constriñen el campo de acción del Estado en la consecución de sus fines como entidad social y política.

Basándonos en el trabajo de Mahoney y Thelen (2010) sobre estrategias de cambio institucional, mapeamos analíticamente las interacciones entre agentes estatales y

desafiante en América Latina contemporánea. Estos autores plantean que los agentes que buscan cambios institucionales pueden desarrollar diversas estrategias para lograr sus objetivos. Estas estrategias son, a saber: (i) subversiva; (ii) oportunista (iii) insurreccionaria; (iv) parasitaria simbiótica, y (v) parasitaria mutualista.

Estado y Desafiante como Agentes de Cambio Institucional

La primera categoría desarrollada por Mahoney y Thelen, e.g., agentes que persiguen estrategias *subversivas*, no es relevante para nuestro análisis, ya que se trata de actores que actúan a través de canales institucionales previsibles y democráticos y que, por tanto, no despliegan una lógica de desafío al Estado. Respecto a la segunda categoría, actores que desarrollan una agenda *oportunista*, Mahoney y Thelen sostienen que estos actores buscan un cambio institucional a través de la *conversión* (cambio gradual) sin tener preferencias específicas con respecto a la preservación del *status quo*. En otras palabras, estos actores no rechazan ni apoyan el *status quo*, sino que, de acuerdo al contexto y las oportunidades, se aprovechan de la situación para extraer ventajas en función de sus objetivos. Aplicado a las interacciones entre agentes estatales y desafiante, en una estrategia subversiva los actores privados reemplazan al Estado pero sin desafiarlo directamente, aprovechando la ausencia de este. Las organizaciones ilegales que *de facto* reemplazan a un estado incapaz de proyectar su poder en un territorio dado constituyen un ejemplo concreto de este tipo de estrategia.

A la inversa, los desafiante que persiguen *estrategias insurreccionarias* buscan

concretamente el *desplazamiento* del Estado a través de una lucha abierta. No solamente buscan desbancar y luego reemplazar funcionalmente al Estado, sino también transformar sustancialmente el *status quo* [e.g., movimientos guerrilleros (ver Wickham-Crowley 1992)]. Este tipo de estrategia es consistente con los modelos de *reemplazo* del cambio institucional.

Los desafiante que participan en relaciones *parasitarias* con funcionarios estatales, persiguen el cuarto y quinto tipo de estrategia. En ambos casos, los agentes estatales locales y los desafiante cooperan, aunque bajo modalidades diferentes. Las estrategias *simbióticas* implican acuerdos entre las organizaciones o grupos ilegales y los agentes estatales locales. Estos últimos explotan el espacio para la discrecionalidad en la aplicación de la ley para extraer rentas privadas. En este caso, el Estado está debilitado debido a la ruptura de la relación principal-agente entre funcionarios estatales con diversas jurisdicciones de poder (nacional o federal; departamental o provincial; municipal o comunal). Los agentes que persiguen estrategias simbióticas no buscan transformar el Estado, sino subvertir el estado de derecho para lograr objetivos particulares. Esto es consistente con el modelo de *desviación* del cambio gradual. De forma similar, las estrategias *mutualistas* se materializan a través de asociaciones ilícitas normalmente clandestinas en las que el Estado y un actor no estatal actúan en connivencia para lograr un objetivo medular para el Estado, normalmente en el área de la seguridad. Los grupos de auto-defensa o vigilantes y las organizaciones paramilitares constituyen ejemplos contemporáneos de esta modalidad. Los actores no estatales que participan en este tipo de estrategia no buscan transformar el Estado, sino, por el contrario apoyarlo y fortalecerlo, porque coinciden en la conveniencia de mantener

el *status quo*. El Estado por su parte, recurre a vías ilegales porque resultan más eficientes y enmascaran su responsabilidad en hechos que infringen el estado de derecho.

Las características generales de las interacciones entre desafiantes y agentes estatales se encuentran resumidas en la Tabla 1. A modo de describir de forma ilustrativa estas categorías analíticas utilizamos ejemplos concretos de Brasil. Hasta 2010, las favelas de Complexo do Alemão en Rio de Janeiro constituyeron un ejemplo de desafíos *oportunistas*: organizaciones ilegales se habían apoderado del control territorial de un Estado “ausente”: como consecuencia de ello monopolizaron los mecanismos de coerción y comenzaron a proveer servicios sociales y “bienes públicos” básicos (Arias 2006, Gay 2010). En este escenario, el imperio del desafiante reemplaza al de la ley.⁴ La situación se modificó cuando el estado decide retomar el territorio ocupado por estos desafiantes territoriales, lo que generó un alza marcado de violencia debido a la confrontación de ambos actores. La situación observada en el Complexo do Alemão desde fines del 2010 y durante el 2011, después de que las fuerzas militares tomaron la iniciativa de retomar el control de las favelas, ejemplifica este segundo escenario.

La presencia de estrategias *simbióticas* también requiere el involucramiento activo de los funcionarios estatales locales. Pero, en este caso, los desafiantes y los funcionarios estatales locales cooperan. Estos últimos se basan en sus “medios” legales (recursos, capacidad coercitiva), pero los utilizan para conseguir “fines” ilegales. La policía y/o los funcionarios públicos en una localidad dada se basan en su capacidad coercitiva, aplicándola selectiva y contingentemente. En este

contexto, los desafiantes del Estado pueden comprar protección estatal para llevar a cabo sus actividades ilegales. Eventualmente, ellos pueden incluso cooperar con la policía o con los funcionarios locales para doblegar o procesar “legalmente” a bandas rivales. El caso de la protección policial de *Boqueiras* (bocas de venta de droga) en las favelas de São Paulo ilustra este tipo de acuerdos (Feltran 2010), los que derivan en una aplicación selectiva de la ley (corrupción), pero al mismo tiempo, contribuyen a reducir la violencia (Arias 2006).

Las estrategias *mutualistas* también implican un acuerdo de cooperación entre los funcionarios estatales y los desafiantes del Estado, los cuales en este caso actúan como sustitutos, utilizando “medios” ilegales para conseguir “fines” legales. Escenarios como éste se consolidan en casos en los cuales los funcionarios estatales delegan sus funciones a actores privados. Los grupos de vigilantes y limpieza social que operan en varias ciudades brasileñas ejemplifican este tipo de acuerdo. En algunos casos, los actores privados no sólo asumen parte del control de seguridad, sino que también llevan a

cabo procesamientos para-legales. El caso de los tribunales judiciales paralelos desarrollados por grupos delictivos en las favelas de São Paulo ilustra esta posibilidad (Feltran 2010).

Observaciones finales

Las estrategias de diversos tipos de desafiantes discutidas en este trabajo representan fidedignamente el rango de interacciones que se configuran entre los funcionarios estatales locales y los desafiantes del Estado en la América Latina contemporánea. Si bien la mayoría de los ejemplos que proveemos en este trabajo están restringidos a un país (Brasil) y a dos áreas urbanas específicas (Rio de Janeiro y el área metropolitana de São Paulo), creemos que constituyen ejemplos útiles para captar cinco características de las relaciones entre agentes estatales y desafiantes de América Latina contemporánea. Primero, dentro de un mismo país se pueden dar simultáneamente diferentes interacciones Estado-desafiante (Davis 2006). Ello sugiere la necesidad de desagregar el análisis a nivel local. Segundo, el nivel local no debería ser

Tabla 1. Tipos de Desafío, Ejemplos y Resultados Sustantivos

Desafío	Tipo de interacción	Agentes estatales	Ejemplo	Resultado sustantivo
Oportunista	Ninguna	Pasivo	Complexo do Alemão hasta 2010	Sin Estado de derecho
Insurreccionario	Conflictiva	Resistencia/Buscan recuperar	Complexo do Alemão desde 2010-2011	Violencia abierta
Simbiótico	Cooperación	Cooptado	PCC de Boqueira en las favelas de São Paulo	Corrupción, aplicación selectiva de la ley
Mutualista	Cooperación	Delegación Implementación	Tribunales judiciales en las favelas de São Paulo	Sin Estado de derecho

concebido necesariamente como aquel delimitado por las demarcaciones territoriales legales (ver Snyder y Durán-Martínez 2009 para un argumento similar). Más aún, la comparación entre los dos escenarios de Rio y los dos escenarios de São Paulo, toman lugar dentro de las mismas jurisdicciones legales y políticas. Tercero, los ejemplos también sugieren que el mismo desafiante (el PCC en São Paulo) puede desarrollar una serie de estrategias (*desafíos*) diferentes, aún cuando opera en una misma ciudad, al relacionarse con distintas agencias y organizaciones estatales a nivel barrial. Cuarto, los dos ejemplos de Rio muestran otra característica importante de las interacciones contemporáneas entre los funcionarios estatales y los desafiantes: los acuerdos emergentes pueden ser fluidos, contingentes a *shocks* externos (ver Giraudy y Luna 2012) y a cambios en las interacciones observadas entre los funcionarios estatales y los desafiantes (cambio endógeno). Aquella fluidez no encaja fácilmente con la literatura establecida sobre los determinantes de largo plazo de la capacidad y la penetración estatal. Por último, pero no menos importante, a pesar de las diferencias locales existentes, los ejemplos muestran también diferencias significativas a lo largo de las ciudades. En relación a esto, en las favelas de Rio, los funcionarios estatales locales están primero “ausentes” y subsecuentemente comienzan a presionar para retomar el control de la escena local. En São Paulo, en cambio, la emergencia de uno de los dos escenarios cooperativos implica que los funcionarios del Estado tienen al menos alguna capacidad para amenazar a los desafiantes (y de ahí que pueden llevar a cabo acuerdos con ellos, que los benefician mutuamente).

Esta breve reseña aspira a contribuir a la discusión sobre la necesidad de trabajar con categorías analíticas que nos ayuden a

entender mejor la forma en la que operan los Estados en la región, dada la presencia de actores que fuertemente constriñen su capacidad para ejercer el poder. Esto resulta relevante, creemos, porque lejos de observar un fenómeno uniforme de desarrollo gradual de poder infraestructural del Estado, vemos como actores no estatales desafían al Estado generando dinámicas específicas que tienen amplias y variadas repercusiones que es necesario entender mejor.

Notas

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- ² Aunque en el contexto de este artículo nos referimos a los “desafiantes” del Estado, aplicamos este término de una manera laxa. Los actores no estatales que subrogan o cooperan con los agentes del Estado también son concebidos como desafiantes, aún si ellos cooperan funcionalmente con el Estado para cumplir con los objetivos de este último.
- ³ En este análisis hacemos uso de la tipología sobre el alcance estatal-territorial de Giraudy y Luna (2012).
- ⁴ Antes de 2010, y con la excepción de una breve (pero extremadamente violenta) intervención militar en la favela (Junio 2007), la violencia abierta en el *Complexo* es atribuida a la rivalidad entre diferentes bandas de narco-tráfico (especialmente entre el Comando Vermelho y el Terceiro Comando).

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The Expectations States Create: How State Capacity Shapes the Scope of Politics

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Much scholarly attention has focused on the origins of state capacity and the challenges states face as they seek to rule. But beyond these drivers of important change, a wide- lens examination of Latin America reveals continuity: those states that could more effectively impose order, collect taxes, and provide public goods a century ago have only grown more powerful, while weak states have remained quite weak.

This continuity is little acknowledged and remains unexplained. In this brief essay, I suggest one factor that underpins it. Against explanations for the origins of state capacity, which overwhelmingly place initiative in the hands of state leaders, I focus on the agency of societal actors, but situate this agency in historical context. In strong state contexts, people expect the state to take a leading role in provision and crisis management, and hold it accountable to this standard. These expectations lead to pressure (via protest or appeals to politicians) for increased state intervention, and thus to increased administrative capacity. By contrast, where the state is weak, even as people recognize the poor performance of governments, they expect no more from the political arena, and rather than pressing for increased intervention, turn instead to self-help and civil society organization. The result of the absence of demand-making and political pressure is an absence of state expansion, and thus weak states remain weak.

This essay examines state response to three recent natural disasters in Latin America. Natural disasters are almost completely neglected by social scientists. Their effects cut across social class more neatly than do other arenas of political contention, which makes state-society relations interesting to explore. Disasters are also interesting because they can drive societal actors to

desire state intervention, and thus they call into question views of state-society relations as inherently oppositional. The three cases are chosen for comparison for several reasons. First, the disasters themselves all saw relatively similar levels of damage and relatively little international assistance. Second, the cases had strikingly different levels of state capacity: the Peruvian state was quite weak, while those of Chile and Venezuela were powerful. Finally, the two strong state cases saw divergent responses to tragedy: the Chilean state was strikingly effective, unlike the Venezuelan state. Thus, these cases allow the comparison of expectations in strong and weak states, of pressures on strong states as their performance varies, and of how those pressures result in increased state capacity.

El Niño, Peru 1998

Due to its cyclical nature, El Niño's arrival in Peru was forecast in advance. Yet flooding caused massive damage, including at least 296 deaths, the destruction of hundreds of thousands of homes, 88 bridges and \$640 million in damages to highways. Between January and April, disease spread, including thousands of cases of cholera. The government's initial statements were strikingly tone deaf. Fujimori commented that since the recent Japanese embassy hostage crisis, he was bored and eager for a new challenge (*Semana Económica* Jan. 18, 1998). The central plank of government assistance was emergency housing that could be purchased for \$400, a high price for homes without windows, furnishing, and sometimes even walls. Assistance tended to appear only with Fujimori, who personally oversaw relief efforts with hardhat and shovel in hand (Cruzado-Silveri 1999, 18). *Caretas* recounted stories of people given furniture

while Fujimori visited, and forced to return it after cameras left. By June 1998, the government response simply stopped, having announced aid amounting to only about 20 percent of estimated need and delivered even less. Survivors began reconstructing their lives through both individual action and community organization.

There was a clear and generalized sense that the government had not performed well, reflected in media coverage and interviews with victims. An APOYO poll in February 1998 showed that 54 percent of respondents believed damage could have been avoided with more effective government preparation. The government had spent at least \$120 million on prevention, personally overseen by Fujimori who sought to project the image of someone focused on preparation rather than politics (*Semana Económica* Sept. 7, 1997). Thus, he had positioned the government as responsible for these efforts as well.

Yet there was little outcry. Most tellingly, El Niño fell low among Peru's three greatest problems, named by only 13 percent of respondents in an April 1998 APOYO poll. It had already disappeared from the national agenda. Because Peruvians had low expectations of the state's response, it did not translate into disapproval of the Fujimori government or to any protest or outcry. A long history of state weakness had inured citizens to expect little from their state. As a result, it faced no pressure to expand its role in the lives of Peruvians, and remained relatively weak.

Vargas, Venezuela 1999

A fumbled response generated much more outcry where a stronger state had created higher expectations for effective intervention. Mudslides beginning on December 15, 1999 devastated the coastal state of Vargas north of Caracas, wiping out the one highway linking it to the interior, crippling the airport and port, and leaving ten to thirty thousand dead. Direct damage totaled \$3.3 billion, about three percent of GDP, and indirect effects approached \$10 billion.

The same day saw the constitutional referendum. Chávez referenced the rains, quoting Bolívar, who said after the 1812 Caracas earthquake that had seemed a portent of divine opposition to independence: "if nature opposes us, we will defeat it too." But otherwise the unfolding tragedy slipped government notice. As the mudslides continued, the state was absent, and looting broke out in the absence of effective authority (Negrón 2000). Though late to start, the government rescue effort was massive. Thousands were rescued by sea and air (including by Chávez himself in the presidential helicopter) and housed temporarily in army barracks and stadiums.

Venezuelans found many aspects of the government's response unsatisfactory. An anecdote referenced in multiple interviews described a Christmas 1999 dinner in Caracas for evacuees. Government officials distributed cash and gifts and invited survivors to serve themselves from the dinner buffet. The evacuees refused, and demanded that they be served by the government officials—after all, the purpose of government was to provide. While perhaps apocryphal, this anecdote reveals how much Venezuelans expected from their state. Perhaps the most interesting axis of

dissatisfaction with the state was the widespread questioning of the reasons for Venezuela's poor infrastructure: Venezuelans blamed the government, rather than nature, for the damage caused by the rains, which could have been prevented. That mudslides occurred at all was reason to hold the government accountable.

Dissatisfaction was widespread: two weeks after the flooding, a Datanálisis poll of Caracas residents asked respondents to name the actor most effective in responding to the tragedy. Chávez got 2.8 percent of mentions, and his political party 0.2 percent. All civilian government agencies totaled 8.4 percent of responses, trailing many other actors including private citizens. The Vargas governor tried to leverage support from this grievance by pressing Chávez for more intensive recovery efforts, leading to conflict with the federal government.

Rescue operations were followed by an ambitious long-term plan that sought to relocate thousands away from Vargas to the unpopulated interior state of Apure with promises of housing, jobs, and services. Soldiers built homes and handed keys to mudslide victims at the televised July 5th holiday parade. Residents overwhelmingly abandoned their new homes and returned to Vargas demanding reconstruction. This led to the creation of yet another new administrative agency, the Autoridad Única, to oversee the reconstruction efforts, beginning by demarcating where housing could safely be built. But progress was slow and new flooding a year later left hundreds newly homeless. Many survivors remained in refuge centers in extremely primitive conditions. The result was yet more protest and pressure on political officials, which unfolded over subsequent years. Thus, the Venezuelan government was held to a

higher standard of response (and prevention) than that of Peru, and Venezuelans were dissatisfied with many aspects of the state's actions.

Chaitén, Chile, 2008

The Chilean state's response to disaster was quite effective in comparative perspective. Yet it faced criticism on many fronts, revealing Chileans' heightened expectations for state intervention. These pressures drove significant bureaucratic and territorial expansion of an already powerful and effective state.

The Chaitén volcano erupted in early May 2008, forcing a complete evacuation of the regional center of the same name. Nearly all of the 7,000 plus residents were evacuated within 48 hours, mostly to nearby Puerto Montt and Chiloé, and subsequent flooding and ash destroyed the town. That evacuations were completed so quickly and with no direct loss of life shows how effective the state was. Evacuees were given an evacuation bond of about 1000 dollars, a one-time payment of about \$25,000 to buy new housing anywhere in the country, and a monthly allowance if they chose not to do so. Many continued to receive benefits for years, though eligibility requirements were steadily tightened over time. This is far more assistance than in the cases above.

Yet powerful demands pressed the government to do more. Criticisms of the government for failures of pre-eruption volcano monitoring spurred the creation of a new volcano agency in January 2009. Webcams and regular bulletins now monitor volcanoes nationwide. Several dozen Chaitéños had refused evacuation, obtaining court orders preventing forcible removal, and felt themselves abandoned in

the ruined town. They famously waved Argentine flags in protests against neglect by the state (*La Nación* Feb 6, 2009). A sign appeared at the town entrance reading "Bienvenido a Zona Cero: Cero Agua, Cero Luz, Cero Apoyo del Gobierno." This pressure drove the state to maintain a presence in Chaitén, including emergency services and policing. Those who *did* flee resented resettlement, decrying their lost sense of community. State officials ruled out rebuilding but continued outcry among evacuees sharpened as the evacuation zone opened for tourism, drove the state to change course, and a new agency was created to plan a new Chaitén. Though reconstruction on a site near old Chaitén progressed smoothly, it has paused since the massive 2010 Concepción earthquake.¹

The state's response to Chaitén, though cut short by the Concepción disaster, was clearly effective in comparative perspective, reflecting the capacity of the Chilean state. Yet grievances remained, spurring protest and outcry by the affected population. A May 2008 Chilevisión poll showed high expectations nationwide. Respondents were asked to evaluate the monthly payment to victims, which was larger than the national average income. Sixty-three percent considered it only "adequate," while 24 percent saw it as insufficient. That this level of assistance was so widely deemed meager reveals how much Chileans expected from their state.

Conclusion

There are many factors underlying the divergence in state capacity between these three cases. Among them, unexplored by existing scholarship, is the divergence in popular expectations. In strong state cases, governments must respond effectively to tragedy or lose political support. The result

is that strong states are pressed to further extend their capacity over time. In weak states, expectations are lower. Politicians are not punished for poor crisis management, and the state faces no pressure to undertake administrative expansion. This suggests that along with external shocks as the engine that might drive state building in Latin America, we might also look to the political culture that shapes how people evaluate their states and to the standards to which citizens hold states accountable.

Endnote

¹ For brief descriptions of the planning process by a key participant, see Allard (2010).

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Interim Report from the Program Chairs Washington 2013

by GWEN KIRKPATRICK | Georgetown University | mgk7@georgetown.edu
and KENNETH M. ROBERTS | Cornell University | kr99@cornell.edu

LASA2013, the Association's 31st International Congress, will have panels organized along 33 different tracks, covering a remarkably broad range of academic disciplines and fields of study. The track chairs have been working hard to review 925 individual paper proposals and 717 panel proposals. Each proposal is evaluated on the basis of its significance to the field, the breadth of its appeal, the clarity and precision of its thematic presentation, and its conceptual and theoretical adequacy. We have also received 566 travel grant requests from 28 different countries, along with 59 requests for meetings and receptions. We want to thank all of our track chairs, along with LASA's professional staff, for their dedicated and efficient service in processing such a large volume of proposals and requests.

We recognize that some LASA members wanted to submit proposals but were not able to do so in time to meet the deadline. We regret that we were not able to be more flexible on the deadline; with LASA holding conferences now on an annual basis, the deadlines have necessarily become more firm in order to stay on schedule. As it is, we will have a very full program, with panels and activities that should appeal to LASA's very broad and diverse membership.

In addition to the panels on the varied program tracks, we are planning several pre-Congress workshops, as well as a number of Presidential panels and featured panels related to the 2013 conference theme, "Towards a New Social Contract"? More details on these and other special events will be forthcoming. We look forward to seeing everyone in Washington, D.C. next May!

FILM FESTIVAL LASA2013
XXXI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Towards a New Social Contract?

May 29 – June 1, 2013 – Washington, DC, USA

Claudia Ferman, Director

You may submit a film or video (not integrated into a panel, workshop, or other regular Congress session) 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 LASA2013 Film Festival, and compete for the juried designation of LASA2013 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 2012 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 October 1, 2012, and no later than February 1, 2013**. Selection will be announced by April 1, 2013. Entries constitute acceptance of the rules and regulations of the LASA Film Festival. Film screeners will not be returned and will be deposited in the festival archives.

LASA2013 FILM FESTIVAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions for the Film Festival will be received *only* from **October 1, 2012** through **February 1, 2013**.

Title of work enclosed _____

Format: _____

Director _____

Producer _____

Year of release _____

Format _____

Running Time _____

Language/s
/subtitles _____

Distributor _____

Email _____

Phone / Fax _____

Address _____

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

Your name _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____

Phone / Fax _____

Email _____

To enter the competition for the LASA2013 Film Festival

Mail the completed submission form, along with a DVD copy of your film 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, LASA2013 Film Festival
LAIS – CWIC 334 -- University of Richmond – 28 Westhampton Way – Richmond VA 23173 – USA
Email: cferman@richmond.edu

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. ■

Section Reports

[The texts of these reports have not been edited, appearing verbatim as received by the Forum.]

Asia and the Americas

Adrian H. Hearn, Co-chair

The May 26th meeting was the first since the Section changed its name from “Section for Latin America and the Pacific Rim” at the 2011 LASA congress. Attended by 17 people, the business meeting was also the first since Adrian Hearn and Enrique Dussel Peters became co-chairs. During the meeting the co-chairs recognized the winner of the Section’s writing competition, and awarded the \$500 prize to Michelle Bigenho, Hampshire College for her outstanding book, *Intimate Distance: Andean Music in Japan* (Duke UP, 2012). It was one of four entries received by the committee of three reviewers.

Adrian Hearn (University of Sydney) was elected to serve as Chair for the period 2012-2013. The following executive committee was elected: Julia Strauss, treasurer (School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)); Araceli Alonso (City University of New York); Sean Burgess (Australian National University); Monica Dehart (University of Puget Sound); Evan Ellis (National Defense University); Melissa Fitch (University of Arizona); and Vladimir Rouvinski (Universidad Icesi).

The outgoing co-chairs informed the meeting’s attendees about the Section’s activities over the preceding 18 months:

1) The Section has grown to 75 members, a satisfying outcome considering that many other Sections have contracted in size since LASA2011; 2) On May 22nd the co-chairs hosted a research workshop at the University of California-Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies, entitled “The China Factor in Mexico-US relations.” The workshop’s papers are under review for publication; and 3) The Section website has been frequently updated with

announcements of events related to Asia-Americas connections, and information about members’ activities and publications.

In preparation for LASA2012, panels were coordinated via email for those interested in presenting on the topic of Asia and the Americas. Prior to the Congress emails were sent to the member list with details of all such panels.

The Section session for the 2012 Congress, entitled “El Impacto de China en las Estructuras Económicas y Políticas de América Latina”, was attended by approximately 50 people. The Section will continue to offer its members the services it established during the 2010-2012 term.

Bolivia

Chris Krueger, Chair

From January 2011, the focus of Committee activity was on the preparation for LASA2012, including attempts to gather information and opinions about the state of Bolivian Studies and ideas for increasing north-south collaboration. Most of the ideas about Section activities that had been discussed at and after Rio (LASA 2009) have taken a back seat for lack of time and resources and remain on our collective agenda.

Section membership varies and has reached 139, but generally has been about 100. A review of membership just prior to

LASA2012 showed that of 104 members, two have addresses in Bolivia, seven reside in other Latin American countries (mostly Argentina), thirteen in Europe (mostly the UK), seven in Canada, one in New Zealand, and one in Japan. Seventy-three members reside in the United States; several

of them are Bolivians or are from elsewhere in Latin America. In addition to paying the Section membership fee, some 20 members donated \$700 that was used with general Section funds to bring Oskar Vega Camacho from Bolivia to participate as a speaker in Section activities.

For LASA2012, we planned three major activities in addition to our Section business meeting. The latter was attended by 35 members. Guillermo Delgado from UC Santa Cruz was recognized as the new chair until LASA 2013. Hernán Pruden continues as Secretary-Treasurer. Isabel Scarborough and Chris Krueger were elected as council members through LASA2014, joining Miguel Buitrago and Victor Unda who are serving through LASA2013.

Points discussed at the Business Meeting (see full report on Bolivia Section Website) included criteria for Section-sponsored activities at the LASA Congresses; the need to further develop the Section website, including if possible a virtual library of papers on Bolivia from past Congresses and the creation of a Facebook page; relations between the Section and the LASA Secretariat; the idea of closer relations with other country Sections; the need for fundraising among members and from third parties in order to carry out Section activities.

The Section’s panel on “Vivir Bien” was cancelled for lack of registration of two of the presenters but without consultation with the Section, which was engaged in special fundraising at the time. The workshop session “Bolivian Studies In and Beyond Bolivia” was attended by nearly 50 people, several of whom commented about the value of this format to provide greater opportunity for discussion among members. In addition, and thanks to the

cooperation from the Secretariat, the Section held a special session “Development Models and Current Context in Bolivia” at the Marriott on Sunday May 27 from 10-a.m.-2 p.m. About 20 persons attended and the discussion was taped for review and possible publication by the Bolivian Studies Journal (CLAS University of Pittsburgh).

Brazil

César Braga-Pinto and Eduardo R. Gomes, Co-chairs

The Brazil Section Business Meeting was held on May 24, 2012. The meeting was conducted by the co-chairs, with 32 people present. The Treasurer Emanuelle Oliveira presented the annual report about the membership and financial situation of the Section. As of that day, the Section had 382 members.

The election of new members for various positions was then announced. Through previous internet voting, Desmond Arias (CUNY) and Pedro Erber (Cornell) were elected the two new co-chairs of the Section, and Amy Chazkel, the new Treasurer. Angela Paiva, John D. French, Ivani Vassoler-Froelich, and Joseph Marques were chosen to four vacant positions of the Executive Council.

The Section awards were presented next. The prize for best book, was offered to Jerry Dávila’s (North Carolina) *Hotel Trópico: Brazil and the Challenge of African Decolonization, 1950-1980*. The award for best article was given to John D. French (Duke) and Luiz Valente (Brown), who ended up tied. French’s work was *How the Not So Powerless Prevail: Industrial Labor Market Demand and the Contours of Militancy in Mid Twentieth Century São Paulo, Brazil*, HAHR 90:1; whereas Valente’s was *History, Fiction and National Identity in J. U. Ribeiro’s An Invincible Memory and R. Coover’s The Public Burning*, Chasqui 15(1). The new award for best Dissertation was given to Uri Rosenheck, *Fighting for Home Abroad: Remembrance and Oblivion of World War II in Brazil*, from Emory University. In addition, the Prize Committee decided to offer an Honorary Mention to Amy

Chazkel’s (CUNY) for her book *Laws of Chance: Brazil’s Clandestine Lottery and the Making of Urban Life*, and to Rodrigo Rodrigues Silveira, for his Dissertation from the University of Salamanca, *Gobierno Local y Estado de Bienestar: Regímenes y Resultados de la Política Social en Brasil*.

Finally, the attendees dealt with a few other issues, but it was mainly debated how to best use the money left to improve the Section activities, a topic that was kept open to future discussions.

Central America

José Juan Colín and Ellen Moodie, Incoming Co-chairs

The Central American Section held its Business Meeting on Friday, May 25. Twenty-two Section members attended the meeting, along with Section Co-Chairs Yajaira Padilla and José Juan Colín and Advisory Board Member William Clary. Section Secretary Ellen Moodie and Advisory Board Member Sonja Wolf could not attend the meeting given a time conflict with their planned conference panel. At the time of the meeting, Section Membership stood at 225 members, entitling the Section to 4 sessions at LASA2012.

The first item on the agenda was a reminder and explanation of the new election cycle in keeping with the changes made to LASA’s electoral process. Yajaira Padilla explained that this year the Section would need to elect a new co-chair (to replace her) as well as a new secretary; the new co-chair would serve a term of one year and the secretary a term of two years. The Section co-chairs asked for nominations for both positions and proceeded to explain that on-line elections would be held immediately following the Congress. The new Section officers would assume their positions on June 1st. Two nominations were made for Co-chair (Yansi Pérez and Ellen Moodie), but not for secretary. José Juan Colín asked that members send nominations for secretary to either co-chair via email.

The second item for discussion was the role of the Section treasurer and that of

web-master. Yajaira Padilla explained that despite the fact that the Section had an official position for treasurer, it did not have an acting treasurer and that this role was designated by LASA as part of the secretary’s duties. She proposed that the Section follow LASA’s model. All members present voted in agreement. A similar discussion followed with regard to the Section web-master. Padilla asked members to eliminate this position and let LASA run the Section webpage or to have the student representative take over this role. Members voted to maintain the position of web-master. José Juan Colín asked for nominations for this position as well via email.

Next discussed was the Section website. Padilla explained that the website was not being used as effectively as it could be and that the Section needed to establish a system so that the site could be updated at least monthly with news about and links to publications, conference announcements, graduate student scholarships and achievements, and possibly a link to a Section blog. It was resolved that pending the appointment of a new web-master, the website would be managed by this individual.

The final item discussed was a declaration on behalf of the CAS-LASA Section regarding the human rights abuses in Honduras. The co-chairs provided Suyapa Portillo, one of the authors of the letter, time for a brief presentation. A draft of the letter was read out loud by Héctor Perla. It was agreed by all present that once the letter was finalized it would be posted on the CAS-LASA list-serve for approval by members.

Lastly, the Section’s goals for the upcoming year were also discussed. These include: offering 2 graduate student scholarships (\$750 each) and allowing for speaker funds as had been done in years past; cutting Section costs by opting out of the communal LASA reception for the upcoming year; providing a specific outline of the stated duties of the Section web-master and student representative; updating the web-site and contacting members at least monthly to solicit updates.

The Co-chair elections took place through email during the first few days of June. Ellen Moodie (University of Illinois/ Urbana-Champaign) and José Juan Colín (University of Oklahoma) were elected co-chairs for 2012-2013. Cecilia Rivas (UC Santa Cruz) was selected as secretary/ treasurer of the Section.

Colombia

Juana Suárez, Chair

La Sección Colombia se reunió el día 26 de mayo del 2012, con una asistencia de 26 miembros. En el espacio dedicado a anuncios se presentó una solicitud de colaboración de Fellowship por Reconciliation e iniciativas de posibles colaboraciones con WOLA y la Asociación de Colombianistas. Juana Suárez ofreció disculpas a nombre del Comité Ejecutivo por la parquedad de la recepción social, organizada junto a la sección de Cine la noche del 25 de mayo. El inconveniente hace obvio que el sistema de recepción propuesto por LASA es costoso y poco productivo a nivel social por lo tanto se recomendará considerar otras opciones para la próxima versión del congreso.

En el reporte general del ejecutivo, se informó sobre las gestiones adelantadas por el comité durante el periodo 2010-2012. Respecto a comunicaciones, se ha actualizado tanto el website de la Sección como el sitio anexo al sitio de LASA. La Sección ha abierto una página en Facebook (LasaColombia) y una cuenta en Twitter (#Lasa_Colombia) que complementan pero no reemplazan las páginas web y el boletín. Se reportaron adelantos en cuanto a becas y premios de la sección, los comités para los premios trabajaron en simplificar los requisitos y descripción de los mismos. En consulta con los donantes del Premio Monserrat Ordóñez se ha hecho un cambio mayor que consiste en alternar una versión de trabajo académico con trabajo creativo para fortalecer la producción del último (literatura escrita por mujeres) y así tener mayor material para la realización de artículos, monografías y trabajo académico en general. Se ha trabajado activamente en incrementar el número de becas que ofrece la sección; se están adelantando conversaciones para dotar de fondos el

premio Michael Jiménez e, igualmente, para crear una beca para estudiantes graduados. El paso siguiente sería lograr conseguir fondos para una beca que permita mayor participación de grupos indígenas y/o afrodescendientes en el Congreso Internacional de LASA. Se invitó a la membresía a sugerir donantes o instituciones a las que podamos apelar para estas iniciativas.

Sobre la re-estructuración de comités, el comité ejecutivo determinó la necesidad de repensar la dinámica de los comités para lograr mayor participación de la membresía y mayores resultados. Con excepción de los Comités para los Premios Monserrat Ordóñez y Michael Jiménez que han funcionado en forma eficiente y activa, se aprobó en forma unánime la siguiente modificación a los estatutos de la sección: “En aras de mayor efectividad y una participación activa de la membresía, el comité ejecutivo resolvió el día 25 de mayo reconsiderar la existencia de comités permanentes y reemplazarlos por comités *ad hoc*. En el caso del Comité de Derechos Humanos, habrá dos miembros funcionando como *liaison*, uno en Colombia otro en EU, que siempre estarán en los comités pero la categoría *ad hoc* permitirá que colegas interesados o directamente afectados por una situación o caso particular puedan participar en forma más proactiva en la gestión requerida de la sección”

En el caso de los estudiantes graduados, se hará una encuesta para determinar cómo puede la sección trabajar a favor de los estudiantes y adjudicarles un rol más activo en la Sección. En cuanto a la recuperación de la membresía, el número de miembros de la Sección logró sobrepasar los 200 al comienzo del periodo pero estamos de nuevo en aproximadamente 135. Se reiteró la invitación a renovar la membresía y a animar a colegas y estudiantes a pagar la cuota de la sección cuando renueven su ciclo con la asociación. Respecto a las elecciones para los cargos del comité ejecutivo, se propuso revisar el sistema de elecciones y utilizar un mecanismo más amplio e incluyente. Se votó para saber si la membresía asistente apoya una convocatoria para elecciones, previa

descripción de los cargos. La membresía aprobó en forma unánime.

El premio Monserrat Ordóñez 2012 fue presentado por Elvira Sánchez, Coordinadora del Comité. El trabajo ganador fue *Cuentan. Relatos de escritoras colombianas contemporáneas. Selección y prólogo de Luz Mary Giraldo*. Editoras: Paloma Pérez, Claudia Ivonne Giraldo y Lucía Donadío que recibe el premio de \$500. Se otorgaron menciones de honor a *Mujeres que hacen historia. Tierra, cuerpo y política en el Caribe colombiano*, informe del Grupo de Memoria Histórica de la Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación, Editora María Emma Wills y *Decimos, Hacemos, Somos. Discurso, Identidades de género y sexualidades* de Gabriela Castellanos Llanos

El premio Michael Jiménez 2012 fue presentado por Brett Troyan, Coordinadora del comité. El libro ganador fue *Violent Democratization. Social Movements, Elites and Politics in Colombia's Rural War Zones, 1984-2008* de Leah Anne Carroll. Se entregaron menciones de honor a Ricardo Esquivel Triana por *Neutralidad y orden. Política exterior y militar en Colombia, 1886-1918* y a Juana Suárez por *Sitios de contienda: producción cultural colombiana y el discurso de la violencia*.

La reunión concluyó con un emotivo homenaje de agradecimiento y entrega de una placa a Arturo Escobar por todas sus contribuciones como colega, investigador, activista y profesor. Leah Carroll ofreció unas palabras a nombre de la Sección Colombia LASA; Carlos Rosero a nombre de las comunidades afrocolombianas y un grupo de estudiantes leyó diferentes testimonios y agradecimientos.

Durante la reunión se agradeció a los/las siguientes colegas del Ejecutivo y de los comités por su trabajo en varios frentes. Tras convocatoria a elecciones y al no tener nuevos voluntarios, salvo por el comité asesor, los miembros del actual Comité Ejecutivo son Juana Suárez, Chair; Lina del Castillo, Co-Chair; Constanza López, Coordinadora de comunicaciones. Comité Asesor: Virginia Bouvier (segundo término); Olga Sanmiguel (primer término); Leah Carroll (Memoria de la sección y

tesorera); Brian Burke, Webmaster: Brian Burke.

Cuba
Sheryl Lutjens, Co-chair

The Cuba Section continues to promote academic relations among Cuban, U.S., and other scholars and worked actively to promote the participation of academics and intellectuals resident in Cuba in LASA's XXX International Congress in San Francisco in May 2012. The efforts of individuals, organizations, and the Section leadership toward academic exchange in the context of LASA are seen in the approximately 200 paper or panel proposals submitted by Cuban scholars, nearly 100 of which were approved by the Program Committee. Returning to U.S. territory for the first time since the 2005 Congress in Puerto Rico, there was great surprise and disappointment that visas were denied to 10 Cuban scholars. Seventy-four Cubans participated in the San Francisco Congress, their travel supported in whole or in part by LASA, the Ford Foundation, the SSRC, the Reynolds Foundation, and other institutions and organizations. A range of institutions and research centers were represented, and the participation of Mariela Castro Espín, head of the Center for the Study of Sexual Education, attracted attention by LASA members, the public, and the media. The exceptional work of Carmen Castillo and Milagros Martínez in facilitating the promotion of participation in LASA is greatly appreciated, especially given that both Carmita and Milagros were denied visas to attend the San Francisco Congress.

The Section had 296 members at the start of June 2012. The Section business meeting was held on Thursday evening, May 24, with approximately 125 (members and others) attending. The agenda of the meeting included an initial discussion of the state of U.S.-Cuba academic relations and specifically, the denial of visas to 10 Cuban participants, the response of LASA, and the Section resolution and other possible actions. The presentation of the Section Award for Lifetime Contribution to Cuban Studies to Nancy Morejón followed. Iraida López, Chair of the Prize Committee,

presented the award to Miguel Barnet, president of UNEAC, who accepted the award for Nancy Morejón; Kathleen Weaver, poet and translator of Nancy's writing, read one of her poems, followed by a reading in Spanish by John Dumoulin. Other highlights of the meeting included a minute of silence in honor of Debra Evenson and Max Azicri, colleagues who passed away in recent months, the first round of voting in Section elections, a report on the resolution on the Cuban Five initiated by Jean Weisman, and other announcements. The Section reception followed the business meeting, 9:00-11:00 pm, at Soma Restaurant and Bar.

The Section sponsored three panels at the San Francisco congress, all of which were very well attended: "The State of Cuban Studies Workshops I and II" and "Un acercamiento al proceso de ajuste del modelo económico cubano."

Electronic voting by those who did not attend the Section business meeting in San Francisco constituted the second stage of our Section elections. Two members of the Section Executive have completed their three-year terms on the Executive Committee, Miren Uriarte and Mayra Espín. The continuing members of the Section Executive are Iraida López (Executive Committee/outside of Cuba), Carlos Alzugaray (Executive Committee/in Cuba), and Douglas Friedman (Treasurer). The results of the 2012 elections are: Jorge Mario Sánchez (Co-chair/in Cuba); Sheryl Lutjens (Co-chair/outside of Cuba); Milagros Martínez (Executive Committee/in Cuba); and Lana Wylie (Executive Committee/outside of Cuba).

Culture, Power & Politics
Benjamin Arditi, Chair

The main activity of CP&P was to organize the Section's sessions in LASA2012 and to facilitate the circulation of information sent by members –events, research grants, and so on. We also collected signatures for a communiqué demanding an end to the killing of academics and journalists in Mexico. The Mexico Section and the LASA Executive Council supported our initiative and after the San Francisco

conference the Secretariat sent an official mail with the signatures to government offices, politicians and media in Mexico.

CP&P had a good showing in San Francisco with four Section slots and two more channeled through the regular track system. We also held our customary competition for travel grants. We awarded four grants of 500 U\$ each to help Section members attend LASA2012. They went to three doctoral students and one junior member of staff. The recipients were Calum McNeil, María Brockman Rojas, Vivian Nedwick and Antonio Torres Ruiz.

In San Francisco we held our Business Meeting and elections. The lineup of our current Council members is as follows: Jon Beasley-Murray, co-chair (University of British Columbia); Silvia Ares, co-Chair (Independent Scholar); Ana Wortman (Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani); José Poblete (University of California/Santa Cruz); Justin Read (University of Buffalo) and Antonio Ruiz.

The agenda for the Council's one-year term includes organizing the CP&P sessions for LASA2013, updating the Section's website and weeding the Listserv of dormant accounts.

Decentralization and Sub-national Governance

Julián Durazo Herrmann and Tyler Dickovick, Co-chairs

The Decentralization and Subnational Governance Section of LASA had a successful Congress in San Francisco in 2012, having sponsored two panels and organized a third. Attendance was relatively good, except for the late Saturday panel, which seems to have suffered from the scheduling. In all cases, the commentators did a great job and participation from the public was excellent.

At the business meeting, the Section elected Laura Flamand (El Colegio de México) as the new Section chair. Laura will be assisted by Lorena Moscovich (Universidad de Buenos Aires) and outgoing officers Julián Durazo Herrmann (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Tyler Dickovick

(Washington and Lee University.) Also at the meeting, it was announced that Imke Harbers had earned the Section's best paper award for the previous LASA conference, for her paper entitled "Public Funding and the Dynamics of Electoral Competition in Mexican States". The final item in the agenda was the announcement that the Section's website is up and running and that it is open to contributions from all Section members.

Our current Section membership is at 55 members, which means the Section is entitled to a single panel at LASA 2013. Several current members, including those listed above, will be working to encourage new and former members to register.

The Decentralization and Subnational Governance Section sponsored the following panels at LASA2012: "Decentralization and Social Policy: Service Provision & Feedback Effects"; and "Decentralization and Social Forces: Consequences and Responses."

In addition to the two official Section-sponsored panels the Section organized a third panel through LASA's general program entitled "Subnational and Intergovernmental Power Politics".

Defense, Public Security and Democracy
Bertha Garcia-Gallegos and Orlando J. Pérez, Co-chairs

The Section Business Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm, Friday, May 25 with a quorum of 18 members present.

Bertha Garcia and Orlando Perez concluded their term as co-chairs effective June 1. They were elected at the Rio meeting in 2009 and re-elected in Toronto. At the San Francisco business meeting Harold Trinkunas (Naval Postgraduate School) and Marcos Robledo Hoecker (Universidad Diego Portales de Chile) were elected co-chairs.

David Pion-Berlin and Maria Celina D'Araujo concluded their term on the executive committee. Members then elected Maiah Jaskoski (Naval Postgraduate School) and Liza Lorenza

Zuñiga Collado (RESDAL) as the new members of the executive committee. Liza and Maiah will join Deborah Norden and Jose Manuel Ugarte as the four member executive committee.

Kristina Mani's paper "Resourceful Militaries: New Economic Roles, New Challenges for Democracy" was selected as the best paper presented by a Section member at the 2010 Toronto meeting. Kristina was recognized at the business meeting and she received a monetary award. Budget permitting the Section will again call for nominations and select a best paper for the 2012 San Francisco meeting. That decision will be made by the new Section leadership. The Section also supported two participants with travel grants, Natalia Vargas Palacios and Juan Carlos Ruiz Vásquez.

Unfortunately, there was a decline in membership between the Toronto and San Francisco meetings. As a result we may only be able to sponsor one panel at the Washington 2013 meeting.

Finally, we discussed ways of increasing communication among members, such as a Facebook group page. In the meantime, members were encouraged to send items of interest for uploading to the web page

Economics and Politics
Mahrukh Doctor, Chair

The Economics and Politics Section aims to promote policy relevant dialogue as well as pure scholarship at the intersection of economics and politics. At the LASA Congress in San Francisco, the Section organized two panels to discuss (i) changing development strategies in Latin America, and (ii) the impact of conditional cash transfer programs on politics and the economy. The panels reflected on theoretical and comparative dimensions of each issue, discussing a variety of country experiences. Both panels were well attended and the participants raised a number of important issues in the discussion following the presentations.

The Section Business meeting was only attended by four members (in fact the

meeting clashed with a panel on which two of the Section's advisory council members were presenting papers). Hence, it was agreed to consult the Section members via an email about two issues discussed at the meeting. Members have been asked to comment (agree or disagree) on the following: 1) Whether the Section Chair and Committee should hold office for two year terms, given that LASA will meet every 12 months; and 2) whether the Section should award two prize for articles published by *Section Members only* – one open to all Section members and the other only to early career academics (i.e. articles published by post-graduate students or within three years of award of a PhD). Prizes would be selected by a committee of Section members.

The vast majority of voters agreed with both proposals, and as such the Section plans to move forward with both propositions. The Section officers were renewed for another year as agreed by the membership via email: Mahrukh Doctor (University of Hull), Chair; Diego Sanchez (Oxford), Secretary-Treasurer; and Andrew Schrank (University of New Mexico) and Ken Shadlen (London School of Economics and Political Science) as Advisory Council members.

Ecuadorian Studies
Carmen Martínez Novo, Chair

Nineteen members attended the Ecuadorian Studies Business Meeting in San Francisco. The Chair reviewed the activities that the Section has carried out since the Montreal meeting. We organized the Fifth Encounter of our Section in Quito on June 1-3, 2011. We had 59 panels and 265 papers. Our keynote speakers were Marc Becker from Truman State University and Carmen Diana Deere from University of Florida, Gainesville, with Jaqueline Contreras from FLACSO, Ecuador. In addition to the panels we had a film festival and a book exhibit.

Our membership has risen from 102 members in 2009 to 122 members in 2011. We gave two travel grants for graduate students this year. One went to Nick Rattray from the University of Arizona and

the other to María Moreno from the University of Kentucky. The directory of the Section selected the winning proposals. In the San Francisco meeting the Section sponsored two panels: One organized by Kitty Wong from University of Kansas and the second by Rut Román from University of Virginia College/Wise.

In the Section elections we completely renewed our directory. Rut Román (University of Virginia College/Wise) was elected as the new chair. Julie Williams (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) became vice-president. Nicholas Rattray (University of Arizona), Norman Gonzalez (University of Maryland), Jennifer Collins (University of Wisconsin Stevens Point), and Kathleen Fine Dare (Fort Lewis College) were elected vocals. The main decisions made at the meeting are that the Section will organize its next encounter in Quito in 2013, and that the Section will create an award for the best book in Ecuadorian Studies. A committee was formed to implement the goals.

Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina

Daniilo Romeu Streck, Chair

The Section Meeting took place as scheduled during the LASA Congress Program and was attended by 14 members. The first item of the agenda consisted of information presented by the current chair. He communicated that due to health problems the co-chair, Martha Nepomneschi, could not be present. In May, the Section counts a total of 95 members, a little less than at the previous meeting. There should be an effort to increase membership, since many participants in the Congress who present papers on education are not registered as Section members.

The Section presented two sessions at the Congress in San Francisco, which express some of the basic interests of the participants at LASA: “Educación en América Latina: Lo fundacional en la construcción de futuro” and “Investigaciones y estudios sobre experiencias educativas como instrument de aperture, descubrimiento, avance y

emancipación.” The new chairs will be responsible for organizing the Section sessions for the next Congress. There was also information about the website, whose functioning was considered by participants to be a priority for the next chairs. Following this participants also shared information on congresses: the VX Comparative Education World Congress (Buenos Aires, 24-28.06.2013); the CIES Western Conference (Arizona State University 25-27.10.2012), and the XXXV Congreso Interamericano del Circolo Amerindiano (Perugia, Italy, May 2013). The Section also approved the endorsement of a motion by LASA presidency to US officials regarding recent denials of visas to LASA members from Cuba. Finally, the members elected the following officers: Daniel Schugurensky (Arizona State University), chair; Cecília Pittelli (Universidad de Buenos Aires) co-chair; and Mark Abendroth (SUNY/Empire State College); Felipe de Jesús Pérez Cruz (Unión Nacional de Historiadores de Cuba); Manuel Larrabure (York University); and Danilo Streck (Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos) as Council members.

Environment

Jennifer Horan and Gregory T. Cushman, Co-chairs

The Section workshop at LASA2012 “New Directions in Latin American Environmental Research 21” registered participants plus late arrivals with institutional affiliations from 8 plus countries. All participants presented aspects of their ongoing research, leading to mediated discussion of current trends. Key issues were urban-rural relationships, culture of sustainability, disciplinary integration of natural and social sciences, “forgotten” environments, norms of procedural access; best and worst environmental practices.

The Section panel “Climate Change and Governance in Latin America” had four panelists plus the chair & discussant representing five countries, with approximately 25 in attendance. The Section also organized an informal Section dinner for 14. The Section awarded no prizes or travel grants.

At the Section Business meeting on Friday there were six in attendance, including two past Section chairs. To ensure continuity of leadership and integration of new leadership, beginning at the 2013 Congress in Washington, the Section will alternate election of co-chairs, with chairs serving staggered two-year terms. This year, Horan and Cushman agreed to continue as co-chairs in the interim. Because an early afternoon meeting time meant limited attendance the Section will request a 4:30 business meeting, to allow members to participate in more than one Section business meeting, but at more amenable time for the ENV Section.

The Section will submit a proposal for one workshop “New Directions in Environmental Research” (K. McCaffrey to organize) and one panel: “Environmental Issues in Urban Contexts” (chairs to organize.) Also for LASA2013 we will organize a dinner and a fieldtrip and will explore organizing a Wednesday excursion to Baltimore focused on marine environment and maritime activities or urban environmental justice. As an alternative we will explore a joint field trip with the Rural Studies Section.

As a service to Section members, will use a new “schedule app” to produce an environmentally themed schedule of Congress panels and activities, distributed as PDF screen shot. Two travel grants will be provided by the Section. Due to lack of interest, we will no longer have a reception.

In addition to the listserv, the Section will create a Facebook page in the fall as an alternative way to distribute info, best/worst practices, and member news.

To draw attention to environmentally-themed panels, the Section will explore submitting a joint Section/track chair proposal to the LASA President and the Executive Council (EC) to change name of the BIO track to “Environment, Biodiversity, and Natural Resources” (ENV) and to index panels under two tracks (one primary, one secondary). *[Update: 2013 track chairs in support of change pursued this issue at the track chair meeting; the Secretariat agreed that these are workable ideas and provided guidelines*

for submitting a formal proposal to the incoming president and the EC, for consideration and possible implementation for the 2014 Congress.]

Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples *Shannon Speed, Chair*

Elections were held via email prior to the annual meeting. The results were: Emiko Saldívar Tanaka (University of California, Santa Barbara) Chair; Emilio del Valle Escalante (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Secretary-treasurer. Consejo members include Tracy Devine Guzman (University of Miami) and Juliet Hooker (University of Texas at Austin). Continuing members are Luis Cárcamo Huechante (University of Texas/Austin) and Margo Tamez (University of British Columbia Okanagan). Outgoing members are Shannon Speed and Rich Stahler-Sholk.

The Section business meeting was held during the LASACongress in San Francisco. It was attended by 12 people. The agenda was as follows: a. Introductions; b. Report on election results and new officers; c. Report on membership; d. Budget report; e. Discussion of ERIP conference 2013, including whether it should be annual and whether it should be an immediate priority to hold it in Latin America; f. Discussion of extending term of Chair from 1.5 years to 2 years, due to change in LASA meeting schedule; g. Discussion of Section list serve, website and social media maintenance; and h. Discussion of the creation of a Section award to be given out at LASA to raise the profile of the Section.

It was reported that the Section now has 251 members; sufficient to allow us to invite four panels for next year's LASA in Washington, D.C.

Decisions included the following: a. The term of the Section chair will be extended to 2 years; b. the ERIP email-list serve will be unmonitored; c. a Facebook page will be created; d. the 3rd ERIP conference will be held in fall 2013; e. a call for proposals to host the conference will be disseminated; and f. a "Call for proposals" will be prepared for ERIP's conference. No

decision was reached regarding a Section award.

Activities during the 2011-2012 term included the 2nd ERIP Conference, organized by ERIP, CILAS-UCSD (Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, University of California, San Diego), and LACES (Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies, journal published by Taylor & Francis, held November 3-5, 2011 at the University of California, San Diego. It covered a wide variety of topics related to Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference committee consisted of David Mares (CILAS), Shannon Speed (ERIP, and Leon Zamosc (LACES.) More than 300 participants, including academics from all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and activists and practitioners from grassroots organizations and NGOs, participated in the conference. The program featured 67 thematic panels, presentations by featured speakers, and receptions and other events. A keynote address was given by Prof. Lynn Stephen (University of Oregon), entitled "Otros Saberes: Insights from Afro-Descendant and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America."

Two awards for Best Graduate Student paper were given. Two publications resulted from the conference: Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies special issue on Bolivia, and a book including many of the high quality conference papers, currently being edited by Marc Becker and published by Sussex University Press.

The ERIP Section held a reception with a cash bar at the Congress. Two double sessions were hosted by the Section.

Europe and Latin America (ELAS) *Anna Ayuso and Christian Ghymers,* *Co-Chairs*

The Section Business Meeting started with a report by the two co-chairs elected during the previous LASA International Congress –Miriam Saraiva (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) and Carlos Quenan (University de la Sorbonne Nouvelle.) Their report covered the results of the San

Francisco Congress and the activities between the two Congresses. ELAS successfully participated in the San Francisco Congress with the panel: "The European Union: A normative power in the relationship with Latin America?" and the Workshop "Cuba, Europe and United States times of changes". The Section complained about the refusal of visas to several Cuban participants, which affected various panels of the Congress, including one of the panels of the European Section. In spite of this negative aspect, the European and Latin America Section participation was quite good and gave interesting results. The Section also sponsored four other panels in the International Relations Track "New perspectives of regional and extra-regional relations of Latin America", "International Cooperation in Latin America: Issues of the Interregional Agenda", "The Politics and Finances of Latin American Regionalism: Part I, Politics" and "Latin America and the Caribbean Assessment and Perspectives."

At this moment, the ELAS Section has 74 members. There were 25 members present at the Business Meeting, due to the departure of several members prior to the meeting. The expenses of this period were, firstly with the Section Webpage and, secondly, as the travel grants for the two sponsored panels (a tradition of the Section.) Several topics were suggested during the meeting; notably a broad consensus was reached on focusing the aspects of the "Impact of the economic crisis upon the birregional relations", either directly or in some horizontal issues.

Section members elected as co-chairs include Anna Ayuso (Cidob, Barcelona), and Christian Ghymers (IRELAC-ICHEC, Brussels). The elected members of the Executive Committee include Bert Hoffmann (GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg); Carlos Quenan (University de la Sorbonne Nouvelle), Miriam Gomes Saraiva (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), Sebastián Santander (Université de Liege, Liege); and Erica Simone A. Resende (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro).

For the next Congress in Washington the Section can organise two panels; suggestions can be sent to us by the end of August.

Film Studies

Dorian Lugo-Bertrán, Co-Chair

En el Film Studies Section Business Meeting, Mayo 25, 2012, San Francisco, California, habían presentes 16 miembros.

Se eligieron las nuevas autoridades de la sección por voto unánime: Tomas F. Crowder (Soka University of America) Chair; Catherine Benamou (University of California/Irvine), Co-chair; Dorian Lugo-Bertrán (Universidad de Puerto Rico), Treasurer;

Beatriz Urraca (Widener University), Secretary; Emperatriz Arreaza (Universidad de Zulia) y Víctor Carreño (Universidad del Zulia, vocales.

Las actividades de la sección gestionadas en el término cursado incluyen las actividades planeadas por la sección para el congreso de 2012: Un panel sobre migración y cine; un workshop sobre cine e industria; un workshop sobre "intermediality". Además, habían 26 mesas sobre cine en el congreso. Se dio continuidad a la relación con ASAECA, auspiciando el simposio iberoamericano a realizarse en diciembre. Se creó una filosofía de la sección en español, inglés y portugués, disponible en la web de la sección. Se aumentó la membresía de la sección; en 2004 había 90 miembros y en 2010, 159. Se enfatizaron los temas interdisciplinarios y multimedia. Se creó el grupo Yahoo para comunicaciones entre los miembros. Se creó una política de cargos para la sección que se encuentra en la página web de LASA con descripciones.

Planes futuros: Se propusieron siete paneles/talleres para LASA2013 y se llevará a cabo una votación por email para elegir dos de ellas.

Se abrió el llamado a la postulación del Festival de Cine a una curaduría para el congreso del 2013. Los miembros de la Sección pueden postularse. Se habló de la

posibilidad de contactar a embajadas en Washington para obtener colaboraciones y contactos.

Gender and Feminist Studies

Montserrat Sagot y Millie Thayer, Co-chairs

El Business Meeting de la Sección tuvo lugar el viernes 25 de Mayo con una asistencia de aproximadamente 40 personas. La reunión estuvo coordinada por Millie Thayer (University of Massachusetts) y Montserrat Sagot (Universidad de Costa Rica), Co-chairs, así como por Elisabeth Friedman (University of San Francisco), Secretary-Treasurer. Se informó que en este momento la Sección tiene 237 miembros lo que nos permite de nuevo organizar cuatro paneles para el siguiente LASA.

Se informa también que desde hace un año aproximadamente se creó un Listserve para la Sección (originalmente administrado por Graciela Monteagudo) y que ha sido una buena forma de comunicación, por lo que se sugiere mantenerlo activo y actualizado. También se habló de la posibilidad de crear una página en Facebook. Esta vez la Sección tuvo derecho a organizar cuatro paneles. El proceso fue abierto, por medio de una convocatoria a toda la Sección. Se recibieron una gran cantidad de propuestas y al final las integrantes de la junta directiva hicieron una selección con base en unos criterios definidos previamente. Los paneles seleccionados para ser patrocinados por la Sección fueron: 1) Gendering Violence and Memory in Colombia and Guatemala: A Transnational Feminist Dialogue (Alison Crosby, organizadora); 2) Latin America's Culture Wars: Disputing Women's Bodies, Rights, Citizenship, and the Hegemony of Cultural Interpretation (Elisabeth Maier, organizadora); 3) Engendering the Divide: Mujeres, Activismo, Vida privada y Estado (Graciela Monteagudo, organizadora) y 4) Beauty, Race and Feminist Theory: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean (Megan Rivers-Moore, organizadora).

Se anunciaron también las ganadoras del Premio "Elsa Chaney." En esta ocasión el premio estuvo dirigido a "junior scholars"

que hubieran obtenido su doctorado a partir del 2007 y para estudiantes trabajando en sus disertaciones. El comité de selección estuvo integrado por Montserrat Sagot, Elisabeth Maier y Constanza Tabbush. Las ganadoras fueron: Primer lugar: Silke Staab con su trabajo: "(En)gendering the Post-neoliberal Social State: Change and Continuity in Chilean Social Policy"; segundo lugar: Hillary Hiner con su trabajo: "Nunca validaron nuestro trabajo: Pobladoras, violencia de género y ciudadanía en Chile, 1990-2010"; Tercer lugar: Pascha Bueno-Hansen con su trabajo: "Feminist Hemispheric Dialogues."

Por su parte, Sara Poggio y María Amelia Viteri informaron sobre el proceso de edición del libro que se está financiando con el remanente de los fondos de la donación hecha por UNIFEM hace unos años. Con este propósito, se firmó un convenio con FLACSO-Ecuador, para la edición del libro que incluirá los trabajos ganadores del Premio "Elsa Chaney" de los años anteriores.

La reunión también fue aprovechada para informar sobre la exitosa pre-conferencia "Latin American Feminist and LGBTQ Movements: Dialogues across Borders and Boundaries, co-organizada en conjunto con la Sección de Sexualidades. La pre-conferencia tuvo lugar el miércoles 23 de mayo en un espacio comunitario, el "Women's Building," y contó con la asistencia de más de 100 personas. Los tres paneles organizados estuvieron conformados por integrantes de ambas Secciones para discutir temáticas como la relación de los movimientos feministas y LGBTQ con el Estado, género, feminismos y sexualidades transnacionales, y encuentros y desencuentros entre los movimientos feministas y LGBTQ. La evaluación de la pre-conferencia por parte de las asistentes fue muy positiva y se aprovechó para reconocer todo el trabajo logístico de Elisabeth Jay Friedman, como contacto local, lo que contribuyó de forma decisiva al éxito de la actividad.

Se discutió también sobre las perspectivas de la próxima pre-conferencia y aunque hubo un reconocimiento del trabajo conjunto con la Sección de Sexualidades, algunas integrantes opinaron que para la

próxima vez debería pensarse en un formato un poco distinto y considerar otras temáticas, como las migraciones, sobre todo tomando en cuenta el contexto de una ciudad como Washington, DC y que hay algunas compañeras que ya han conformado un grupo de estudio sobre migraciones y que están proponiendo la conformación de una nueva Sección de LASA con esa área. Otras sugerencias fueron una colaboración con la Sección de Etnicidad, Raza y Pueblos Indígenas y la participación de activistas locales en Washington. Varias personas opinaron que sería bueno tratar de fomentar un diálogo dentro del evento.

Siguiendo las nuevas regulaciones de LASA para la elección de las juntas directivas de las Secciones, en esta ocasión se procedió a elegir a nuevas integrantes. Las personas electas fueron: Verónica Schild (University of Western Ontario) y Constanza Tabbush (CONYCEC-Universidad de Buenos Aires), Co-chairs por un año; Elizabeth Jay Friedman (University of San Francisco), Secretary-treasurer continúa por un año más. Los miembros del Board Sara Poggio (University of Maryland/Baltimore County) y María Amelia Viteri (FLACSO-Ecuador) continúan por un año más. Pascha-Bueno Hansen (University of Delaware) y Gabriela Arguedas (Universidad de Costa Rica) continúan por dos años.

Haiti/Dominican Republic

April Mayes and Kiran Jayaram, Co-chairs

By consensus, Section co-chairs Kiran Jayaram (Columbia College/Teachers College) and April Mayes (Pomona College) will continue to lead the Section until LASA 2013.

The Section has focused on growth for the past year and received many new members. The Section now has a presence on Facebook and two email groups with over 100 interested people. The current challenge remains growing the Section so that Haiti-D.R. and the rest of the Caribbean can enjoy greater representation within LASA.

This past year, the Section qualified for one panel. We organized concurrent panels

with the Scholarly Resources and Research Section, “Building and Rebuilding the National Patrimony: Universities and Research Archives Recovering from Disaster.” LASA provided travel grants for all of our participants; unfortunately, two of them could not attend the conference. We welcomed, however, Carolina González and Jean Marie Theodat as presenters.

We also organized a shared reception with Latino Studies and the Scholarly Resources and Research Section during LASA2012.

The Section also helped sponsor a conference organized by its former chair and founder, Henry “Chip” Carey, “Haiti after the Apocalypse: International Responses to the Earthquake and the Cholera Epidemic and the Future of Hispaniola.”

At the Section Business Meeting, members welcomed the possibility of creating an award for the best paper presented at LASA on a Haitian or Dominican topic. Section members also expressed a desire to take full advantage of LASA 2013 by inviting the Smithsonian to collaborate on the Section panel and other possible activities in coordination with the LASA programming committee.

Health, Science, and Society

Alexandra Puerto, Co-chair

The Health, Science, and Society Section Business Meeting took place on Friday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. with eleven paid members and two people with lapsed memberships in attendance. New officers elected at the Business Meeting included Rebecca Hester (UT Medical Branch) as Co-chair and José Amador (Miami University) as Board Member. The continuing officers are Alexandra Puerto (Occidental College) as Co-chair, Pablo Gómez (UW Madison) as Secretary/Treasurer, and Tânia Salgado Pimenta (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz), Marcos Cueto (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos), and Nielan Barnes (CSU Long Beach) as Board Members.

HSS reviewed three strong proposals for a 2012 special session and chose to sponsor

the panel titled “Secure Borders, Insecure Lives: The Health and Human Rights Consequences of Security Policies in the U.S. and Mexico.” The panel reflected Section members’ call for a special session on migrant health at the 2010 Business Meeting. Thirty-two people attended the special session, which included excellent presentations on health and human rights within the context of the War on Drugs and migrant incarceration, Central American migration across Mexico, Mexican refugees in El Paso, and reformation of the Mérida Initiative.

As per the discussion at the business meeting, three key initiatives will guide the work of Section officers over the next year. In the coming term, HSS will revive the Section Prize Competition for Best Article and Best Book. The Board Members will review nominees. Second, the Co-chairs will begin compiling an online bibliography of scholarship by Section members. Finally, Section officers will plan pre and/or post conference Section activities for LASA 2013 that capitalize upon the Washington D.C. location.

Historia Reciente y Memoria

Hillary Hiner, Secretary

After the 2010 elections in Toronto, the Section decided to move forward on a series of initiatives that looked to expand Section membership, as the Section itself was established only a short while ago and is still consolidating its membership base and LASA image. The Section secretary created a number of digital platforms in order to communicate with members and circulate information about Section activities: a web site on the LASA site (for LASA members), a Facebook page (for LASA members and non-LASA members), and also the continued use of the Google Group created previously.

The Recent History and Memory Section has also organized two major activities since 2010. First, during 2010, the Section organized a LASA panel titled “Mapeando las fronteras de la Historia Reciente. Nuevas perspectivas sobre fuentes, conceptos y temporalidades” for the 2012 LASA Congress in San Francisco. Second,

between August 2011 and May 2012, the Section also organized a Best Book in Recent History and Memory competition. The Section directory chose a three person jury for the contest, composed of Victoria Langland, Vania Markarian, and Cynthia Milton, who received many excellent submissions and narrowed down the field to seven outstanding finalists. At the Section Business Meeting in San Francisco the winners of the Best Book Prize were announced: the contest winner was Isabella Cosse, for her book *Pareja, sexualidad y familia en los años sesenta* and the honorable mention was Eugenia Allier, for her book, *Batallas por la memoria: Los usos políticos del pasado reciente en Uruguay*.

During this meeting the Section also debated ways in which to publicize Section news and recruit new members. Several options were considered, both in terms of print media and digital platforms. In addition, the Section talked about future projects, such as a Best Article in Recent History and Memory, and also the planning of the Section's panel for LASA2013 in Washington DC.

Lastly, the Section elected new officers, choices confirmed by email consultation with our members. The officers of the Section for 2012-14 are Claudio Barrientos (Universidad Diego Portales) and Cynthia Milton (Université de Montréal), Co-chairs; Hillary Hiner (Universidad Diego Portales), Secretary; and Council Members Alejandro Cerda (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana/Xochimilco), Florencia Levín (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento), Vania Markarian (Universidad de la República), and Rodrigo Sá Motta (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais).

Labor Studies

Maggie Gray, Secretary/Treasurer

The Labor Studies Section announces the election of co-presidents Cecilia Senén González (CONICET and University of Buenos Aires) and Mark Anner (Penn State). Our new Council members are Roxanda Maurizio (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, CONICET, and University of Buenos Aires) and Mariela

Quiñones Montoro (Universidad de la República, Uruguay, Agencia Nacional de Investigación, and Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica Udelar). Council members Andrew Schrank (University of New Mexico) and Carolina Bank Muñoz (Brooklyn College) are continuing for a year, as is secretary/treasurer Maggie Gray (Adelphi University). In addition, we have a newly established Graduate Student Council with co-chairs Katherine Maich (University of California, Berkeley) and Belén Fernández Milmanda (CONICET and Di Tella and the Catholic University of Argentina), and members Ricardo Nóbrega (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) and Paulo Cruz Terra (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói, Brazil). The Graduate Student Council is an effort to invigorate student involvement in the section and offer leadership training. We put out an email call for nominations to our membership and all positions were elected by acclamation.

The Business Meeting was fruitful, with a dozen members attending. A main topic of discussion was about how the Section can play a role in developing a more modern understanding of the divergent topics that labor studies encompasses. We agreed to focus a Section panel on new directions in labor studies, with the hope of publishing the papers, under the direction of Fernando Groisman and Andrew Schrank. The Labor Section also established a Best Paper Award.

Latino Studies

Gabriela Nuñez, Chair

The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Business Meeting was held on Friday, May 25 following our last of three panels "Issues and Trends in Latina/o Studies Today" and prior to our joint-Section reception. There were thirty members present; Co-chair Gabriela Nuñez and Secretary/Treasurer Carlos Alamo presided over the meeting. During the meeting we 1) introduced the new Co-Chairs, Mark Overmyer-Velázquez (University of Connecticut) and Deb Vargas (University of California Riverside); 2) discussed the most current financial status for the Section; 3) discussed ideas for Section-sponsored

panels for the next Congress; 4) announced the winners of dissertation, article, and book awards; and 5) opened up conversation to discuss the future of the Section within LASA.

Carlos Alamo (Vassar College) will continue as the Secretary/Treasurer.

During the coming term the Section plans to expand Latina/o Studies Section membership, organize Section panels for 2013 meeting, organize Award committees (book, article, dissertation), help coordinate discussion around the development of Latina/o Studies. It is important for the Section officers to encourage more panels to be submitted through the LAS program Section to increase more participation of Latino Studies-themed panels within LASA.

The co-chairs and secretary/treasurer reached out to specific scholars in the Latina/o Studies Section to form committees for each of the awards. We then put out an open call on our listserv inviting our members to submit their work for the appropriate award. Applicants emailed or mailed their work to the committee of their category, and the committee met electronically or on the phone to decide on the winners. We announced the award members at our business meeting during the LASA Congress.

The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Frank Bonilla Public Intellectual Award was won by Frances Aparicio (Northwestern University). The Award Committee consisted of Carmen Whalen (Williams College), Denise Segura (UC-Santa Barbara), and David Hernandez (UC-Los Angeles).

The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Book Award was won by Robert Chao Romero for "The Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940",

University of Arizona Press. LASA Latina/o Studies Section Book Award, Honorable Mentions went to Carlos Decena for "Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire Among Dominican Immigrant Men", Duke University Press and Cristina Beltrán for "The Trouble With Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity", Oxford

University Press. Book Award Committee members were Jossiana Arroyo (University of Texas, Austin), Gabriella Arredondo (UC-Santa Cruz), Adrian Burgos (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and Ginetta Candelario (Smith College).

The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Article Award was given to Albert Sergio Laguna for "Aquí Está Alvarez Guedes: Cuban choteo and the Politics of Play, *Latino Studies* 8.4 (2010): 509-531. The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Article Award Honorable Mention was given to Israel Reyes for "La frontera que embizca: retórica visual y la constitución del sujeto en *Migra Mouse* de Lalo Alcaraz," *Revista Iberoamericana*, 77.234 (Enero-Marzo 2011): 193-210 and to Marisel Moreno for "Family Matters: Revisiting *La gran familia puertorriqueña* in the Works of Rosario Ferré and Judith Ortíz Cofer," *Centro Journal* 22.2 (Fall 2010): 75-105. The Article Award Committee included Raul Coronado (University of Chicago) Chair; Lazaro Lima (Bryn Mawr College) and Yajaira Padilla (University of Kansas).

The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Dissertation Award went to Wilson Valentín-Escobar (University of Michigan) for "Bodega Surrealism: The Emergence of Latin@ Artists in New York City, 1976-Present." The LASA Latina/o Studies Section Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention went to Laura López-Sanders (Stanford University) for "Is Brown the New Black?: Mediated Latino Incorporation in New Immigrant Destinations." The Dissertation Award Committee included Deborah Vargas (University of California, Irvine), Chair; Richard T. Rodriguez (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and Rebecca Hester (University of Texas-Medical Branch).

Mexico

Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson, Incoming Co-chair

Section officers present at the Business Meeting on May 25, 2012, were Kevin J. Middlebrook, Co-Chair, and Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer,

and Council members Nora Hamilton, Sallie Hughes, and Wil Pansters. Over 60 Mexico Section members (a quorum) were present. The agenda included 1) Mexico Section Accomplishments, 2) Premios, and 3) New Business.

The Mexico Section is the largest section within LASA, with 415 members as of the last count. The Section has been very active since its creation three years ago.

One of the Section's accomplishments has been the creation of procedures concerning how to respond to requests for official endorsements and to issues of concern to Mexicanists. These procedures were drafted after the Section issued a statement to the BBC protesting comments made about Mexico and Mexicans in the British television show *Top Gear*, and when the Section was asked to issue a statement in support of Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui, who was fired from her broadcasting position due to her political comments and activism. These new Section procedures are further amended in the New Business section below to allow for timely responses to issues that involve possible physical harm and require immediate action.

The Section currently hosts two list-serves for communication to and among the membership. Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson manages both lists through Whitman College. The first list-serve is for official Section business; all Section members are automatically subscribed to this list. Only Section officers can post to the list; members may request that information be posted, but they cannot do so themselves. The second list-serve is optional for members interested in engaging in discussion and posting items of professional interest to the membership. All subscribed members may submit to this list.

At the Toronto conference and at the San Francisco meeting, the Section sponsored four Section panels/sessions, the maximum number allowed by LASA. The 2012 panels are listed below, but at the meeting members were especially invited to the last session, on *La libertad de prensa en México*. This was the Section's highest-

ranked panel. Dr. Raúl Trejo Delarbe (Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) was the keynote speaker

The Section Sponsored four panels/workshops at the 2012 San Francisco meeting including a workshop entitled "Democratic Consolidation or Democratic Regression? Mexico on the Eve of the 2012 Presidential Election"; a panel "La guerra que nadie quiso: la guerra contra el narco y sus consecuencias : 2007-2012"; another panel "Censorship in Mexico: The History, Theory, and Practice of Freedom of Speech"; and a final panel entitled "A conversation with Raúl Trejo about freedom of the press in Mexico".

The Section Co-chairs for 2012-2013 are Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson (Whitman College) and María Eugenia Valdés Vega (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa); the Secretary/Treasurer for 2012-2014 is Ted Beatty (University of Notre Dame). Council members for 2012-2014 include Helga Baitenmann (UCL Institute of the Americas), Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado (Washington University in Saint Louis), and Sonia Wolf (Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia). Continuing council members (terms ending in 2013) are Wil Pansters, Nora Hamilton, and Guadalupe Rodríguez Gómez.

The Section presented the following awards: Best Book in the Humanities to Beth E. Jorgensen for *Documents in Crisis: Nonfiction Literatures in Twentieth Century Mexico*; Best Article or Book Chapter in the Humanities to co-winners Ignacio Corona and Yanna Yannakakis; Best Book in the Social Sciences to Paul Eiss for *In the Name of El Pueblo: Place, Community, and the Politics of History in Yucatán*; an (Honorable Mention) to Paul Gillingham for *Cuauhtémoc's Bones: Forging National Identity in Modern Mexico*. The award for Best Article in the Social Sciences was presented to Christina Bueno for "Forjando Patrimonio: The Making of Archaeological Patrimony in Porfirian Mexico." An Honorable Mention went to Helga Baitenmann for "Popular Participation in State Formation: Land Reform in Revolutionary Mexico." The Best PhD Dissertation prize was

presented to Stephen C. J. Andes for “The Vatican and Catholic Activism in Mexico and Chile, 1920-1940”.

Under New Business Section members discussed the petition presented by Dr. Alberto Olvera, an anthropologist who has written articles about public security that are critical of the government on this issue, and has asked the Section to support him by approving a statement condemning retaliations against academics and journalists who speak out about the current violence in Mexico.

After the petition to support Carmen Aristegui was approved by the Section, new guidelines were developed to handle these situations. They state that after 10 Section members have endorsed a petition, a subcommittee of the Executive Council will prepare a formal statement, the approval of which requires two-thirds support of the Section’s Council and a majority vote of the Section membership.

Following discussion, it was agreed that in cases of urgency involving potential physical harm to the petitioner(s), the Section will hold an expedited electronic vote with a maximum 72-hour time limit. If the required majority is not achieved in this vote, then the Council can act on the petition if a substantial number of Section members clearly support the statement. This procedure was employed in the Olvera case.

Section members also discussed the idea of creating and awarding a travel grant (depending on availability of funds) that would permit one or more Section members to attend the annual LASA congress. The Council will develop on a proposal to be approved by the membership.

It was announced that a petition is circulating about Freedom University at the University of Georgia – a project to provide coursework to undocumented youth in Georgia (the Board of Regents has banned then from taking courses at the flagship campus). These courses are taught on a volunteer basis and on weekends.

Peru

Elena Alvarez, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM with 45 members in attendance. Those present discussed the report sent to the membership on activities from October 2010 to May 2012. The main activities had been selecting panels for the San Francisco Congress, managing the Book and Article Awards, developing a quarterly bulletin, creating content for the new website, and providing travel grants to three professionals. .

The Section was able to collect about \$1400 from member donations to the Peru Travel Fund. The Section received three applications for travel grants and the selection committee made up of Elena Alvarez, Angelina Cotler and Elena Sabogal selected three grantees based on merit and the criteria agreed upon during the Peru Section Business Meeting at LASA2010. Each candidate was required to present a budget and each received a partial grant to cover travel and other expenses. Grantees included Raul Hopkins, Tirso Gonzales, and Martin Bargel.

The Flora Tristan Book Award was granted to Christina Ewig (U Wisconsin) for *Second-Wave Neoliberalism: Gender, Race and Health Sector Reform in Peru*. The Jose Maria Arguedas Award went to Jessaca B. Leinaweaver, (Brown U) for “Kinship Paths to and from the New Europe: A Unified Analysis of Peruvian Adoption and Migration” in the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Julio Cotler a distinguished Peruvian anthropologist and political scientist who has studied key issues of Peruvian society.

The Peru Section organized three panels for LASA2012 1) “Different Rural Landscapes and Paradigmatic Approaches in Peru, Papers in Honor of Jose Maria Caballero”; 2) “Peru’s Post-CVR Landscape: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on the Legacy of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission” and 3) “Intervenciones, memorias y violencia armada en el Perú (1980-1995).

Elena Alvarez (SUNY-Empire State College) will chair for an additional term; Iliana M. Carrasco-Diaz (CIES, Consorcio de Investigacion Economica y Social) will continue as Co-chair. All other members will also continue Angelina Cotler (University of Illinois), Secretary and Enrique Mayer (Yale University), Treasurer. Council Directors include Laura Balbuena González (Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University), continuing, and Elena Sabogal (William Paterson University); continuing. Tracy Devine Guzman from the University of Miami was elected to the Council. Continuing Ex Officio Members/ Miembros Ex Officio include Mark Cox (Presbyterian College). Rosemary Thorp will chair the Book and Article Awards Committee and will revise the current guidelines.

Other important issues discussed at the meeting included creating a Facebook account; developing our own fund raisers to help defray some of our costs, such as travel awards and other; and organizing a conference in Peru. For 2013 it was decided to explore the possibility of doing it in Lima after the May LASA Congress. Some hosting organizations were suggested.

Political Institutions (LAPIS)

Miguel Centellas, Chair

The Political Institutions Section met on Saturday, May 26, with 27 members present. We congratulated our Section award winners, elected new officers, and discussed a new journal partnership. Our meeting was also attended by John Ishiyama (University of North Texas), the incoming lead editor of the *American Political Science Review*; he discussed the journal’s new editorial direction and encouraged LAPIS members to consider article submissions to *APSR*.

At the end of 2011, the Section had 156 members, which was a slight increase from over a year ago. However, those numbers declined in the following months; former members are encouraged to renew their memberships.

The 2012 Van Cott Award winners for outstanding book published since the last

LASA conference were Jana Morgan (University of Tennessee) for *Bankrupt Representation and Party System Collapse* and Todd Eisenstadt (American University) for *Politics, Identity, and Mexico's Indigenous Rights Movements*. Both books stood out from among a nearly a dozen high-quality submissions. The award committee consisted of Tullia Faletti (University of Pennsylvania), Gisela Zaremberg (FLACSO-México), and Miguel Centellas (University of Mississippi).

The Section's Best Paper Award for a paper presented at the 2010 LASA Congress was awarded to Noam Lupu for "Party Brands and Partisanship: Theory with Evidence from Survey Experiments in Argentina."

Section travel grants were awarded to Yen-Pin Su (University of Pittsburgh) and Andrea Castagnola (FLACSO-México).

During the Section meeting, we discussed the possibility of another journal partnership (in addition to our current partnership with the *Journal of Politics of Latin America*). The editors of *Latin American Politics and Society* approached us with interest in similar partnership. Final details remain to be determined, but prior consultation with the executive committee and subsequent discussion with the members present at the Section meeting suggested that a partnership with two journals would allow us to take advantage of the new 12-month LASA conference schedule.

Finally, Section members elected a new executive board. Executive Council Member Tullia Faletti (University of Pennsylvania) was unanimously elected Section Chair. As per Section tradition, the incumbent chair, Miguel Centellas (University of Mississippi), became Secretary. Three new members were elected to the executive council: Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (University of Pittsburgh), Moira Mackinnon (Tulane University), and Jana Morgan (University of Tennessee). The Section also extends its appreciation to the 2010-2012 LAPIS executive board members for their service: Todd Eisenstadt (American University), Matthew Cleary (Syracuse University), and Ryan Carlin (Georgia State University).

Rural Studies

Steven Zahniser, Chair

Rural Studies implemented many activities at the 2012 Congress. A fieldtrip took about 40 people to Monterrey and Santa Cruz Counties, where they visited two agricultural learning centers, a large commercial strawberry grower and packinghouse, and a smaller organic grower. The Section thanks Dave Runsten for planning this itinerary.

About 25 members participated in the Section's Business Meeting. New officers were elected include Kerry Preibisch (University of Guelph), Chair; Clifford Welch (Universidade Federal de São Paulo), Chair-Elect and Counselor; Nashieli Rangel Loera (Universidade Estadual de Campinas), Secretary-Treasurer; and Bernardo Mañano Fernandes (Universidade Estadual Paulista); Eric Rendón Schneir (K.U. Leuven); and Hannah Wittman (Simon Fraser University), Counselors.

The Section decided to create a Facebook page, while keeping its current list serve as the primary means of communication. The Section discussed how it could be consulted during the formulation of the Agrarian and Rural Life Track's paper sessions for the 2013 Congress. The Section renamed itself the "Food, Agriculture, and Rural Studies Section" to better reflect members' interests. It was suggested that the next fieldtrip visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Zahniser will investigate.

The Section also sponsored two panels at the Congress: "Impacts and responses to corporate globalism" (Candi Armijo, Efe Gürçan, Ivan Sandoval Cervantes) and "New Trends, Promising Developments, and Difficult Realities" (Myrna Martínez Nateras, Eric Rendón Schneir, Ivonne Vizcarra Bordi). Fulfilling a goal set at the 2010 Business Meeting, the Section invited and helped fund the participation of a leader from an organization focused on rural immigrants, Myrna Martínez Nateras of the Pan Valley Institute.

Scholarly Research and Resources

Holly Ackerman, Chair

The Section on Scholarly Research and Resources met on Friday, May 25th, 2012 with twenty members present. The Chair, Holly Ackerman (Duke University), reported how much would be left in the treasury following payment for the reception and that there are currently 43 members in the Section. LASA rules require a membership of 50 in order to constitute a Section but the Executive Council has been asked to provisionally continue all Sections with "close to 50" members for two more years and then review the membership level.

Since the current Chair is stepping down, there is a need for a new Chair and for a Secretary and a Treasurer. The latter two positions have not been filled in the past. There were no nominations from the floor. A Nominating Committee chaired by Gayle Williams with assistance from Brooke Wooldridge (both at FIU) was formed. A nominating period and election will be held soon by email in consultation with the Secretariat.

David Block presented a report on the University of Texas experiment in leadership of its Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LILAS) and Benson Library. Beginning in 2014 they will be co-directed by the Director of the Benson Library and a faculty member from LILAS. David pointed out that the LILAS and the Benson share a building and exhibit space which makes the model physically workable and that the new model came about following conversations with faculty concerning the present/future of scholarly resources and curricula. David promises to keep us informed about the progress of this model.

Brooke Wooldridge reported on the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) which has grown from its initial nine partners to over 30 and now has had over 13 million total views. The collection consists of more than 10,000 titles and 1.5 million pages of content. dLOC recently added important photographic material from Haiti produced by a staff in Haiti which was trained and equipped through dLOC. A new system of

membership has been added to promote use and to cover financial shortfall resulting from the end of Federal grants. Members can join at various levels (from \$1000 and up) that include rights to identify materials for digitization.

A long discussion followed on the future direction of the Section. The approach used this year was to work with other Sections on a theme of mutual interest. The model holds promise for including more faculty in the Section. Additional suggestions for consideration by the future Section leaders included: Using the Section panel to present a "How to" session that would interest graduate students and faculty such as "How to read colonial texts;" featuring work and the archives/ methods used by new scholars; featuring important regional blogs and open access archives; and overviews of issues in emerging methods such as digital humanities. A plan of activities will be finalized by the new Chair and other officers.

Sexualities Studies

Shawn Schulenberg, Chair

Together with the Gender and Feminist Studies Section, the Sexualities Section co-organized and co-sponsored a full day pre-conference at the Women's Building in the Mission District in San Francisco called "Latin American Feminist and LGBTQ Movements: Dialogues across Borders and Boundaries." Three panels were organized around the ideas of intersectionality and activism with three panels entitled, "Feminist and LGBT Movements and the State," Transnational Genders/Feminisms/ Sexualities, and "Encuentros y Desencuentros among LGBT and Feminist Movements." More than 100 people, academics and local activists alike, attended the preconference. Overall, the day was a great success!

This year the Section organized two panels at the conference in San Francisco: "Out: Rethinking Latin/o American Masculinities" and "Queer Latin@ Experiences in Space and Time." Both panels were well attended and good discussions took place. As in years past,

the Section also participated in the large Joint Section Reception on Friday night at the conference.

As of May 8, 2012, the Sexualities Section had 84 registered members. Much of the Business Meeting focused on two topics: ideas for a preconference at LASA2013 and some possible changes that need to be taken into account now that the LASA Congress meets annually.

There was a large discussion about the pros and cons of continually cosponsoring the preconference with the Gender and Feminist Studies Section. Some members wanted to keep it the same because it has been such a success in the past, while others wanted to branch out to see if other Sections would like to cosponsor in the future to keep the topics fresh. The decision was made to let the new co-chairs sort this out.

The second topic for discussion focused on Section Awards: now that the LASA Congress meets every 12 months instead of every 18 months, there Section essentially has a 50 percent less money to spend on every Congress. This especially affects Section Awards, which were not given out this year out of fear that they would deplete the Section budget for the next year. The decision was made that in the future the Section should definitely continue to give out awards, but remove the money prize if the money is not there.

Finally, Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui and Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, both of Rutgers University, were elected as Co-chairs of the Section. No Secretary-Treasurer was selected at the time.

No Section awards were given this year due to funding issues.

Southern Cone Studies

Luis E. Cárcamo-Huechante, Chair and Leila Gómez, Treasurer

On May 25, 2012, the Southern Cone Studies Section held its annual Business Meeting at the LASA Congress in San Francisco, California, with 40 members in attendance. The meeting was led by Luis

Cárcamo-Huechante (University of Texas/ Austin), Chair, and Leila Gómez (University of Colorado/Boulder), Treasurer, our re-elected officers.

For the 2010-2012 period, we aimed to improve our communications as a LASA Section. The first task was to conceptualize and establish a website, following one of the main recommendations made by members in the Business Meeting in Toronto in October 2010. In order to implement this objective, our colleague Katherine Karr-Cornejo volunteered as the Section web manager; in the past year, she worked in collaboration with the LASA Secretariat to launch our web presence. Today, our website functions as the main mode of public communication, and we also maintain a list server. Our e-mail address, is also an important tool to receive questions, comments and information from members as well as materials to post on the webpage.

At the 2012 LASA Congress in San Francisco, our Section held several panels which contributed to our growing visibility. First of all, distinguished scholar and literary critic Josefina Ludmer was our main guest of the year. She spoke at a panel that brought together around 100 attendees. Secondly, we had a special panel on the critical legacy of David Viñas, an event that gathered around 40 people in the audience.

Another path of work has been to build bridges between the humanities and the historical, political, economic and social sciences. To further those ends, we featured two interdisciplinary panels at the 2012 LASA Congress. The first focused on the issue of poverty, including papers that addressed this issue in the contemporary urban contexts of Montevideo, Santiago and Buenos Aires; this was a conversation that was enriched with panelists from sociology, political economy, urban studies, and cultural studies. Our second interdisciplinary panel of the year discussed the historical, sociological and cultural implications of the recent waves of immigration in Buenos Aires; specifically, the presenters spoke about the developments of the immigrant

communities from Paraguay, Bolivia, and Korea in contemporary Argentina.

Our discussion at the Business Meeting led us to undertake new tasks to continue enriching the intellectual debates and expanding the membership of the Section. These include: establishing correspondents in Buenos Aires, Santiago and Montevideo; increasing the participation of graduate students and emerging scholars in the field; and instituting book awards in the humanities and social sciences.

Venezuelan Studies

Jana Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer

The Section Business Meeting was held from 6:30 until about 8pm on Friday, May 25, 2012. There were 32 members in attendance. Outgoing Section President David Smilde (University of Georgia) presided over the meeting. The meeting began with an Homenaje to anthropologist and former faculty member at CUNY Graduate Center, Fernando Coronil. His wife and fellow anthropologist Julie Skurski was in attendance. Margarita Lopez Maya (Universidad Central de Venezuela/CENDES) and Charles Briggs (University of California/Berkeley) each offered remembrances of Professor Coronil and his contributions to research on Venezuela. The time ended with all in attendance standing for a moment of silence in memory of Professor Coronil.

Next the award committees honored the recipients of the Section awards for Best Article in the Humanities and Best Article in the Social Sciences. The award for Best Article in the Humanities was presented to Andrew Tillman for his paper “In the Service of *El Comandante*: Bolivarian History and Historian in Chávez’s Venezuela.” The committee also recognized Luis Duno Gottberg with an Honorable Mention for his paper “Narrativas semánticas y cambio social: metas para un cuadro venezolano.” The committee selected the winner of the Best Article in the Social Sciences, Leslie Gates, for her paper “Interest Groups in Venezuela: Lessons from the Failure of a ‘Model Democracy’ and the Rise of Bolivarian Democracy.” The committee recommended the creation

of an award in honor of Fernando Coronil, and will send a concrete proposal concerning creating the award to the Executive Council in order to work out the logistics and the officially establish the award.

Section President David Smilde then discussed the recent establishment of the Venezuelan Scholars Travel Fund. As a result of Section initiatives, the LASA Secretariat gave priority to the issue and created the Venezuelan Travelers Scholars Fund and helped to raise money. The fund reached \$10,700. For this conference, many Venezuelans submitted proposals; twenty-three qualified to receive funding. LASA came up with the funding for 13 applicants, and the other 10 received funding out of the Venezuelan Scholars Travel Fund. The Section Executive Council is seeking an exception to the LASA rules that limit funding to once every four years for travel fund recipients. Without such an exception the initiative will quickly become unsustainable. We also need to develop a strategy for raising more money.

A question was asked about the Section listserv. There was also discussion about holding a conference in Venezuela as we had done in the past. Incoming President Margarita Lopez Maya indicated that she would work on this. There was also a suggestion about trying to bring more young scholars into the Section, especially grad students. Other Sections have funds for student travel or to hold mentoring sessions. There were complaints that once again several Venezuela sessions were scheduled at the same time—including one organized by graduate students that took place at the same time as the Business meeting. The problem seems to be that LASA only cross-checks the Section panels instead of cross-checking all panels focusing on Venezuela.

Smilde thanked the outgoing member of the Section Executive Council, Javier Corrales. He also acknowledged incoming members – Tomás Straka (Universidad Católica Andrés Bello) who was re-elected to a second term, as well as Iraidá Casique (Universidad Simón Bolívar), Raúl Sanchez (La Trobe University), and Tim Gill

(University of Georgia), who will serve as graduate student representative.

The meeting ended with a brief statement from Margarita Lopez Maya. She indicated that she hopes to secure more resources to help people attend LASA so that people can participate in the academic discussion. She welcomes comments or suggestions.

Section nominations were solicited via the Section listserv. Elections were conducted online and hosted by LASA. President of the Section for 2012-2013 is Margarita López Maya; Secretary-treasurer is Jana Morgan (University of Tennessee). Newly elected members of council, through 2014 include Tomás Straka, Iraidá Casique (Universidad Simón Bolívar), Raúl Sanchez Urribarri (La Trobe University), and Tim Gill, Grad Student Representative. Continuing members, through 2013 are Ángel Álvarez (Universidad Central de Venezuela), Daniel Hellinger (Webster University), Sujatha Fernandes (City University of New York/Queens College), Jun Ishibashi (University of Tokyo), Kim Morse (Washburn University), Elizabeth Nichols (Drury University), and Alejandro Velasco (New York University). ■

New LASA Sections Approved for Membership Year 2013

Four new Sections have been approved by the Executive Council for the 2013 membership year. They include: Visual Culture Studies; International Migration; Mass Media and Popular Culture; and the Colonial Section.

Visual Culture Studies promotes the study and communication of visual cultural practices across Latin America. The Section will aid in encouraging an expansive definition of this field, to include the social, political, economic, technological, geographic, and industrial dimensions of the visual. For more information on the Section please contact Ernesto Capello <ecapello@macalester.edu>.

The Section on **International Migration** will promote networking and dialogue related to academic work and debates on immigration from, to, and within Latin America and the Caribbean among researchers, professors, students, and activists. It will organize a pre-conference as well as organize awards for scholarly work. For more information from the Section's proponents, contact Sara Poggio <poggio@umbc.edu>, Maria Amelia Viteri <maviteri@flacso.org.ec> and Alice Colon <colonal@coqui.net>.

The Section on **Mass Media and Popular Culture** brings together researchers interested in the cross cultural, interdisciplinary study of both emerging social practices and cultural objects produced for popular consumption, including posters, videos, comics, science fiction, cyber culture, music, etc. Researchers will have the opportunity to debate and theorize about new perspectives and insights into the social sphere from the perspective of the materiality of culture through collaborative projects and research. Silvia Ares <silviakares@hotmail.com> will be glad to provide additional information.

The **Colonial** Section seeks to promote dialogue among scholars across disciplines whose research addresses questions related to the colonial period in Latin America. Additional information can be provided by Clayton McCarl <clayton.mccarl@unf.edu>. ■

LASA2012 Survey Report

by MILAGROS PEREYRA-ROJAS, Executive Director

As with previous LASA International Congresses, LASA2012 meeting participants were asked to respond to a survey on a range of Congress-related issues. The slightly expanded 2012 questionnaire, with 25 items, was again conducted on line.

Six-hundred and fifty-six individuals responded. Even though this amounted to only 14 percent of total participants, LASA obtained valuable suggestions for changes to future Congresses.

There were three survey categories: demographics ; LASA2012; and future Congresses. The wording of questions about the Congress itself was kept as faithful as possible to that of previous surveys to ensure maximum comparability. The present survey contained additional questions, including those regarding the LASA application and online *Forum*.

The 2012 survey allowed respondents to indicate levels of satisfaction with several components of the Congress, such as panels, business meetings, the Film Festival, *Gran Baile*, etc. Overall satisfaction with LASA2012 was 83 percent. This represented an increase over the satisfaction levels of 75 percent for LASA2010 and 79 percent for LASA2009.

The last question of the current survey was open-ended and allowed respondents to leave both commendations and criticisms. We received 179 unique comments from 656 (or 27 percent of) respondents.

Suggestions/criticisms were associated with the three primary areas of the 2012 survey: logistics/scheduling; papers/panels; and cost.

On logistics and scheduling, several respondents were displeased that similarly

themed panels and sessions were scheduled at the same time. Some respondents also expressed disappointment that the Congresses are moving from an 18-month cycle to an annual cycle, since it may adversely affect the availability of university funding. Additionally, several respondents requested to have more Latin American countries as hosts of the Congresses, which LASA is actively pursuing.

Similarly to surveys for previous Congresses, many respondents insisted on the need for increased quality and selectivity of panel papers; panel-related comments focused on absent panelists or cancelled panels. Additionally, many respondents noted that some rooms lacked sufficient audience as participants were stretched between several same-themed panels and sightseeing.

Regarding expenses—always of great concern—respondents reported that the costs of attending the San Francisco Congress were between one and two thousand dollars, a figure equivalent to that for Toronto in 2010. Seventy-three percent of LASA2012 respondents received partial or full reimbursement of travel-related expenses from a range of sources, most notably university funds and national research grants; this was similar to the patterns of reimbursement for LASA2010.

Responses to past surveys have been extremely helpful as the Association has moved on to subsequent Congresses; similarly, responses to the present survey will help provide significant guidance as the Association prepares for LASA2013 and beyond.

That many respondents also took the time to write detailed comments, both positive and negative, is especially appreciated. This

kind of information helps ensure that LASA is able to continue what is working and improve on aspects of the Congress that can be bettered. Once again, our gratitude!

The annual meeting schedule will allow for slightly smaller Congresses—something that many Association members have desired over the years. And as LASA plans for future meetings, it will continue to work, among many things, on seeking the elusive balance between a process of increased quality/selectivity and a schedule that maximizes thematic diversity and opportunities. ■

LASA Voluntary Support

by SANDY KLINZING

LASA continues to make strides in advancing its mission thanks to the generous support of members, foundations and friends. Critical to that mission is the extension of substantial opportunities for scholars to participate in the Association's International Congresses via LASA travel grants. For the LASA2012 Congress, two-hundred seventy-eight grantees benefitted from travel grants valued at \$336,398. A large portion of the funding was derived from Endowment proceeds (\$166,429), followed by support from several foundations that totaled \$141,409 and \$15,000 from LASA operating funds. Congress travel was also supported by direct contributions to the Travel Fund (\$6,914), and to the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund (\$6,870). The latest recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award, Julio Cotler, received a LASA Life Membership thanks to a grant from the AVINA Foundation, and the Charles A. Hale Fund for Mexican History awarded its second grant to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his doctoral research in Mexican history. This Congress also saw the first presentation of the new Luciano Tomassini Award in International Relations, funded by an endowment created by the Ford Foundation. The Martin Diskin Lectureship continues to be funded both by LASA and Oxfam-America, the latter also instrumental in establishing an endowed fund for the Diskin Dissertation Fellowship Award.

Support for the LASA Endowment derives from many sources, including the major portion of each LASA Life Membership. At present LASA has 92 Life Members, 80 of whom have made this major financial commitment to the Association and 12 recipients of Kalman Silvert Awards, who are entitled to honorary Life Memberships. The most recent new Life Members are Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida

(Universidade de São Paulo) and LASA's past president; Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (University of Pittsburgh) and LASA's Executive Director; Guacayarima Sosa Machado (Global Foundation for Democracy and Development); and Julio Cotler (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos), the 2012 recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award. We thank you all for your generosity and your commitment to the Association.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to LASA funds since our previous report in the winter 2011 issue of the LASA Forum. (Many individuals donate to more than one fund, but names are printed just once.) We would be delighted to discuss additional opportunities for giving, including possibilities for the creation of new funds. Please contact Sandy Klinzing at <sklinz@pitt.edu> or call 412-648-1907 for more information.

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Nominations Call for the William M. LeoGrande Prize

The School of Public Affairs and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University are pleased to announce the establishment of the William M. LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S.-Latin American relations. This \$1,000 prize will be awarded annually to the author or editor of a book published in Spanish, English or Portuguese during the preceding two years. Prizewinners also will be funded to take part in a public presentation and discussion of the book in Washington DC.

Nominations for the 2012 award will be accepted until November 15, 2012, and the prizewinner will be announced in January, 2013, following evaluation by a multi-disciplinary committee comprised of scholars from AU and other institutions.

Nominations must include one copy of the book and a letter of no more than 750 words explaining its significance. Any published reviews and/or copies of evaluations by peer reviewers may be submitted as supporting materials.

Nominations and accompanying materials should be sent to: Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, American University, William M. LeoGrande Prize Committee, 4545 42nd St. NW, Suite 308 Washington, DC 20016

About the William M. LeoGrande Prize

The William M. LeoGrande Award was established in 2012 to honor William M. LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 2003 to 2012. The endowed award was made possible through the financial support of alumni, friends, and colleagues of Professor LeoGrande.

One of the world's most accomplished scholars in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy, Professor LeoGrande continues to serve as a professor of government at American University. He has written five books, including *Our Own Backyard: The United States in Central America, 1977-1992*. Most recently, he was co-editor of *A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Reinventing the Revolution*.

Professor LeoGrande has been a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, and a Pew Faculty Fellow in International Affairs. His articles have appeared in various international and national journals, magazines and newspapers.

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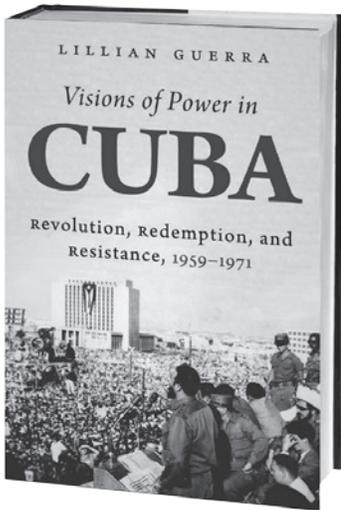


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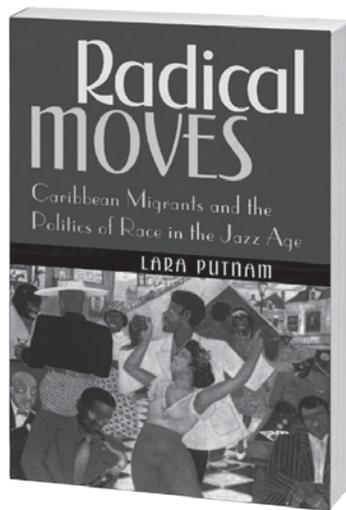
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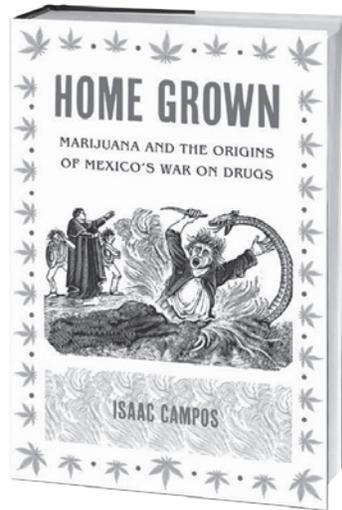
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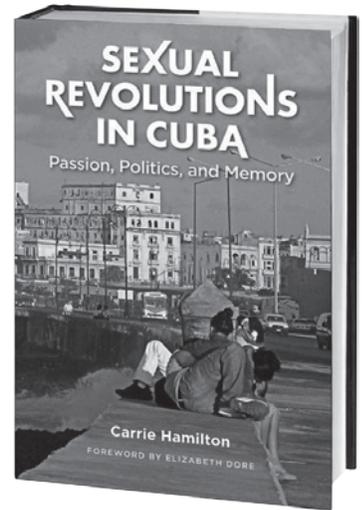
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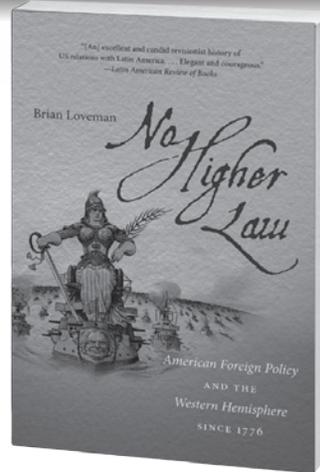


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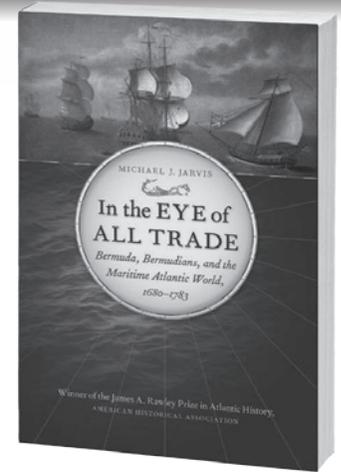
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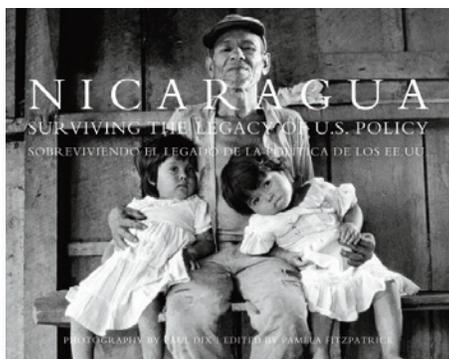
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Call For Proposals
BRASA XIII (2016) and BRASA XIV (2018)

BRASA's Executive Committee is now considering proposals to host BRASA XIII in 2016 and pre-proposals to host BRASA XIV in 2018. The deadline for both is December 1, 2012. All those who wish to be considered as hosts for BRASA XIII in 2016 must submit a complete proposal. Pre-proposals for BRASA XIV in 2018 are intended as an opportunity to work with potential hosts on fashioning a convincing proposal for the subsequent round, so are not expected to be complete at this point, and no decision will be made on the 2018 location during this round of consideration. In the event that a proposal for 2016 is not successful, it may be considered for 2018. Both proposals and pre-proposals should contain the following elements. It is acceptable to submit one proposal indicating that it is intended for either 2016 or 2018. Successful proposals will include the following:

* Introduction: Provide a brief profile of the prospective host institution and its capacity to host a major conference, as well as an overview of its connections to the study of Brazil (including a list of relevant faculty, partnerships and programs).

* Facilities: Indicate where conference meetings and events will take place. Please be as specific as possible in indicating the quantity of meeting rooms, the capacity of large meeting rooms and event halls, the prospective availability of these spaces, and their accessibility from nearby transportation hubs.

* Accommodation: Indicate where conference participants will be able to stay. Please be as specific as possible regarding price, capacity and accessibility of accommodations.

* Contribution by the Institution: Indicate the institution's support for the proposal. Letters of support from University or College Administrators indicating the institution's interest in and commitment to the conference will be particularly helpful. Please be as specific as possible in naming the individuals at the institution who will commit to planning and executing the conference, in partnership with BRASA's officers and staff.

* Proposed Dates: It is generally understood that BRASA conferences will be held between late July and mid-September of even years. BRASA will work with the host institution to determine the optimal dates. Indicate as specifically as possible the desired dates and the availability of meeting rooms, accommodations and transportation during those dates. (Note: in the event that candidates are submitting the same proposal for 2016 and 2018, there is no need to specify dates for 2018. The Committee will be in contact with candidates about this matter.)

* Contact Person: The proposal should close with a brief academic and professional profile of the individual most responsible as the local point of contact for the planning and execution of the conference. (Experience planning and executing major conferences is particularly welcome.)

For a version of this call in Portuguese, please contact brasa-illinois@illinois.edu. Please send completed proposals in docx or pdf to: Bryan McCann (bm85@georgetown.edu) or Sonia Ranincheski (Ranincheski.s@gmail.com).

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. With over 5,500 members, thirty-five percent of whom reside outside the United States, LASA is the one association that brings together experts on Latin America from all disciplines and diverse occupational endeavors, across the globe.

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