

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 LAPI 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). ■