

Note from the LASA2013 Program Chairs

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As we write in November 2012, LASA's 31st International Congress in Washington, D.C., is only months away. The Congress theme, "Latin America: Toward a New Social Contract," encourages multidisciplinary explorations of the prospects for achieving social, economic, political, and cultural inclusion in a region marked by deep historical inequalities. With its international outlook and rich cultural, intellectual, and political traditions, our host city, Washington, D.C., is an especially appropriate setting for scholarly dialogue on this theme and its public policy implications.

Congress headquarters will be at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, very close to the Metro and to the National Zoo, and a location amenable to participants and their families. The opening reception of the Congress will be held at the campus of Georgetown University, with co-sponsorship of LASA and Georgetown University.

The response to LASA's call for papers for the Washington Congress was vigorous. A total of 1,524 proposals were submitted, distributed across 33 different program tracks. Nearly 40 percent of these proposals were for pre-assembled panels, ensuring coherent and focused panels. LASA has made every effort to include as many participants as possible in the final conference program. We are deeply grateful to the 47 track chairs and co-chairs who volunteered their time and expertise to evaluate these proposals, form panels from individual paper submissions, and organize their tracks. We also thank LASA's organized sections for the panels they have created and for their ongoing commitment in their areas of interest throughout the years.

In coordination with LASA President Evelyne Huber, we are planning a series of preconference workshops, special events, and theme-related panels and roundtables. The workshops will include "Publishing in Latin American Studies," led by Philip Oxhorn, editor of the *Latin American Research Review*; "Data Bases on Latin American Political Institutions," led by Michael Coppedge and Gerry Munck; and "Latin American Resources of the Library of Congress," on site at the Library of Congress and led by Georgette Dorn, Director of the Hispanic Division, and her associates. Presidential panels will include "U.S.-Latin American Relations," featuring OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, as well as panels on "Basic Universalism and Social Policy in the New Social Contract" and "Political Parties and the New Social Contract." Featured theme-related panels will include sessions on "The Project on Ethnicity and Race in Latin America," "Social Movements and the New Social Contract," and "The Future of Studies of Latin American Political Economy." Special invitation panels will include sessions organized by CEPAL, the World Bank, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a session featuring the Mexican writer Jorge Volpi.

More details on these events and other Congress festivities will be forthcoming. We look forward to seeing all of you in Washington, D.C.! ■