

LASA2013 Awards and Recipients

reviewed after three Congresses. Thus far it seems to have been effective in reducing the number of proposals rejected.

Another member present encouraged the LASA leadership always to be “proactive” in regard to the potential denial of visas. LASA should also attempt to include Cuban resident scholars among the EC. Executive Director Pereyra responded that LASA had consulted with an attorney who specializes in issues regarding Cuba and OFAC regulations, and the attorney had advised that under current law Cuban resident scholars were not permitted to participate in the governing of the Association. Pereyra agreed to provide the letter including that opinion from the attorney. Pereyra added that LASA provides free Congress registration to Cuban scholars.

A final recommendation was that the Association make every effort to schedule the LASA Business Meeting at a time when it would not conflict with other sessions. ■

Kalman Silvert Award

The Kalman Silvert Award Committee consisted of Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida, Chair (Universidade de São Paulo), Julio Cotler (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos), Eric Hershberg (American University), John Coatsworth (Columbia University), and Philip Oxhorn (McGill University).

The 2013 recipient of the Association’s highest award, the Kalman Silvert Award, is Peter H. Smith, a scholar on United States and Latin American relations, and the Simón Bolívar Professor of Latin American Studies at University of California in San Diego. Smith obtained his PhD in comparative politics of Latin America from Columbia University in 1996. He has been a president of the Latin American Studies Association as well as being consultant to the Ford Foundation and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The following remarks are taken from Smith’s autobiographical statement in the spring 2013 issue of the *LASA Forum*. For the complete text, please see the *LASA Forum* article.

“The journey began many years ago when I yearned to take a summer trip to Europe, as many of my college classmates did at the time. The problem was a lack of funds, so I set out on a less expensive venture: a bus ride from New York City to Mexico City. I knew no Spanish, no Mexican history, no Latin American politics, nothing. . . . That trip changed my life. . . . I witnessed student protests, listened to expositions about all sorts of political values, and heard discussions (and diatribes) about Fidel Castro and U.S. imperialism. . . . Fortunately I enrolled for graduate study in history at Columbia University in 1961,

just in time for the inauguration of its renowned Institute of Latin American Studies. I was able to study with such luminaries as Albert O. Hirschman, Juan J. Linz, Frank Tannenbaum, and the indefatigable Lewis Hanke. . . . In subsequent years I embarked upon a program of self-education in political science, initially by auditing courses at the University of California, Berkeley. With the encouragement of Kalman Silvert, I determined to acquire a working command of quantitative methodology. This linkage of history and political science would define a core concern of my scholarly efforts: to analyze long-term patterns of political change in Latin America through the judicious application of cutting-edge methods in political science.

My first corpus of research focused on Argentina and resulted in two books: *Politics and Beef in Argentina* (1969), which examined political struggles over a key sector of the national economy from the 1880s to the 1940s, and *Argentina and the Failure of Democracy* (1974), based on a statistical analysis of roll-call votes in the Chamber of Deputies from 1904 through 1955. . . . These efforts also resulted in a book chapter on the breakdown of Argentine democracy in 1930. I then turned to Mexico and sought to unravel the political logic of its authoritarian regime. . . . I decided to examine the structure and transformation of the nation’s political elite from 1900 through the 1970s. I gathered and computerized data on the political biographies of more than 6,000 officeholders, and produced a book entitled *Labyrinths of Power* (1979). One significant by-product of this effort was a roll-call analysis of voting patterns in Mexico’s constitutional convention of 1917.

In the mid-1980s I received an invitation from the Ford Foundation to serve as co-staff director of a major project on U.S.-Mexican relations. The project produced a book-length study titled *The Challenge of Interdependence* (1988), led to encounters with presidents and dignitaries in both countries, and resulted in the publication of five volumes of background papers. Over the years I have edited or coedited more than a dozen anthologies on subjects ranging from historiography and methodology to regional economic integration, Mexican politics, U.S.-Mexican relations, drug trafficking, Latin America–East Asia relations, and women’s roles in Asia and Latin America.

Teaching has been one of my great pleasures. . . . In addition, I have drawn special satisfaction from teaching students in other countries—Argentina, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, and elsewhere. . . . All this work has allowed me to do an unexpected variety of things. I have traveled to most parts of the world; exchanged thoughts and ideas with public figures, prominent colleagues, and ordinary citizens; been the moderator for a monthly TV show; and expressed my opinions through op-eds and columns in national and international newspapers. I have even served as president of LASA. This career has been a privilege. It has been a responsibility as well. . . . I have relished the challenges, accepted the setbacks, and savored the satisfactions. To borrow a phrase from Maya Angelou, “wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now.”

Bryce Wood Book Award

Bryce Wood Book Award Committee members included Laurence Whitehead, Chair (Oxford University), Rosario Espinal (Temple University), Tulia Falletti (University of Pennsylvania), Paul Gootenberg (SUNY/Stony Brook University), Andrew Schrank (University of New Mexico), Doris Sommer (Harvard University), and Mary Kay Vaughan (University of Maryland, College Park).

Beyond the Lettered City: Indigenous Literacies in the Andes by Joanne Rappaport and Tom Cummins (Duke University Press, 2012) is the 2013 recipient of the Bryce Wood Book Award. The academic study of Latin America in English is flourishing, and this year’s Bryce Wood Prize Committee received over one hundred nominated volumes—nearly all of them valuable contributions to this broad interdisciplinary field. But one volume stood out as an exceptionally ambitious, thoughtful, and well-constructed achievement. *Beyond the Lettered City* combines fresh and challenging ideas about the foundations of literacy and the cognitive transformations produced under the impact of Spanish colonization, together with precise and evocative reinterpretations of well-chosen items of evidence, culled from the northern Andes of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The theoretical ambition of the work is to expand our conception of literacy beyond the unilateral introduction of alphabetic writing (the theme made famous in Angel Rama’s seminal *Lettered City*). Rappaport and Cummins aim to promote a far broader and more interactive understanding of the cognitive impact of the colonial encounter. The symbolic structure of European thought—artistic, architectural, religious, visual, and urban—

framed and embedded its more strictly literary expression, and all of this contrasted with highly elaborated indigenous ways of imagining and portraying their world. *Beyond the Lettered City* enriches our understanding of literacy in general and of its distinctive place in comparative history. It also highlights the active and creative responses of the Andean populations who were abruptly exposed to these initially unfamiliar conventions, which they apprehended through the lens of their own prior symbolic systems.

The volume shows how this multifaceted literacy operated as a social process in the formation of colonial society. The authors examine three ethnic groups (the Muisca, the Pasto, and the Nasa) in the non-Incaic setting of the northern Andes. They focus on nonelites: testators, local caciques, indigenous notaries, and communities seeking protection of their resources. Their analysis of intercultural communication is vivid and original (e.g., the drawing up of a will replete with religious ceremony, visual symbols, legal documents, and the inscription of such community valuables as snail shells or painted cloth mantles). Their use of concepts such as appropriation, mutual misunderstanding, and transculturalism is exemplary and sets a high bar for future studies. This is combined with a finely crafted and in-depth analysis of a broad array of colonial artifacts—ceremonial crosses, ceramics, churches, maps, murals, patents, portraits, urban grids, and wax seals—as well as of literary texts. Each item receives expert attention from the two authors in a volume that also sets an unusually high standard for collaboration between scholars drawn from distinct disciplinary backgrounds—one an anthropologist, the other an art historian.

Bryce Wood Book Award Honorable Mention

The Bryce Wood Book Award Honorable Mention was awarded to Isaac Campos for *Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012). This was a strong runner-up. *Home Grown* tells the remarkable and unfamiliar history that culminated in the decision of March 1920 by which the postrevolutionary Mexican state banned the cultivation and commerce of marijuana throughout the nation. It combines a challenging and unexpected reconstruction of the long Mexican history of production of this plant (initially imported from Spain to provide fiber for shipping) with a scholarly and persuasive account of how its health effects were misunderstood and sensationalized. Campos argues that while there is no scientific proof of a link between marijuana use and psychosis, in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Mexican popular, literary, and scientific thought, marijuana was believed to produce madness, violence, disorientation, and disorder in users. This belief in turn laid the foundations for the U.S. war on drugs. Campos establishes the internal Mexican origins of a prohibitionist urge strong enough to override well-founded expert attempts to correct hysterical misrepresentations. Although the contemporary implications are not developed, this history also has contemporary relevance concerning the self-reinforcing and negative consequences that follow from drug policies not founded on scientific evidence and not governed by public health principles.

Premio Iberoamericano

El Comité para el Premio Iberoamericano fue presidido por Elizabeth Jelin (CONICET-IDES) e integrado por Claudio Barrientos (Universidad Diego Portales), Saúl Sosnowski (University of Maryland) y Kurt Weyland (University of Texas at Austin). El libro ganador del concurso es *Revoluciones sin cambios revolucionarios: Ensayos sobre la crisis en Centroamérica* de Edelberto Torres-Rivas (F&G Editores, 2011).

Hay veces en que tenemos el privilegio de encontrar un caso donde convergen la excelencia académica, el compromiso cívico y la preocupación política. Eso es lo que se siente leyendo este libro: rigor académico, reflexividad y el fluir de la historia, en el que se es protagonista de una época y observador al mismo tiempo.

El libro narra la historia de tres procesos revolucionarios —El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua— mostrando sus ilusiones y sus promesas para luego convertirse en fracasos: son esas “Revoluciones sin cambios revolucionarios” a los que alude el título del libro. Nos muestra que la revolución era necesaria y al mismo tiempo inviable e imposible. Como “espectador activo” de esos procesos, como especialista y analista de realidades en flujo, el autor, en esto que él mismo define como “ejercicio personal, de la cuarta edad” se permite una reflexión lúcida, introduciendo una perspectiva histórico-temporal donde las coyunturas y las urgencias pueden ser miradas en su devenir de más largo plazo.

El libro tiene densidad teórica y dialoga con una vasta literatura de las ciencias sociales. La discusión sobre la relación entre historia y sociología, o las concepciones de la revolución son temas planteados directamente en el plano

teórico. Después, a lo largo de lo que presenta como una narración de los procesos en cada uno de los tres países, los diálogos teóricos explícitos e implícitos se multiplican y aportan a la conceptualización de los procesos de cambio y transformación en general y de los procesos revolucionarios en particular.

Con una perspectiva histórica, el libro es un modelo de investigación empírica profunda. Torres-Rivas presenta información específica y datos pertinentes a su tema, información que relaciona directamente con sus preocupaciones teóricas. No se trata de una ‘mera descripción’; selecciona los hechos cuidadosamente y los usa para sustanciar sus líneas argumentales. De este modo, quien lo lee se encuentra con un tratamiento sistemático de la economía política centroamericana y de los profundos cambios que ha experimentado. Las diferencias y divergencias entre los tres países aparecen con nitidez; también los temas comunes y las maneras específicas en que se manifestaron en cada uno de ellos. Hay algo más, metodológicamente importante: se trata de un análisis comparativo, pero como los procesos de los distintos países no son independientes, el libro trabaja simultáneamente los aspectos relacionales, señalando las influencias mutuas y los procesos globales que afectan a toda la región.

La línea central de la argumentación está centrada en el Estado, sin desconocer el impacto de los factores socioeconómicos y de clase. Nadie puede dudar del poder de los grupos sociales dominantes y las oligarquías en América Central, y Torres-Rivas es el primero en reconocerlo. Habitualmente este reconocimiento va unido al supuesto de estados débiles y sin autonomía. Torres-Rivas reconoce el poder de las fuerzas sociales, pero centra su

atención en el papel de las instituciones y organizaciones políticas, incluyendo de manera focal a las fuerzas armadas, que a menudo actúan según sus propios intereses y no necesariamente como “brazo armado” de las fuerzas sociales dominantes. Por el otro lado, al preguntarse sobre las motivaciones de la oposición para llevar adelante la lucha armada y los intentos revolucionarios, se encuentra con la ausencia de democracia y la opresión política, y no solamente con la explotación económica y la dominación social. Como análisis de la política, Torres-Rivas evita poner el énfasis en las reglas institucionales formales considerando, además, la interacción de los factores políticos con los económicos y sociales.

En suma, se trata de un libro teóricamente importante y empíricamente sólido sobre procesos políticos cruciales en una sub-región de América Latina. Sin embargo, no es —como ya se dijo al comienzo— un libro escrito desde un lugar puramente académico. Está inspirado en el compromiso político personal, lo cual le da una importancia particular. En sus páginas están los datos duros, pero también los ideales, utopías y sentimientos de su autor.

En el mundo de LASA, Edelberto Torres-Rivas no necesita introducción. Ganador del Premio Kalman Silvert en 2010, su trayectoria de investigación, de docencia y de gestión académica en FLACSO y en otras instituciones, en América Central y más allá de la región, indican a las claras su ubicación como uno de los grandes intelectuales latinoamericanos.

Media Award

The Media Award Committee included William LeoGrande, Chair (American University), Alma Guillermoprieto (journalist), and Karen DeYoung (*Washington Post*). The following text was delivered during presentation of the award by Chair William LeoGrande.

Marcela Turati is exceptional. She is the author of the 2010 book *Fuego cruzado: Las víctimas atrapadas en la guerra del narco* (Crossfire: Victims Trapped in the Narco-War), about the impact of drug violence on Mexican society. She writes for *Proceso* and previously reported for the Mexican newspapers *Reforma* and *Excelsior*.

Over the years, at *Proceso*, she has reported on the Zapatista uprising, government scandals, the drug trade, and the efforts of campesinos to protect themselves from machine-gun-wielding loggers and drug traffickers. Although the common element in many of these stories is violence, Marcela has focused her reporting not on the sensationalism of that violence but on the human dimension—on the victims of violence and the people who organize against it.

In 2007, together with a similarly committed group of reporters of her generation, she founded an association called Periodistas de a Pie (Journalists on Foot). It has become a reference point and a source of hope for journalists throughout Mexico, organizing workshops and creating a space where besieged reporters can find comfort simply in talking with colleagues facing the same dangers. Marcela and her cohort—including Daniela Rea, Daniela Pastrana, Alberto Najjar, and Elia Baltazar, to name a few of the most active participants—have taken real risks to

make Mexican journalism stand for something in these dreadful times. But in the face of these risks, the Periodistas have not backed down; they are the kind of people who ask themselves constantly, “If not me, who?”

Marcela Turati is also a recipient of the 2011 Ochberg Fellowship for coverage of violence and trauma from the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism; the winner of the 2013 Louis M. Lyons Award for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism presented by the Nieman Fellows at Harvard University; and the winner of the 2013 Human Rights Award from Washington Office on Latin America.

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Award and the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award

The 2013 Diskin Committee consisted of Aldo Panfichi Huamán, Chair (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Richard Snyder (Brown University), and Peter Smith (University of California, San Diego).

For the Lectureship Award 15 submissions were received—only 4 from women and all from outstanding scholars with committed activist work that resembles Martin Diskin’s legacy. In the first stage, the committee prepared individual rankings of all the nominees, considering academic contributions, social commitment, and the quality of the endorsement received. For the second stage the committee defined a top three final round and by majority decided that Professor Stefano Varese was the selected scholar for this year.

Professor Panfichi Huamán indicates that his enthusiasm with the selection is also personal, for Varese is one of the most distinguished scholars from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, where he prepared his bachelor and doctoral dissertations about the Campa indigenous people’s ethnohistorical and conflictive process of interaction with the state and modernity. This work would later be published as *La sal de los cerros*, his first groundbreaking contribution to contemporary anthropology. Charles Hale points out in his endorsement letter: “While Varese’s contribution in the early ’70s is noteworthy, what is truly remarkable is that he continued, for the next four decades, to stand at the forefront of this rapidly changing field. It is this visionary analytical acumen, the ability to shape the field and its future intellectual agenda, which makes Varese such an extraordinary

scholar. This acumen, in turn, is fundamentally shaped by Varese’s deep, consistent, and principled political engagement—as ‘witness’ and practitioner—with the peoples who have been his subjects of study.”

Eight applications were received for the Dissertation Award. All of them were from recently graduated PhDs and six were from women. Most of the dissertations dealt with Latin American politics and policies, and considerations regarding the state and natural resources, but a small group dealt with the Hispanicization of practices and spaces in the United States. Each of the committee members selected three top finalists, considering the academic quality of the dissertations, their linkage with contemporary Latin American problems, and the author’s commitment to the solution of social problems in the region. It became an utterly difficult assignment as all the research projects were faultless. In the end, two finalists were elected, and we couldn’t find any particular distinctiveness to choose one over the other. In this way, Erica Simmons and Lindsay Mayka became this year’s Martin Diskin Dissertation Awardees.

Erica Simmons’s dissertation is entitled “Markets, Movements, and Meanings: Subsistence Resources and Political Protest in Mexico and Bolivia” and was written for her PhD in Political Science at the University of Chicago. She examines resistance movements to market-oriented economic reforms from two case studies: one over the privatization of water in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 2000, and the other regarding liberalization of Mexican corn markets in 2007. She contends that market-driven threats to subsistence resources are a particularly powerful locus for collective action because these resources

have taken on meanings beyond their apparent material value.

Lindsay Mayka’s dissertation for her PhD in Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, questions the rationale that politicians follow when implementing participatory institutions, which, by design, limit politicians’ discretion. Under the title “Bringing the Public into Policymaking: National Participatory Institutions in Latin America,” she analyzes and compares the cases of Brazil and Colombia, arguing that participatory institutions are doomed unless they are embedded in a larger policy reform. She provocatively concludes that national participatory institutions can help deepen democracy but are destined to fail if deepening democracy is the main reason for their adoption.

Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

The Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History is awarded to Mexican graduate students in the last phase of doctoral research. The selection committee is charged with evaluating proposals based on scholarly merit and “the candidate’s potential contribution to the advancement of humanist understanding between Mexico and its global neighbors.” This year’s selection committee included Javier Garciadiego (El Colegio de México), Laura Gotkowitz (University of Pittsburgh), Eric Van Young (University of California, San Diego), and Richard Warren (Saint Joseph’s University), who served as Chair.

The committee chose to give this year’s award to Irving Reynoso Jaime of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Reynoso’s dissertation is entitled “Un estudio del radicalismo campesino: La política agraria del Partido Comunista Mexicana en los años veinte; La experiencia latinoamericana más avanzada.” This work builds on a growing historiography of Mexico that adds nuance and complexity to our understanding of relationships among diverse social actors and the emerging state in the aftermath of the Revolution. In this case, Reynoso focuses on the histories of radical agrarian groups in three different regions (Durango, Veracruz, and Michoacán) during the 1920s. Reynoso’s research promises to add significantly to the ongoing reassessment of Mexico’s postrevolutionary political evolution. The work also promises to contribute significantly to a broader understanding of the histories of agrarian movements and communism.

Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Award

The 2013 Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Award Committee consisted of Leslie Elliott Armijo, Chair (Portland State University), Michael Shifter (Inter-American Dialogue), and Juan Gabriel Tokatlian (Universidad Torcuato Di Tella).

In *Allende’s Chile and the Inter-American Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011), Tanya Harmer offers the hitherto underemphasized Cuban, Chilean, Brazilian, and inter-American side of the story of the election, administration, and overthrow of President Salvador Allende. In this absorbing, compulsively readable volume Harmer subtly displays both the political and the human story, drawing on newly available archives and extensive interviews with several of the aging participants and close observers. The conflicting perceptions, strategies, and personalities shine through, from Castro’s letter to the cautious Allende, which follows fulsome praise with the politely indirect observation that “someone once said” that a revolution requires “audacity, audacity, and more audacity” (142), to U.S. Secretary of State Rogers’s recommendation that Kissinger “encourag[e] the Chileans to do what they should” (54). The volume’s organization manages to be thematic yet mostly chronological, allowing the reader to absorb new information and analysis without the scholar’s craft impinging unnecessarily. It was the committee’s collective pleasure to select this book for the Premio Tomassini.

Luciano Tomassini Award Honorable Mention

While books intended as undergraduate texts relatively seldom receive scholarly prizes, the committee also was impressed with *Understanding U.S.–Latin American Relations* (Routledge, 2012), by Marc Eric Williams. The volume successfully integrates core elements of contemporary international relations theory, particularly from a realist perspective, with a briskly competent survey of U.S.–Latin American relations from the Spanish American War through the early twenty-first century. The committee was pleased to extend to Professor Williams honorable mention for the Tomassini Award. ■