

## Section Reports

program in New York, and the NYU administration was apprehensive about how the Politics Department would fare in the state evaluation. Kal would have none of it: “We must go in with our dukes up,” he argued, helping to energize a department that, as matters proved, scored very well in the official assessment.

Kal also helped to launch an effort at NYU that brought together his commitments to intellectual freedom, Latin American democracy, and human rights. Following Pinochet’s coup in Chile, Silvert assisted in setting up a network to obtain academic positions in the United States for Southern Cone scholars who had been forced into exile. New York was an ideal central location for such an undertaking. IALAC, under director Juan Corradi, provided office space and some staff, and Bryce Wood stepped in to administer the project.

Kalman Silvert, in summary, was an accomplished, memorable, and creative colleague at New York University. Avoiding any factional allegiance within departmental politics, he was modest, unselfish, energetic, and steadfast enough to censure the institution when he believed it was in the wrong. For colleagues at all ranks, but especially for younger ones, he provided an example to be emulated. Pressures that tend to erode collegiality have never been lacking, and revisiting Kal’s standard of academic conduct reminds us of what colleagues can and should achieve together. ■

### Asia and the Americas

Adrian H. Hearn, Chair

On May 30, 2013, at 7 p.m., the Section for Asia and the Americas held its business meeting. This was the second meeting since the Section changed its name from “Latin America and the Pacific Rim” at the 2010 LASA Congress and the first since Adrian Hearn (University of Sydney) was elected Section Chair in 2012. During the meeting, Kathleen López (Rutgers University) and Adrian Hearn were elected to serve as Co-chairs for the period 2013–2014, and the following Executive Committee was elected: Vladimir Rouvinski, Treasurer (Universidad Icesi), Sean Burgess (Australian National University), Monica Dehart (University of Puget Sound), Enrique Dussel Peters (UNAM), R. Evan Ellis (National Defense University), Junyoung Verónica Kim (University of Iowa), and Zelideth Rivas (Marshall University). The chair informed the meeting’s attendees about the Section’s activities over the preceding 12 months:

On May 29 the Section hosted a pre-Congress workshop in partnership with the Inter-American Dialogue, entitled “China, Latin America, and the Changing Architecture of Transpacific Engagement.”

The Section website has been frequently updated with announcements of events related to Asia-Americas connections and information about members’ activities and publications. The Section has grown to 82 members, a satisfying outcome considering that many other sections have contracted in size.

In preparation for LASA2013, panel proposals were coordinated via e-mail for those interested in presenting on the topic of Asia and the Americas. Shortly before the Congress, e-mails were sent to the

member list with details of all such panels. The Section will continue to offer its members these services ahead of LASA2014.

### Bolivia

Guillermo Delgado P., Chair

Este XXXI Congreso Internacional de LASA ha sido en general muy fructífero en cuanto a los paneles organizados por la sección. Se presentaron, a lo largo del congreso, más de cincuenta ponencias con temas bolivianos. La sección fue acreedora de seis becas de viaje lo que hizo posible la presentación de dos paneles, ambos apoyados por miembros de la Sección. LASA colaboró en diseminar la información correcta de la sección en el programa, así como efectivizar la presencia de los ponentes y becarios invitados. Otro panel organizado por Núria Vilanova, en la que uno de los becarios de la Sección contribuyó como panelista (Mauricio Souza) fue muy concurrido. La Sección acordó organizar un panel pre-congreso, realizado en la sede de la Universidad de California (UC-DC) cuya Directora la Prof. Melanie DuPuis (colega de Guillermo Delgado), nos ofreció un espacio para que muchos miembros de la sección pudieran conocerse, conocer a los panelistas, e intercambiar intereses comunes. LASA colaboró anunciando este evento en el programa general. La sesión pre-congreso se utilizó como un espacio para presentar a los becarios de la Sección quienes ofrecieron versiones cortas de sus ponencias al público en general. También se aprovechó ese momento para socializar e intercambiar saludos entre congresistas, y para ofrecer publicaciones que los panelistas trajeron a la reunión. Este evento fue útil ya que hubiera sido imposible que todos los congresistas asistieran a todos los paneles

simultáneamente. Las sesiones organizadas por la Sección estuvieron relativamente concurridas. Una, muy temprano (8:30 a.m.) no tuvo tanto público, pero las demás estuvieron mucho mejor.

Un tercer evento, post-congreso, organizado por la Sección para la comunidad de residentes bolivianos en Washington, ofreció una sesión con los panelistas-becarios. Este evento de servicio a la comunidad es alentada por LASA como organización, para crear una cercanía entre quienes estudiamos y analizamos temas bolivianos y el público en general. Después de este evento, coordinado por Chris Krueger y moderado por Isabel Scarborough, los panelistas invitados y otros miembros de la Sección que se unieron al evento, concluyeron el cónclave con la comunidad invitados por residentes y amigos de Bolivia que colaboraron en la organización del evento (hacer posters, distribuirlos en la comunidad, refrigerios, transporte, etc.). Varios factores contribuyeron a llevar a cabo un interesante congreso. La familiaridad de Chris Krueger con la ciudad, y los varios contactos de Guillermo Delgado con colegas (como la Sede de la U de California en Washington) que trabajan y viven allá fueron muy importantes. La Sección guió, con el apoyo de varios amigos en D.C. (especialmente Chris Krueger), la estadía de los panelistas becarios asegurando que no les faltara nada. Sin este particular hecho, no se hubiera podido organizar las varias instancias del congreso que forjó una comunidad de académicos que, esperamos, no pierdan el contacto.

La respectiva reunión de Sección sólo atrajo a una audiencia de veinticuatro personas y fue informada y produjo un diálogo animado entre los asistentes. Se aprovechó para informar de las tareas realizadas por la Sección, y compartiendo

los planes nos enfocamos en invitar a Virginia Aillón a presentar un informe preliminar, elaborado por el esfuerzo (pro-bono) de Chris Krueger y Virginia Aillón en Bolivia. Este documento es base de una futura propuesta para animar la consolidación de proyectos de intercomunicación e intercambio entre académicos y publicaciones tanto de norte como de sur. Siendo el documento de características exploratorias, la idea es expandirlo y utilizarlo como base para concretizar una propuesta que la sección lo puede adoptar como meta futura.

También se habló de colaborar en la repatriación de estudios sobre Bolivia que, muy frecuentemente, no llegan, no se traducen, ni se depositan en las bibliotecas bolivianas. Los estudios publicados en Bolivia (en español), no se citan tan frecuentemente como aquellos en inglés y la percepción, de norte dominando el sur, en vez de un diálogo entre iguales, suele terminar reforzando una visión de arriba a abajo.

Isabel Scarborough ha establecido contacto con la Sección del Ecuador con el propósito de coordinar algún panel bilateral. Continuamos también nuestro comunicación con la AEB (*Bolivian Research Review*) que tiene su congreso en Sucre (Julio 29–31, 2013), lo mismo que con Elizabeth Monasterios de Pittsburgh (*Bolivian Studies Journal*). El documento elaborado por Virginia Aillón y Chris Krueger puede servir de base para implementar un proyecto de intercomunicación, intercambio de estudios sobre Bolivia, y consolidar una red de varias instituciones sólidas que ya tienen recursos y/o programas académicos establecidos (el caso del PIEB, CESU, CIDES, varias universidades en Bolivia, Taller de Historia Oral Andina, IEB, Plural Editores, Archivo Nacional, etc.). Se

sugiere también crear un grupo virtual para materializar la base de estos proyectos. Entre las falencias de la sección, durante la sesión de business, tenemos que reconocer que no logramos elegir una nueva mesa directiva. Habiendo convocado a renovar la mesa, fracasamos en recibir nombres de candidatos para dirigir la sección con miras al Congreso de LASA Chicago 2014. Al cerrar este informe solicitamos, en consecuencia, voluntarios que se ofrezcan para liderar la sección. Mientras tanto, Chris Krueger, Isabel Scarborough (en colaboración con Guillermo) continúan informando a la sección hasta que logremos sustituir a Guillermo, Hernán Pruden, Miguel Buitrago y Victor Unda que terminaron su gestión.

## Brazil

Desmond Arias, Co-chair

The Brazil Section held its business meeting on May 31, 2013, at the LASA Congress. Approximately 20 individuals attended. The meeting began with a report on the budget and the prizes awarded for best dissertation, best article, and best book. Best Dissertation was awarded to Felipe Amin Filomeno, "The Social Basis of Intellectual Property Regimes: Biotechnology in South American Soybean Agriculture" (PhD dissertation, John Hopkins University, 2012); Honorable Mention went to Rochele Fellini Fachinetto, "Quando eles as matam e quando elas os matam: Uma análise dos julgamentos de homicídio pelo Tribunal do Júri" (PhD dissertation, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, 2012). The prize for Best Article went to Yuko Miki, "Fleeing into Slavery: The Insurgent Geographies of Brazilian Quilombolas (Maroons), 1880–1881," *The Americas* 66, no. 4 (2012); Honorable Mention was awarded to Bryan Pitts, "The Audacity to

Strong-Arm the Generals: Paulo Maluf and the 1978 São Paulo Gubernatorial Contest,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 92, no. 3 (2012). The Best Book Prize was awarded to André Cicalo, *Urban Encounters: Affirmative Action and Black Identities in Brazil* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). The winners were chosen through the following process. An open call went out to the Section for nominations. The Executive Committee then formed the three subcommittees that deliberated on each of the prizes.

At its meeting, the Section held elections for co-chairs and for two members of the Executive Committee. The current Co-chairs, Desmond Arias (City University of New York, John Jay College) and Pedro Erber (Cornell University), were elected to new one-year terms. Joseph Marques (King’s College, London) and Angela Paiva (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro) were also reelected to two-year terms as members of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer Amy Chazkel (City University of New York, Queen’s College) continued in her current position. Executive Committee members John French (Duke University) and Ivani Vassoler-Froelich (State University of New York, Fredonia) also continued in their current positions. All three positions, which have a term of two years, are up for election in 2014.

After the election the attendees had an extended conversation about the role of the Section and how it could better achieve its goals. There were discussions regarding collaboration between groups of Brazilianists and methods for choosing panels for the upcoming conference.

### Central America

Ellen Moodie, Co-chair

The Central America Section (CAS) held its business meeting on Thursday, May 30, during the LASA Congress. Twenty-nine Section members attended the meeting. Membership this year is 190, down from 225 in 2012. The matter of yearly meetings has likely caused the decline. Next year CAS can support three sessions. This year’s sessions were “The Art of the Central American Diasporas: A Roundtable Discussion” and “Race, Sex, and Spectacles of Power in Caribbean Central America.” Two people applied for the \$750 travel fellowship. Co-chairs José Juan Colín and Ellen Moodie chose Allen Cordero Ulate, profesor-investigador (Universidad de Costa Rica, FLACSO) after evaluating the applications according to a list of priorities: recipients should be from Central America, live in Central America, be students, and should explain their financial need in a short statement. For next year, all members present voted to have two \$750 travel fellowships.

We considered four more items: 1) prizes for student papers about Central America (this conversation will continue online); 2) inviting a Central American author or intellectual to speak at the meeting next year, a suggestion greeted enthusiastically and approved by all present (CAS officers will ask for nominations online); 3) whether to have a Facebook page (Yolany Martínez will set it up); and 4) new officers. Four advisory board members, self-nominated online, took office: William Clary (University of the Ozarks), Sonja Wolf (Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia, Mexico), Yansi Pérez (Carleton College), and Erin Finzer (University of Arkansas, Little Rock); Héctor Cruz Feliciano, in the end the only

candidate, has been declared Co-chair for a two-year term.

### Colombia

Constanza López, Co-chair

The Colombia Section held its business meeting at LASA2013 with 33 members present. During the meeting it was proposed to change year-and-a-half terms for elected officers, and members voted unanimously to change terms to two years. Therefore for the period of 2013–2015 the following people were elected: Constanza López (University of North Florida), Chair; Alejandro Quin (University of Utah), Vice-Chair; Leah Carroll (University of California, Berkeley), Secretary-Treasurer; Joseph Avski (Texas A&M University), Communications Manager; and Ben Johnson (Columbia University) and Catalina Arango (New York University), Student Representatives. The Section’s advisors are Ginny Bouvier (United States Institute of Peace), Mauricio Romero (Universidad Javeriana), Mercedes Jaramillo (Fitchburg State University), and Juana Suárez (New York University).

It was decided that the Section will run one award competition each year, alternating years. In 2014 the Premio Montserrat Ordóñez will be given, and in 2015 the Premio Michael Jiménez will be awarded. Elvira Sánchez Blake (Michigan State University) was elected as the coordinator for the Premio Montserrat Ordóñez, and Anne Farnsworth Alvear (University of Pennsylvania) will be the coordinator for the Premio Michael Jiménez. The Section will sponsor three panels for LASA2014. The Section celebrated its reception at Rumba Café on May 31. The Section currently has 144 members and is publishing a monthly bulletin.

### Colonial

Clayton McCarl, Chair

The new Colonial Section held its first elections electronically in April 2013. Clayton McCarl (University of North Florida) was elected Chair for the coming year, and the council members are Mónica Díaz (Georgia State University), Pablo García Loeza (West Virginia University), Ann De León (University of Alberta), and Raúl Marrero-Fente (University of Minnesota). Patricia Tovar Rojas (CUNY, John Jay College) is Secretary-Treasurer. The Section held its first business meeting at LASA2013 with nineteen members present. Members discussed a proposal to award a prize for a dissertation in 2014, the organization of the section's two sponsored panels for LASA2014, and a succession plan for the group's leadership. The Section celebrated its inaugural reception at the Cosmos Club near Dupont Circle on May 31. The Colonial Section currently has approximately 90 members and is publishing a quarterly newsletter, titled *Colonial/Colônia*.

### Cuba

Sheryl Lutjens, Co-chair

The Cuba Section was created in 1997. As LASA Congresses have become annual events, and with ongoing issues of visa denials, the Section's efforts in 2012–2013 focused squarely on the Washington, DC, International Congress. In all, 136 scholars from Cuba were accepted for the LASA program and 88 applied for visas. Of these, 11 applications were denied.

The Section organized four very diverse panels and workshops for the Washington Congress. One was cancelled, unfortunately, but the others had excellent attendance.

The Cuba Section business meeting had a full agenda and 125 in attendance. Items discussed included the Section's and LASA's executive efforts to prevent visa denials, coordinated by Jorge Domínguez; strategies to bring younger scholars and scholars from the provinces into the Section; and conducting a survey, including suggestions for panels and activities for LASA2014.

The Section's Premio a la Excelencia Académica en los Estudios sobre Cuba was awarded to Lars Schoultz (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). The selection committee was composed of Carlos Alzugaray (Chair and representative of the Section Executive) and four previous recipients of the Section Award.

The hard work of the Section Election Committee—Lana Wylie (Chair), Elena Napoles, and Elaine Scheye—is much appreciated! Election results are Nancy Morejón (Casa de las Américas) and Lillian Manzor (University of Miami), Co-chairs; Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva (Universidad de La Habana), Lana Wylie (McMaster University), Jorge Domínguez (Harvard University), and Milagros Martínez (Universidad de La Habana), members of the Executive Board. Section Treasurer is John Kirk (Dalhousie University).

Section activities for the coming year will include streamlining the membership application process for scholars from Cuba and reaching out to younger academics and artists, especially those residing in the provinces. Sincere thanks go to Mario Bronfman (Ford Foundation), Sarah Doty (Social Science Research Council), and Andrea Panaritis (Christopher Reynolds Foundation) for their contributions to the reception and to the participation of scholars from Cuba in LASA2013.

### Culture, Power, and Politics

Jon Beasley-Murray, Co-chair

In line with decisions taken at the 2012 San Francisco Congress (for which see last year's report), the agenda for the Culture, Power, and Politics Section in 2012–2013 was to organize the Section sessions for LASA2013 in Washington DC, to update the Section's website, and to update the e-mail list. These last two items were completed early in the year, as the Section built up its presence on the website provided by LASA and transferred to new e-mail list software. As before, we used the list to circulate information among members (for instance about events and research grants), encourage communication and the sharing of research, and enable productive synergies. At the Washington Congress, the section organized three well-attended sessions on the diverse topics of food security, cultural politics, and inequality. The business meeting confirmed the continuing terms of the Section's Secretary-Treasurer, Justin Read, and council members Antonio Torres-Ruiz, Ana Wortman, and Silvia Kurlat Ares, as well as electing new Co-chairs Jon Beasley-Murray (University of British Columbia) and Juan Poblete (University of California, Santa Cruz), and new council member Maya Aguiluz-Ibargüen (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). It was resolved that for the coming year, the Section's priorities would be 1) rewriting the Section's definition and charter, especially in the light of the existence of other, newer LASA sections whose areas now overlap with that of Culture, Power, and Politics, and 2) using the Section's accrued capital to invite one or more major figures to LASA2014, perhaps as part of a pre-Congress workshop or conference.

## **Decentralization and Subnational Governance**

Laura Flamand, Co-chair

The Decentralization and Subnational Governance Section of LASA had a successful Congress in Washington, DC, in 2013, sponsoring one panel and organizing another. Attendance was very good in both cases. In both panels, the commentators did a superb job, and participation from the public was excellent. At the business meeting, with an attendance of 18 members, the Section elected Lorena Moscovich (Universidad de Buenos Aires, CONICET) as the new Section Chair. Lorena will be assisted by Laura Flamand (El Colegio de México). Also at the meeting, it was announced that the Section would select the best paper award for a student who is a Section member and had presented a paper at LASA2013 or will at LASA2014. The final item in the agenda was the announcement that the Section would organize and propose panels for other international conferences (International Political Science Association, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association) on the subjects of decentralization and subnational governance.

Our current Section membership is at 66 members, which means the Section is entitled to a single panel at LASA2014. 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 panel at LASA2013: “Decentralization and Subnational Governance: Reconceptualizing and Measuring Decentralization.” Increasing numbers of scholars are becoming concerned with the conceptual framing and

measurement of decentralization. Divergent fields use diverse definitions and measures to answer questions related to the concept. These conflicting methods are thus creating assorted outcomes. This panel revisited the fundamental definitions of what we mean by decentralization and presented a review of how scholars are interpreting and measuring the concept. In addition to this official section-sponsored panel, the Decentralization and Subnational Governance Section organized a second panel through LASA’s regular channels on the related topic of electoral strategies and coalitions in federal countries.

## **Defense, Public Security, and Democracy**

Marcos Robledo and Harold Trinkunas, Co-chairs

The business meeting for the Defense, Public Security, and Democracy Section was conducted on May 30, 2013. Approximately 25 members of the Section were present. The meeting was chaired by Co-chairs Marcos Robledo and Harold Trinkunas.

The meeting discussed the evolution of the Section during the 2012–2013 term. We noted that the Section has increased in membership and it was now eligible for two section-sponsored panels at LASA2014. The Section ended the term with a slight increase in available funds, even after a travel grant was made. We appealed to members to contribute information on recent research and publications to the Section website.

The Section unanimously elected Deborah Norden (Whittier College) and José Manuel Ugarte (Universidad de Buenos Aires) as the new Co-chairs of the Section. Rafael Martínez (Universidad de Barcelona) and Jaime Baeza (Universidad

de Chile) were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee. José Manuel Ugarte, David Pion-Berlin, Marcos Robledo, and Harold Trinkunas were thanked for their service to the Section during the 2013 term.

For the LASA2013 Congress, a travel grant in the amount of \$300 was made to Magdalena Defort (University of Miami). The selection was made by the Executive Committee of the Section, comprised of David Pion-Berlin, Deborah Norden, Maiah Jaskoski (Naval Postgraduate School), and Liza Zúñiga (Red de Seguridad y Defensa de América Latina). The selection was made from among submissions by Section members who were presenting papers at LASA2013. The Section agreed to sponsor two travel grants for LASA2014.

## **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. For the LASA Congress in Washington, DC, the Section had organized three panels to discuss 1) international financial institutions and their changing relations with Latin America (with senior officials from the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, and United Nations Development Programme present); 2) issues related to the financial inclusion of the poor in Brazil; and 3) the domestic and external challenges to Brazil’s new development path.

The Section awarded an open prize and an early career prize for articles published in peer-reviewed journals in 2012. Our first winners were Barbara Hogenboom and Steven Samford, respectively. Many thanks go to our prize panel members: Kathryn

Hochstetler, Patrice Franko, Derrick Hodge, Matthew Taylor, Margaret Commins, and Ken Shadlen.

Section elections were organized to select new officers and a four-member council. The business meeting was attended by ten members, including the newly elected Section officers and committee, who will hold office for the next two years. Members discussed the activities of the previous year, award panel process, issues related to the Section's website, a proposal to award travel grants to Section members, and ideas for other initiatives going forward. The new officers are Gabriel Ondetti (Missouri State University), Chair; Tony Spanakos (Montclair State University), Treasurer; and Kathryn Hochstetler (University of Waterloo), Steven Samford (University of Notre Dame), Flavio Gaitán (IESP-UERJ), and Mahrukh Doctor, members of the Section Advisory Council.

#### Ecuadorian Studies

Rut Román, Chair

On Thursday May 30, 2013, the Ecuadorian Studies Section business meeting took place with 26 members attending. During the meeting we discussed the following points: term report, elections and the renewal of the directorate, and questions and requests.

The chair reported that the Executive Committee—Rut Román (Universidad Laica “Eloy Alfaro” de Manabí), Julie Williams (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Norman González (University of Maryland), Kathleen Fine (Fort Lewis College); Jennifer Collins (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point); and Nick Rattray (University of Arizona)—has carried out the following tasks. Biannual

Ecuador meeting: During the last business meeting it was decided that our conference should be taken out of Quito and into the provinces to extend our visibility and encourage new membership. In view of the upcoming VI Encuentro de Ecuatorianistas, the Executive Committee secured sponsors in addition to the hosting city and institution, Universidad de Cuenca. We obtained financial support for the new design and upgrade of our Section website from the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar. The Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales agreed to finance promotional printouts for the VI Encuentro de Ecuatorianistas (Cuenca, June 27–29, 2013). Dr. Enrique Ayala-Mora (Chancellor of the Universidad Andina) will be the guest speaker during the VI Encuentro de Ecuatorianistas. We have accepted 140 papers from Ecuadorian and international scholars that will be organized in 46 panels. During the VI Encuentro we will have the assistance and support of professors and students of the Universidad de Cuenca. The municipality of Cuenca will be offering a special event and dinner party, “Noche cuencana,” in an old hacienda house in the outskirts of Cuenca. The Fulbright Commission will offer the closing luncheon.

In response to the request made during our last business meeting in San Francisco, the Executive Committee called for the first LASA-Ecuador Book Prize. The prize of \$1,000 was financed by the Universidad de Cuenca. The reviewing committee was formed by Carmen Fernández Salvador (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Pablo Ospina (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar), and Juan del Pozo (PUCE). The prize was awarded to Ketty Wong (University of Kansas) for her book *Whose National Music? Identity, Mestizaje, and Migration in Ecuador* (Temple University Press, 2012).

The Ecuador Studies Section has 99 active members. During LASA2013 our Section sponsored the panel entitled “Native Populations and Forced Labor in the Ecuadorian Amazon, 1890–2010.” We organized an event for our members at Lillies Restaurant and Bar in Washington, DC. The chair suggested we should offer travel funds for Ecuadorian students to attend the VI Encuentro in Cuenca; the attendees agreed with the proposal. All members are invited to post articles and papers in the different areas noted on our website, so as to broaden opportunities for collaboration and contact. The chair made a special mention of the continuous support and hard work of our webmaster, Carlos Reyes Ignatov, during the development of our website.

As per LASA regulations we proceeded to call for Executive Committee elections, with the following results: Rut Román (Universidad Laica “Eloy Alfaro” de Manabí), Chair; Julie Williams (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Vice Chair; Francisco Sánchez (Universidad de Valencia), Secretary-Treasurer; and Jennifer Collins (University of Wisconsin), Kathleen Fine (Fort Lewis University), and Carolina Bown (Salisbury University), members of the Executive Committee. Rut Román highlighted the collaboration of the past Executive Committee, especially Norman González (University of Maryland).

John Walker proposed making a renewed effort to include sponsored panels in areas such as art and the humanities; after a few minutes of discussion this was accepted by the membership. A suggestion was made to expand our book award with a special award for best published article. The assembly approved the petition, and the leaders will investigate how to include this new section in the biannual prize.

## Educación y Políticas Educativas

Javier Hermo, Executive Council Member

En el horario de las 19 hh previsto para la reunión de la sección, se dieron cita 20 miembros de la misma, variando el número a lo largo de las dos horas que insumió el encuentro, sin que nunca estuviera por debajo de los 10 miembros requeridos para el quórum, de acuerdo al Manual de Secciones de LASA. La sesión fue presidida por Cecilia Pittelli, co-chair de la sección, quien comenzó realizando un repaso de lo actuado durante el período, la situación actual con 76 miembros activos del área y que ello supone que se pueden presentar dos paneles específicos de la sección para LASA2014, lo que requiere comenzar a trabajar para definir los temas y panelistas. En tal sentido, se acordó en debatir a través de la lista de correo de la sección ambas cuestiones antes de la fecha tope para envío de propuestas. El debate giró en torno de la necesidad de estimular un crecimiento de las membresías de la sección, así como la posibilidad de redefinir el nombre y alcance de la misma. Se mencionó, en particular, la posibilidad de unificarse o bien trabajar en conjunto con la track de Niñez y Juventud, para lo que se decidió que el Consejo revise las posibilidades estatutarias y se realicen consultas al secretariado de LASA.

También se propuso volver a insistir en la idea de realizar publicaciones de la sección. En tal sentido, Felipe Pérez propuso comenzar por reunir trabajos presentados en este Congreso y convocar a otros posibles interesados para editar una o varias publicaciones colectivas y ofreció compilar una con posibilidades de ser publicada en Cuba para 2015 o 2016. Norberto Fernández Lamarra propuso, también, realizar una convocatoria abierta a los miembros de la sección, de LASA y otros posibles interesados para enviar artículos con miras a una publicación

colectiva cuyo tema central esté ligado al del Congreso 2014 “Democracia y Memoria”. Se ofreció, también, para organizar un Comité Académico de Evaluación para tal publicación. Javier Hermo se ofreció para compilar una publicación colectiva sobre educación superior y explorar la posibilidad de publicarlo con alguna editorial. Asimismo, se propuso para coordinar la tarea de publicaciones a emprender, con el objetivo de centralizar las iniciativas de publicaciones a elaborar y, en conjunto con los chair de la sección, hacer las presentaciones correspondientes a LASA para su aprobación. Por su parte, con respecto a los esfuerzos por integrar nuevos miembros, Cristian Cabalin se ofreció a difundir las actividades y tareas entre la Red de Investigadores Chilenos en Educación y otros foros similares. En idéntico sentido, Fernanda Saforcada, se comprometió a hacer lo propio en el espacio de CLACSO y, especialmente, el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Educación. Lo mismo plantearon Fernanda Astiz y Mauricio Horn con respecto a redes de ex-alumnos de posgrado de universidades norteamericanas interesados en la educación latinoamericana. También, Beatriz Calvo y Gladys Barreyro se comprometieron a lo mismo entre las comunidades académicas mexicana y brasileña, respectivamente. Todo ello con el fin de contribuir a generar espacios de sinergia con otras redes existentes que trabajen sobre temas ligados a la educación en América Latina. Con respecto a los fondos de la sección, se debatió el explorar la posibilidad de contar con fondos de sponsoring de editoriales académicas, una vez que se logre establecer una política continuada de publicaciones.

Respecto de la renovación de autoridades, habida cuenta de que no se habían cumplimentado debidamente los

procedimientos establecidos en el Manual de Secciones se resuelve elegir un nuevo Consejo completo. Se procede a ratificar a Cecilia Pittelli (Universidad de Buenos Aires) y Daniel Schugurensky (Arizona State University) como Co-chairs de la sección, nombrar a Mauricio Horn (Universidad de Buenos Aires) como Secretario-Tesorero, como vocales a Felipe Pérez (Unión Nacional de Historiadores de Cuba), María Fernanda Astiz (Canisius College) y Gladys Barreyro (Universidade de São Paulo), así como incorporar la figura de Editor en la persona de Javier Hermo (Universidad de Buenos Aires).

## Environment

Jennifer Horan, Co-chair

The members of the Environment Section of LASA held their business meeting on May 30, 2013. At the meeting plans for LASA2014 were developed. These include the selection of the theme for the first of the Section's two sponsored panels: Citizen Participation in Environmental Conflict. In addition the membership decided to continue to hold a workshop session. The Section also created a Best Paper Award. This award is open to all LASA2013 participants who have presented papers on environmental topics and are also members of the Environment Section. The Best Paper Award (\$250) will be given at the Section business meeting during LASA2014 in Chicago, Illinois.

## Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP)

Emiko Saldívar, Chair

Elections were held via e-mail prior to the annual meeting. Emiko Saldívar Tanaka (University of California, Santa Barbara) was reelected Chair, and Monica Moreno

Figuroa (Newcastle University, UK) was elected Secretary-Treasurer. New Executive Council members include Cristhian Teófilo da Silva (Universidade de Brasília) and Lorena Ojeda (Universidad Michoacana). Continuing members are Tracy Devine Guzmán (University of Miami) and Juliet Hooker (University of Texas at Austin). Outgoing members are Luis Cárcamo-Huechante (University of Texas at Austin), Margó Tamez (University of British Columbia, Okanagan), and Emilio del Valle Escalante (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

The Section business meeting was held during the LASA Congress in Washington, DC. It was attended by 30 people. The agenda included a report on election results and new officers; a report on membership; a budget report; discussion of the upcoming ERIP conference in Oaxaca, October 2013, including that the Virginia Commonwealth University is interested in hosting the next ERIP Conference in fall 2015; discussion of the problem that the amount of travel grants for indigenous people is not enough to cover expenses; discussion of the Section e-mail list, website, and social media maintenance; discussion of the importance of creating a system that allows for continuity and institutional memory for the Section. Also, Marc Becker presented the two volumes of the proceedings of the second ERIP conference in San Diego. It was reported that the Section now has 230 members, sufficient to allow us to invite four panels for next year's LASA Congress in Chicago.

Decisions were made that a letter should be sent to LASA to address the issue of travel funds for indigenous people; and that if Virginia Commonwealth University was interested in hosting the next ERIP conference it would be accepted.

Activities during the 2012–2013 term included the call to host the third ERIP conference, the proposal presented by the Department of Anthropology, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa, and the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales de la Universidad Autónoma de Oaxaca “Benito Juárez,” and the organization of the upcoming conference.

#### Europe and Latin America

Erica Resende, Co-chair

At this year's Europe and Latin America Section business meeting, held on May 30, 2013, 27 members gathered to 1) receive a review of the activities conducted by the Section in the last year by the co-chairs (current membership, panels organized and sponsored, financial report, etc.); 2) elect new officials to the period of 2013–2014 (two co-chairs and four council members); and 3) propose ideas and themes for next year's Section panel.

Newly elected Section officials for the 2013–2014 term are Anna Ayuso (Fundación CIDOB, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona), Co-chair; Erica Resende (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro), Co-chair; Miriam Saraiva (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), Christian Ghymers (Institut Catholique des Hautes Études Commerciales), Lorena Ruano (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas), and Sebastián Santander (Universite of Liège), Executive Council members.

This year's travel award recipients were Miriam Saraiva, Joaquin Roy, Bert Hofman, Roberto Domínguez, and Sebastian Santander. They all presented papers in this year's Section panel.

#### Film Studies

Catherine Benamou, Chair

The LASA Film Studies Section is devoted to promoting scholarship, exhibitions, and critical public dialogue (through social media) concerning the production, distribution, and circulation of audiovisual texts by and about Latin Americans in various genres and media, from the analog to the digital and electronic. With an aim to addressing the current state of the field, as well as fostering scholarly exchange on issues that affect spheres of media practice as well as media studies, the Section hosted four sessions at this year's LASA Congress.

A guest keynote address was by Robert P. Stam (NYU): “Towards a Lexicon of Radical Aesthetics in Latin America.” Response was by Gilberto Blasini (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee). An informal breakfast reception followed, cosponsored by the Brazil Section.

A panel entitled “The Role of the State and Media: Community Engagement and Audiovisual Representations of a New Social Contract” was also organized, with Chair Clara Garavelli (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and panelists Tomás Crowder-Taraborrelli (Soka University), Álvaro Baquero-Piñero (University of Alabama), and Kristi M. Wilson (Soka University).

A workshop entitled “The Role of Film Festivals in Funding, Producing, and Distributing Latin American Film” was organized with Chair Tamara Falicov (University of Kansas) and participants Carlos Gutiérrez (Cinetropical, New York City), Claudia Ferman (Director, LASA Film Festival, University of Virginia), Beatriz Urraca (Widner University), and Julia Solomonoff (filmmaker, New York City). A second workshop entitled

“Latinoamerican Media Archives and the Social Contract” was also offered, chaired by Catherine L. Benamou (University of California, Irvine) and with participants Dona Kercher (Assumption College) and Rielle Navitski (University of California, Berkeley).

#### **Food, Agriculture, and Rural Studies** Kerry Preibisch, Chair

Food, Agriculture, and Rural Studies implemented many activities in 2013. Preceding the Congress, the Section organized a research trip to the United States Department of Agriculture that included discussions with various civil servants, including the Department’s chief economist. Twenty-two individuals participated. The Section thanks Steven Zahniser for planning this itinerary.

Fifteen members participated in the business meeting. New officers were elected: Clifford Welch (Universidade Federal de São Paulo), Chair; Nashieli Rangel Loera (Universidade Estadual Paulista), Chair-elect; Fina Carpena-Méndez (Oregon State University), Secretary-Treasurer; and Diego Piñeiro (Universidad de la República de Uruguay), Executive Council member. Diego joins council members Bernardo Mançano Fernandes, Eric Rendón Schneur, and Hannah Wittman.

The Section sponsored two sessions at the Congress: “Territórios do cotidiano: Lutas camponesas e indígenas, políticas públicas e desenvolvimento” and “Toward a New Social Contract in Bolivia and Brazil?” as well as a reception. Section membership stands at 89.

The Section discussed the fund created by generous member contributions to facilitate

the travel of a panelist who later was unable to attend. The fund will be used to subsidize the travel to Chicago of a new scholar in food, agriculture, and rural studies. The organization of our 2014 panels will reflect the Section’s new focus, possibly in the areas of global value chains, agrifood systems, or food justice/food deserts. We decided not to hold a reception in 2014 due to the prohibitive pricing of hotel catering. While receptions allow for socializing and enhancing membership, our field trip also fulfills these goals. In Chicago, field trip plans include touring Illinois’s packing houses or the city’s Mercantile Exchange. All Congress attendees are welcome to attend.

#### **Gender and Feminist Studies**

Verónica Schild and Constanza Tabbush, Co-chairs

The business meeting of the Gender and Feminist Studies Section took place on Thursday, May 30, and was attended by about 40 members. It was coordinated by Constanza Tabbush and Verónica Schild, Co-chairs, and by Elisabeth Friedman, Secretary-Treasurer. We informed the members that we will once again be able to organize four Section panels for LASA2014. We also informed them about the four successful panels we organized for the LASA2013 meeting. The selection process for these panels was open, and as in previous years it was conducted through consultation with the entire membership. We received a healthy number of proposals, though smaller than in previous years, something we attributed to the change in the schedule of LASA Congresses. The members of the board, co-chairs, and treasurer participated in the final selection process using the Section’s established criteria. The following panels were selected: “Understanding and Combating

Gender Violence: Recent Advances in Latin America” (Carmen Diana Deere, organizer); “Transnational Parenting across the Americas” (Kerry Preibisch, organizer); “Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Andes: Widening the Dialogue” (Florence Babb, organizer); and “Explorando estrategias de investigación en torno a la autonomía reproductiva y de ciudadanía sexual” (Graciela Di Marco, organizer).

We also announced this year’s winners of the Elsa Chaney Essay Award. Following our established practice, we again directed our competition to junior scholars with PhDs completed since 2007 and to students completing their dissertations. The selection committee was comprised of Gabriela Arguedas, Pascha-Bueno Hansen, and Sara Poggio. The winners were First Place, Susan Ellison, for her essay “The Conflictual Life of an Industrial Sewing Machine”; and Honorary Mention, Abigail Andrews, for her essay “For the Love of My Pueblo: Re-thinking Women’s Political Engagement in Indigenous Migrant Communities.” Sara Poggio and María Amelia Viteri reported to the membership on the collection they are preparing with the remainder of funds donated by UNIFEM a few years ago. This collection will contain the works of earlier winners of the Elsa Chaney Award and is scheduled to be published in early 2014.

The Section conducted elections to renew the board and the two co-chairs. The results are as follows: Linda Stevenson (West Chester University) and Marta Zambrano (Universidad Nacional de Colombia), Co-chairs (elected for a one-year term); and Pascha Bueno-Hansen (University of Delaware), Gabriela Arguedas (Universidad de Costa Rica), Christina Wolff (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina), Lucía Saldaña (Universidad de Concepción), Executive

Council members. Cecilia Santos (University of San Francisco) was elected Treasurer. The option offered by LASA to help with electronic elections was discussed and will be pursued by the incoming co-chairs.

Finally, we reported on the successful daylong pre-LASA conference, organized with the Sexualities Section and sponsored by the Washington College of Law Impact Litigation Project and the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, on legal activism as a tool for advancing gender and sexuality rights in the Americas. A region usually known for its Catholic religiosity and patriarchal institutions has expanded gender and sexual rights in an unprecedented manner, as we have seen the enactment of anti-violence and antidiscrimination legislation, gay marriage, and the world's most progressive gender identity law. The daylong conference "Gender, Sexuality and Struggles for Justice in Latin America: Legal, Political and Social Dimensions" held at American University's Washington College of Law on May 29, 2013, just prior to the 2013 LASA Congress, brought together 82 legal practitioners, scholars, and activists from the Americas, Europe, and the Washington area to discuss and assess the advances made through legal activism. This third collaboration between the Gender and Feminist Studies and the Sexualities Sections was a resounding success.

#### Haiti / Dominican Republic

Kiran Jayaram and April Mayes, Co-chairs

At the Haiti / Dominican Republic Section business meeting there were eight people present. Due to satisfaction with the performance of Co-chairs April Mayes and

Kiran Jayaram, they will continue as co-chairs for 2013–2014.

In the past year, the Section was made more visible through an e-mail list and Facebook page, and by establishing and awarding the award for best Congress paper as well as an honorable mention. In the coming term, the co-chairs hope to fuse the activities of the Section with the Transnational Hispaniola Collective's activities.

Kiran Jayaram received a 2013 LASA travel award. April Yoder received the first annual paper award and Mariana Past received honorable mention for her paper. April Mayes, Kiran Jayaram, and Maja Horn read and evaluated the papers according to preset criteria. The prize was announced at the joint reception with the Latino Studies and Sexualities Studies Sections.

#### Health, Science, and Society

By Alexandra Puerto

The Health, Science, and Society Section business meeting took place on Thursday, May 30, with six paid members in attendance. Council election nominations confirmed at the business meeting included Pablo Gómez (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Co-chair elect; Oscar Pérez (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Treasurer; and board members, Kate Centellas (University of Mississippi), Macarena Ibarra (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), and Raúl Necochea (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). Since we did not have a quorum at the business meeting, the election will be conducted online. The continuing officers are Rebecca Hester (University of Texas, Medical Branch), Co-chair; and José Amador (Miami University), board member. Outgoing officers include

Alexandra Puerto (Occidental College), Co-chair; Pablo Gómez (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Treasurer; and Nielan Barnes (California State University, Long Beach), Marcos Cueto (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos), and Tânia Salgado Pimenta (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz), board members. Beyond the election, discussion centered on membership recruitment, 2014 special session planning, and prioritizing action items for 2014–2015.

This year Health, Science, and Society sponsored a special session panel titled "Public Health, Hygiene and Modernization in Latin American Cities." Organized by Macarena Ibarra, the interdisciplinary panel offered historical, architectural, and economic perspectives on urban development in the Southern Cone and Brazil from the 1890s to 1960s. Thirty-two people attended the special session, which included excellent presentations and lively discussion on sanitary and hygienic administration as well as medicine, engineering, and street paving in Santiago; health and eviction programs in the shantytowns of Buenos Aires; and the economics of public health in São Paulo. Ultimately, the session underscored the intersection of public health, the built environment, and sociopolitical power.

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, the Section will revive the Section Prize Competition for Best Article and Best Book. The general board members will review nominees. Second, the co-chairs will begin compiling an online bibliography of scholarship by Section members. Finally, all council officers will develop a plan for member recruitment to continue growing the Section and raising

the profile of science studies and the medical humanities at LASA2014.

### **Historia Reciente y Memoria / Recent History and Memory**

Hillary Hiner, Secretary-Treasurer

The recent change to the LASA Congress schedule has meant that Section activities are now programmed on an annual basis, including the preparation and presentation of a Section panel. For this reason, the principal activity of the Recent History and Memory Section in the last year has been the organization of the panel for the 2013 Congress, titled “Rethinking Testimonio and Memory in Latin America.” The panel includes six Section members from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico and continues the tradition of presenting innovative, high-quality work at the LASA Congresses. During the 2013–2014 period, we will undertake two activities: 1) the selection of the Section panel for the 2014 LASA Congress; and 2) the Best Book Contest, last awarded in 2012. We hope that many of our Section members will participate in this contest, either as members of the judging panel or by submitting nominations. To participate, one must have published a book within the last three years (2011, 2012, or 2013) and the subject matter of the book must be relevant to recent history and memory in Latin America. As the Section has accumulated a certain amount of funds since its inception we also propose that the winner of 2014 Best Book Award be allotted a modest cash prize.

During the Section business meeting in Washington, DC, several topics were discussed. First, we discussed an area that continues to be of concern, which is our Section membership. Since changing over to the yearly Congress model, we have

noticed that membership revolves around participation in the Congress. There was a noted consensus among members questioning this yearly model, particularly on the part of our Latin American members who must obtain funding to attend LASA Congresses. For this reason, we decided that we would bring this matter up at the meeting of section chairs. Second, we also considered different possibilities to stimulate interest in the section and shore up membership. The Section will propose a workshop for the next LASA Congress in 2014 and will also apply for funding for this workshop. We also discussed the possibility of undertaking virtual activities periodically during the year, such as live-streaming conferences or talks by section members. Third, and finally, we began preparing the 2014 Best Book Contest, considering a few possible deadlines and jury members. From this meeting, three Section members presented themselves for the Best Book Contest jury: Cynthia Milton, Hillary Hiner, and Juan Hernández. We encourage our members to consider volunteering for this jury. The Executive Council and directorate will make the final decision concerning jury members.

In closing, at the Section business meeting it was also necessary to choose new members of the council and directorate. These new authorities were approved via e-mail by the Section in the two weeks following the Congress. The new Section officers are Alejandro Cerda (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco, Mexico) and Aldo Marchesi (Universidad de la República, Uruguay), Co-chairs; Samantha Quadrat (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil), Secretary; and Claudio Barrientos (Universidad Diego Portales, Chile), Emilio Crenzel (CONICET, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social), Vania

Markarian (Universidad de la República, Uruguay), Cynthia Milton (Université de Montréal), and Rodrigo Sá Motta (Brazil), Executive Council members.

### **International Migrations**

Sara Poggio and María Amelia Viteri, Co-chairs

Members present at the business meeting included Sara Poggio, Alice Colón Warren, María Amelia Viteri, Michaela Reich, Beatriz Padilla, Liliana Suárez-Navaz, Alicia Girón, Gail Amient, Jennifer Burrell, Cristian Dona-Reveco, and Norma Chinchilla. The Executive Committee includes Sara Poggio (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and María Amelia Viteri (FLACSO Ecuador), Co-chairs; Alice Colón Warren (University of Puerto Rico), Secretary-Treasurer; and Michaela Reich (Organization of American States), Alicia Girón (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Liliana Suárez-Navaz (Stanford, Universidad Autónoma Madrid), and Beatriz Padilla (Universidade do Minho), Executive Committee members.

According to the bylaws, we selected four members to complete the Executive Committee and had an extensive discussion on the mission of the Section, including the ideas of geographic mobility and citizenship.

The participants in the meeting also decided that the Section would undertake at least the following activities in its work plan for 2013–2014: organization of a preconference in Chicago; a newsletter published three times a year; organization of the two panels that the Section is allowed, given its membership; and discussion online with the total membership; the organization of an award to be granted by the Section. The

discussion would address the criteria for the award, such as considering the best immigration paper in any panel presented to the LASA2014 Congress in Chicago in 2014.

The Section decided to organize a daylong or half-day preconference jointly or in collaboration with some universities or organizations in Chicago. The main preference was to combine academic issues and activism on international migration in the presentations and discussions. We discussed the idea of collaborating with any other LASA section that could enrich our work and theirs. Possible topics for the preconference include immigration and education, vulnerable populations that are affected by immigration in countries of origin and destination, employment policies in countries of origin and destination, politics and immigration policies in countries of origin and destination, effects of these policies in specific vulnerable populations, immigrants' health rights, struggles to have access to diverse health policies in countries of both origin and destination, and geographic mobility and citizenship.

The Section will publish a newsletter three times a year. The newsletter will be coordinated by Michaela Reich but will be the product of all members of the Section. We expect members to be involved in sending news about international migrations across countries (origin and destination) and news about jobs, conferences, books, and events related to international migrations as well as notes of interest. More details will follow.

It was decided to discuss with the members the possibility of at least one award to members of the Section. Among the possible awards would be one granted to the best paper on the topic of immigration

sent to LASA2014. More information will follow after discussion (online) with the members.

We informed the membership about the two panels sponsored by the Section. (Sponsored panels are assigned according to number of section members.) More information will follow. We decided that of the two sponsored panels, one should be a workshop or a roundtable in order to offer more possibilities for presenters and attendants to fully engage in active discussions.

#### **Labor Studies**

Maggie Gray, Secretary-Treasurer

The Labor Studies Section announced the election of Co-chairs Cecilia Senén González (CONICET, Universidad de Buenos Aires) and Roxanda Maurizio (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, CONICET, Universidad de Buenos Aires); and Secretary-Treasurer Maggie Gray (Adelphi University). Our returning Executive Council member is Mariela Quiñones Montoro (Universidad de la República, Uruguay, Agencia Nacional de Investigación, and Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica Udelar), and our newly elected council members are Marcos Lopez (Bowdoin College), Rodolfo Elbert (Universidad de Buenos Aires, University of Wisconsin), and Brian Finnegan (AFL-CIO). Our Graduate Student Council Co-chair Katherine Maich (University of California, Berkeley) has a new Co-chair, Pablo Pérez-Ahumada (University of California, San Diego) and one new member, Joe Balzer (Cornell University), as well as returning member Ricardo Nóbrega (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro).

The business meeting was animated, with 25 members attending. Brian Finnegan from the AFL-CIO was our guest to discuss the AFL-CIO International Section's work. He discussed possible collaborations and also described and distributed the recent report "Responsibility Outsourced" published by the AFL-CIO. We have continued to build our Graduate Student Advisory Board and one of our Section panels featured graduate student paper presenters. The Labor Section gave out one \$500 travel grant through a competitive process in which the co-chairs and secretary-treasurer choose a winner. The grant recipient was Pablo Pérez-Ahumada, a Chilean student doing his PhD in sociology at the University of California, San Diego. His research interests are class inequality and political change in Latin America, with a particular emphasis on Chile.

#### **Latino Studies**

Deb Vargas and Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, Co-chairs; Carmen Lamas, Secretary; and Isabel Porras, Graduate Student Representative

The Latino/a Studies Section of LASA continues to provide an important forum for scholars and activists. The Section sponsored three panels at the 2013 DC Congress and presented a total of three awards for best book, best article, and best dissertation. The Section concluded the year with 158 members, qualifying it for three sponsored sessions at LASA2014. We welcomed four new council members for the 2013–2014 academic year: Carlos Decena (Rutgers) and Kirstie Dorr (University of California, San Diego) are Co-chairs elect; Virginia Arreola (Indiana University), Secretary-elect; Alexandra Gonzenbach (University of Miami) is Graduate Student Representative-elect.

We had an impressive turnout with more than 90 scholars attending the Section reception arranged in collaboration with the Haiti / Dominican Republic and Sexualities Studies Sections.

The recipient of the Book Award was Ramón H. Rivera-Servera for *Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics* (University of Michigan Press, 2012). An Honorable Mention went to Mérida M. Rúa for *A Grounded Identity: Making New Lives in Chicago's Puerto Rican Neighborhoods* (Oxford University Press, 2012). Another Honorable Mention went to Deborah R. Vargas for *Dissonant Divas in Chicana Music: The Limits of La Onda* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012). The Book Award Committee consisted of Carlos Decena (Chair), Gina Pérez, and Laura Gutiérrez.

The winner for Best Article was "Legal Violence: Immigration Law and the Lives of Central American Immigrants," by Cecilia Menjivar and Leisy Abrego, published in *American Journal of Sociology* (2012). An Honorable Mention went to "Blacks May Be Second Class, but They Can't Make Them Leave: Mexican Racial Formation and Immigrant Status in Winston-Salem" by Jennifer A. Jones, published in *Latino Studies* (2012). The Article Award Committee consisted of Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof (Chair), Emir Estrada, and Israel Reyes.

The Dissertation Award winner was Johana Londoño (New York University) for "Aesthetic Belonging: The Latinization of Cities, Urban Design and the Limits of the Barrio." An Honorable Mention went to Lorena Alvarado (University of California, Riverside) for "Corporealities of Feeling: Mexican Sentimiento and Gender Politics." The Dissertation Award Committee

included Carmen Lamas (Chair), Laura Lomas, and Yolanda Padilla.

The Section panels included "Theorizing Latina/o Studies: Object, Method, and Field," organized by Carmen E. Lamas and chaired by Deb Vargas; and "Divergences/Traces/Convergences: Movements across Indigenous Studies and Latino Studies," chaired by Alicia Ivonne Estrada. There was also a roundtable entitled "Latina/o Coalitions" with Carmen Lamas as Chair.

#### Mass Media and Popular Culture

Silvia Kurlat Ares, Chair

The main activity of the Mass Media and Popular Culture Section this year was to organize the Section and to establish a council and a membership. In Washington the Section held its first business meeting and elections. The lineup of the current board is as follows: Silvia Kurlat Ares (independent researcher), Chair; Matthew Bush (Lehigh University), Treasurer; Pedro Pablo Porbén (Bowling Green State University), Google Group Communication Officer; Giancarlo Stagnaro (Tulane University), Facebook Communication Officer; and Pablo Alabarces (Universidad de Buenos Aires) and Hernán García (Wayne State University), members of the Executive Council.

At the first meeting it was agreed that for next year the Section's goals will be to generate a Google group and a Facebook page (under construction). Over the summer the section will send a call for papers in order to organize its activities for LASA2014. The Section is planning to organize at least one roundtable on current theoretical issues on popular culture and is exploring the possibility of organizing a one-day preconference.

#### Mexico

Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson and María Eugenia Valdés Vega, Co-chairs

Mexico Section officers present at the business meeting included Co-chairs Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson (Whitman College) and María Eugenia Valdés Vega (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa), and Executive Council members Wil Pansters (Utrecht University) and Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado (Washington University in Saint Louis). Section members in attendance numbered 25 so a quorum was not achieved.

Each Mexico Section Prize recipient was awarded US\$250 (in the case of the coauthored essay each author will receive \$125). The Best PhD Dissertation recipient was Steven Samford, "High-Road Development in Low-Tech Industry: Policymakers, Producer Networks, and the Co-production of Innovation in the Mexican Ceramics Sector" (University of New Mexico, 2012). The Prize Committee consisted of Kevin Middlebrook (University College London), Chair, Armando García (University of Pittsburgh), and Lucía Melgar (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México). The Best Humanities Essay awardee was Carolina Castellanos Gonella, "El discurso poético en Noticias del imperio: El sujeto lírico y la historia," published in *Literatura Mexicana* (2012). The Prize Committee included Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson (Whitman College), Chair, Héctor Jaimes (North Carolina State University), Elvira Sánchez-Blake (Michigan State University), and María Socorro Tabuenca Córdoba (University of Texas, El Paso). The Best Social Science Essay awardees were Sarah Bowen and Marie Sarita Gaytán, "The Paradox of Protection: National Identity, Global Commodity Chains, and the Tequila Industry," published in *Social Problems*

(2012). The Prize Committee consisted of Ted Beatty (University of Notre Dame), Chair, Sandra Kuntz Ficker (El Colegio de México), Jaime Pensado (University of Notre Dame), and María Eugenia Valdés Vega (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa). The Best Humanities Book recipient was Steven Bunker, *Creating Mexican Consumer Culture in the Age of Porfirio Díaz* (University of New Mexico Press, 2012). The Prize Committee included Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado (Washington University in Saint Louis), Chair, Beth E. Jorgensen (University of Rochester), Andrew Paxman (Millsaps College), and Oswaldo Zavala (City University of New York). The Best Social Science Book author was Molly Doane, *Stealing Shining Rivers: Agrarian Conflict, Market Logic, and Conservation in a Mexican Forest* (University of Arizona Press, 2012). The Prize Committee included Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson (Whitman College), Chair, Robert W. Blake (Michigan State University), Leonardo Figueroa-Helland (Westminster College), and María Teresa Vázquez Castillo (Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez).

In June 2012, the membership of the Mexico Section, with approval of over two-thirds of the membership, resolved to endorse the following statement denouncing the continued violence and intimidation of journalists and public intellectuals. The letter was sent to several governmental entities, universities and other educational institutions, and members of the press. The letter was also posted on the Mexico Section website. The full text appears below.

5 de junio 2012

Carta abierta a los Gobiernos Estatales, al Gobierno Federal, y a los medios de comunicación

Los miembros de la Sección México de la Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LASA) apoyan el siguiente mensaje denunciando la violencia contra los periodistas e intelectuales públicos:

En México, la actividad de periodistas y de intelectuales públicos está en riesgo en varios estados del país. Los derechos de expresión y de información están siendo violentados sistemáticamente, sea por la presión de las autoridades locales, sea por el crimen organizado. El alarmante número de periodistas asesinados y desaparecidos en la última década, sin contar a los desplazados por amenazas, habla de una crisis sin precedentes en el acceso y uso de los medios de comunicación y de la violación sistemática de los derechos humanos de los comunicadores. Destacan por el alto riesgo para la seguridad de los periodistas los estados de Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Sinaloa y Chihuahua, a cuyas autoridades exigimos que garanticen la vida y el trabajo de los comunicadores y que se detengan las agresiones y amenazas que periodistas e intelectuales públicos están sufriendo en el ejercicio de su indispensable labor crítica. No puede haber una verdadera democracia sin respeto a los derechos fundamentales y sin garantías a la crítica y al debate público.

The Mexico Section sponsored four panels for the 2013 Congress: 1) “México en el Siglo XXI: Aproximaciones interdisciplinarias, teóricas, y pedagógicas en la investigación y enseñanza superior de los estudios mexicanos,” workshop organized and chaired by Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson; 2) “Modernidad priista: Culture and Citizenship in Mid-Century Mexico,” panel organized and

chaired by Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado; 3) “Mexican Indigenous Migrants: Experiences of Empowerment and Civic Engagement,” panel organized and chaired by Alexandra Delano; and 4) “The Intersections of Gender Violence in Mexico,” panel organized by Lynn M. Stephen and chaired by Shannon Speed.

At the Section business meeting a proposed section travel grant was discussed. At the 2012 business meeting, the membership of the Section suggested the creation of a travel grant for graduate students currently enrolled in a Mexican university that would assist them financially to present at LASA. A proposal was developed by the co-chairs and presented to the membership at the 2013 business meeting for discussion; it will be voted by the membership online after the Congress.

After the initial discussion of the proposal, the membership present amended the proposal to be for two travel grants (each US\$450) instead of the original three grants of US\$300 each. The Section members will be voting on the institution of this travel award electronically after the Congress as we did not have a quorum present at the business meeting.

Open council positions include the two chairs and six council members. We received only one slate for the co-chair positions, so this was approved by the membership present at the business meeting. As we also received six candidates for the three council memberships, we have asked LASA to help us set up the election. An update will be sent after the election is finished notifying the Section of its results.

Currently the two Mexico Section e-mail lists—one for official communication and another one for discussion and posting of relevant information (members can opt out

of being part of the discussion list)—are hosted at Whitman College, but as Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson has accepted a position at Westminster College effective July 1, the lists will relocate to another server. The membership at the business meeting discussed this issue and decided that the official Section list will be hosted via Gmail lists (in order to also allow for future transferability of the list to new council officers) and that a discussion list would also be set up (either via Facebook or via another platform, to be chosen by membership vote after the Congress); joining this discussion list would be optional for Section members. The members present discussed our impressions of the new LASA yearly cycle. The majority of those present expressed the desire to return to the original 18-month cycle for a variety of reasons, or to at least consider the possibility of hosting the conference in the fall so as to not conflict with fieldwork commitments and to avoid being scheduled at the end of the fiscal year for many U.S.-based institutions (which means that travel and conference funds are often exhausted by then). The membership also wished for more clarity from LASA about the organization's long-term planning, and if part of the reason for the change was to deliberately limit the size of the Congress. The 2013–2014 incoming Section co-chairs will report to LASA the membership's questions and comments at the section chairs meeting on Saturday afternoon.

We also discussed the drop in Section membership since last year (the current membership is 337; it was 519 in 2012 and 481 in 2011). We will continue our efforts to increase our membership, especially to recruit more members currently in Mexico.

We also discussed the experiences of several Section members based in Mexico whose

visa process was delayed by the U.S. Embassy because of the need (according to the embassy) for further investigations—a tactic that effectively barred members from coming to the Congress. We are particularly concerned as the next three LASA Congresses are to be held in the United States and we foresee the continuation of these practices that are targeting scholars, public intellectuals, and activists.

**Peru**  
Elena Álvarez, Chair

The business meeting was called to order with 49 members in attendance. The first item in the agenda was to award the Life Achievement Award to prominent anthropologist Jose Matos Mar via Skype. Richard Webb read the speech prepared by Enrique Mayer in which many of Matos's professional achievements were highlighted, and Peter Klaren also read a statement about Matos's academic successes.

The main activities were selecting panels for the Washington Congress, choosing the Life Achievement awardee, managing the Book and Article Awards that were (chaired by Rosemary Thorp), developing a quarterly bulletin, creating content for the new website, activating a Friends of Peru Section Facebook account (Fabiola Bazo), and providing travel grants to three young professionals.

In the 2012 Congress, there was a discussion to organize a LASA Peru Section conference in Peru. Elena Álvarez met with several organizations in Lima, including Catholic University, San Martin de Porres University, and Instituto de Estudios Peruanos to discuss the alternatives available for this event. Unfortunately, due

to personal reasons Álvarez was unable to follow up with this process.

The Section had 188 members and was able to collect \$2017.42 from member donations to the Peru Travel Fund. The Section account was used to purchase an Internet portable device (Verizon 4GLTE mobile hotspot) and a one-month Internet account. This device made possible the Skype communications for several sessions at the Congress.

The Section received three applications for travel grants. The Selection Committee made up of Elena Álvarez, Enrique Mayer, 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 María del Rosario Rodríguez Jaime, Gabriel Ramón Joffré, and Erika Busse.

Richard Webb donated 15 copies of his recent book *Conexión y despegue rural* (2013), and the sale yielded \$300, which was allocated as \$150 to the travel fund and the rest for office materials, mailing, and photocopying.

The Flora Tristan Book Award was shared by Carlos Contreras, *La economía pública en el Perú después del guano y del salitre* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2012); and Rachel O'Toole, *Bound Lives: Africans, Indians, and the Making of Race in Colonial Peru* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012).

The José María Arguedas Essay Award went to Chuck Walker, "When Fear Rather Than Reason Dominates: Priests Behind the Lines in the Tupac Amaru Rebellion (1780–83)," in *Facing Fear: The History of*

*an Emotion in Global Perspective*, edited by Michael Laffan and Max Weiss (Princeton University Press, 2012). Highly Commended went to Anne Lambright, “Dead Body Politics: Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani at Peru’s Truth Commission,” in *Imagining Human Rights in Twenty-First Century Theater: Global Perspectives*, edited by Florian N. Becker, Paola S. Hernández, and Brenda Werth (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

The Peru Section organized three panels for LASA2013: “Ollanta Humala’s Peru, Parts I and II,” organized by Elena Álvarez, and “CVR+10: Truth, Justice and Memory in Post-conflict Peru,” organized by Jo Marie Burt.

There was a heated discussion about the replacement of the current officers. Jo Marie Burt was selected as one of the candidates to replace Elena Álvarez, and Tracy Devine Guzmán suggested that we contact all members to have more candidates available to replace all Section members and to ensure a democratic process. Elena Álvarez (Business and Professional Women, Inc.) will chair for an additional term; Co-chair Iliana M. Carrasco-Díaz (CIES, Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social) was supposed to be replaced by Aldo Panfichi, who unfortunately was not a Peru Section member. Iliana will continue as Co-chair until a new person is elected through an online election to be performed during the fall of this year. Angelina Cotler (University of Illinois), Secretary, and Enrique Mayer (Yale University), Treasurer, will also continue until they are replaced by new officers in the upcoming online election. The only officer replaced at the business meeting was Laura Balbuena González (Butler University), replaced by Américo Mendoza Mori (University of Miami), who will continue to serve as a

technical advisor for the Section. Elena Sabogal (William Paterson University) and Tracy Devine Guzmán (University of Miami) are continuing. Once new elections are held, and to ensure continuity for the Section, they will work with Álvarez until the Chicago 2014 Congress.

David Scott Palmer (Boston University) and Isabelle Lausent-Herrera (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/CNRS, Centre de Documentation sur les Amériques/CREDA), a French historian affiliated with CNRS-CREDA, will chair the Book and Article Awards of the Section and may revise the current guidelines.

#### Political Institutions

Tulia G. Falletti, Chair

The Political Institutions Section is closing the academic year with 126 members (a slight decrease over a year ago, when the Section had 132 members in July 2012).

The 2013 Donna Lee Van Cott Award for the best book on political institutions published in the year 2012 was earned by Edward L. Gibson of Northwestern University for his book *Boundary Control: Subnational Authoritarianism in Federal Democracies* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). The members of the book award committee were Benn R. Schneider (Chair), Jana Morgan, and Jennifer McCoy. The members of the committee wrote about the selected book:

In *Boundary Control*, Gibson conducts meticulous comparative analysis examining how a country’s territorial regime shapes the formation, maintenance, and collapse of subnational authoritarianism. In a surprising but fruitful analytical move, he explores these processes not only in late

twentieth-century Argentina and Mexico but also in the post-Civil War United States. The analysis is based on careful case studies of two separate periods in the U.S. “Solid South” in the late nineteenth century as well as several Argentine and Mexican states during these countries’ eras of democratization. Through these comparisons, Gibson demonstrates the ways in which the structure of the territorial regime either empowers “boundary closers” in the provincial hegemonic party who seek to maintain the autonomy of their authoritarian enclaves, or emboldens “boundary openers” like opposition parties and national actors who wish to dismantle provincial authoritarianism.

Using a wide variety of sources including author interviews, news reports, and secondary sources, Gibson builds a strong argument that subnational authoritarianism is possible when provincial hegemony successfully insulate themselves from democratizing pressures that might emanate from the central government, electoral competitors, or civic entities. Gibson’s empirical insights into the persistence of authoritarian enclaves shine a light on the places that frequently remain in the shadows, both within Latin America and in one of the world’s oldest democracies.

The LAPIS Best Paper Award for a paper presented at the 2012 Congress was earned by Brian Wampler and Mike Touchton, from Boise State University, for their paper: “Improving Social Well-Being through New Democratic Institutions.” The members of the Best Paper Award Committee were Jorge Gordin (Chair), Moira MacKinnon, and Noam Lupu. They wrote about the selected paper: “The quality of all nominated papers was very high and selecting a winner was not an easy choice.

We opted for this paper based on the authors attempt to wrestle with an important normative question through innovative institutional and empirical analysis.”

The Political Institutions Section awarded two travel grants to partially fund travel to participate in the 2013 LASA Congress. The travel grantees were Laura Suaznabar Terrazas (Observatorio del Racismo de Bolivia, Fundación de la Cordillera, La Paz, Bolivia) and Carlos Mascareño Quintana (Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo, Universidad Central de Venezuela). Tulia Falleti and Miguel Centellas formed the committee that evaluated the Section’s travel grant applications.

During the LASA2013 Section business meeting, former council member Felipe Botero (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia) was elected as the new Section Chair of the Section. Former chair Tulia Falleti (University of Pennsylvania) will become the Secretary-Treasurer. Four members were elected to the Executive Council: Kirk Hawkins (Brigham Young University), Moira Mackinnon (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina), Raúl Sánchez Urribarri (La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia), and Julieta Suárez-Cao (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile). The new officers assume their positions as of June 1, 2013.

#### **Scholarly Research and Resources** Sarah A. Buck Kachaluba, Chair

Seven people attended the business meeting on Thursday, May 30, 7:00 p.m.–8:45 p.m. Sarah Buck Kachaluba (Secretary-Treasurer, convening in the absence of Gayle Williams, Chair) shared that there were currently 34 members (less than the 50 required to constitute a section, putting the

Scholarly Research and Resources Section on probation) and also shared the status of the treasury, which those present decided to reserve for future initiatives to recruit more members and reinstate our presence in LASA.

Those present discussed several ways to assert our presence in LASA, including organizing panels for 2014 on open access in North American and Latin American contexts (an idea generated by Dominique Babini from CLACSO and Philip Oxhorn, Editor of *LARR*, during the 2013 Preconference Meeting on Journals and Monographs), digital humanities, and “democracy and memory” archives, and the possibility of organizing a THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) for LASA2015.

Section elections are currently going on, to be completed by the end of September.

Since the business meeting, Section members have been involved in submitting proposals for panels on open access and digital humanities projects in Latin American studies. The Section is currently strategizing about ways to recruit more members.

The Section did not award any prizes or travel awards.

#### **Sexualities Studies**

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel and Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui, Co-chairs, and Guillermo de los Reyes, Secretary-Treasurer

This year the Sexualities Studies Section cosponsored with the Gender and Feminist Studies Section a daylong preconference entitled “Gender, Sexuality and Struggles for Justice in Latin America: Legal, Political and Social Dimensions” at the American

University Washington College of Law on May 29. Convened by both sections and sponsored by the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the Impact Litigation Project at American University Washington College of Law, this third co-organized preconference brought together scholars, activists, and legal practitioners from across the hemisphere to discuss questions raised by Latin America’s transformations of gender and sexuality rights. Particular attention was given to the possibilities and limitations of legal activism for the pursuit of social justice and equity issues. Attendance at the conference fluctuated between 45 and 60 persons throughout the day, and the conference concluded with a two-hour open session that allowed for discussions and conversations among participants and the audience.

The Sexualities Studies Section had two panels at the conference in Washington, DC: “Trans Studies: Interrogating Hetero- and Homonormativity,” and “Queer Generations: A Critical Dialogue.” Both panels were very well attended and excellent discussions took place. Aside from the Section-organized sessions, ten additional panels were devoted to Sexualities Studies. Attendance and discussions in all of these sessions were very engaging.

At the business meeting 20 members were present. They evaluated the preconference and decided that the Section would like to continue the tradition of organizing a preconference for next year. Given that LASA2014 will be held in Chicago, members thought that it would be quite productive to team up with other sections interested in questions of migration. Although at present we have 86 members (and have been guaranteed two Section panels for LASA2014), during the business

meeting members discussed the fact that the Section needs to recruit more members in order to have more panels. The Sexualities Studies Section has been very successful using its Facebook page to keep its 335 followers informed of activities. We will use our Facebook page to make regular calls to our followers to join LASA and become members of our Section.

Members elected the new Board of Directors for the next cycle: Guillermo de los Reyes (University of Houston) and Joseph Pierce (SUNY Stony Brook) were elected as Co-chairs. The position of secretary-treasurer remains vacant. In addition, members discussed the Section's two awards which recognize outstanding scholarship on gender, queer, and LGBT: the Sylvia Molloy Award for the Best Academic Essay in the Humanities and the Carlos Monsiváis Award for the Best Academic Essay in the Social Sciences. The award will be given out again next year in Chicago. Horacio Sivori and Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui will serve as the Awards Committee chairs.

Additionally, at the business meeting Section members discussed the problem of being members of multiple sections (Gender and Feminist Studies, Latino Studies, and many others), and asked if there was a way of having two separate time slots for business meetings, so that they may contribute more easily to the work of other sections and promote their interdisciplinary work.

Finally, the Sexualities Studies Section and Latino Studies Section cosponsored a cash bar. The Haiti / Dominican Republic Studies Section was invited. The Sexualities Studies Section got funding from *GLQ* and Duke University Press to pay for their share of expenses up to \$500. The cash bar was

a huge success, bringing together over 150 LASA participants.

#### Southern Cone Studies

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

At the 2013 LASA Congress in Washington, DC, the Southern Cone Studies Section held several panels which contributed to its growing visibility. The panel "Nuevos desafíos para los estudios indígenas en el Wallmapu/Cono Sur" brought together Mapuche researchers from Chile and colleagues from Chile and the United States. Three Mapuche panelists, members of the Comunidad de Historia Mapuche, participated: Susana Huenul Colicoy, Herson Huinca Piutrin, and Maribel Mora Curriao, along with Chilean scholar Magda Sepúlveda (Universidad Católica de Chile). A second part of the discussion then took place with the participation of scholars Charles Hale (University of Texas at Austin), Patricia Richards (University of Georgia), and Andrés Prieto (University of Colorado at Boulder). As a member of the Comunidad de Historia Mapuche, Luis Cárcamo-Huechante (University of Texas at Austin) joined this roundtable and also was in charge of moderating and coordinating both panels. In the first panel, around 35 people were in the audience, and approximately 45 people attended the afternoon session of discussion on the status of indigenous studies in the Southern Cone of Latin America.

The Section also sponsored a second successful event, a workshop on "El siglo XIX: Nuevas aproximaciones desde el Cono Sur." This panel featured presentations by Juan Poblete (University of California, Santa Cruz), William Acree (Washington University), Abril Trigo (Ohio

State University), Claudia Torre (Universidad de San Andrés), and Alejandra Laera (Universidad de Buenos Aires and CONICET). Leila Gómez (University of Colorado at Boulder) organized and conducted this workshop, which 30 people attended.

At the Section's business meeting, with 40 members in attendance, Chair Luis Cárcamo-Huechante and Treasurer Leila Gómez presented an account of the multiple initiatives that the Section has set in motion in 2012 and in the spring of 2013, such as the continuous enrollment of new members, the institutionalization of the website, and the establishment of the Southern Cone Studies Section Book Prize in both the Humanities and Social Sciences. As an important part of the business meeting, the chair and the treasurer conducted the award ceremony for the Southern Cone Studies Book Prizes. In the Humanities, the Book Prize was given to William Acree (Washington University) for *Everyday Reading: Print Culture and Collective Identity in the Río de la Plata, 1780–1910* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2011), with a Special Recognition to Marta Sierra (Kenyon College) for *Gendered Spaces in Argentine Women's Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). In the Social Sciences, the Book Prize was awarded to Eduardo Elena for *Dignifying Argentina: Peronism, Citizenship, and Mass Consumption* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011). The members of the Humanities jury were Graciela Montaldo, Gabriel Giorgi, and Mónica Szurmuk; the members of the Social Sciences jury were Silvio Waisbord, Alex Borucki, and Vania Markarian.

In spring 2013, the Section held the election of its new directors; this was organized by colleagues Angel Tuninetti (West Virginia University) and Marta Sierra. In this

context, as a transition into the second part of the business meeting in Washington, DC, the outgoing chair of the Section invited Leila Gómez to lead the final part of the meeting as the new chair. The new treasurer was also announced: Gloria Medina-Sancho (California State University, Fresno). For the upcoming period, Katherine Karr-Cornejo (Whitworth University) will continue serving as the webmaster of the Section.

The new chair and the attendees discussed the main goals and plans for the upcoming period: the creation of a *revista* for the Section; the establishment of a Facebook page; and a much more effective incorporation of graduate students, among many other new plans. The major goal is to continue expanding the dialogues and initiatives begun in this thriving period of the Section.

#### Venezuelan Studies

Alejandro Velasco, Secretary-Treasurer, and Margarita López Maya, Chair

The Section business meeting was held on Thursday, May 30, 2013. Thirty-seven members attended. Section Chair Margarita López Maya presided.

The meeting began with a reminder that in lieu of a reception, Section member Dr. Angelo Rivero Santos, chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Washington, would host a formal function in honor of the Venezuelan Studies Section at the embassy grounds on Friday evening. All were invited. (Nearly 50 people attended the embassy reception on Friday, including some members not present at the business meeting. Venezuelan hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served in a friendly atmosphere.)

Chair López Maya proceeded with the formal agenda, first by announcing the three panels that won Section sponsorship: Robert Samet and Naomi Schiller, "Revisiting the Magical State with the Future in Question: In Memory of Fernando Coronil"; Paula Vásquez Lezama, "Construcciones de Venezuela: Inteligibilidad académica y discursos de la modernidad"; and Daniel Hellinger, "The Venezuelan 2012–2013 Elections: Context, Campaign, Conduct and Consequences." A committee comprised of Elizabeth Nichols, Tomás Straka, and Daniel Hellinger selected the three panels from nine proposals. The chair thanked the committee for their work.

López Maya informed the meeting that as of May 20 the Section had 159 members, 13 fewer than the previous year but still a good amount given financial difficulties facing Venezuela-based scholars and LASA's new annual model. The figure means that the Section will again be able to sponsor three panels for LASA2014. Members were encouraged to submit their panel proposals as soon as possible both to be considered for section sponsorship and to generate a larger, more diverse pool from which to select. A question was raised about why there were so few Venezuela-focused humanities panels at the conference, to which the chair replied that more proposals were needed and urged humanities scholars to submit more panel ideas.

The chair announced that the special fund created the previous year with monies from Open Society Foundations, and designed specifically to help Venezuela-based scholars defray the costs of attending LASA, would not continue. Six of ten of those who were awarded grants did not actually travel to LASA San Francisco, creating logistical problems for both LASA and Open Society that meant, eventually,

forfeiting those resources. Going forward, LASA will return to the normal procedure of awarding travel grants from the general fund, without formal preferences for Venezuela-based scholars. However, LASA agreed to offer some "priority" to Venezuelans, although whether that happened for LASA Washington is unknown. The chair will follow up with former chair David Smilde, who arranged the funds through Open Society, and will take up the issue again with LASA should financial pressures for Venezuela-based scholars grow more acute.

A question was raised about soliciting funds from Venezuelan government sources to help with the LASA Venezuela meeting; the chair expressed concern about what this would mean for editorial content. Another question was raised about joining other sections in calling for LASA to reconsider the move to an annual meeting schedule. Some argued that it was too soon to make a judgment. Others suggested that holding the meeting yearly, and mainly in the United States, negatively affected members based in Latin America. The chair agreed to ask about the issue at the section chairs' meeting and to follow up with the Venezuelan Studies Section.

Next, the chair asked Alejandro Velasco to announce the results of a yearlong project to create a Section Book Award. At LASA San Francisco Section members had agreed to name this award after Fernando Coronil. However, criteria, scope, and logistics remained pending. A committee consisting of Velasco, Daniel Hellinger, and Elizabeth Nichols designed the award description, and after distributing copies to members of the Section, the Fernando Coronil Book Award was approved as a biannual Section award given to "the most outstanding book on Venezuela, in English or Spanish, in the humanities or social sciences, published in

the previous two years.” The first Coronil Award will be announced at LASA2014.

The chair asked about eligibility criteria for the book award, and why edited collections were ineligible. How to disburse the monetary award (LASA membership) between editors and contributors, as well as double-dipping by chapter authors vying in both the book category and the article category, make edited collections difficult to consider for a book award. However, it was stressed that the Section could revisit criteria and eligibility in the future, but for now the award should proceed as drafted. Along with approving the Fernando Coronil Book Award, the Section also agreed to alternate between a book award and article awards every other year, both to increase the pool of nominated works by drawing on two years rather than one year of materials, and to make the eventual competition more selective.

The chair then called on representatives from the two award committees to honor the recipients of the Section awards for best article. Luis Duno-Gottberg presented the award for Best Article in the Humanities to Natalie Bouzaglo for her paper “Immaterial Discomforts: Antonieta Sosa, from the Body to the Void.” Alejandro Velasco, speaking on behalf of the Committee for Best Article in the Social Sciences, presented awards to two papers: to María Pilar García-Guadilla for “Poder popular y organizaciones comunitarias en Venezuela: Alcances y límites de la democracia directa en el ciclo comunal;” and José Manuel Puente for “Renta y revolución: La economía política de Venezuela durante el gobierno de Hugo Chávez.” All three authors were present and received applause from the audience.

Tomás Straka reported on the status of LASA Venezuela, now in its third session.

LASA members in Venezuela unable to attend the main LASA meeting, or scholars who presented papers on Venezuela at LASA Washington, are welcome to attend an encore conference in Caracas and present their work locally. This year’s event will be hosted at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. Straka reported that 43 papers, widely representative, are scheduled to be presented over two days in nonconcurrent panels, with the program already announced. Straka is leading a team of 12 people in organizing the conference logistics, including offering limited housing to panelists from the interior. Members stressed that the event is more than a conference and serves to bring to Venezuela knowledge about the country generated outside Venezuela, which often stays outside Venezuela. It is also an opportunity for students to meet in person Venezuelanists whose work they have read. The chair encouraged all members to attend and to help spread word of the event.

The chair announced the results of Section elections hosted by LASA. Thirty-six members voted, with the results listed below. For their dedicated service, the chair heartily thanked outgoing council members Daniel Hellinger, Elizabeth Nichols, Kim Morse, Jun Ishibashi, Angel Álvarez, and Sujatha Fernandes, and offered a special note of thanks to the Section founders present for passing the torch to a council entirely comprised of Venezuelans for the first time.

Open floor: María Pilar García-Guadilla voiced an ongoing grievance that Venezuela-themed panels not be scheduled concurrently in LASA meetings so as to avoid competition and promote greater attendance. She asked when would be a good time to review the program and solicit changes. The chair and secretary

noted they would follow up on this with LASA. Several members voiced a desire to make the Section’s online presence more robust, for instance by using social media tools. Iñaki Sagarzazu and José Manuel Puente volunteered to form part of an ad hoc committee to examine the issue and generate proposals to the Executive Council. The meeting ended with new members providing brief introductions of themselves and their work. The meeting then adjourned.

Nominations were solicited via the Section e-mail list. Elections were conducted online and hosted by LASA. Margarita López Maya was chosen as Chair for 2013–2014 and Alejandro Velasco as Secretary-Treasurer for 2013–2015. Newly elected members of council, through 2015, are María Pilar García-Guadilla, Iñaki Sagarzazu, Yorelis Acosta, Javier Guerrero, and Vicente Lecuna. Continuing members through 2014 are Tomás Straka, Iraidá Casique, Raúl Sánchez Urribarri, and Tim Gill.

### Visual Culture

Ernesto Capello, Chair

The Section Governing Council for 2013–2014 consists of Ernesto Capello, Chair; Kevin Coleman, Secretary-Treasurer; and members Lisa Blackmore (Birkbeck College, UK), Andrea Cerda (Leiden University), Jordana Dym (Skidmore College), Alison Fraunhar (Saint Xavier University), Miriam Haddu (University of London), Jessica Stites Mor (University of British Columbia, Okanagan), and Scott Weintraub (University of New Hampshire).

The Visual Culture Section held its inaugural meeting on May 30, 2013, in Washington, DC. Twenty members of the Section were present. Ernesto Capello

## Voluntary Support

by Sandy Klinzing

announced the results of online council elections that month. Capello also reported that the Section had signed up 86 members during its first year of existence and would therefore be allotted two panels at the LASA2014 Congress in Chicago. A discussion followed concerning how to apportion these. The Acting Council submitted a recommendation that one should be a roundtable concerning the state of the field, perhaps answering the question, “What Is Latin American Visual Culture?” and one should be a panel proposed by the general membership. After discussion, it was agreed that in our inaugural year it would be preferable to have two roundtables devoted to theoretical concerns, with the council soliciting suggestions for speakers from the membership. We also resolved to set up a Planning Committee for the Chicago conference in order to help identify sites, exhibits, and galleries of interest to members and perhaps hold a preconference event. Finally, the Section established goals for continued outreach and a web presence in the coming year, and the long-term goals of establishing prizes for Latin American Visual Cultures Studies and partnering with local institutions to create curatorial possibilities at future conferences, perhaps beginning with Puerto Rico in 2015. ■

Since our last report to you in the Fall 2012 *LASA Forum*, nearly 800 individual gifts have been received in support of the various LASA funds. The Association is extremely grateful for the generous support of the members, foundations, and friends who make it possible for LASA to continue to advance its mission. Support for any of the LASA funds helps to ensure that more scholars will be able to participate in the annual Congress, regardless of financial constraints.

For the most recent Congress, LASA2013, 275 travel grantees benefitted from grants ranging from \$600 to \$1000. A total of \$269,822 was available, derived from **LASA Endowment** proceeds (\$139,007) plus \$10,000 from Operations, support contributed by several foundations (\$106,221), and direct contributions to the **LASA Travel Fund** (\$7284), the **Student Fund** (\$4,326), and the **Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund** (\$3,984.) Thanks to a multiyear grant from the Fundación Avina, the 2013 recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award, Peter H. Smith, received a LASA Life Membership. The third grant to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his doctoral research in Mexican history was presented thanks to the donors to the Charles A. Hale Fund for Mexican History, an endowed fund. This Congress also saw the second presentation of the recently established Luciano Tomassini Award in International Relations, funded by an endowment created by the Ford Foundation. The Martin Diskin Lectureship is supported by both LASA and Oxfam America, the latter also instrumental in establishing an endowed fund for the Diskin Dissertation Fellowship Award.

**LASA Life Memberships** not only serve as tangible evidence of the value placed on membership in the Association, they

provide direct support for the LASA Endowment, helping to assure Congress travel grant support for generations of Latin Americanists to come. There are currently 94 Life Members; 81 of these made this major commitment to LASA, and 13 received Honorary Life Memberships as recipients of the Kalman Silvert Award. The two most recent are Peter H. Smith (2013 Kalman Silvert Award) and Elaine Carey (St. John’s University). Our most sincere thanks to all Life Members for their generosity.

With grateful thanks we acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to any of the LASA funds since our last report. Note that in the interest of conserving space donor names are printed only once, regardless of the number of contributions or gifts to multiple funds. Many donors frequently designate more than one fund for their support and add a gift with each membership renewal or Congress registration. Thank you!

Would you like to discuss your own contribution, a LASA Life Membership, or perhaps the creation of a named fund? Please contact Sandy Klinzing at [sklinz@pitt.edu](mailto:sklinz@pitt.edu) or 412-648-1907 for more information.

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