

Interim Report from the Program Chairs Chicago, 2014

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⁵ Ver Pablo Stefanoni, “Algunas claves del conflicto del TIPNIS”, *Red Bolivia Mundo*, 2 de octubre de 2011, <http://www.boliviainmundo.net/algunas-claves-del-conflicto-del-tipnis/>.

⁶ Jean Tible, “¿Una nueva clase media en Brasil? El lulismo como fenómeno político-social”, *Nueva Sociedad*, N° 243, enero–febrero de 2013.

⁷ Ezequiel Adamovsky, “Clase media: reflexiones sobre los (malos) usos académicos de una categoría”, *Nueva Sociedad*, N° 247, septiembre–octubre de 2013.

⁸ “Ministro anuncia viaje del Presidente a China para el lanzamiento del satélite Túpac Katari”, *La Razón*, La Paz, 27 de noviembre de 2013.

As we write this, LASA2014 is beginning to take shape. We have waded through a vast number of proposals and chosen the panels and workshops to be included in the program. We have put together a large number of additional events and sessions to highlight the theme of the Congress and draw attention to the cutting-edge work being done in the field. We have released the preliminary program and posted it on LASA’s website: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/program.asp>.

LASA2014 will be held in the historic and elegant Palmer House Hilton in Chicago from May 21 to 24. The Palmer House is located in downtown Chicago and thus offers easy access to the city’s many attractions, including great restaurants, fabulous parks and museums, and the city’s Magnificent Mile shopping district. The city also boasts excellent air connections to Latin America and Europe as well as cities throughout the United States.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Democracy and Memory.” We encourage scholars to reflect on the legacy of authoritarian regimes and human rights violations in the region and what democracies have done to confront those legacies. LASA president Merilee Grindle created a number of panels that address this theme, and numerous LASA members have also submitted proposals focusing on this topic.

But LASA2014 will also address a tremendous variety of other topics. This year for the first time we asked all of the track chairs to create invited sessions to highlight some of the most exciting work being done in their fields. The track chairs responded to this request with great enthusiasm. The result is a fantastic array of panels, workshops, and roundtables that include prominent scholars addressing a

wide range of issues of importance to Latin American studies.

LASA’s track chairs also had the difficult task of evaluating the nearly 1,800 proposals we received this year, including 1,174 individual paper proposals and 622 session proposals. They carried out this task with great efficiency, and we used their evaluations to guide our decisions about which proposals to accept. The acceptance rate for session proposals has traditionally been higher than that of individual paper proposals (in part because of the difficulty of forging coherent panels from disparate paper proposals), and this year was no exception. We accepted approximately 80 percent of the individual paper proposals and 93 percent of the section proposals. To ensure equal treatment of the various fields and disciplines, we maintained the same acceptance rates across all of the different tracks.

Unfortunately, limits on space meant that we were unable to accept some worthy papers and panel proposals. Nevertheless, LASA remains one of the most inclusive congresses around, and we are proud of the program that we have helped assemble.

We would like to thank the LASA staff, the track chairs, and LASA president Merilee Grindle, for all of their help and hard work in putting together the Congress. Our greatest debt, however, is to the thousands of LASA members who came up with and submitted proposals on a vast variety of subjects. You are the ones who make LASA the truly great conference that it is. ■