Many of us, from our different locations and disciplines, have been thinking about precariousness and emergent practices a good deal lately, focusing on three large and very different realms: social and labor issues in Latin America; the academic workplace and education; and modalities of knowledge exchange (how our work and networks are evolving). Precariousness is often associated with exclusions of class, gender, race, age, and sexual identity and yet, in these times of permanent crisis and emergency, we also see some of the most exciting flowerings of emergent practices. These are large questions that have a bearing on many forms of human and social expression. For example, the recent mobilization of millions of citizens in Brazil, the massive student manifestations of the past years in Chile or Puerto Rico, the growing environmental crisis and its effects on local communities across countries and regions, or the plight of 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States are events that strike to the heart of how we think of democracy in a neoliberal hemispheric context.

All of them also speak all at once on the three concepts that we would like to engage in the 2015 LASA Congress. While the conditions of the academic workplace vary tremendously throughout the Americas, one of the huge shifts in higher education in the United States and many countries in Latin America has been to move away from the tenure system towards a system of contingent, contract labor. The recently released Delphi Project report, for example, confirms that approximately 70% of all instructors in U.S. colleges and universities are now contingent faculty. The squeeze on tenure line positions and their replacement by short-term contracts has made the job market very challenging for many of our young colleagues, who can now look forward to little more than poverty-level income with no benefits. Even more precarious is the status of students from Latin America, who increasingly find green card or citizenship requirements as the bar they must meet for consideration. Likewise, in Latin America the structural reforms and the flexibilization of labor have affected the working conditions in academia. According to reports from members of the Federación de Colegios del Personal Académico de la UNAM, in the higher education system in Mexico, approximately 70% of the teaching is now under the responsibility of professors in part-time positions and under temporary contracts. “Tenured positions” (plazas con definitividad) are being substituted by temporary positions under partial contracts, leaving the new generations of Latin American academicians without any labor security. In the midst of these critical realities, academic communities seem to be facing not only their own internal issues but also a pressing need to imagine and establish other modes of linking the university to public life and scholarship to social service.

As part of this process, we experience the precariousness of our conventional concepts of knowledge production and sharing—the book, the academic article, the conference—as well as the challenge to old understandings of intellectual practice that are suggested by new forms of expression, often finding their homes on the vast world we call the internet. The new media—as well as broader material, technological, and ecological changes—have suggested to us new and unexpected forms of exchange, opening up exciting possibilities for the future. Moreover, new technologies have become central to linguistic, cultural, social, political, and economic subjects as tools to challenge existing exclusions, exercise new horizons of knowledge, and forge creative forms of emergence, visibility, and empowerment.
You are invited to submit a paper or panel proposal addressing either the Congress theme or any topics related to the program tracks. LASA also invites requests for travel grants from proposers residing in Latin America or the Caribbean as well as from students. Visit the LASA website for eligibility criteria. All proposals for papers, panels, and travel grants must be submitted electronically to the LASA Secretariat via the online proposal system by September 8, 2014, 5pm.

The deadline to submit proposals is September 8, 2014, 5pm.

Proposal forms and instructions will be available on the LASA website: http://lasa.international.pitt.edu. No submissions by regular mail will be accepted. The Secretariat will send confirmation of the receipt of the proposal via e-mail.

All participants will be required to pre-register for the Congress.

PROGRAM TRACKS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Select the most appropriate track for your proposal from the following list and enter it in the designated place on the form. Names of Program Committee members are provided for information only. Direct your correspondence to the LASA Secretariat ONLY.

Afro-Latin/Indigenous Peoples
Irama Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj, Investigadora Maya K’iche
Emiko Saídivar, University of California Santa Barbara

Agrarian and Rural Life
Sara Ma. Lara Flores, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Cristóbal Kay, Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands; University of London

Art and Architecture
Tatiana Flores, Rutgers University
Ray Hernández-Durán, University of New Mexico

Biodiversity, Natural Resources, and Environment.
Jonathan Ablard, Ithaca College
Miguel Altiere, University of California, Berkeley

Cities, Planning, and Social Services
Claudia Zamorro, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, University of Pittsburgh

Civil Society and Social Movements
Evelina Dagnino, Universidad Estadual de Campinas
Maristella Svampa, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Culture, Power, and Political Subjectivities
Margara Millán, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Juan Poblete, University of California, Santa Cruz

Democratization
Juliet Hooker, The University of Texas at Austin
* Pending nomination of Co-Chair

Defense, Violence, and, Insecurity
Mar喇叭 Mora, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Maria Clemencia Ramirez, Universidad de los Andes

Economics and Social Policies
Mahrukh Doctor, University of Hull
Marcelo Paixão, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Educational Policies and Pedagogy
Maria Bertely, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Cecília Pittelli, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Film Studies
Miriam Haddu, Universidad de Cambridge
Gabriela Copertari, Case Western Reserve University

Gender and Feminist Studies
Pamela Calla, New York University
Monica Szurmuk, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, CONICET

Health and Society
Clara Han, John Hopkins University
Graciela Freyermuth, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS

History and Historiography
Silvia Álvarez Curbelo, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
Eduardo Elena, University of Miami

Human Rights and Memories
Carlos Aguirre, University of Oregon
Alejandro Cenza Garcia, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

International Relations
Grazia Villarreal, Saint Norbert College
Gustavo Flores Macias, Cornell University

Labor Studies and Class Relations
Heidi Tinsman, University of California, Irvine
Graciela Bensusán, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco

Latin/as in the United States and Canada
Raúl Coronado, University of California, Berkeley
Yolanda Paddilla, University of Washington-Bothell

Law, Rights, Citizenship, and Justice
Rachel Sieder, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Cath Collins, Universidad Diego Portales

Linguistics, Languages and Language Policy
Emiliana Cruz, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Stefanín Coronel-Molina, Indiana University

Literary Studies: Contemporary
Estelle Tarica, University of California, Berkeley
Mayra Santos-Febres, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

Literary Studies: Colonial and 19th Centuries
Rocio Quiñones-Agoli, Michigan State University
Juan Carlos González-Espitia, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Literature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches
Rubí Carreño, Universidad Católica de Chile
Jerome Branche, University of Pittsburgh

Mass Media and Popular Culture
Beatriz Jaguer, Universidad Federale do Rio de Janeiro
Hilda Chacón, Nazareth College

Migration and Latin American diasporas
Ana Morales Zen, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Bayamón
Sara Poggio, University of Maryland-Baltimore

Otros saberes: Collective Methods and the Politics of Research
Maylei Blackwell, University of California, Los Angeles
Shannon Speed, The University of Texas at Austin

Performance Studies
Gabriela Vargas, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan
Jimmy Noriega, Wooster College

Political Institutions and Processes
Carlos de la Torre, University of Kentucky
Raul Sanchez-Urribarri, La Trobe University

Religions and Spiritualities
Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, University at Buffalo
Catalina Romero, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Peru

Sexualities and LGBTQ Studies
Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, Sociology, American University
Shawn Schurenberg, Marshall University

States, Markets, and Political Economy
Kathryn Hochstetler, University of Waterloo
Diego Sanchez-Ancochea, University of Oxford

Transnationalism and Globalization
Liliana Suárez, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Josixianna Arroyo, The University of Texas at Austin