

## Section Reports

### Asia and the Americas

By Kathleen López and Adrian Hearn,  
Co-chairs

On May 22, 2014, the Section for Asia and the Americas held its business meeting. This was the third meeting since the section changed its name from “Section for Latin America and the Pacific Rim” at the 2010 LASA Congress and covered the first tenure of co-chairs Kathleen López (Rutgers University) and Adrian Hearn (University of Sydney).

The co-chairs informed the meeting’s attendees about the section’s activities over the preceding 12 months:

On May 22 the Section hosted a pre-Congress workshop in partnership with the University of Chicago, entitled “Feeding the Masses: China-Latin America Agriculture Connections through Time.” The University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies hosted the event, and the center’s director Dain Borges provided introductory remarks together with Kenneth Pomeranz of the Department of History. The event was supported by the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), which provided funding to include speakers from Latin America, Canada, China, and Australia. A description of the event, including a link to the program, is available on the WUN website: <https://www.wun.ac.uk/news/wun-workshop-explores-chinas-relations-latin-america>.

The Section panel “Globalization, Foodways, and Development between Asia and the Americas” continued this theme with presentations from historical, cultural, economic, and geopolitical perspectives.

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’s membership has remained relatively stable at 68 members as of April 2014.

In preparation for LASA 2014 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 co-chairs will continue to offer these services to members ahead of LASA 2015. Furthermore, since LASA 2015 will take place in Puerto Rico, the section plans to hold a pre-Congress workshop on Asia-Caribbean relations through history.

During the meeting, the incumbents were reelected to serve as co-chairs for the period 2014–2015, and the following executive council was elected: Vladimir Rouvinski (treasurer), Universidad Icesi; Ruben Berrios, Lock Haven University; Monica Dehart, University of Puget Sound; R. Evan Ellis, National Defense University; Roanne Kantor, University of Texas at Austin; Junyoung Verónica Kim, University of Iowa; and Zelideth Rivas, Marshall University.

### Bolivia

By Guillermo Delgado P, Chair; Chris Krueger and Isabel Scarborough,  
Committee Members

Este año los/as académicos/as interesados/as en Bolivia presentaron cerca de cincuenta ponencias a través de todo el congreso. La Sección también dió la bienvenida a los becarios de LASA procedentes de Bolivia y nuevo/as investigadores interesados/as en la temática del país.

La Sección también convocó al Taller/Workshop titulado “Bolivian Studies: In and Beyond Bolivia”. Desafortunadamente, el horario (último día del congreso, última sesión del día) no contribuyó a convocar más asistentes a esta discusión. Sin embargo, Isabel Scarborough, que tuvo que ausentarse, nos encargó presentar una encuesta que ella condujo, con el objeto de identificar intereses académicos por parte de la membresía de la Sección. Los resultados de la encuesta estarán disponibles en la página web que está diseñando la colega Annabelle Conroy. Una parte de esta página web dedicaremos a destacar la investigación, publicaciones, contactos y actividades de lo/as miembros de la Sección Bolivia de LASA. Hubieron solamente diez asistentes a este Taller, pero el nivel de participación fue activa y promisoría.

Este año los miembros de la Sección no respondieron a la convocatoria para cambiar la directiva, y debido a la ausencia de candidato/as, la Sección procedió a aceptar “voluntario/as” para poder garantizar el funcionamiento de la Sección con nuevas personas.

Nos alegra anunciar que la nueva directiva “voluntaria” será dirigida por la colega Elizabeth Monasterios (University of Pittsburgh), Annabelle Conroy (University of Florida, Gainesville), Virginia Aillón (UMSA), Martín Carrión (University of the Sciences, Philadelphia), y Núria Vilanova (American University).

Entre las sesiones que más concurrencia atrajeron se destacó el homenaje al Prof. Benjamin Kohl (Temple University) que falleció poco después de la conferencia de LASA-Washington D.C. 2013. Un grupo de colegas que estimamos sobremanera a Ben se movilizó inmediatamente después de su deceso el pasado año para inscribir la

Sesión en su homenaje en LASA 2014. Liderizado por Nicole Fabricant, Bret Gustafson, Nancy Postero, Pamela Calla, José Antonio Lucero, Andrew Orta, y Guillermo Delgado-P., la sesión estuvo enriquecida con la presentación de Linda Farthing, y la presencia de los padres de Ben.

Durante la reunión de business, la Sección también acordó crear una beca “Ben Kohl” para estudiantes bolivianos, militantes de las causas sociales que trabajen la problemática de las ciencias sociales desde el punto de vista del compromiso del intelectual y participante activo—que fue nuestro colega Ben Kohl.

Participantes de este taller sugieren: (1) armar un posible panel sobre las relaciones entre Chile y Bolivia que refuerce la comunicación comunitaria antes que diplomática/oficial con el propósito de acercar la(s) experiencia(s) vivida(s) de comunidades/familias/personas cuyas raíces se hallan en ambos países; (2) explorar acercamientos que privilegien el estudio de los movimientos del medio ambiente que afectan el área. También se continuará explorando relaciones de colaboración entre instituciones, bolivianistas de universidades extranjeras con las instituciones académicas bolivianas (PIEB, CESU, etc.), la AEB y otras colegas (Virginia Aillón) que se hallan en el país.

La Sección también presentó una propuesta para traducir la obra de René Zavaleta Mercado al inglés, respondiendo a una convocatoria lanzada por Duke University Press. Agradecemos a Mauricio Souza (Plural) y a Chris Krueger, por su directa colaboración con este proyecto. Inicialmente esta propuesta ha sido aceptada.

## Brazil

By Desmond Arias, Co-chair

There were 18 attendees at the Section business meeting. The meeting began by recognizing the winners of this year’s Section prizes. The Section awarded prizes for best doctoral dissertation, best article, and best book published or defended in 2013.

The dissertation prize went to Graham Denyer Willis, who defended his dissertation entitled “The Killing Consensus: Homicide Detectives, Police That Kill, and Organized Crime in São Paulo” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The prize committee was formed by John French, Joseph Marques, and Jerry Dávila. There were four nominations for the prize. The winner was determined by the members of the committee reading each of the nominated dissertations. The winner was chosen by consensus.

The article prize was awarded to John Tofik Karam for the article entitled “The Lebanese Diaspora at the Tri-border and the Re-drawing of South American Geo-Politics, 1950–1992.” The article was published in *Mashriq and Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*. Jessica Rich received an honorable mention for her article “Grassroots Bureaucracy: Intergovernmental Relations and Popular Mobilization in Brazil’s AIDS Policy Sector,” published in *Latin American Politics and Society*. The award committee was composed of Ángela Randolpho Paiva and Amy Chazkel. There were 11 nominees for the prize. Both readers read all the nominated articles and reached their decision by consensus.

Rebecca Neera Abers and Margaret E. Keck won the Section’s book prize for

*Practical Authority: Agency and Institutional Change in Brazilian Water Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Tracy Devine Guzmán received an honorable mention for *Native and National in Brazil: Indigeneity after Independence* published by the University of North Carolina Press. The award committee was composed of Desmond Arias, Pedro Erber, and Ivani Vassoler-Froelich. There were 13 nominees for the prize. The books were divided into groups that were read by one committee member. Two books were nominated by each committee member for a final group of 6 read by the entire committee. The decision was made by consensus.

The Section then had an open discussion that focused principally on future Section panels. The group present made two suggestions for Section-sponsored panels for the next LASA Congress. The first would focus on the 2014 elections. The second would focus on identity movements. The chairs informed those in attendance that the Section was eligible for four panels at the upcoming Congress based on having nearly 300 members.

After the discussion the Section moved to hold elections. First, elections were held for co-chair. Ivani Vassoler-Froelich (SUNY Fredonia) and John French (Duke University) were elected. The Section then elected Jessica Rich (Tulane University) as treasurer. Finally the Section elected three executive committee members. João Feres (IESP/UERJ) and Tracy Devine Guzmán (University of Miami) were elected to full two-year terms. Sean Mitchell (Rutgers University), who was elected on the same ballot, volunteered to serve a one-year term to fill the seat vacated by Ivani Vassoler-Froelich when she won election as chair. Joseph Marques (Kings College London), who was elected to a two-year term last

year, will continue to serve on the executive committee for the next year.

### Central America

By Ellen Moodie, Co-chair

Approximately 35 members attended the Central America Section (CAS) meeting May 22. The Section currently has 199 members. Newly elected officers include co-chairs Sonja Wolf (INSYDE, Mexico City), and Claudia P. Rueda (Texas A&M, Corpus Christie); secretary-treasurer Sophie Esch (Colorado State); and advisory board members Héctor M. Cruz Feliciano (CET Academic Programs) and Krystin Krause (Northern Arizona University); joining continuing members Yansi Perez (Carleton College) and Erin Finzer (University of Arkansas at Little Rock). Outgoing officers are Ellen Moodie (University of Illinois), and Cecilia Rivas (University of California, Santa Cruz).

The Section sponsored three panels: a roundtable, “Violent Modernity,” about El Salvador in the 1930s; a panel on revolutionary music and images; and a panel on twentieth-century culture and politics in Nicaragua. Last year, members voted to invite a special speaker to the next meeting. We could not organize such a session for LASA2014. This year we gathered ten nominations in advance. First place went to cultural anthropologist Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj, a member of the K’iche’ ethnic group. Second place went to Miguel Huezo Mixco, Salvadoran writer, poet, and political commentator. The winners of the two \$750 travel fellowships, Leonor Zúniga Gutiérrez (Nicaragua) and Sofia Vindas Solano (Costa Rica), were introduced. Co-chairs Ellen Moodie and Héctor Cruz Feliciano and Secretary-Treasurer Cecilia Rivas selected them after evaluating the five applications according

to a list of priorities: recipients should ideally be from Central America and live in Central America; they should be students; and should explain their financial need in a short statement. Next year two CAS fellowships will be offered again.

### Colombia

By Constanza López, Chair

In 2014, the Colombia Section sponsored three panels and presented a \$300 travel award to Ángela Castillo Ardila, a graduate student of geography from Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. It awarded the Monserrat Ordóñez Prize to Constanza López for her monograph *Trauma, memoria y cuerpo: Narrativas testimoniales de mujeres colombianas (1985–2000)*. This award is given in recognition of a groundbreaking work that embodies a fresh and creative approach to the Colombian humanities.

The Section held its business meeting on May 22, with 39 members present. Since it was decided at the meeting in Washington to hold elections every two years, the executive committee continues to be chair, Constanza López (University of North Florida); vice-chair, Alejandro Quin (University of Utah); secretary-treasurer, Leah Carroll (University of California, Berkeley); communications manager, Joseph Avski (Texas A&M University); student representatives, Ben Johnson (Columbia University) and Catalina Arango (New York University); advisors: Virginia Bouvier (United States Institute of Peace), Mauricio Romero (Universidad Javeriana), María Mercedes Jaramillo (Fitchburg State University), and Juana Suárez (New York University). The Section celebrated its reception at the restaurant Zapatista on May 23. For the coming year, the Section, which currently has 158

members, will sponsor three panels and will award the Michael Jiménez Prize to recognize an essay collection or monograph based on original research in the fields of anthropology, history, sociology, political science, or related areas, which demonstrates excellence in conceptual terms as well as in its impact, creativity, and possible influence in Colombia and in the field of Colombian studies. The Section publishes a monthly bulletin. We welcome all calls for papers and other communications that might be of interest to our membership (please send to lasacolombia@gmail.com).

### Colonial

By Ann De León, Chair

Since its inauguration at LASA2013 and under the skillful leadership of Clayton McCarl, the Section has continued to grow as a dynamic interdisciplinary forum for scholars of the Latin American colonial world, finishing 2013 with 116 members. At the business meeting in Chicago there were over 25 members in attendance, including officers Clayton McCarl (University of North Florida), Ann De León (University of Alberta), Raúl Marrero-Fente (University of Minnesota), and Patricia Tovar Rojas (City University of New York).

The two Section-sponsored panels at LASA2014 coordinated by Mónica Díaz (“Urban Space, Spectacle and Race”) and Raúl Marrero-Fente and Magali Carrera (“Paradigm Shift: New Theories and Methodologies of Colonial Latin America”) were well attended, as were the over 30 other sessions examining colonial topics. As per the Section’s leadership proposal approved by the membership earlier this year, the following individuals will serve on the executive council for 2014–2015: Pablo García Loaeza (West Virginia University,

council member), Mónica Díaz (Georgia State University, council member and secretary-treasurer), Raúl Marrero-Fente (vice-chair and chair of awards committee), Ann De León (chair) and Clayton McCarl (council member). We are happy to report that the Section newsletter featuring Section news, awards, member publications, call for papers, and archival and scholarly resources (available on the Colonial Section website) has continued to publish quarterly. It is produced by Clayton McCarl (editor), Alejandro Enríquez and Pablo García Loaeza (assistant editors), and Rocío Quispe-Agnoli (editorial advisor). This year also saw the creation of the Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies under the leadership of Ann De León (vice-chair and chair of awards committee). Nineteen submissions were received. Five semifinalists, selected by an interdisciplinary jury of three respected scholars of colonial Latin America, were invited to submit their full dissertations. The prize ceremony was carried out by one of the jury members, Santa Arias. Larissa Brewer-García received an “Honorable Mention” certificate of recognition for her dissertation “Beyond Babel: Translations of Blackness in Colonial Peru and New Granada” (University of Pennsylvania, 2013). Jason Dyck (in attendance) was named the winner and received a certificate of recognition and a \$500 award for his dissertation “The Sacred Historian’s Craft: Francisco de Florencia and Creole Identity in Seventeenth-Century New Spain” (University of Toronto, 2012). The generous anonymous donors of the prize were thanked and members were encouraged to donate to future prizes.

Suggestions for next year’s priorities were discussed at the business meeting, such as creating a new award for best colonial

essay by a Latin American scholar or a first book prize in order to encourage more international participation and to promote the work of scholars early in their careers. Raúl Marrero-Fente, the new chair of the awards committee, will be drafting a new prize proposal during the summer. Other priorities discussed included encouraging graduate student participation in the Section and the potential development of a website. The Section’s annual reception at Tanta Peruvian restaurant, graciously organized by Mónica Díaz, provided an enjoyable venue where members could interact and was attended by approximately 60 individuals.

#### **Cuba**

By Lillian Manzor and Nancy Morejón, Co-chairs

Two hundred forty-one scholars from Cuba were accepted for the LASA Program and 30 received LASA travel grants. One hundred thirty-three applied for visas; of these, seven applications were refused/denied.

The Section organized four very diverse panels and workshops for the Chicago Congress. It introduced a new panel subtitled “New Voices, New Perspectives” aimed at bringing together junior scholars on and off the island in order to highlight new theoretical approaches in Cuban studies. During the year, the Section streamlined election guidelines so that LASA can run its elections, and it added a graduate student representative to its executive council. It instituted the Lilia Rosa y Jorge José Domínguez Award for the best paper on a Cuban topic presented at the annual Congress. The first award will be given in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May 2015.

The Section business meeting had a full agenda and a full audience; there were over 125 in attendance. The Section’s Premio a la Excelencia Académica en los Estudios sobre Cuba was awarded to Aurelio Alonso Tejada. Items discussed at the meeting included (1) the Section’s and LASA’s executive efforts to prevent visa denials; these were coordinated by Professor Milagros Martínez in Havana and Dr. Jorge Domínguez in Washington, DC; (2) strategies to bring younger scholars and scholars from the provinces into the Section; (3) presentation of the Domínguez Award; (4) election guidelines.

The reception held at Potter’s included a pasta bar, wine and beer, and Cuban music. Special thanks go to Elaine Scheye for organizing it.

Section election results include, for co-chairs, Lisandro Pérez (CUNY) and Rafael Hernández Rodríguez (Revista Temas). Executive Board members include Raúl Fernández (University of California, Irvine), Félix Valdés García (Instituto de Filosofía de Cuba), and Michael Bustamante (Yale). They will be joining the other three members of the board whose terms expire in 2015, Jorge Domínguez (Harvard), Everlery Perez (Universidad de la Habana), and John Kirk (Dalhousie University).

Section activities for the coming year include streamlining the membership mechanism for scholars from Cuba and outreach to younger academics and artists, especially those residing in the provinces; updating the website; and creating a presence in social media.

Sincere thanks go to Mario Bronfman (FORD Foundation), Sarah Doty (Social Science Research Council), Andrea Panaretos (Christopher Reynolds

Foundation), and the Joseph Carter Memorial Fund (University of Miami) for their contributions to the participation of scholars from Cuba in the Chicago Congress.

### **Culture, Power, and Politics**

By Juan Poblete, Co-chair

The Section had a very productive meeting in Chicago. In addition to the numerous panels under the track heading, the Section organized a series of three very well-attended workshops under the title “Twenty-Five Years of Latin American Studies in Culture, Power and Politics.” The idea of the workshops (consecutive and in the same room, a great setting) was a critical examination of the various “turns” that have impacted the field over the past quarter century. The Section further plans to publish revised and expanded versions of the papers in a volume tentatively entitled “Turn and Turn Again: Twenty-Five Years of Latin American Studies in Culture, Power and Politics.” A call was made to Section members to identify and propose additional turns to be included in the projected volume. The business meeting resulted in the election of a new secretary-treasurer, Ana Wortman (Universidad de Buenos Aires), and the renewal of council member Silvia Kurlat Ares (independent scholar) as well as the election of Sarah Town (Princeton University) to the Section’s board. The newly elected co-chair is Justin Read (University at Buffalo, SUNY) who has been working as a board member over the last year. Jon Beasley Murray (University of British Columbia) has graciously agreed to stay on the board for another year. It was resolved that for the coming year, the Section’s priorities would be to organize an equally successful presence in Puerto Rico, and using the

Section’s accrued capital to invite one or more major figures to LASA 2015, perhaps as part of a pre-Congress workshop or conference.

The turns explored in the workshops were: post-hegemony: Jon Beasley Murray (University of British Columbia); popular culture: Pablo Alabarces (Universidad de Buenos Aires); gender and sexuality: Matthew Gutmann (Brown University); transnational: Juan Poblete (University of California, Santa Cruz); memory: Michael Lazzara (University of California-Davis); affect: Laura Podalsky (Ohio State University); ethics: Erin Graff (University of Southern California); subalternism: Gareth Williams (University of Michigan); New Latin American Left: Bruno Bosteels (Cornell University); and deconstruction and politics: Alberto Moreiras (Texas A&M University).

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

By Deborah Norden, Co-chair

Approximately 24 people attended the business meeting; since co-chair José Manuel Ugarte encountered a travel delay and was not able to be present at the beginning of the meeting, council member Maiah Jaskoski served as secretary during the meeting.

In accordance with the Section’s decision from the 2013 Business Meeting, the Section sponsored two sessions: a panel on armed forces and society organized by Sam Fitch, and a roundtable on military roles and missions. Both sessions had at least a couple dozen people in attendance, and, even more notably, enjoyed full participation by all of those included in the panel. The Section co-chairs and board also selected two recipients for scholarship awards, discussed below. Less successful

were our efforts at recruitment during the year, and our incipient efforts to update and more actively utilize the Section’s webpage to share research and other communications. These will be priorities for the new Section officers in 2014–2015.

Because of changes in Section guidelines, we first needed to decide on our rules before proceeding to elect officers for the coming year. The Section decided to have co-chairs serve two years, staggering those so that there would be continuity. The first year co-chair will also serve as secretary-treasurer. Webpage responsibility will now move to the council, shared between one person in the second year of the term and one newly elected person. That decided, Deborah Norden (Whittier College) resigned as co-chair, and the Section confirmed José Manuel Ugarte (Universidad de Buenos Aires) to serve a second year as co-chair. The Section then elected Kristina Mani (Oberlin College) to a two-year term as co-chair, and J. Samuel Fitch (University of Colorado, Boulder) and Pamela Figueroa (Universidad Central de Chile) to serve two-year terms to the council, from June 2014 through June 2016, replacing Maiah Jaskoski (Naval Postgraduate School) and Liza Zúñiga (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), whose terms end in June 2014. Sam and Pamela will serve alongside fellow council members Jaime Baeza (Universidad de Chile) and Rafael Martínez (Universidad de Barcelona), whose terms end in June 2015. Kristina Mani (Oberlin College) will also serve as secretary-treasurer during her first year as co-chair; Jaime Baeza will assume responsibility for the webpage, with assistance from Pamela Figueroa. Pending for next year is further discussion of how to best assure diversity between the co-chairs, since the traditional U.S./Latin America split excludes those from other areas of the world (i.e., Europe).



The Section made two awards, “The Latin American Studies Association Section on Defense, Public Security and Democracy Award for Distinguished Scholarship” Junior Scholar award, for a paper presented at LASA2013; and an award for best article published by a Section member during 2013. Each award received a prize of \$200. All Section members were invited to submit or nominate papers. We had four entries for the paper award and six entries for the article award. The Junior Scholar award was selected by a panel composed of the council members Jaime Baeza, Maiah Jaskoski, Rafael Martínez, and Liza Zúñiga; this award went to Natalia Vargas Palacios for “The Democratic Insertion of Armed Forces: The Process of Institutional Reforms in the Defense System; a compared proposal for measuring the quality of the democracy in the defense’s partial regime.” The article award was selected by the co-chairs, Deborah Norden and José Manuel Ugarte, and went to Maiah Jaskoski, for “Private Financing of the Military: A Local Political Economy Approach.”

The Section decided to henceforth offer these awards on an annual basis. We also decided to initiate a lifetime achievement award (symbolic, rather than monetary) to honor a senior scholar who stands out for his or her contributions to the field, beginning in 2015.

#### Economics and Politics

By Gabriel Ondetti, Chair

This past year the Economics and Politics Section introduced a new travel grant of \$500 to help a Section member attend the LASA Congress. The first grant was awarded to Elia C. Alves, a graduate student at the Federal University of Pernambuco. The selection committee was

made up of Mahrukh Doctor (University of Hull), Fernando Leiva (University of California, Santa Cruz), and Gabriel Ondetti (Missouri State University).

For the second year, we awarded two Section research prizes. The prize for the best article published by an early career Section member in the past calendar year went to José Carlos Orihuela for his article “How Do ‘Mineral-States’ Learn? Path-Dependence, Networks, and Policy Change in the Development of Economic Institutions,” published in *World Development*. We also awarded an honorable mention to Felipe Amin Filomeno for his article “How Argentine Farmers Overpowered Monsanto: The Mobilization of Knowledge-Users and Intellectual Property Regimes,” in the *Journal of Politics in Latin America*. The selection committee consisted of Sybil Rhodes (Universidad del CEMA), Steven Samford (Scripps College), and Tony Spanakos (Montclair State University). Our prize for the best article published by a member at any stage in their career went to Juliana Martínez Franzoni and Diego Sánchez Ancochea for their article “Can Latin American Production Regimes Complement Universalistic Welfare Regimes: Implications from the Costa Rican Case,” which was published by *Latin American Research Review*.

An honorable mention was awarded to Kenneth C. Shadlen and Elize Massard da Fonseca for their article “Health Policy as Industrial Policy: Brazil in Comparative Perspective,” which came out in *Politics & Society*. The selection committee for this award was made up of Eduardo Gomes (Universidade Federal Fluminense), Kathryn Hochstetler (University of Waterloo), and Rose Spalding (DePaul University). At the 2014 LASA Congress we sponsored two sessions. One was a

panel on “The Politics of Health and Pharmaceuticals in Latin America” and the other was a workshop on “Latin American Political Economy: Why Do Fieldwork When the Data Are All Online?” Both were well attended and very stimulating.

Approximately 20 people attended the Section’s business meeting. We congratulated our award winners and discussed a number of issues facing the Section, including a proposed shift to a staggered system of council elections, the procedure for selecting our sponsored panels, and the possibility of holding a reception at LASA2015. We did not hold elections this term because we were still discussing how to organize the terms for the officers and we wanted to collect feedback on this issue at the annual meeting. However, this summer we will be electing two new council members, who will each serve two-year terms, overlapping with the existing members for one year. In addition, this coming term we will again be organizing two Congress sessions, awarding one or possibly two LASA travel grants, and awarding two research prizes. We may also organize a reception in San Juan.

#### Ecuadorian Studies

By Rut Roman, Chair

Siendo las 20:15 del jueves 22 de Mayo 2014, se inició la reunión de la Ecuador Section de la Latin American Studies Association (LASA) a la que asistieron 16 personas. En la reunión se trató el siguiente orden del día: (1) Informe de actividades a cargo de Rut Román, Chair de la sección, (2) Renovación de una parte del directorio, (3) Ruegos y preguntas.

La Chair, Rut Román, saludó a los asistentes e informó sobre las siguientes actividades desarrolladas por la sección

desde la última reunión realizada el 30 de mayo de 2013. Se pidió la colaboración de todos los asistentes para fomentar la suscripción de miembros de LASA a la sección de ecuatorianistas debido al descenso de afiliaciones a la misma, lo que repercute, entre otros aspectos, en los recursos que obtiene la sección. Este momento la sección tiene 101 integrantes.

A la sección le correspondió organizar dos paneles en el congreso internacional de LASA. Luego de una convocatoria abierta, en la que podían enviar propuestas todos los integrantes, la sección decidió auspiciar los siguientes paneles para el congreso de Chicago: “Tensiones y tensores de la historia ecuatoriana a través del arte: La memoria social revaluada (1920–2013)” a propuesta de John L. Walker (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University); “Yasuní-ITT como síntoma: La praxis del gobierno ecuatoriano de la Revolución Ciudadana” a propuesta de Francisco Sánchez (Universidad de Valencia). Para la selección de propuestas, se tomó en cuenta que vengan de áreas distintas y que una de ellas provenga de artes y humanidades.

Rut Román agradeció todas las personas que colaboraron para que el VI Encuentro de Ecuatorianistas, sea un éxito. Para el detalle de las actividades presenta el documento que contiene el informe académico y económico, resaltando la gran cantidad de ponencias presentadas y el saldo a favor en lo económico.

Se debatió sobre la realización del VII encuentro de Ecuatorianistas, con énfasis en el lugar de realización. Adrián Bonilla sugirió que el Encuentro de la Sección se realice a la par del Congreso de Ciencias Sociales organizado por FLACSO, propuesta que en el debate se desecha porque los integrantes de la Sección creen en la necesidad de realizar en el Encuentro

de forma autónoma. Los integrantes de la Sección están de acuerdo en la necesidad de que el congreso se realizase fuera de Quito con el fin de dinamizar y estimular las iniciativas de desarrollo académico que se están dando en las diferentes provincias del país. Se pide a Esteban Ortiz, profesor de la Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manta que consulte la posibilidad de que esa universidad sea la sede del nuevo encuentro. Si las gestiones que se realicen en Manta no se concretan de forma positiva, se recibirán propuestas de otros integrantes de la Sección para determinar la potencial sede del nuevo encuentro.

Se invitó a todos los integrantes de la Sección a que enriquezcan las distintas secciones de las página web.

Se informó que el dinero de “becas” que dispone la sección se ha usado para fomentar la participación en el encuentro de Ecuatorianistas, en lugar de auspiciar la participación en los congresos internacionales, tal y como se acordó en Washington 2013.

El premio al libro sobre estudios ecuatorianos fue para: *Whose National Music? Identity, Mestizaje, and Migration in Ecuador*, de la investigadora Ketty Wong. Así también, el jurado decidió hacer mención especial del rigor y calidad académica de los siguientes textos: *El eje del universo: Chamanes, sacerdotes y religiosidad en la cultura Jama Coaque del Ecuador prehispánico*, de Andrés Gutiérrez Usillos; y *Gender, State, and Medicine in Highland Ecuador: Modernizing Women, Modernizing the State 1895–1950*, de Kim Clark.

Rut Román agradeció el enorme trabajo realizado por el jurado integrado por el Dr. José Yáñez del Pozo (Universidad Católica del Ecuador), Dr. Pablo Ospina

(Universidad Andina del Ecuador), y Dra. Carmen Fernández Salvador (Universidad San Francisco de Quito). Al concurso se presentaron siete trabajos. El concurso sobre artículos se realizará en el próximo encuentro de ecuatorianistas.

De acuerdo a los reglamentos de la LASA se procedió a la renovación de una parte del directorio. Se eligen un nuevo Chair y vocales de la sección; el secretario-tesorero tiene un año más de ejercicio. La sección quedó integrado de la siguiente forma: Chair: Teodoro Bustamante (FLACSO-Ecuador), Secretario-tesorero: Francisco Sánchez (Universidad de Valencia); Vocales: Kimberly Lewis (Brown University); Kathleen McInerney (Saint Xavier University, Chicago, and the Center for Inter-American Studies, Cuenca), Camilo Mongua (FLACSO) y Esteban Ponce Ortiz (Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí).

#### **Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina**

By Cecilia Pittelli and Daniel Schugurensky, Co-chairs

The meeting of the Section Education, Pedagogy and Education Policy in Latin America took place on June 22–23, 2014, in Chicago, with the attendance of 45 delegates. The new officers who were elected are: Oresta López (COLSAN Mexico), chair; Patricia Sommers (University of Texas, Austin), co-chair; Mauricio Horn (Universidad de Buenos Aires), secretary-treasurer. Council members include Cynthia Adlerstein (PUC Chile); Erwin Epstein (Loyola University, Chicago); Teresa González (Universidad de la Lagna, España), and Felipe Pérez Cruz (Cuba).

Some plans for the upcoming term include the publishing of the Section's first newsletter. Responsible for this project will

be Oresta Lopez and Mauricio Horn. Patricia Sommers will be in charge of proposals for special panels for LASA2015 in Puerto Rico.

The Section will promote a publication that allows a link between two important groups of educational researchers in Latin America, the Education Section of LASA and Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Latin American Special Interest Group (LASIG). This task will be overseen by Erwin Epstein.

Colleagues of the Section who are journal editors will have an open invitation to collaborate on the following education journals: *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, published in several languages and indexed in Scopus, Redalyc, Qualis; interested parties may contact Gustavo Fischman (Arizona State University); *Revista Argentina de Educación Superior*; *Revista Latinoamericana de Educación Comparada*; and *Revista Latinoamericana de Política y Administración de la Educación*, contact Norberto Fernández Lamarra (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero).

It was agreed to promote an honorary Lifetime Achievement Award from researchers in the field of education of Latin America (diploma and artwork); and a recognition award for young researchers, for contributions in educational research based on best doctoral thesis (diploma). Responsible for this project will be Felipe Cruz and Vera Felicetti (Centro Universitário La Salle).

#### Environment

By Jennifer Horan, Chair

At the Environment Section business meeting we had a lengthy discussion about

LASA2015. The meeting was attended by two individuals. We did not have elections. We will have elections at the 2015 Congress. Section Chair Jennifer Horan (University of North Carolina, Wilmington) reported that as of the last tally before the Congress, the Section had 81 members. Second, the Section travel grant awardee, Monica Bendini, was unable to travel to LASA and her award was returned to the Section.

This year, the Section sponsored one panel and one workshop. The panel was titled “Citizen Participation in Environmental Conflict” and the workshop was titled “Emerging Research Issues in Latin American Environmentalism.” As in past Congresses in which we used this topic in a workshop format, participants were very engaged and encouraged the Section to continue the workshop. The Section will continue to sponsor a workshop for the 2015 Congress. Unlike the standard panel approach, the workshop allows several more scholars to present their work, to present it in an abbreviated form, and to receive significant feedback from the workshop members as well as the audience.

#### Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples

By Emiko Saldivar, Chair

The Section meeting took place on May 23, 2014, and a meeting with the representation of *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies LACES* was conducted on May 24. The following describes both meetings and the agreements reached.

More than 10 percent of the members of the Section were in attendance at the Section business meeting. The elections were confirmed and the composition is as follows: Monica Moreno Figueroa

(Newcastle University), chair 2014–2016 according to the new two-year term voted for; Lorena Ojeda Davila (Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo), secretary 2014–2016, and four council members: Christian Teófilo da Silva (Universidade da Brasília), 2013–2015; Lucas Savino (University of Western Ontario), 2013–2015; Tianna Paschel (University of Chicago), 2014–2016; and Antonio Espinoza (Virginia Commonwealth University), 2014–2016.

The chair presented the finances of the Section. It was agreed that, as more than Section members attend the Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) conference, the council would decide on the motion of charging an extra amount to all people that attended the conference for the Section to support delegates’ travel, regardless whether they were already members of ERIP or not.

Regarding the third ERIP conference publications, the council explained that only very few papers were selected to be published in *LACES* and that the conference call had created the expectation that more papers would be published. The council recognized that the procedure for this was not carefully thought through, as the council didn’t have the capacity to edit and propose special issues or collections for publication. It was unfortunate not to notify participants that more publications would not occur and this should be taken care of in following conferences.

Meeting attendees discussed the situation of the webpage. Marc Becker, who is in charge of the e-mail lists and the webpage, is happy to update and maintain the webpage but needs members’ input.

The fourth ERIP conference will be held on October 2015 at the Virginia



Commonwealth University. This was announced by McKenna Brown and Antonio Espinoza.

#### **Europe and Latin America Section (ELAS)** By Erica Resende, Co-chair

In line with decisions taken last year in Washington (for which see last year's report), the agenda for ELAS in 2013–2014 was to organize the Section panel for the 2014 LASA Congress in Chicago, hold elections, and establish a Facebook page and a Twitter account for ELAS. ELAS organized one official panel for 2014: "Relaciones Europa-América Latina y el Caribe: Nuevas tendencias, nuevos desafíos. Las cadenas de valor, las relaciones transatlánticas y las migraciones en la relación birregional." A Facebook page was opened in June 2013; all members have been invited to visit it and post calls for papers and research opportunities, as well as share publications and other materials of Section interest. Regarding elections, Roberto Dominguez (Suffolk University) was elected as the new co-chair, Flavia Guerra Cavalcanti (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro) as treasurer, and Bert Hoffman (GIGA Institute of Latin American Studies) and Pedro Caldentey del Pozo (Universidad Loyola Andalucía) have been appointed to the Advisory Council of ELAS. Suggested ideas for panels to be sponsored by ELAS in 2015 are: European Studies in Latin America, and the 2015 Summit CELAC-EU. Proposals should be sent to the co-chairs no later than August 20, 2014.

This year's travel award recipients were Joaquín Roy, Christian E. Ghymers, and Antonio Fidel Romero Gómez. They all presented papers at this year's Section panel and each received US\$250.

#### **Film Studies**

By Constanza Burucúa and Carolina Sitnisky, Co-chairs

The business meeting of the Section took place on May 22, 2014, and was attended by 21 members. It was coordinated by Constanza Burucúa, co-chair, and Beatriz Urraca, secretary. The attendants were informed about the Section's membership increase (more than 12 percent from the previous year) as well as the streamlining of the Section's finances (procuring a healthy fund for next year's board). Other topics relevant to the members that were discussed in the business meeting included the opportunity for the members of the Film Studies Section to contribute and curate one section of next year's LASA Film Festival by proposing between five to six new movies from one of the following regions or countries: Central America, Paraguay, Chile, or Venezuela.

Through consultation with the members, one panel and one workshop were selected for 2015. Members suggested and voted for the following topics: panel, "Tecnologías y políticas de acceso en nuevos formatos" (including video); and workshop, "Sistemas de distribución, acceso y circulación." After the business meeting the Section found out that, thanks to the membership increase, there will be a third preapproved Film Studies section for LASA 2015. The modality of this section (panel or workshop) and its topic will be selected by the 2014–2015 newly elected board members in consultation with the Section members.

This year's Film Studies Section successfully organized one workshop and one panel. The workshop "Considerations on Film Production in Latin America" was organized by the Section's co-chairs and included panelists Chris Meier (University

of the West Indies, St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago), Michelle Farrell (Fairfield University), and Constanza Burucúa (University of Western Ontario); Beatriz Urraca (Widener University) acted as the workshop's moderator. The panel "Identity and Memory in Contemporary Latin American Cinema" was organized by Dianna Niebylski (University of Illinois, Chicago) and chaired by Carolina Rocha (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville). It included panelists Natalia Pinazza (Birkbeck College, University of London), Paul Schroeder Rodríguez (Northeastern Illinois University), Inela Selimovic (Wellesley College), Carolina Rocha, and Dianna Niebylski.

Prior to meeting at LASA's 32nd Congress in Chicago, the section conducted electronic elections organized by LASA's Secretariat to renew our board representatives. The results are the following: Cynthia Tompkins (Arizona State University, Tempe), chair; Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova (University of California, Davis), secretary-treasurer; Dorian Lugo-Bertrán (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) and Álvaro Baquero-Pecino (University of Alabama), council members.

#### **Food, Agriculture and Rural Studies**

By Cliff Welch, Chair

The Section had a lively meeting with 30 members present. The changed name of the Section, more accurately reflecting the research interests of members, appeared to inspire renewed dynamism in the group. The meeting reaffirmed prior decisions to no longer host a reception and invest resources instead in travel grants and the Section's popular and successful series of pre-Congress field trips. By-law changes were approved and new officers elected.

Chair-elect Nashieli Cecilia Rangel Loera (Universidade Estadual Paulista/CERES) agreed to serve as Section chair for two years; elected were Fina Carpena-Méndez (Oregon State University) secretary-treasurer; and Rodrigo Bulamah (State University of Campinas) and Pablo Laguna (El Colegio de Michoacán), council members. Participants congratulated Thais Tartalha (Universidade Estadual de Campinas) for winning the Section's first junior scholar travel grant in the amount of \$800. She offered to work with the board as webmaster of the Section's site and Facebook page. Most discussion revolved around initiatives for the 2015 Congress and proposals for the Section's position on policies to be debated at the Section chairs' meeting. Nashieli agreed to head a task force to revise travel grant rules and criteria. Steven Zahniser offered to write brief descriptions of field trip experiences in Chicago and Washington, DC. Gustavo Setrini volunteered to organize the field trip in Puerto Rico for May 26, 2015. Proposals were made for Section panels and workshops. Consensus was reached in proposing to LASA that travel grants be adequate to cover economy class airfare and include a waiver of Congress registration fees; and a continued practice of consulting Sections regarding the nominations and appointment of track chairs.

#### Gender and Feminist Studies By Linda Stevenson, Co-chair

To start off the Section's 2014 activities, in a half-day pre-conference, many ideas were discussed for future pre-conferences and panel themes: to coordinate with Puerto Rican women's and gender studies colleagues for 2015; to explore the precariousness of knowledge production in academia; ongoing examination of the

intersections of race, class, and gender, in particular as it relates to migration in/from the Caribbean; and/or a practical idea of publishing in the varying venues of international feminist journals. A dinner at a local restaurant followed, honoring contributing authors to a new Section-sponsored book edited by Sara Poggio and Maria Amelia Viteri and titled *Cuerpo, educación y liderazgo político: Una mirada desde el género y los estudios feministas* (FLACSO-Ecuador, 2014).

The Section sponsored four panels, selected by executive council members. The titles and organizers were: "A 40 años del golpe: dictadura, género y sexualidades en Chile" (Hillary Hiner, Universidad Diego Portales); "Género y generaciones en las memorias de la reconstrucción democrática en el Cono Sur" (Cristina Scheibe Wolff, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina); "Enacting a Translocal Feminist Politics of Translation in the Latin/a Américas" (Rebecca Hester, University of Texas Medical Branch); "¿Vidas precarias de la modernidad? Cuerpos, sexualidades y luchas feministas en América Latina y el Caribe" (Veronica Schild, University of Western Ontario). With LASA, the section co-sponsored a Celebration of Life Reception for Helen Safa, one of our pioneer LASA leaders and founders.

The business meeting was led by 2013–2014 co-chairs Marta Zambrano and Linda Stevenson with approximately 43 in attendance. The agenda included discussion of a change in the Section by-laws, proposing that the two Section chairs will serve for staggered two-year terms so that one will always have had a year of experience. For the coming 2014–2015 year, one of the co-chairs will have a one-year position, and the second will have the first two-year staggered position. Two awards were given for the

Section's Elsa Chaney Competition for Best Papers by Junior Scholars, to Jennifer Piscopo in first place (\$600) for "States as Gender Equality Activists: The Evolution of Quotas Laws in Latin America," and to Carolina Castellanos Gonella in second place (\$400) for "The Most Desired Position: Brazilian Female Traffickers in Inferno." Nominations were taken at the meeting and elections held, resulting in the 2014–2015 council: Edmé Domínguez R., University of Gothenburg, Sweden (co-chair, 2014–2015); Hillary Hiner, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile (co-chair, 2014–2016); Cecilia MacDowell Santos, University of San Francisco (treasurer, 2013–2015); Emilia Barbosa, University of Kansas (secretary, 2014–2016); and three council members: Cristina Scheibe Wolff, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (2013–2015), Lucia Saldana, Universidad de Concepción, Chile (2013–2015), and Marta Subiñas, FLACSO-Mexico (2014–2016). The Section reception was held in the Palmer House Hotel on Friday evening, May 23, with approximately 35 in attendance.

#### Historia Reciente y Memoria

By Alejandro Cerda and Aldo Marchesi,  
Co-chairs

The Section meeting was held on Tuesday, May 22. Between 20 and 22 people attended. First, a vote was held to ratify Aldo Marchesi (Universidad de la República) and Alejandro Cerda Garcia (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco) as co-presidents of the Section for a further year (2014–2015). It was also suggested that Juan Hernández (University of Puerto Rico, Rios Piedras) serve as Section secretary, replacing Samantha Quadrat (Universidad Federal Fluminense). Both proposals were endorsed unanimously by those present.

The award ceremony for the Best Book about Recent History and Memory was held during the meeting. The award received 12 nominations. The jury consisted of Hillary Hiner, Juan Hernández, and Américo Freire. First place was awarded to Steve J. Stern for *Luchando por mentes y corazones: Las batallas de la memoria en el Chile de Pinochet*; second place went to Alberto del Castillo Troncoso for *Ensayo sobre el movimiento estudiantil de 1968: La fotografía y la construcción de un imaginario*; and Honorable Mention Young Investigator went to Eden Medina for *Cybernetic Revolutionaries: Technology and Politics in Allende's Chile*.

The Section will sponsor a workshop titled “Human Rights: Critical Insights from Gender, Class and Ethnicity” at the LASA2015 Congress. The sponsored panel will have as a preliminary subject “Emerging Debates in the Field of Memory: Conflicts and Social Movements.”

In September 2014 the call for the Best Article about Recent History and Memory will be announced and will call for the carrying out of a virtual discussion forum in which the members of the Section and other members of LASA will be invited to participate, starting from an agreement with the Red Interdisciplinaria de Estudios sobre Memoria Social (RIEMS, Argentina-Chile).

### **Health, Science, and Society**

By Rebecca J. Hester, Co-chair

This past year the Health, Science, and Society Section aspired to implement two new awards, one for best article and one for best dissertation. While several board members were enthusiastic about this idea, the plan ran out of steam as the year went on and never came to fruition. We were

able to coordinate a special panel on embodiment and post-neoliberalism at LASA2014 in conjunction with the Body Politics Track. The panel stimulated great conversation about post-neoliberalism and its various manifestations (or lack thereof) in Latin America. Just prior to the meeting, the Section had 55 members.

At the business meeting in Chicago, we reinvigorated the plan to give awards and decided that we will award \$100 for the best article in our Section and \$250 for the best dissertation. We will send out a call in early fall 2014 for submissions in both categories. In addition to implementing scholarly awards, it was decided that we need to create more connections and exchanges between Section members. Specifically, we want to develop spaces for intellectual exchange and collaboration. We will do this in the coming year by developing a Facebook page for the Section, creating a bibliography that includes publications from the last three years of all of the Section members (or at least those members who respond to our request to send us their recent publications), keeping our LASA webpage current, and updating and expanding our member list. We are also planning a Section “meet and greet” at the next LASA Congress in Puerto Rico. Our business meeting was attended by five people so we were not able to vote on any items, as we didn’t have quorum, but we will be holding an e-election to add two new members to our board.

### **International Migrations**

By Sara Poggio, Co-chair

According to decisions taken at our business meeting in Washington, DC, on May 30, 2013, our agenda for the Section on International Migrations in 2013–2014

included publishing a newsletter, creating a webpage, organizing a pre-conference, and sponsoring two sessions for LASA’s Congress in Chicago, all completed early on and throughout the period. Under the direction of Michaela Reich, we published two numbers of the newsletter distributed to our members by e-mail and posted on our new website, which included topics on international migration of interests to our membership, information for diffusion about members or provided by Section members, and books reviews. All events planned for the Chicago Congress by the Section of International Migrations were organized with the total participation of our membership, including a call for papers for our sponsored panel and roundtable, as well as for presentations in the pre-conference, “Migration and Citizenship,” held on May 21, 2014, which was sponsored by the provost’s office of UMBC. The activities were well attended and promoted enriching discussions to be developed by the Section.

After introducing participants to the history and activities of the Section, our business meeting included a discussion on the future of our newsletter and webpage and the possible activities for the Congress in Puerto Rico in 2015. It was decided that we would again organize a pre-conference and sponsor two sessions, and we considered some topics and formats for the activities that will be further discussed with the members of the Section. The business meeting was attended by 12 members, and 3 council members were added to our executive committee: Anahí Viladrich (CUNY), Daniela Celleri (University of Hannover, Germany, PhD candidate), and Judith Boruchoff (University of Chicago).

### Labor Studies

By Cecilia Senén González and Roxana Maurizio, Co-chairs

The Labor Studies Section business meeting took place on Thursday, May 22, 2014, and 17 members participated, including 6 members of the Section committee. Founding members of the Section also participated, such as Peter Ranis and the chair of the track Viviana Patroni. The discussion was animated and dynamic. We had a full exchange of opinions, new methods of communication were proposed, such as to update the list server, and we also discussed subjects for future panels at the 2015 LASA Congress, whose theme—“Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias”—shares similarities with the concerns of the Section. During the Congress we organized two Section panels, one about labor institutions, unions, and working conditions in Latin America, and another titled “New Strategies of Working Class Struggle in Latin America: Cases from Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Mexico,” which was coordinated by the members of the postgraduate students committee, a leadership structure that we have had for two years. We held a competition for papers with awards of two travel grants of US\$500, with winners chosen by the co-presidents and secretary-treasurer. Applicants submitted their *curricula vitae* and filled out a form with the travel grant proposal. The key criteria were the importance of the field of study, clarity of the presentation, and appropriate theory. The winners were Ana Miranda, researcher with FLACSO, Argentina, who studies youth and work; and Katherine Eva Maich, a PhD student from University of California, Berkeley, with the theme “Household Worker Legislation in Peru and New York.” Future objectives proposed were updating the website and

organizing a miniconference at the next LASA.

The election took place after the Congress and confirmed the continuing terms of the Section’s secretary-treasurer, Maggie Gray (Adelphi University), and co-chair Roxana Maurizio (Universidad Nacional de Gral Sarmiento/CONICET), as well as reelecting Cecilia Senén González (Universidad de Buenos Aires) as co-chair. Our returning council members are Rodolfo Elbert (Instituto Gino Germani/Universidad de Buenos Aires) and Brian Finnegan (AFL-CIO), and our newly elected council members are Olga Sanmiguel (University of Cincinnati) and Kimberly Nolan García (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, CIDE, México DF). The Graduate Student Council co-chair Pablo Pérez-Ahumada (University of California, San Diego) has a new co-chair, Gabriela Pontoni (Universidad Nacional de La Matanza, Buenos Aires), one new member Bárbara Medwid (Universidad Nacional de La Pampa), as well as returning members Ricardo Nóbrega and Joe Bazler (Cornell University).

### Latino/a Studies

By Deb Vargas, Co-chair, Virginia Arreola, Secretary, and Alexandra Gonzenbach, Graduate Student Representative

The Latina/o Studies Section continues to provide an important forum for scholars and activists. The Section sponsored three panels at the 2014 Chicago Congress and presented awards for best book, best article, and best dissertation. New co-chairs Carlos Decena and Kirstie Dorr were unable to attend the business meeting and we appreciate Virginia Arreola for attending on their behalf. The Section concluded the year with 134 members and qualified for three sponsored sessions at

LASA2014. Unfortunately, the move from an 18-month to a 12-month conference period created some confusion for the members and some participants failed to register in time and thus were dropped from the program. Thus, only two of the accepted three Section panels made the final program. The three original sponsored sessions were “Blackness in Latina/o America: Working Across Latina/o and Black Studies,” organizer and chair, Kirstie Dorr (University of California, San Diego); “Disreputable Latinidades: Beyond Respectability in Latin@ Studies,” organizer and chair, Carlos Decena (Rutgers). The roundtable was titled “Latin@ Queer Chicago,” with organizer and chair, Deborah R. Vargas (University of California, Riverside).

During the business meeting we announced the awardees of the Section prizes. This year we changed our prize policy to require submissions/award recipients to be registered Latino Studies Section members. The prizes and winners along with the selection committee members were: Outstanding Book Award: Desirée Martin, *Borderlands Saints: Secular Sanctity in Chicano/a and Mexican Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2014); selection committee: Merida Rúa (chair, Williams College), Felicia Amaya Schaeffer (University of California, Santa Cruz), Jason Ruiz (Notre Dame). Honorable Mention: Susana Peña, *Oye Loca: From the Mariel Boatlift to Gay Cuban Miami* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013).

The Outstanding Article Award went to Mark Overmyer-Velázquez for “Good Neighbors and White Mexicans: Constructing Race and Nation on the Mexico-US Border,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 33, no. 1. The Selection Committee consisted of Yolanda Padilla (University of Washington), Daisy Reyes

(University of Connecticut), and Jorge Iber (Texas Tech University). An Honorable Mention was awarded to Jillian Hernández for “‘Chongas’ in the Media: The Ethno-Sexual Politics of Latina Girls’ Hypervisibility,” in *Girls’ Sexualities and the Media*, edited by Kate Harper et al. (2013).

The Dissertation Award was presented to Leticia Alvarado for “Abject Performances: Aesthetic Strategies in Latino Cultural Production” (New York University, Department of American Studies, 2013). Members of the Selection Committee were Virginia Arreola (Hiram College), Johana Londoño (SUNY Albany), and Pedro García-Caro (University of Oregon).

During the Section business meeting we proposed three possible Section-sponsored panels for the 2015 Puerto Rico LASA Congress roundtable: a conversation bridging Latino and Latin American studies, a themed panel focusing on Puerto Rico, and “Emerging Topics in Latino Studies” featuring only graduate students.

The Section welcomes four new officers: Co-chairs Carlos Decena (Rutgers) and Kirstie Dorr (University of California, San Diego); Secretary Virginia Arreola (Hiram College); and Graduate Student Representative Alexandra Gonzenbach (University of Miami).

#### **Mass Media and Popular Culture** By Silvia G. Kurlat Ares, Chair

In line with decisions taken at the Washington, DC, Congress (for which see last year’s report), the agenda for the “Mass Media and Popular Culture” Section in 2013–2014 was to organize a Section panel for LASA2014 in Chicago, to organize a pre-conference that took place on May 21,

2014, to update the Section’s website, and to update the listserv. These last two items were completed early in the year, as the Section built up its presence on the website provided by LASA and organized an e-mail list software. We used the list to circulate information among members (for instance about events and research grants) and to encourage communication and the sharing of research. Our Section panel in Chicago provided us the opportunity to discuss issues of theory and objects of study within popular culture and to continue the rich dialogue started the day before during the pre-conference where we addressed topics as diverse as traditional mass media in community settings, new e-communities and communications, the relations between politics and popular culture, and the role of the state as a regulator in mass communications.

The business meeting confirmed the continuing term of the Section’s chair, Silvia Kurlat Ares (independent researcher) and a new co-chair, Matthew Bush (Lehigh University), as well as the renewal of board members Pedro Pablo Porben (Bowling Green State University), Giancarlo Stagnaro (Tulane University), and Pablo Alabarces (Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires). The board welcomes new member Juanita Darling (San Francisco State University). It was resolved that for the coming year, the Section’s priorities would be (1) to rewrite the Section’s definition and charter, especially in the light of the discussions that have taken place during the Chicago Conference; (2) to organize a Section panel that would address a major issue within the field; and (3) to continue the active enrollment of Section members in order to increase visibility and presence within LASA.

#### **Peru**

By Elena Alvarez, Chair

The Peru Section business meeting took place on May 22, 2014. As of late April the section had 187 members. About 19 people attended the meeting. We held elections at this time to replace a few of our officers since the section had already elected Jo-Marie Burt (George Mason University) to replace Elena Alvarez (Business and Professional Women, Inc.) in the 2013 congress. Guillermo Salas (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) will replace Iliana M. Carrasco-Diaz and will co-chair the Section in Peru. Carlos Parodi (Illinois State University) will be the new secretary-treasurer. Claudia Salazar (Sarah Lawrence College) will be a new director. Elena Sabogal (William Paterson University) and Américo Mendoza-Mori and Tracy Devine Guzmán (both from the University of Miami) are continuing directors of the section. Elena Alvarez and Iliana Carrasco are ex-officio members of the Section. Elections are to take place again at the 2015 Congress to replace some of the directors.

We had a productive meeting that summed up the activities of the past year. The section was very active with its sessions, the two prizes, management of our Facebook site, the reception outside the hotel in Chicago, and the travel grants. As is our tradition, we awarded a prize for the best book published by a member between the 2013 and 2014 LASA Congresses. We did not award a prize for the best essay this year nor did we select a Life Achievement scholar. The Section awarded two partial travel grants.

The Section received two applications for travel grants and the selection committee made up of Angelina Cotler, Enrique Mayer, and Elena Sabogal selected two



grantees based on merit and the criteria agreed upon during the Peru Section Business Meeting at LASA2010. Each candidate was required to present the title of paper, summary of paper, and a budget, and each received a partial grant to cover travel and other expenses. Grantees were Roger Merino (University of Bath, \$1,200) and Alba Hesselroth (American University, \$500).

The Flora Tristan Book Award was given to Felipe Portocarrero Suarez for *Grandes fortunas en el Perú, 1916–1960: Riqueza y filantropía en la élite económica* (Universidad del Pacífico, 2013). The book and essay awards were co-chaired by David Scott Palmer and Isabelle Lausent-Herrera.

#### Political Institutions (LAPIS)

By Felipe Botero, Chair

The LAPIS business meeting took place on May 22, 2014. About 12 to 15 people attended the meeting. We did not hold elections at this time. Elections are to take place at the 2015 Congress. We had a productive meeting that summed up the activities of the past year. The Section was very active with sessions and two awards: an award for the best paper presented by a member of our Section at the 2013 Congress, and an award for the best book published during 2013 by a member of our Section. Furthermore, we awarded two full travel grants and a third that was split between the two people who tied for third place in the selection process. The following term we plan to continue the activities of the sessions, awards, and travel grants.

Travel grants were awarded to María Laura Tagina, Raúl Sánchez-Uribarri, Mariana Caminotti, and Diego Ayo. The committee was formed by Julieta Suárez-

Cao and Miguel Centellas. To assign the grants, the applicants submit their CV and fill out a form with the title and abstract of their papers, the city from which they are traveling, the amount of funding already secured and the amount of funding pending. The committee evaluates the documents submitted and decides to whom the grants are to be allocated.

The Best Paper Award (\$100) was given to Alisha Holland and Brian Palmer-Rubin for their paper “Who’s In Charge Here? When Clientelistic Brokers Represent Interest Organizations,” presented at the 2013 Congress. The committee was formed by Kirk Hawkins, Moira MacKinnon, and Brian Wampler. To determine the winner, the committee reads the submitted papers and debates which one is the best in terms of overall academic quality and relevance to the study of political institutions in the region.

The Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Award was given to Scott Mainwaring and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán for *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival, and Fall* (2013). The committee was formed by Sherrie Bayer, Rossana Castiglioni, and Felipe Botero. To determine the winner, the committee reads the submitted books and debates which one is the best in terms of overall academic quality and relevance to the study of political institutions in the region.

#### Scholarly Communication and Research

By Sarah Buck Kachaluba, Chair

The business meeting of the Section for Scholarly Communication and Research (previously called Scholarly Research and Resources) was held on May 22, 2014, from 8:00 to 8:45 p.m. Eight people attended. We discussed the following

issues: the need to administer elections, the need to increase membership, the history of the Section, and themes on which to focus 2015 programming.

Review of term activities and plans for the coming term: We sent out numerous calls to nonrenewed members, other LASA members, and Latin Americanist information professionals who we thought would be interested, sent out messages via social media, and handed out bookmarks to encourage LASA members to join the Section.

Section members organized three sessions at LASA2014 on human rights archives, Open Access in North and Latin America, and digital humanities. All were well attended with at least 20 people in the audience. For next year we have two panel ideas: one on scholarly communication/open access and/or publishing and another on how to effectively do archival and library research.

After the conference those who attended decided via e-mail to change the Section name to more accurately reflect our mission and attract members.

#### Sexualities Studies

By Joseph M. Pierce and Guillermo de los Reyes, Co-chairs

The Sexualities Section business meeting took place on Thursday, May 22, and was attended by 18 people. We held elections, confirming the new co-chairs of the Section, Laura Arnés (University of Buenos Aires) and Maja Horn (Barnard College), as well as the secretary-treasurer, Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel (Rutgers). During the meeting we announced the winners of the Carlos Monsiváis Award (social sciences) and Sylvia Molloy Award

(humanities), discussed future topics for sponsored Section panels, and revisited the possibility of holding a pre-conference for LASA 2015.

This year we sponsored two Section panels, one of which explored new perspectives in the study of sexualities in Latin America, while the other was organized in collaboration with the Southern Cone Section and focused specifically on narratives of love, sex, and gender in the region. Both were well attended, and we are looking forward to exploring new possibilities for collaboration with other Sections in the future.

The 2013–2014 Carlos Monsiváis Award for best peer-reviewed article in the social sciences was awarded to James Green for his article “‘Who Is the Macho Who Wants to Kill Me?’ Male Homosexuality, Revolutionary Masculinity, and the Brazilian Armed Struggle of the 1960s and 1970s,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 92, no. 3. Abel Sierra Madero was awarded honorable mention for his article “Cuerpos en venta: Pinguismo y masculinidad negociada en la Cuba contemporánea,” *Nómadas* (Bogotá), no. 38.

The 2013–2014 Sylvia Molloy Award for best peer-reviewed article in the humanities was awarded to Carlos Riobó for his article “Raiding the ‘Anales’ of the Empire: Sarduy’s Subversions of the Latin American Boom,” *Hispanic Review* 81, no. 3; with honorable mention for Matthew J. Edwards, “How to Read Copi: A Historiography of the Margins.”

We would like to thank the Monsiváis committee members, Horacio Sívori and Jordi Díez, as well as the Molloy committee members, Dara Goldman and Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, for their work this year

reviewing articles for quality of research, analysis, and writing, and for contribution to the field of sexualities in Latin American and Latino social, cultural, and intellectual contexts.

#### **Southern Cone Studies**

By Leila Gómez, Chair

Between LASA2013 and LASA2014 the Section coordinated several projects and activities for its members. The following is a summary of what was accomplished for LASA Chicago and presented to the 36 Section members who attended the last business meeting: five panels at LASA Chicago (three official for the Section): two panels co-organized with the Sexualities Section of LASA; one panel on memory and post-dictatorships; one panel on nineteenth-century studies; and one panel on ethics organized by the graduate students of the Southern Cone Studies Section.

The Section invited recognized scholars from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and the United States, as well as members. In this way we secured an open dialogue among our members and guests. The organizers of these panels were not only the chair (Leila Gómez) and the treasurer of the Section (Gloria Medina), but also several of its members (Fernando Blanco, Walescka Pino-Ojeda, Joseph Pierce, and Jason Bartles). Section guests from the Southern Cone and the United States were José Carlos Chiamonte, Lila Caimari, Elizabeth Lira, Mabel Moraña, Alex Borucki, Fernando Degiovanni, Daniel Link, Gabriel Giorgi, Jaime Barrientos, and Jaime Parada, among others.

This was the second consecutive year for our Book Awards in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Humanities Book

Award in 2014 was for Francine Masiello for *El cuerpo de la voz: Poesía, ética y cultura* (Beatriz Viterbo Editora, 2013). The jury also gave an Honorable Mention to Valeria Grinberg Pla for *Eva Perón: Cuerpo, género, nación; Estudio crítico de sus representaciones en la literatura, el cine y el discurso académico desde 1951 hasta la actualidad* (Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica, 2013). The book award in Social Sciences went to Rebekah E. Pite, *Creating a Common Table in Twentieth-Century Argentina: Doña Petrona, Women, and Food* (University of North Carolina Press, 2013). The jury for the humanities consisted of Ana Pizarro, Gwen Kirkpatrick, and William Acree. Carlos Sanhueza, Eduardo Elena, and Manuel Vicuña formed the jury for the social sciences. The Book Awards were announced prior to LASA Chicago and during the business meeting a ceremony was held in honor of the awardees.

The Section has submitted a proposal to the LASA Executive Council to host a Section journal, *Conversaciones del Cono Sur*, and is currently waiting for their approval.

The Section opened and maintained social networks among members, including a website, a Facebook page, and the mailing list. Many thanks to the coordinators Katherine Karr-Cornejo, Sebastián Díaz, and Laura Demaría.

Scholars that received financial help for LASA 2014 were Elizabeth Lira and José Chiamonte (room and board and conference fees). Both were also awarded travel grants from LASA.

At the Chicago Congress, Fernando Blanco (Bucknell University) was elected and was introduced to the members of the Section as the new chair.

One of our priorities this year was to appoint officers for our Advisory Board. The Section voted and decided to invite former chairs and co-chairs to be part of this new committee. We also discussed ideas and logistics for a LASA Section conference in the Southern Cone, after LASA2015. Section officials: chair of the Section for the period 2013–2014, Leila Gómez (University of Colorado at Boulder); chair of the Section for the period 2014–2015, Fernando Blanco (Bucknell University); treasurer 2013–2015, Gloria Medina-Sancho (University of California, Fresno). Advisory Committee for 2014–2015: Laura Demaría (University of Maryland, College Park), Álvaro Fernández Bravo (Universidad de San Andrés, Buenos Aires), Luis Cárcamo-Huechante (University of Texas, Austin), and Leila Gómez (University of Colorado at Boulder).

#### Venezuelan Studies (SVS)

By Alejandro Velasco and Margarita López Maya, Co-chairs

The Section business meeting was held from 8 to 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2014. Thirty-nine members attended. Section chair Margarita López Maya presided. After welcoming attendees, the meeting began with a brief note that the council had opted not to hold a formal reception because the costs of doing so at the conference venue would deplete our budget and could be better spent on Section awards and other Section initiatives.

One such initiative was LASA SVS-Caracas 2013, a miniconference of papers and panels on Venezuela that was presented at LASA Washington, DC, and then again in Caracas in July. The Section contributed \$1,000 to sponsor the event. The chair invited council member Vicente Lecuna,

who helped organize the conference, to read a report from the planning committee. The report praised the organization and execution of the conference, which was held at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, and recommended institutionalizing the event by holding it every other year.

Discussion of the report ensued. Council member Maria del Pilar García Guadilla recommended alternating between Caracas and venues outside the capital (e.g., LUZ). From the plenary an SVS member who attended the miniconference observed that it was sparsely attended. The time of year (during final exams) and the political situation in Caracas were mentioned as possible problems. For future events more attention to scheduling and to promoting participation was urged, perhaps by making the event free to students (registration fees this time were necessary to defray costs incurred by holding it at a private university. A benefit of holding it at a public university like the UCV is that space would be free and thus so would registration). All told, the plenary agreed with the report's recommendation to make LASA-SVS Venezuela a regular, Section-sponsored event, with the aforementioned issues to be considered by future planning committees.

Section Secretary Alejandro Velasco then announced the final membership numbers for 2013 which stood at 133; this means that SVS will be able to sponsor three panels for LASA Puerto Rico. The final number of members is 26 fewer than 2013, however the chair offered special thanks to the membership—especially those outside Venezuela—for registering given that financial difficulties facing Venezuela-based scholars were especially acute this year. After announcing the panels sponsored by the Section for Chicago, and thanking the selection committee for their work (David

Smilde and Iraida Casique), members were encouraged to submit proposals for Puerto Rico as soon as possible and reminded that Section sponsorship guarantees inclusion in LASA2015. The chair noted that a new selection committee would need to be convened, and a comment was offered about the need to establish selection criteria, perhaps by focusing on themes left out of LASA's track system.

Discussion turned to the status of the special fund created in 2012 with monies from Open Society, and designed specifically to help Venezuela-based scholars defray the costs of attending LASA. The chair reported that after the fund was eliminated given supposed lack of use, she and former chair David Smilde (who helped create the fund) continued to lobby LASA for explanations and reinstatement under clearer guidelines. The chair noted that while their efforts proved unsuccessful, she felt that the ground had been laid with the LASA Executive Committee to alert them of the problems facing Venezuela-based scholars in terms of travel and resources. Smilde added further pertinent details: LASA's policy is to limit travel grants to every three years, while many in Venezuela need yearly support—hence the importance of continuing to press for a Venezuela-specific fund. Also, only LASA—not individual Sections—is authorized to make arrangements with outside organizations, so that future efforts to solicit funds should coordinate more closely with LASA from the start. The chair concluded the discussion by reiterating that there is now greater awareness among the LASA leadership that the issues facing Venezuela-based scholars are not merely bureaucratic and should not be seen in that light, and with a small push, it might spur some action to benefit Venezuelanists.

Next, the chair asked Javier Guerrero to announce the recipient of the inaugural Fernando Coronil Book Award, created in 2013 to recognize “the most outstanding book on Venezuela, in English or Spanish, in the humanities or social sciences, published in the previous two years.” Nine books entered, of which the committee (comprised of Guerrero, Maria del Pilar García Guadilla, and Paula Vasquez) unanimously selected Reuben Zahler’s *Ambitious Rebels: Remaking Honor, Law, and Liberalism in Venezuela, 1780–1850* (University of Arizona Press, 2013) as the winner, and Jana Morgan’s *Bankrupt Representation and Party System Collapse* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011) as a unanimous runner up. After reading the committee’s endorsements of each, circulating a copy of Zahler’s book, and following a hearty round of applause from the plenary, the chair formally presented the awards in absentia to both authors. Zahler will receive a two-year membership to LASA. In addition, both authors received a copy of Coronil’s *El Estado mágico*, and an artisanal Venezuelan wooden box filled with handcrafted Venezuelan chocolates. The chair thanked the committee for its work, and reminded members that the next round of biennial Section awards would be for Best Paper presented at LASA (in 2014 or 2015), and would be announced ahead of the meeting in Puerto Rico. Once a committee is convened, it will begin to solicit submissions.

The chair then asked new members in attendance to introduce themselves and their work, and several did so. The floor was then open for any comments from members. García Guadilla asked about the status of an SVS website, which was an item discussed in 2013. The chair noted that council member Iñaki Sagarzazu (not present) had explored the issue and

reported to the council pros and cons of several options, including a Facebook page, a standalone website, and a LASA-sponsored website. After brief discussion, the plenary agreed to open a Facebook page, and an ad hoc committee was formed consisting of Elizabeth Nichols, Cecilia Rodriguez, and García Guadilla to create the page and to establish criteria for what is posted. The plenary did decide to keep the page closed, for SVS members only, for the moment.

Finally, Secretary Alejandro Velasco announced the results of SVS elections, hosted by LASA. Fifty-nine members voted, with the following results: chair of the Section for 2014–2016, Javier Guerrero (Princeton University); secretary-treasurer of the Section for 2013–2015, Alejandro Velasco (New York University). Newly elected members of council, through 2016: Margarita López Maya (resident in Venezuela), Alicia Ríos (Venezuelan, resident outside Venezuela), Guillermo Guzmán Mirabal (resident in Venezuela), and Gina Saraceni (resident in Venezuela). Continuing members, through 2015: María del Pilar García Guadilla (resident in Venezuela), Iñaki Sagarzazu (Venezuelan, resident outside Venezuela), Yorelis Acosta (resident in Venezuela), and Vicente Lecuna (resident in Venezuela). ■