

Section Reports

Asia and the Americas

By Adrian Hearn and Monica DeHart,
Co-chairs

On May 28, 2015, at 8 pm, the Section for Asia and the Americas held its business meeting. The (then) co-chairs Adrian Hearn (University of Melbourne) and Kathleen López (Rutgers University) informed the meeting's 18 attendees about the Section's activities over the preceding 12 months:

On May 26 the Section hosted a pre-Congress workshop with sponsorship from the Open Society Foundations, entitled "Exploring the Dynamics of China-Caribbean Relations." Travel grants from Open Society enabled the participation of three participants from China: Cui Shoujun (Renmin University), Haibin Niu (Shanghai Institute of International Studies), and Wang Li (Jilin University). The program also included Martin Garrett (UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Carlos Rodríguez-Iglesias (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras), and Rafael Hernández (*Revista Temas*, Cuba). Hosted at the Caribe Hilton as part of the official LASA program, the event attracted approximately 35 attendees. A description of the event is available on the LASA program website: <http://tinyurl.com/k5kbbh9>.

The section panel "Debating Latin America-China Interactions (Part II)" continued this theme by featuring the three Chinese grantees in dialogue with Ariel Armony (University of Pittsburgh). It was preceded by a panel of the same name (Part I), which brought together papers from historical, cultural, economic, and geopolitical perspectives.

The Section's membership has grown to 94, up from 68 in 2014, 73 in 2013, and 43 in 2012.

In preparation for LASA2015 panel proposals were coordinated via email for those interested in presenting on the topic of Asia and the Americas. Shortly before the Congress emails were sent to the member list with details of all such panels. A total of 17 panels at LASA2015 were dedicated to or included papers on Asia-Latin America ties.

The section co-chairs will continue to offer these services to members in advance of LASA2016. Furthermore, since LASA2016 will take place in New York City, the Section is considering partnering with a New York-based university to conduct a pre-Congress workshop on Asian and Latin American experiences with sustainable development.

During the meeting, Adrian Hearn and Monica Dehart (University of Puget Sound) were elected to serve as co-chairs for the period 2015-2016, and the following executive council was elected: Vladimir Rouvinski, treasurer (Universidad Icesi); R. Evan Ellis (National Defense University); Junyoung Verónica Kim (University of Iowa); Zelideth Rivas (Marshall University); Leonardo Stanley (CEDES-Argentina); and Soraya Caro (Universidad de Externado, Colombia).

Bolivia

Por Elizabeth Monasterios, Chair

Número de miembros: 101 (hasta el 1 de mayo, 2015). Committee members: Virginia Aillón, UMSA, PIEB; Annabelle Conroy, University of Central Florida;

Martín Carrión, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia; Núria Vilanova, American University, Washington, DC. Advisors: Guillermo Delgado, University of California, Santa Cruz; Chris Krueger, Red Bolivia Mundo; Isabel Scarborough, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Este año la Sección preparó dos paneles para el congreso en Puerto Rico. El primero ("Pensando el presente: Logros y desafíos de la Bolivia de hoy") contó con la participación de Lucila Choque (Docente, UPEA) y Pablo Mamani (Director de Sociología, UPEA). Annabelle Conroy fue Chair del panel y Elizabeth Monasterios comentarista. Por motivos de visa Lucila Choque no pudo asistir, pero envió su ponencia, que fue leída por Annabelle. El panel convocó un público de 49 personas y generó un debate sustancioso y enriquecedor. El segundo panel ("Reorientando el debate crítico en torno a 'lo andino'") contó con la participación de Jorge Coronado (Northwestern University) y Fernando Iturralde (University of Pittsburgh). Este panel convocó a un público de 51 personas y, como el anterior, generó un debate intenso y enriquecedor. Martín Carrión fue Chair del panel y Núria Vilanova lo moderó.

Adicionalmente, el programa general del congreso incluyó 5 paneles especializados en Bolivia y 45 en los que se presentaron ponencias sobre Bolivia.

La membresía de la Sección se reunió el jueves 28 de mayo de 8:00pm-8:45pm. Asistieron 29 personas (22 miembros activos y 7 que formalizarán su membresía este año).

Agenda de la reunión: Presentación de nuevos y antiguos miembros; formalización de un período de 2 años de servicio para la actual directiva y anuncio de elecciones para el próximo año; informe financiero; informe sobre el estado de la beca “Ben Kohl” (Nancy Postero); informe sobre el Primer Simposio de Bolivianistas realizado en la University of Pittsburgh, del 26–27 de marzo, 2015; informe sobre Alison Spedding (posible invitada para un próximo congreso); presentación de la nueva página web de la Sección (Annabelle Conroy); informe sobre la recolección de firmas enviadas a Mercer University; presentación de la propuesta de Chris Krueger para establecer un diálogo US-Bolivia a partir de la discusión crítica del proyecto “La hegemonía territorial fallida: Estrategias de control y dominación de Estados Unidos en Bolivia 1985–2012”, del Centro de Investigaciones Sociales (CIS)

Por consenso, se acordó un período de 2 años de servicio para la actual Directiva y para las sucesivas. Se anunció también que habrá elecciones el próximo año. La actual Directiva está compuesta por: section chair: Elizabeth Monasterios (University of Pittsburgh); committee members: Virginia Aillón (UMSA, PIEB); Annabelle Conroy (University of Central Florida); Martín Carrión (University of the Sciences, Philadelphia); Núria Vilanova (American University, Washington, DC). Advisors: Guillermo Delgado (University of California, Santa Cruz); Chris Krueger (Red Bolivia Mundo); Isabel Scarborough (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

La reunión que tuvimos en Puerto Rico reportó resultados muy positivos, pues reveló el potencial que tiene la Sección LASA-Bolivia para continuar creciendo e

incrementando sus actividades. Destacó la importancia de convocar a intelectuales indígenas, y se dejó sentir la presencia de colegas jóvenes que desde distintas disciplinas llegaron con valiosos proyectos y agendas de investigación. La reunión sirvió también para identificar los mayores desafíos que se presentan: la urgencia de generar fondos de viaje y lograr que los invitados de Bolivia que aceptan participar en nuestros paneles lleguen a concretar sus viajes. Este año, y por distintos motivos, cuatro panelistas no pudieron asistir.

Participantes de la reunión sugieren: armar un posible panel sobre el tema marítimo y otro sobre la obra de Fausto Reinaga. A cargo del primer proyecto quedó Diego Otero. A cargo del segundo, Martín Mendoza-Botelho y Martín Carrión. Chris Krueger, vía e-mail, propuso la organización de un taller pre-congreso similar al que tuvimos en LASA-Washington.

Además de los paneles para Puerto Rico, la Sección organizó el Primer Simposio de Bolivianistas, que tuvo lugar en la University of Pittsburgh, del 26–27 de marzo, 2015. Al simposio asistieron, como invitados: Xavier Albó (Universidad-PIEB), Waskar Ari (University of Nebraska, Lincoln), Linda Farthing (independent scholar), Brooke Larson (SUNY Stony Brook), Pablo Mamani (UPEA) y Julieta Paredes (Comunidad Mujeres Creando Comunidad).

La Sección confía poder organizar un segundo Simposio de Bolivianistas en un plazo de dos años.

Nancy Postero informó que la recaudación de fondos para la beca “Ben Kohl” está próxima a lograr su objetivo de \$5,000.

Una vez alcanzada esta suma, el comité conformado por Linda Farthing, Nancy Postero, Chris Krueger y Guillermo Delgado-P. lanzará una convocatoria para concursar.

Gracias a Annabelle Conroy, la Sección ya cuenta con una renovada página web, a la que toda la membresía está invitada a contribuir.

Brazil

By John French and Ivani Vassoler,
Co-chairs

Section Executive Council (EC) (2014–2015): co-chairs: John French (Duke University) and Ivani Vassoler (State University of New York); treasurer: Jessica Rich (Marquette University); EC members: Tracy Guzman (University of Miami), João Feres (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, UERJ), Joseph Marques (Graduate Institute of International Studies), Sean Mitchell (Rutgers University). The Section concluded the 2014–2015 term with 262 members.

During the 2014–2015 academic year, the Section developed several activities. *Communications:* Frequent contact with all members regarding the LASA Conference, section initiatives and tasks, plus other academic topics deemed of interest for the membership.

Conference panels: All members of the EC were deeply involved in the review and selection of panels for the 2015 LASA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Section received eight panel proposals and selected four.

Section awards: All members of the EC were equally involved in the review and selection of the section prizes for the best book, article, and doctoral dissertation focusing on Brazilian studies. The Section received an exceptional number of submissions, all of excellent quality. The Section constituted subcommittees and their members work in coordination through several reviews. Due to the high number of submissions, the subcommittees decided to grant some honorable mentions as well.

The recipients of the Brazil Section 2015 awards are the following: Book award (\$250), Aaron Ansell, *Zero Hunger: Political Culture and Antipoverty Policy in Northeast Brazil* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014); honorable mention, Vitor Izecksohn, *Slavery and War in the Americas: Race, Citizenship, and State Building in the United States and Brazil, 1861–1870* (University of Virginia Press, 2014). Award for published article (\$200), Alida C. Metcalf, “Water and Social Space: Using Georeferenced Maps and Geocoded Images to Enrich the History of Rio de Janeiro’s Fountains,” *E-Perimtron* 9, no. 3 (2014): 129–145; honorable mentions, Cesar Braga-Pinto, “Journalists, Capoeiras, and the Duel in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 94, no. 4 (2014): 581–614; Brodwyn Fischer, “A Century in the Present Tense: Crisis, Politics, and the Intellectual History of Brazil’s Informal Cities,” in *Cities From Scratch: Poverty and Informality in Urban Latin America*, edited by Bryan McCann, Javier Auyero, and Brodwyn Fischer, 9–67 (Duke University Press, 2014). Doctoral dissertation (\$200): Karina Biondi, “Etnografia no movimento: Território, hierarquia, e lei no PCC” (Programa de Pós-Graduação em

Antropologia Social, Universidade Federal de São Carlos, 2014).

Contributions: During the year, the Section was asked to support some LASA conference activities. After a discussion the EC reached a consensus to provide funds to contribute to the participation of Vincent Carelli in the 2015 conference in San Juan. Carelli is a French-Brazilian filmmaker residing in Brazil and the creator of *Video nas Aldeias*, a film project that mobilizes indigenous community of Brazil to tell their own stories by making videos. Carelli participated in the LASA Film Festival and met with members of the Brazil Section Executive Council. Funds provided: \$300.

The section electoral process: Starting in March, the Executive Council engaged in a discussion on the renewal of the section leadership for the incoming 2015–2016 term. Following the LASA rules, the EC initiated the electoral process for the two co-chairs positions and two EC members whose terms expired on May 31. As soon as possible (last week of April), the EC sent several messages to the membership, first with a call for candidates and later with online anonymous ballots. During the process we received some informal inquiries from members who were in principle interested in joining the EC board. The membership was kept informed about the electoral process.

Conference arrangements: Concomitantly with the electoral process, the EC also held discussions in relation to the agenda for the section business meeting and reception in San Juan, PR. The business meeting agenda was approved, and the EC also agreed to hold the reception at the Caribe Hilton.

Several EC members participated in the conference as paper presenters, panel chairs, panel discussants, and/or workshop organizers. Several of us held working meetings with publishers and representatives of other sections towards future collaborations.

Business meeting. The section business meeting took place on May 28 (Caribe Hilton), with 35 members present, plus the EC. The meeting agenda was distributed to all present.

Despite the EC efforts to reach the entire membership, there are still members who are not receiving messages. During the meeting, questions emerged about the existence or not of a LASA platform that would facilitate contact with members of the sections.

Those serving in the EC and particularly the prize recipients placed requests to see recognition of their awards on the LASA website. An official announcement is important for employment purposes, promotion, and career advancement.

The treasurer’s report was submitted. The Section is in a good financial situation. During 2014–2015 the expenditures were: Book Prize (\$250); Article Prize (\$200); Dissertation award (\$200); contribution to the LASA Film Festival (\$300); section reception at the Caribe Hilton (\$1,763.57). In April 2012 the amount of funds available to the Brazil Section was \$10,359.00.

The renewal of the section leadership was also discussed in depth and a consensus was reached as follows: (1) The Section received 13 ballots through the online voting system. The members at the business

meeting agreed that those who submitted their candidacies (one co-chair and one EC member) should be approved to join the EC for the 2015–2016 term. (2) At the business meeting one member of the Section volunteered to take the second EC position and his proposal was approved. (3) A consensus was reached to renew the term of co-chair Ivani Vassoler for a final year (2015–2016).

Reception. The section reception took place on May 29, San Cristobal D, starting at 9:00 p.m. This was a great opportunity to meet members and talk to them about section activities and future plans, and about the 2016 conference. The reception was well attended, including the presence of members of other sections. Vincent Carelli (director of Video nas Aldeias) was present and was greeted by members of the Executive Council.

Sections general meeting: On May 30, the Brazil Section incoming co-chair, Joseph Marques, attended the LASA Committee on Sections meeting. Dr. Marques already submitted a report with a summary of the discussions.

Taking into account the results of the electoral process and the consensus that emerged during the section business meeting, the Executive Council is now constituted as follows: Co-chairs: Ivani Vassoler (State University of New York), renewed for an additional year, and Joseph Marques (Graduate Institute of International Studies), one year term; treasurer: Jessica Rich (Marquette University), term expires in 2016; EC members: Tracy D. Guzman (University of Miami), term expires in 2016; João Feres (UERJ), term expires in 2016; Tereza Albuquerque (Universidade Federal

Fluminense), term expires in 2017; Adam Joseph Shellhorse (Temple University), term expires in 2017.

Plans for the 2015–2016 term. At the section business meeting in San Juan, a critical issue that emerged is the communication with members. Despite the efforts of co-chairs French and Vassoler to communicate with the membership, we are still observing some problems regarding reaching all of them. The Section currently communicates with members using Google Groups, but we would like to improve our capabilities (in terms of communication). First, Vassoler will update the addresses in Google Groups. Following discussions held in the section business meeting the EC will create a Facebook page for the Brazil Section.

The Brazil Section Executive Council consists of active and engaged scholars who are committed to the promotion of Brazilian studies. We are all aware of our tasks ahead. The Section will sponsor four panels for the 2016 conference, and all EC members will be involved in the selection process.

Based on the 2014–2015 experience, the Brazil Section expects a large number of submissions for its book, article, and doctoral dissertation awards. This is not a burden; in fact, we are all delighted to see that scholarship on Brazil is strong and growing. In order to engage the membership in the process, we may consider inviting some members to integrate the awards subcommittees.

The Brazil Section Executive Council seeks to increase the participation of members in all the Section's initiatives. This is why communication is key. By the end of the

2015–2016 term, several EC positions will expire (the co-chairs, the treasurer, and two EC members). It is imperative, therefore, that we reach all members and encourage them to submit their candidacies to join the EC and continue with section work.

Center Directors

By Merilee Grindle and Ariel Armony, Interim Chairs

The Center/Institute Directors Section organized a workshop at the LASA2015 meeting in Puerto Rico with four objectives: to exchange experiences on the use of social media and funding models; to determine a strategy for electing future leadership of the Section; to consider future activities of the Section; and to encourage networking among members. The event, scheduled from 2:00 to 6:45 on Wednesday, May 27, was well attended, with an estimated 100 participants. The workshop accomplished its objectives as follows.

Paloma Diaz (University of Texas, Austin) presented a framework for use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, using examples from the websites of several of the centers. It was suggested that her PowerPoint be made available to section members.

Ariel Armony (University of Pittsburgh) organized a panel of center directors who presented the funding models for their organizations and moderated a lively discussion. Rodolfo Dirzo (Stanford University), Scott Morgenstern (University of Pittsburgh), Leticia Salomón (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras), and Mark Overmyer-Velázquez (University of Connecticut) made presentations.

In an organizational meeting, participants agreed that Ariel Armony would be interim section chair in order to call for nominations for section leadership positions and manage an email voting process in coordination with the LASA Secretariat. Once elected leaders are in place, they will plan for next year's section activities and panels. It is expected that nominations and elections will occur this summer in order to ensure that there is sufficient time to plan for LASA2016.

In the panel discussion, several participants suggested activities that the Section could encourage, including joint proposals for funding through LASA and efforts to collaborate more effectively with student and faculty exchanges and lectures by visiting scholars.

Participants in the workshop introduced themselves at the outset of the meeting and a concluding wine reception provided an opportunity for more interaction.

Central America

By Claudia Rueda, Co-chair

The Central America Section business meeting took place on Thursday, May 28, 2015. Approximately 25 members attended the meeting. We had a very busy meeting and discussed several important issues. Members decided to continue to use our budget to fund travel grants as well as an invited speaker for next year's conference. We also voted to create a section Facebook page. We elected our new co-chairs: William Clary, a professor at the University of the Ozarks, and Ainhoa Montoya, a lecturer at the University of London's Institute of Latin American Studies. Sophie Esch, a professor at Colorado State

University, will continue in her second year as secretary-treasurer. We also voted for two new members of the advisory board: Hilary Francis, a fellow at the University of London's Institute of Latin American Studies, and Christine Wade, a professor at Washington College. They will work with Héctor M. Cruz Feliciano of CET Academic Programs and Krystin Krause of the University of Notre Dame, both of whom will be completing the second years of their tenure on the board. At this year's LASA we sponsored three panels as well as a talk by an invited guest speaker, Irma Alica Velásquez Nimatuj. We also awarded a travel grant of \$750 to one scholar from Central America, Amanda Alfaro Córdoba, who is working on her doctorate at University College London. To determine the winner of the grants, applicants submit a letter of interest as well as a CV to a committee formed by the two co-chairs and the secretary-treasurer. The committee then reads the applications and chooses the winners.

Colombia

By Constanza López, Chair

In 2015, the Colombia Section sponsored three panels, co-sponsored the Film Festival, and gave a \$300 student travel award to Marilyn Machado Mosquera. It also awarded the Michael Jiménez Prize to Jason McGraw for his monograph, *The Work of Recognition: Caribbean Colombia and the Postemancipation Struggle for Citizenship* (2014). This award is given in recognition to original research in the fields of anthropology, history, sociology, political science, and related areas that demonstrates excellence in conceptual terms as well as in its impact, creativity, and possible influence in Colombia and in the field of Colombian

studies. On May 28, the Section held its business meeting with 42 members present, and it celebrated its reception at the restaurant Lemongrass Pan Asian Latino. For the coming year, the Section, which currently has 158 members, will sponsor three panels and will award the Montserrat Ordóñez Prize in recognition of a groundbreaking work that embodies a fresh and creative approach to the Colombian humanities. The Executive Committee for the year 2015–2016 includes the following: secretary-treasurer: Felipe Martínez Pinzón (Brown University); communications manager: Sandra Beatriz Sánchez López (Universidad de los Andes); vice-chair: Joseph Avski (Northwest Missouri State University); chair: Constanza López (University of North Florida); advisors: Alejandro Quin (University of Utah), Ginny Bouvier (United States Institute of Peace), and Leah Carroll (University of California, Berkeley); student representative: Diego Bustos (University of New Mexico). 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 Clayton McCarl, Executive Council member

The Colonial Section sponsored two panels at LASA2015. Mónica Díaz organized "Race, Religion and Resistance in Colonial Times" and Pablo García Loaeza organized "Colonial Materiality: Everyday Objects in Early Modern Spanish America." The Section will sponsor a total of three panels at LASA2016.

This year saw the creation of the “Best Article in Colonial Latin American Studies by a Junior Scholar.” First prize was awarded to Daniel Nemser, assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for his article “Archaeology in the Lettered City.” An honorable mention went to Vera Candiani, associate professor of history at Princeton University for “The Desagüe Reconsidered: Environmental Dimensions of Class Conflict in Colonial Mexico.” The awards committee was chaired by section vice-chair Raúl Marrero-Fente.

The Section coordinated two social events during LASA2015. Mariana Velázquez, PhD candidate at Columbia University, organized a nightlife tour of Old San Juan held on the evening of Wednesday, May 27. On Thursday, May 28, following our section meeting, the Section celebrated an informal reception in the Caribe Hilton bar and lobby.

The officers for 2015–2016 are as follows: Raúl Marrero-Fente, chair; Mónica Díaz, vice-chair and chair of awards committee; Pablo García Loaeza, council member and secretary-treasurer, and Kelly McDonough and Ann de León, council members. Clayton McCarl, who is retiring from the council, will continue as the Section’s communications manager, and will co-edit the Section’s quarterly newsletter with Pablo García Loaeza through the end of 2015, at which time Pablo will take over as editor.

Cuba

Por Rafael Hernández, Co-presidente

Las principales valoraciones de la Junta directiva sobre el Congreso, y en particular la presencia cubana en LASA2015, se resumen a continuación.

Fue la participación más numerosa en un evento de LASA, y la mayor reunión de académicos cubanos en territorio bajo jurisdicción de EEUU en la historia de los intercambios académicos. Se otorgaron 168 visas. (La cifra de participantes residentes en Cuba registrados en el evento está pendiente por parte del Comité Ejecutivo de LASA al momento de redactar este Informe.)

Hubo 368 ponencias sobre temas cubanos, que se presentaron en más de 250 paneles dedicados total o parcialmente a Cuba. En este evento de LASA hubo una mayor inscripción y presencia de panelistas jóvenes, y de centros fuera de la capital que en congresos anteriores.

El principal déficit estuvo en la negativa de 51 visas, la mayoría a jóvenes académicos y no académicos, que la tramitaron por la vía personal, y que fueron objetados como migrantes potenciales. A pesar de estas visas negadas por la Sección consular, la oficina de Prensa y Cultura de la SINA cooperó en canalizar los trámites por vía personal, agilizar la entrega de las visas otorgadas, y mantuvo a la Sección Cuba actualizada sobre el número y situación de visas otorgadas, denegadas y pendientes.

El mayor grado de interés y participación lo tuvieron los temas económicos y sociopolíticos, así como los dedicados a la normalización de relaciones con EEUU, que se caracterizaron por la alta concurrencia y

diálogo de los debates. Los que trataron temas sociales, demográficos (género, migraciones, etc.) y otros de relaciones exteriores, así como de temas humanísticos, tuvieron una participación relativamente menor. En este desnivel influyó la alta concurrencia de paneles simultáneos que caracteriza a este evento.

En la reunión final entre todos los jefes de Secciones de LASA y el Comité ejecutivo de la organización, se consideró un triunfo de su política hacia Cuba la presencia de un grupo tan numeroso y activo de residentes en la isla, a pesar de que el apoyo financiero brindado fue menor que otros años.

La Sección Cuba, que reúne a la mayoría de los académicos miembros de LASA dedicados a estudiar temas cubanos, cerró el período 2014–2015 con 533 miembros. (La cifra de los que renovaron esta membresía en mayo 2015 no está disponible todavía.)

La logística para la participación cubana contó con el apoyo decisivo del comité creado en Puerto Rico con ese fin. Este Comité de apoyo, surgido por iniciativa del Comité de solidaridad con Cuba, y la participación de representantes del Departamento de Estado de la isla, aseguró transporte, alojamiento, gestiones y contribuyó a la actividad central de la Sección Cuba.

Se realizaron varios eventos pre y post-LASA y paralelos al congreso, en universidades de EEUU, universidades e instituciones puertorriqueñas, así como en centros norteamericanos. En San Juan, estos fueron auspiciados por la Facultad de Administración de Negocios de la Universidad Interamericana, la Universidad

del Sagrado Corazón, y la Puerto Rico Foundation. Estas actividades tuvieron un saldo favorable, al facilitar información y análisis de primera mano sobre las facetas del proceso de cambio en Cuba, sus relaciones exteriores y con EEUU.

En la perspectiva del próximo LASA, sería conveniente proponer no solo paneles sobre las transformaciones económicas y las relaciones EEUU-Cuba que abundaron en LASA2015, sino sobre los cambios políticos, sociales, jurídicos y culturales que acompañan el proceso de manera integral, y que requieren ser explicados y compartidos desde el análisis de las ciencias sociales y las humanidades. La integración de estos paneles debería basarse en la calidad y diversidad, garantizando la presencia de investigadores y académicos no solo de Cuba, sino de latinoamericanos, norteamericanos, europeos y asiáticos dedicados a los estudios cubanos. En esta iniciativa deberían tener una presencia mayor las instituciones académicas y de investigación de todas las provincias, no solo de La Habana; así como asegurar la participación de jóvenes estudiosos destacados. Dada la flexibilidad de las reglas de membresía y propuestas de paneles en LASA, es previsible que profesionales procedentes de instituciones no académicas (medios de difusión, artistas, iglesias, etc.) y de otras áreas del sector no estatal se inscriban para participar en el próximo Congreso. Sería conveniente que la mayor parte de estos participantes pudieran canalizar sus gestiones por la vía institucional, mediante organismos y asociaciones profesionales u ONG, a fin de minimizar la vía personal, para evitar negativas de visa masivas.

El próximo Congreso de LASA tendrá lugar en Nueva York del 27 al 30 de mayo

de 2016. El siguiente se celebrará en Lima, Perú, en la semana del 1ro de mayo de 2017.

Trabajo de la Sección Cuba. El trabajo preparatorio para LASA2015 fue realizado desde septiembre de 2014 por la actual Junta directiva, elegida en el pasado Congreso, compuesta por: Lisandro Pérez y Rafael Hernández (co-presidentes); Jorge Domínguez, John Kirk, Michael Bustamante, Omar E. Pérez; Félix Valdés y Raúl Fernández (no asistentes al evento en San Juan). Aunque no fue miembro de la Junta en este período, Milagros Martínez apoyó la organización de la participación desde la isla.

Actualización de datos sobre integración de la Sección. En la Sección estaban inscritos en el período anterior (2014–2015) 533 miembros. Al corte del 30 de abril, se habían re-inscrito 276 miembros. La cantidad total de membresía que se renovó para 2015–2016 está pendiente de la información que debe proveer el Comité de LASA. Se realizó la asamblea de trabajo de la Sección según lo previsto. La celebración de la recepción de la Sección el mismo día de la asamblea, acordada por la Junta directiva, no afectó su calidad, pues se cubrieron adecuadamente todos los tópicos que se abordan en este Informe.

Agradecimientos. La Sección agradeció al Comité de apoyo en Puerto Rico (a cuyo cargo estuvo el Comité de solidaridad con Cuba, con la participación del Depto de Estado de la isla) por su coauspicio de la recepción, que se realizaría en el edificio del Departamento de Estado en el Viejo San Juan, con la participación de dos grupos musicales, y la asistencia de autoridades del gobierno, de la solidaridad, y otros invitados, así como de numerosos

participantes del Congreso. El Comité de apoyo tuvo una actividad destacada en asegurar el alojamiento, el transporte desde el aeropuerto y al evento, de numerosos participantes cubanos que lo requirieron.

Los miembros de la isla continuaron pudiendo registrarse sin costo, en LASA y en la Sección, gracias al apoyo del Comité directivo de la organización.

Finalmente, se debe reconocer la contribución de universidades de Puerto Rico (UPR, Interamericana, Sagrado Corazón) y de ONG (Puerto Rico Foundation) por la iniciativa de realizar algunos eventos pre-LASA sobre el tema de Cuba, y financiar viajes y alojamientos.

Participación de miembros residentes en Cuba. Todas las cifras de este evento rebasaron la participación histórica de residentes en la isla. El Comité de Programa de LASA aprobó 255 paneles donde estaban inscritos 368 participantes de Cuba. En el momento de realizarse la reunión de la Sección, se habían emitido 168 visas, 3 estaban pendientes y 51 habían sido denegadas.

El alto monto de visas denegadas afectó especialmente a jóvenes miembros de LASA, muchos de los cuales optaron por hacer la solicitud mediante la vía personal, no a través de instituciones cubanas. Aunque este año se hizo llegar a la SINA una lista que confirmaba el respaldo de la Sección Cuba a las gestiones personales de estos participantes, la alta tasa de rechazos podría indicar que el Consulado los evaluó como migrantes potenciales. Esta situación contradice los esfuerzos de la Sección Cuba por facilitar la incorporación de jóvenes investigadores y académicos a nuestras actividades, apoyada directamente por la

Presidencia de LASA ante el Departamento de Estado, y debe tomarse como experiencia para LASA2016.

Actividad académica de la Sección en LASA2015. Los 4 talleres organizados y patrocinados por la Sección se celebraron según el programa previsto en LASA2015. La integración de los paneles tuvo en cuenta la multidisciplinariedad, la presencia de investigadores de varias provincias, residentes fuera de Cuba y jóvenes. En el caso de un panel (“Dinámica demográfica”) la ausencia de panelistas afectó la participación prevista. La Sección recibió una beca de viaje de la Fundación Reynolds, que se utilizó para apoyar la participación de una investigadora de la Universidad de Holguín en uno de los talleres de la Sección.

Premio de la Sección 2015. Un jurado integrado por Miguel Barnet (UNEAC), Guillermo Grenier (Florida International University), Oscar Zanetti (UNEAC) y Jennifer Lamb (Brown University), y presidido por Iraida López (Ramapo College), otorgó el premio de la Sección Cuba de LASA por la obra de su vida consagrada a los estudios cubanos, y su aporte al intercambio académico con Cuba, al profesor y economista Carmelo Mesa-Lago. Este premio se entregará en el marco del próximo congreso.

Convocatoria a Premio Domínguez. Se anunció el establecimiento del Premio Lilia Rosa y Jorge José Domínguez, que convocará la Sección Cuba de LASA cada año. Este premio, cuyas bases se han circulado a todos los miembros, se otorgará por primera vez a la ponencia seleccionada como la mejor entre las aprobadas en el Congreso de LASA2015, y que sean enviadas por sus autores a la presidencia de

la Sección Cuba en el plazo del 30 de junio del presente año. El jurado seleccionado por la Junta directiva de la Sección lo decidirá en un plazo acordado, y se adjudicará en el marco del Congreso de LASA2016 (New York, 27–30 de mayo).

El jurado de este premio está integrado por Claes Brundenius (Universidad de Lund, Suecia), Clotilde Proveyer (Depto de Sociología, UH) y Esther Whitfield (Universidad de Brown).

Otros puntos de la agenda. Se dio lectura en el pleno de la Sección a dos cartas enviadas por miembros que no pudieron asistir: Aurelio Alonso, premio de la Sección Cuba 2014, agradeciendo por el otorgamiento de este galardón; Milagros Martínez, a quien le fue denegada la visa para asistir al evento de la Asociación de Estudios del Caribe (New Orleans, mayo 2015). La Sección apoyó su protesta por esta negativa de visa sin ninguna explicación, ajena al estado de las relaciones entre los dos países y la voluntad de fortalecer el intercambio académico.

Informe financiero. La situación financiera ha mejorado mucho este año, debido a dos factores: el ahorro en gastos de recepción y el aporte de los miembros residentes en Cuba. Según el informe recibido de la Tesorería de LASA (17 de junio de 2015), hay \$2,343.00 en la cuenta de la Sección Cuba. A este fondo, se suma el correspondiente al Premio Domínguez, cuyo *endowment* asciende a \$11,000.00.

Antes de comenzar el congreso, según información de la misma fuente, había \$3,246.39 en nuestra cuenta. Este año, gracias al Comité de apoyo, y a la colaboración del gobierno de Puerto Rico, se pagó solo \$2,140.00 por la recepción

(que es el gasto principal en que incurre la Sección), donde participaron 250 personas. El otro gasto en que se incurrió fue la adquisición de la placa para el Premio de la Sección a Carmelo Mesa-Lago (\$116.98).

El otro factor que contribuyó a elevar el fondo fueron los donativos aportados por los residentes en Cuba, que totalizó \$800.00.

Es importante que los miembros de la Sección Cuba, sobre todo los que viven fuera de la isla, y con mayores posibilidades económicas, consideremos la posibilidad de hacer una contribución mayor a la cuota de los \$10 anuales para ser miembro de la sección. Varias personas lo han hecho, y se aprecia mucho; así como el aporte de los colegas isleños —y se les pide que continúen haciendo esta contribución.

Información sobre proceso de elecciones a la Junta de la Sección. Estas elecciones deben decidir sobre los cargos de los dos co-presidentes, y renovar los de dos miembros de la Junta directiva (Jorge Domínguez y Omar Everleny), además del Tesorero (John Kirk), quienes finalizan el período establecido. En cuanto la Junta directiva reciba la lista oficial de miembros de la Sección que han renovado su membresía para 2015–2016, de parte del Comité directivo de LASA, se enviará a cada uno la convocatoria para las próximas elecciones, donde se describen los mecanismos establecidos para la candidatura y votación.

A nombre de la Sección Cuba, la Junta directiva despide a los miembros que terminan su mandato, los felicita por su trabajo y dedicación, por el tiempo personal consagrado a garantizar el trabajo

y a resolver problemas de toda índole de la Sección y de sus miembros.

Exhortamos a la renovada membresía para que proponga y elija a sus sustitutos, velando por la calidad, la transparencia y el rigor democrático del proceso.

Culture, Power, and Politics

By Justin Read and Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Co-chairs

The Culture, Power, and Politics Section has continued an upward trend in its activities and presence over the past year, through to the last LASA Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For San Juan, we organized a three-part workshop on “Precarious Life/Vida Precaria” to reassess significant concepts in sociocultural thought across the humanities and social sciences: borders, agency, subjectivity, surveillance, and so forth. Discussions in each part of the workshop resulted in three convergent dialogues currently taking place in Latin American social and cultural studies. The first part (Juan Ricardo Aparicio, Arturo Arias, Mabel Moraña, and Oswaldo Zavala) revolved around migration, border crossing, and violence within Latin America, with particular attention to Central American migration from the southern Mexican border northward, and to narco-trafficking and its relation to the nation-state. The second part (Abraham Acosta, Jennifer Bickham-Mendez, Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Juan Poblete, Gilberto Rosas, and Angela Stuesse) tended to focus more on Latin American migrants within the United States, and the possibility of political mobilization in light of noncitizenship. The second part was also particularly attuned to women’s rights. The final part (Rebecca Biron, Luis Duno-

Gottberg, Phillip Penix-Tadsen, Justin Read, and John Riofrio) focused on technologies of global order and thought through the (mis)appropriation of surveillance technologies and digital code. It is clear that the field is moving toward greater critical-theoretical interrogations of sovereign monopolies on violence, nonstate actors from both above (narcos) and below (migrants), necropolitics, and “anthropotechnics.” The workshops were capped off by a well-attended reception with tapas and cash bar at the Congress.

For the immediate future, CPP will organize prizes for research articles and books, which we hope to announce at our section reception at the next Congress in New York City. We are also proud to report that section membership has been growing steadily, which should provide us increasing presence at future congresses as well as continued income for future activities.

The Section would like to pay special thanks to Juan Poblete for his years of leadership in the Section. Juan’s term as section co-chair came to an end in San Juan, but he will continue on the Section Board for the year to come. His post will now be filled for the next two years by Natalia Deeb-Sossa. Justin Read (University at Buffalo) will continue as co-chair for one more year. Abraham Acosta has been elected treasurer for the next year. In addition to Juan, the remaining board members will be Silvia Kurlat Ares and Luis Duno-Gottberg.

The next LASA Congress in New York City will mark the 50th anniversary of the association, and it will mark the 20th year of the Culture, Power, and Politics Section. Our workshops and activities next year,

however, will not relish in the recent past but rather critique it, engage it, and revolutionize it. Our focus is not on the past two decades but on what is to come in the next two decades and beyond.

Defense, Public Security, and Democracy

By Kristina Mani, Co-chair

This year the Section undertook several initiatives. We sponsored a roundtable, “Challenges, Perspectives, and Possibilities in Defense and Public Security in Latin America,” as well as a reception during the 2015 Congress. We awarded prizes for outstanding scholarship and circulated a survey and newsletter to members. The Section has grown to 81 members, allowing us to sponsor two events for the 2016 Congress.

Awards. The Section sponsors two awards open to its members for best written work in the form of (1) a paper presented by a junior scholar at the last annual meeting, and (2) an article published during the previous year; each award carries a \$200 prize. For 2014, there were no submissions for the first category but five in the second. A panel of the Section’s Executive Council (with recusals where appropriate) reviewed the submissions. The article award went to Rafael Martínez for “Subtypes of Coups d’État: Recent Transformations of a 17th Century Concept,” published in *Revista CIDOB d’Afers Internacionals*.

This year the Section presented its inaugural Award for Lifetime Achievement, in recognition of distinguished contribution to the field of civil-military relations and defense studies, to J. Samuel Fitch. We fielded nominations from all section members, and Fitch received overwhelming

support. His tremendous contributions to the study of civil-military relations in Latin America began with path breaking research on the armed forces of Ecuador in the 1960s, and continued over decades with rigorous scholarship. Ever generous with his time, Sam has been a model academic, mentor, and friend to many in the Section. His achievements set a high standard for future recipients of the award.

Elections and position responsibilities. At the business meeting, with about 22 members in attendance, we elected new officers and discussed future endeavors.

José Manuel Ugarte completed his term as co-chair. Raúl Benítez Manaut (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) was elected to begin a two-year term of co-chair, while Kristina Mani (Oberlin College) continues for a second year as co-chair. Miguel Navarro Meza (Academia Nacional de Estudios Políticos y Estratégicos) and Ana de las Mercedes De Maio (Escuela de Defensa Nacional) were elected to two-year terms on the executive council, from July 2015 through June 2017, replacing Jaime Baeza and Rafael Martínez, whose terms end in June 2015. Miguel and Ana will serve alongside fellow council members Sam Fitch and Pamela Figueroa, whose terms continue through June 2016. The first-year co-chair normally serves as secretary-treasurer for the Section. Updating of the Section's web page and collating of the newsletter are responsibilities of the council, shared between one person in the second year of the term and one newly elected person.

Future plans. For the coming year, we look forward to maintaining and expanding membership by designing section sessions on timely and important themes and

continuing to engage and reward the scholarship and achievements of those in the section community.

Economics and Politics

By Gabriel Ondetti, Chair 2014–2015

Following is a report of the section's activities since mid-2014, when the last report was filed.

Section elections. In April–May we chose four new section officers: as chair, Anthony Spanakos; as secretary-treasurer, Steve Samford; and as council members, Antonio Botelho and Gabriel Ondetti. Two existing council members (Susana Nudelsman and Eduardo Silva) are in the middle of their two-year terms, so they will stay on for another year.

Award winners. Open article prize: Mark S. Manger and Kenneth C. Shadlen, "Political Trade Dependence and North-South Trade Agreements," *International Studies Quarterly* 58, no. 1 (2014): 79–91. (Honorable mention: José Carlos Orihuela, "Converging Divergence: The Diffusions of the Green State in Latin America," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 49, no. 2 (2014): 242–265. Early career article prize: Felipe Filomeno, "Patterns of Rule-Making and Intellectual Property Regimes: Lessons from South American Soybean Agriculture," *Comparative Politics* 46, no. 4, (2014): 439–458. Travel grants: José Manuel Puente, Maria Paula Saffon.

Overview of business meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by past section chair Mahrukh Doctor and incoming chair Anthony Spanakos (outgoing chair Gabriel Ondetti was unable to attend LASA). To begin the meeting, the co-chairs announced

the results of the elections and the winners of the annual award competitions and recognized the contributions of both the outgoing officers and those members who served on the award committees. They also discussed the present state of the section's finances and encouraged members to participate in the section by applying for awards and/or serving on award committees. With regard to new business, several members expressed interest in bringing policy makers to panels and were adamant that LASA should waive registration and membership fees for guests in such panels. Steven Samford, who represented the section at the chairs' meeting, reiterated our position at that gathering. We also discussed potential panel topics and the possibility of a pre-LASA workshop. There was also a discussion of the use of the section's website and it was decided that it would be better to pass information to the members via occasional emails. About ten people attended.

Logros y retos. This year we introduced a second travel grant and, once again, awarded our two article prizes. All of these awards were competitive and the articles that won were of very high quality and published in top journals. Our two panels dealt with very timely topics in our field and included scholars from both the United States and Latin America. The section continues to be very diverse in terms of age, gender, nationality, academic discipline, and other variables. It includes a number of members who are employed outside of the academic realm and even one former president of a Latin American country.

In terms of "retos," we mainly seek to maintain the high quality of our LASA panels and to promote active member

participation in the section's activities, including its award competitions. Some interesting panel topics emerged from the business meeting and we intend to develop them and to seek further feedback from the membership over the course of the next few months.

**Education and Education Policy /
Educación y Políticas Educativas en
América Latina**

By Jorge Enrique Delgado, member of Executive Committee

The business meeting of the LASA Education and Education Policy Section took place May 28, 2015, in San Juan, PR. Fifty-one members attended and elected the Executive Committee 2015–2016: Oresta López (San Luis College, Mexico), chair; Teresa González Pérez (La Laguna University, Spain), co-chair; Enrique Martínez Larrechea (CLAEH University Institute, Uruguay), secretary-treasurer; and Vera Lucia Felicetti (La Salle University Center–Unilasalle, Brazil), Héctor R. Gertel (Cordoba University, Argentina), and Jorge Enrique Delgado (University of Pittsburgh, USA / Pontifical Javeriana University, Colombia), committee members. Erwin Epstein (Loyola University, USA) will be asked for his interest in continuing as committee member for another term. Oresta López presented a summary of the 2014 meeting minutes (available at <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/sections/educacion-politicaseducativas/>). 2014–2015 secretary Mauricio Horn proposed creating an online voting system for the Section (to be determined) that has 102 members and a budget of US\$1,971.98. Two awards will be created: “Lifetime Contribution to Education Research in Latin America” and “Best Scholarly

Article” (for doctoral students and new doctors graduated between 2011 and 2015). The 2016 Awards will be named “Paulo Freire.” Starting in 2017, the Best Article Award will be named after a prestigious female educator (TBD). Two commissions will work on the criteria and call for nominees for the awards. Unilasalle will grant a scholarship to the Best Article awardee consisting of a one-semester tuition remission. Other members are invited to contribute with similar scholarships. Norberto Fernández invited the attendees to join the UNESCO Chair “Education and Future” Project. Section's email: educacionlasa@gmail.com.

Environment

By Jennifer Horan, Chair

The business meeting focused on challenges for the Section and future planning for LASA2016 in New York. The Section continues to maintain an overall strong membership. Section chair Jennifer Horan reported that as of the last tally prior to the 2015 Congress the Section had 82 members. This means that the Section will be able to support two panels for the 2016 Congress. This past year there were no submissions for the Section's best paper award and so the award was not given. This year there is one submission and one nomination so far for the best paper award. During the business meeting two section members volunteered to serve as readers on the best paper committee.

Elections were held at the business meeting. The Section reelected Jennifer Horan to serve as section chair. The Section elected Sheri Baver and Katherine McCaffrey to serve as council members.

This year the Section sponsored one panel and one workshop. The workshop was titled “Emerging Research on the Latin American Environment.” The panel was titled “Energy Politics and Policy in Latin America”. The workshop had good attendance and strong participation by audience members. Participants expressed concern that there were no presidential sessions on the environment at this year's Congress. Based on participation and the agreement of attendees at the business meeting, the Section will continue to offer the “emerging research issues” workshop at the 2016 Congress. Challenges: Environment Section panels continue to be scheduled at times conflicting with other environment-themed panels from the Biodiversity Track. This negatively impacts the ability of researchers interested in environmental issues to attend our panels (as well as the ones offered at the same time from the Biodiversity Track). We appreciate the difficulty in scheduling such a large meeting and hope that LASA can continue to work to not put a panel on the environment from the Biodiversity Track in the same time slot as the Environment Section's sponsored panels.

Europe and Latin America

By Roberto Domínguez, Co-chair

On May 28, 2015, at 7 pm, during the 32nd Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, in Puerto Rico, 14 members of Europe and Latin America Section (ELAS) gathered for its annual business meeting. Acting section co-chairs for 2013–2014, Roberto Domínguez and Erica Resende, informed section members and opened the conversation about the following items of the agenda:

ELAS had \$1,467.33 in its LASA account, an increase of \$167.33 over the amount at the previous meeting in Chicago.

The number of ELAS section members has also increased from 67 to 103 and later decreased to 76.

As of today ELAS registers 76 members. The Section was authorized to organize two panels for the 2016 Congress in New York. The Section welcomed this additional panel because it was the first time in four years that the Section was authorized to hold two panels.

In preparation for the 2015 LASA Congress, members of the Section suggested some tentative topics for the two ELAS panels for New York: (a) subnational relations within transatlantic relations; (b) interregionalism in EU–Latin American relations and Latin American regionalism; (c) transatlantic academic studies; (d) security governance in the Europe–Latin America area.

ELAS organized one official panel this year: “Relaciones Europa–América Latina y el Caribe en vísperas de la Cumbre de Bruselas: Transformaciones de las relaciones transatlánticas y nuevas iniciativas de asociación y de cooperación,” chaired by Gonzalo Sebastián Paz. The Section awarded \$293.46 to each of the presenters in the panel.

The co-chairs proposed that members of the Section would not be allowed to receive travel funding from ELAS in two consecutive years. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Both section co-chairs have urged ELAS members to try to mobilize colleagues to

join ELAS in hopes to increase membership.

As of 2015 ELAS has a Facebook page and members are encouraged to post calls for papers and to share information about publications, research opportunities, etc. ELAS is still waiting for a volunteer to organize a Twitter account.

Next on the meeting agenda was the election of one co-chair for the 2015–2017 period, as Erica Resende’s term (2013–2015) came to an end. Pedro Caldentey del Pozo was elected by unanimous vote for a two-year term (2015–2017) as co-chair.

As for the composition of the Advisory Council, three new positions were opened: Pedro Caldentey del Pozo (2015–2017) left his position as he was elected co-chair; and Lorena Ruano and Sebastián Santander concluded their tenures (2013–2015). Three new members for the advisory council were elected for the term 2015–2017: Susanne Gratius, Miriam Saraiva, and Joaquín Roy. Bert Hoffmann will continue as member of the advisory board for the period 2014–2016.

Flavia Guerra Cavalcanti will continue as treasurer for the term 2014–2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Film Studies

Por Cynthia Tompkins, Chair

Como la sede de la conferencia era Puerto Rico, la Sección de Cine presentó un panel en homenaje a los directores de la isla: “Cine puertorriqueño en Super 8: Colectivo de cine Taller La Red” (Wed., May 27, 6:00–7:45 pm), que contó con la asistencia

de Eduardo Canovas, Joaquín García, Carlos Malavé, y Poli Marichal. Cada director dio una presentación de diez minutos, seguida por la proyección de su trabajo. Además trajeron cámaras y rollos de película que circularon entre los presentes. María Cristina Rodríguez Pagán fungió de *respondent* e Isabel Arredondo, quien organizó el panel, de *chair*.

Asimismo, la Sección de Cine llevó el homenaje a los cineastas a la comunidad. En la noche del sábado, Isabel Arredondo presentó a la directora y artista plástica Poli Marechal, quien compartió su obra en Super 8. El evento se llevó a cabo en Beta Local, una galería de arte en el viejo San Juan, donde se dieron cita más de cincuenta artistas puertorriqueños, quienes participaron activamente de la discusión. Agradecemos particularmente la gentileza de Sofía Gallisá Muriente, fundadora de Beta Local, así como de Dorian Lugo Bertrán, quien compaginó el evento.

El tema del otro panel elegido por los miembros de la Sección fue, “Cine clásico latinoamericano: estrategias de inclusión y exclusión en la representación de la nación” (Sat., May 30, 8:00–9:45 am) y contó con la participación de Maricruz Castro Ricalde y de Fernando Couret. Mi más sentido reconocimiento a Paul Schroeder Rodríguez, por su labor organizando el panel. Además, la Sección ofreció un workshop (“Sistemas de distribución, acceso y circulación” Wed., May 27, 12:00–1:45 pm), que contó con la participación de Gilberto A. Sobrinho, Arturo Vargas, Emily Davidson, y Yari Pérez Marín, organizado y presidido eficazmente por Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova.

Es un placer y un privilegio presentar a las nuevas autoridades: Paul Schroeder Rodríguez (jefe de la Sección 2015–2016) y Patrick Blaine y Arturo Serrano (vocales 2015–2017). De la administración anterior permanecen Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova (secretaria-tesorera 2014–2016) y los vocales Alvaro Baquero-Pecino y Dorian Lugo Bertrán (2014–2016). Agradecemos la colaboración de los vocales salientes, Carolina Soria y Carlos A. Gutiérrez (2013–2015).

La Sección comenzó con un fondo muy restringido (\$1,100), ya que hace un par de años quedó en bancarota, debido a lo cual se dispuso dejar un mínimo de \$1,000. Debido a la precaria situación económica no se pudo colaborar con el festival de cine, ni celebrar una reunión de camaradería en el hotel. Siguiendo con las finanzas, agradecemos especialmente a LASA por haber dividido los costos de la invitación a los directores de cine, y hacerse cargo de la matrícula mientras la Sección pagaba la membresía, lo cual permitió dejarle \$1,700 a la nueva administración.

Quisiera agradecer especialmente a Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova, quien se encargó de enviar un sinnúmero de recordatorios a la membresía lo cual permitió conservar tres paneles asegurados para LASA 2016 en Nueva York.

Finalmente en la reunión de la Sección se votó unánimemente a favor de presentar paneles armados, en lugar de títulos, para el 15 de julio, a fin de que la membresía decida si prefiere que haya tres paneles, o dos y un workshop.

En la reunión se discutieron maneras de fortalecer la visibilidad de la Sección y atraer miembros. Se consideró explorar la

posibilidad de encontrar organizaciones o países que provean apoyo financiero. Además, se barajaron posibles eventos en Nueva York. A fin de integrar e interrelacionar el campo de la investigación de los miembros de la Sección se discutió la posibilidad de crear una base de datos, una filmografía basada en los festivales anteriores, actualizar la página de Facebook, crear un blog, colaborar con otros *tracks* tales como los de Visual Studies así como el US Latin@ a fin de lograr entablar un diálogo interamericano.

Se prestó especial atención al reclutamiento de estudiantes, ya sea organizando mesas especiales para ellos, o bien proporcionando becas para que puedan asistir a la conferencia, así como premios, y/o ayuda para cubrir alojamiento, pasaje, y gastos para estudiantes de posgrado. Entre los posibles temas para futuros paneles se barajaron: interculturalismo como punto de partida teórico; política cultural cinematográfica; recepción (taller); nuevas formas de compromiso social: 50 años después (Nuevo Cine). La pedagogía (taller/panel) del cine fue particularmente fecunda, ya que presentó aspectos tales como el cine como herramienta didáctica, la confección de un Banco de datos en pedagogía, el compartir programas, ideas para clases, e incluso confeccionar una lista de nombres y temas posibles para organizar entrevistas a través de Skype, que cuenten como presentaciones.

Finalmente, ha sido un honor y un privilegio ser chair en 2015, y me retiro con la satisfacción de una tarea bien cumplida y la tranquilidad de dejar un excelente comité a cargo de la Sección de Cine.

Food, Agriculture, and Rural Studies Por Nashieli Rangel Loera, Chair

El número de miembros de la Sección tuvo un pequeño aumento en relación al año anterior. En nuestra *business meeting* contamos con la presencia de 38 miembros. Conforme decisión tomada en nuestra reunión de 2014 el *chair* se quedará en el cargo por dos años consecutivos. De esta manera mi cargo se extiende hasta el próximo congreso en 2016, sin embargo fue aceptada la propuesta de que el *chair* u otro consejero pueda quedarse como miembro del consejo un año más para asesorar a los nuevos miembros en la logística de organización de actividades de la Sección. Elegimos en votación unánime nuevos miembros del consejo: Fina Carpena-Mendez (University of Oregon), anterior tesorera de la Sección es la nueva *chair-elect*, Pablo Laguna (Colegio de Michoacán, México) también miembro anterior del consejo es el nuevo secretario-tesorero y Bernardo Mançano (UNESP, Brasil) y Thais Tartalha (UNESP, Brasil) son los nuevos consejeros.

Durante la reunión dimos la bienvenida y felicitamos a dos nuevos miembros jóvenes que fueron beneficiados con becas (*travel grant*) de la Sección: Marcela Crovetto y Ramiro Rodríguez Sperat (\$500 cada uno) quienes se comprometieron a apoyar en la organización de las actividades del próximo congreso y a cumplir con los compromisos estipulados en el edital de la beca, entre ellos la publicación del trabajo presentado en LASA. Se apoyó también a dos productores rurales locales Ian Roig y Benancio Borges, con los gastos de inscripción y membresía de LASA, totalizando \$440, ambos participaron en un workshop de la Sección. La Sección también cubrió los gastos de transporte

\$570 para la realización de las visitas de campo a Toa Alta donde visitamos una finca agroecológica y Yabucoa, una comunidad de pescadores que revitalizó una antigua área de una petroquímica.

Fue informado sobre la actualización y alimentación de la página de la Sección con trabajos y publicaciones de los miembros que así lo deseen. Se mantendrá para el próximo congreso en New York 2016, como se ha hecho en los últimos años, la organización de un trabajo de campo. Para esto contribuirán con la organización algunos miembros de la Sección vinculados a universidades en New York. Serán organizadas también dos mesas conmemorativas de los 50 años de LASA, una de ellas en homenaje a Roger Burbach y la otra “50 años de agricultura en América Latina, pasado y futuro”.

Gender and Feminist Studies/ Estudios de Género y Feminismo

Por Hillary Hiner, Co-chair

La primera actividad que llevó a cabo la sección fue la selección de los cuatro paneles de la Sección entre los meses de julio-agosto. Hicimos esto vía concurso público dentro de la sección y con muy buenos resultados, seleccionando tres paneles más una mesa redonda dedicada al tema del legado de Helen Safa.

Posteriormente, durante los meses de octubre-noviembre 2014, la directiva empezó a discutir la posibilidad de hacer una pre-conferencia con nuestras colegas puertorriqueñas, pensando en sus experiencias y los retos de la colaboración activista-académica. Gracias al trabajo desempeñado por Alice Colón, académica feminista puertorriqueña y miembro de larga data de la sección, se logró organizar

con muy buen resultado esta pre-conferencia. Agradecemos también a los esfuerzos organizativos de Edmé Domínguez, actual co-presidenta, y a Hillary Hiner y Marianne Marchand que colaboraron en la planificación de los talleres de la tarde, orientados hacia discusiones en torno a las estrategias feministas para lograr el acceso pleno al aborto libre y las repercusiones de la crisis económica en el movimiento feminista.

En enero de 2015 abrimos el concurso de los premios Elsa Chaney y Helen Safa, como siempre orientados hacia nuestros académicos más “junior”. Para el Premio Chaney se consideraron trabajos en el área de estudios de género y mujeres en Latinoamérica. Para el Premio Safa, nuestro premio nuevo que busca honrar la memoria de Helen Safa, co-fundadora de nuestra sección, pedimos trabajos relacionados al área de ella, tales como intersecciones entre género, raza, clase y/u orientación sexual y estudios de política económica y trabajo. El Premio Helen Safa fue adjudicado a Shannon Drysdale Walsh y el Premio Elsa Chaney fue compartido entre María Laura Osta Vázquez y Liliana Castañeda Rentería. Les felicitamos a ellas y agradecemos el trabajo de nuestro jurado, compuesto por los miembros nuestro Consejo, Lucía Saldaña y Cristina Wolff, y Marianne Marchand.

En términos de finanzas, este ha sido un año difícil para la sección, principalmente por la falta de *fund-raising* en los últimos tiempos. Sólo fue gracias a las donaciones de algunos miembros generosos de la sección, como también a donaciones institucionales gestionadas por nuestra tesorera, Cecília Santos, de la Universidad de San Francisco, y por nuestra co-presidenta, Edmé Domínguez, de la Escuela

de Estudios Globales, de la Universidad de Gotemburgo (Iberofunden), que logramos cumplir con nuestros objetivos. Sin duda, este año tendremos que trabajar en esto.

Finalmente, recién en mayo 2015 nos contactó un miembro de nuestra sección, Vivian Martínez, ya que su postulación a una visa para este congreso había sido rechazada. Como sección logramos movilizarnos muy rápidamente y mandar una carta a la embajada con más de 100 firmas, lo cual tuvo como resultado el otorgamiento de la visa.

Para cerrar la *business meeting*, hicimos nuestras elecciones (que fue ratificado por mail posteriormente): Co-presidentas: Hillary Hiner y Roberta Villalón; Secretaria: María Stella Toro; Tesorera: Cecilia MacDowell Santos; Consejo: Edmé Domínguez, Carmen Heim, Lidia Possas, Adriana Piscitelli.

Además, por mail, formamos un pequeño comité de la sección para organizar la pre-conferencia 2016 compuesto por: Montserrat Sagot, Verónica Schild, Paloma Bonfil, Thais França Silva y Beatriz Padilla.

Haiti / Dominican Republic

By April Mayes, Co-chair

With about ten of its members present, the section voted to create a transition team so that its current co-chairs, Kiran Jayaram (York College) and April Mayes (Pomona College), will be formally replaced at the business meeting during the next LASA Congress in 2016. Elizabeth Manley (Xavier University) will serve as co-chair pro tempore.

Our section has been quite active over the past year, responding to the current crisis in the Dominican Republic over Haitian migration and whether the state will recognize the full nationality rights of Dominicans born to Haitian (im)migrant parents. The section sent a press release to various news agencies regarding recent legislation and some social tensions, including the death of a young Haitian immigrant, in the wake of the government's actions.

For the first time this year, the section awarded prizes. The winner of the section's Guy Alexandre Prize (\$100), awarded for the best paper presented at LASA, was Alai Reyes-Santos for her presentation "Afrodescendencia and Pan-Americanism in Nineteenth-Century Pan-Antillean Thought." Wendy Roth, author of the book *Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformations of Race* (Stanford University Press, 2012), won the Isis Duarte Book Prize (\$100).

With the LASA Congress taking place in New York City next year, the section is already preparing to increase its visibility at LASA and to collaborate with centers, institutes, and organizations devoted to Haitian and Dominican studies. The increase in our membership to 75 now allows us two section panels; we plan to use this opportunity to showcase emerging scholars and shed light on Haitian-Dominican cooperation and solidarity in New York.

Health, Science, and Society

By Rebecca J. Hester, Co-chair 2014–2015

Ten people attended the Health, Science, and Society Section business meeting held on Thursday, May 28, at Mojito's Restaurant in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Given that a quorum was present, during the meeting it was voted to change the name of the Section from Health, Science, and Society to Health, Science, and Technology. The argument was made that the term "society" was an implied focus of all the work the Section does and therefore did not need to be included in the name. It was felt that the addition of "technology" would expand the focus and, hopefully, encourage more participation in the Section. LASA has been contacted about the name change and it is being implemented.

In addition to voting for a new name, the Section also held elections. The following is the new board: chair: Raul Necochea (UNC Chapel Hill); treasurer: Oscar Perez (Dartmouth College); secretary: Mary Clark (Tulane University); new board members: Eve Buckley (University of Delaware), Jadwiga Pieper-Mooney (University of Arizona), Rebecca Hester (outgoing co-chair, Virginia Polytechnic and State University); continuing board members: Julia Rodriguez (University of New Hampshire), Mariola Espinosa (University of Iowa). The Section would like to thank outgoing board members Pablo Gomez, Kate McGurn Centellas, and Jose Amador for their participation on the board these past few years.

Although the Section had attempted to give prizes this past year for the best dissertation and the best article in Latin American/Latin@ Health, Science, and Society, we

had no nominations for either category. As we transferred and updated the Listserv this year it was surmised that many of the section contacts did not receive the notice about the prizes. The Section plans to revisit the Listserv to make sure that it has the most up-to-date information for each present and past member and section affiliate. This past year the Section also created a Facebook page and reinvigorated its LASA webpage in an attempt to increase communication among and between members, as well as to share publications, syllabi, and other education-related information. There was some discussion about creating a newsletter this year, but there was no response to the call for submissions. All communication strategies and their relationship to outreach and awards will be topics for discussion this coming year.

As of December 2014, the Section had 86 members and \$5,208.39 in its bank account. The number of members dropped to 52 by May 1, 2015. No funds have been used by the Section between December 2014 and May 2015. Based on the number of section members as of May 1, the Section is entitled to organize one session for LASA2016.

Historia Reciente y Memoria

Por Juan R. Hernández García y Rodrigo Patto Sá Motta, Co-chairs

La Sección Historia Reciente y Memoria celebró cuatro actividades en el Congreso LASA2015. La primera fue el taller "Historia reciente y derechos humanos en América Latina y el Caribe: Nuevas posibilidades". En este participaron Susana Kaiser (University of San Francisco), Carlos Pabón (Universidad de Puerto Rico),

Alejandro Cerda García (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana de México), y Juan Hernández García (Universidad de Puerto Rico). En este taller se discutieron nuevas aproximaciones al estudio de derechos humanos en América Latina y formas en que se puede usar esa categoría.

La segunda actividad fue el panel, titulado “Debates emergentes en el campo de la memoria: Conflictos políticos y movimientos sociales”. Los ponentes fueron María Paula Nascimento Araujo (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), “Depoimentos de mulheres sobre a ditadura militar no Brasil: Uma discussão sobre a especificidade de gênero no enfrentamento da violência política”; Ana Laura de Giorgi (Universidad de la República en Uruguay), “La prisión femenina: Memorias y apuestas en el relato de las ex presas políticas en Uruguay”; y Alejandro Cerda García (Universidad Metropolitana Autónoma de México), “Memoria y etnicidad: Los mapuche durante la dictadura chilena”. El panel fue moderado y comentado por Aldo Marchesi (Universidad de la República en Uruguay). Hubo una excelente oportunidad de discutir las intersecciones de historia reciente con categorías como género y etnicidad, y las nuevas posibilidades epistemológicas y metodológicas de la historia reciente.

Este año celebramos el concurso Mejor Artículo Académico de Historia Reciente y Memoria. El Jurado, compuesto por Peter Winn (Tufts University), Rodrigo Patto Sá Motta (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) y Emilio Crenzel (Universidad de Buenos Aires) escogió el ensayo de Kirsten Weld (Harvard University), “Dignifying the Guerrillero, Not the Assassin: Rewriting a History of Criminal Subversion in Postwar

Guatemala”, como el ganador. Se dio una mención especial al ensayo “Cinco décadas de estudios sobre la crisis, la democracia y el autoritarismo en Uruguay”, escrito por Aldo Marchesi (Universidad de la República) y Vania Markarian (Universidad de la República).

La última actividad de la Sección fue el Business Meeting, atendido por 10 miembros. Se discutieron formas de desarrollar actividades de discusión durante el resto del año y fuera del Congreso de LASA. Se eligió una nueva directiva, que fue luego ratificada por correo electrónico por el grueso de los miembros de la Sección. Quedaron elegidos como co-presidentes Juan R. Hernández García (Universidad de Puerto Rico) y Rodrigo Patto Sá Motta (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais). Como secretaria fue elegida Cecilia Macón (Universidad de Buenos Aires). El consejo quedó compuesto por Alejandro Cerda (Universidad Metropolitana Autónoma de México), Aldo Marchesi (Universidad de la República en Uruguay), Peter Winn (Tufts University) y Allison J. Bruey (University of North Florida).

International Migrations

By Sara Poggio and Maria Amelia Viteri, Co-chairs

Section Council: co-chairs: Sara Poggio and Maria Amelia Viteri; secretary: Alice Colón Warren; council members: Anahi Viladrich, Christian Dona, Camelia Tigau, and Ximena Poo.

According with decisions taken in Chicago in our business meeting held during LASA's 2014 Congress, we had a successful pre-conference meeting at LASA2015

entitled “National Borders, Securitization, and Migration Insecurity” organized by Sara Poggio (absent), Maria Amelia Viteri, and Alice Colón. The pre-conference was held on May 2015 and was well attended.

The Section also organized two panels: “Emigration Policies in Latin America: Inclusion and Exclusion at the Boundaries of the Nation-State”; and a second panel organized with the Southern Cone Section in an effort to collaborate with other sections and give our members the possibility to exchange perspectives from all disciplines.

The business meeting was attended by Maria Amelia Viteri, Alice Colón Warren, Anahí Viladrich, Cynthia Machado Campos, Patricia Zamudio, Ximena Poo, Camelia Tigau, Jeimi Arias, Veronica Montes, Ana Morales-Zeno, Teresa Figueroa, and Sara Poggio (via Skype).

We informed the members who were present of the growth in membership for the International Migrations Section as it started with 70 members in 2012 and grew to 101 members in 2013, reaching 137 at the moment. Based on this number, we are now able to organize three panels for LASA2016. This is very important for our members because most of them will be able to participate in sponsored panels in New York.

Discussion of activities for New York, 2016. A pre-conference is to be held a day prior to the beginning of the Congress. There were several possible topics discussed and approved at the meeting, as follows: (1) Assessment of the immigration patterns from and to Latin American countries in the last 50 years, comparing the type of patterns of the past with the reality of the

present patterns (this adds up to the commemoration of LASA's 50-year anniversary). (2) Migration routes and patterns: changes in the capitalist global system and its impact in the rerouting of immigrants and routes from and to Latin America. (3) The local within the global; critical perspective; New York as a global city (immigration and routes from and to New York). (4) Other routes (between countries of the Global South, North-South, South-North). (5) The preconference is to include fieldwork with barrios migrants older and newer. (6) Documenting the pre-conference presentations visually. Details have to be worked out. This idea is important so that we can have the video available for colleagues who cannot attend the pre-conference, through the web page of our Section.

A newsletter was started in 2013 but was discontinued in 2014 due to lack of human resources. We are looking into reestablishing it for 2015-2016.

Sara Poggio and Maria Amelia Viteri created a Facebook page for the Section, which already has 130 members.

One of the council members was selected to update the website.

We will call for an election after having a discussion of the future of the Section in terms of governance. The election will be carried out electronically before the meeting in New York.

Labor Studies

By Cecilia Senén González, Co-chair

The Labor Studies Section business meeting took place on Thursday, May 28, and 12 members participated, including 3 members of the section committee. The discussion was animated and dynamic. We had a full exchange of opinions and we also discussed subjects for future panels for the LASA Congress 2016, such as labor studies from a historical perspective. During the Congress we organized one section panel titled "Trade Agreements, Global Value Chains, and Patterns of Worker Rights Violations and Labor Organizing in Central America, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina." Some members of the Section Committee participated in the organization of other panels, one about labor relations in America Latina and another about employment relations and human resources management practices in multinational companies.

We held a competition for papers whose prize was two travel grants of US\$500 each through a competitive process in which the co-presidents and secretary-treasurer chose a winner. To assign the grants, the applicants submitted their CV 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 Joe Bazler, a PhD student from the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, who studies teachers and teachers' unions in Argentina (Buenos Aires, more specifically); and Natalia Ramírez Bustamante, a PhD candidate from Harvard Law School (Doctor of Juridical Science), for "Inclusion by Differentiation: Human Reproduction and Its Challenges for Women Worker's Lives."

Future objectives proposed were updating the website and the organization of a mini-conference at the next LASA. The election process began last week and we hope to conclude by the end of the week.

Latina/o Studies

By Carlos Ulises Decena and Kirstie Dorr, Co-chairs; Virginia Arreola, Secretary; Alexandra Perkins, Graduate Student Representative

The Latina/o Studies Section of LASA continues to be a vibrant and engaged intellectual community focused on fostering the linkages between ethnic and area studies. Its membership consists of a range of scholars whose teaching and research focus on US Latina/o communities and their transnational connections to other regions in the Americas. Our aim is to maintain a scholarly forum that highlights and addresses the politically urgent challenges and opportunities facing US Latina/o populations. During the period, the Section Council has worked diligently to streamline its institutional and leadership infrastructure, to improve communications with our dynamic membership, and to continue to provide spaces that feature some of the most cutting-edge and important scholarship in Latino studies today.

The Section leadership structure is organized around the council, which is made up of a collective of elected scholars that serve two-year terms: an initial year of "apprenticeship" during which new members share labor and collaborate with standing named officers, and a second year during which the first-year members welcome a new cohort of elected members and take on the leadership position of the

Section. This year we are delighted to welcome the 2015–2016 leadership cohort: Nicole Guidotti-Hernández (University of Texas, Austin) and Marisel Moreno (Notre Dame) as co-chairs, Elena Valdez (Christopher Newport University) as secretary, and María Celleri (University of California, San Diego), as graduate student representative. Nominations and elections for new council members will be held in the coming months.

The Latino Studies Section concluded the year with 134 members, qualifying it for three sponsored sessions at LASA2016.

Our section business meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was attended by a total of 34 persons. There was great enthusiasm for expanding section membership, fortifying our institutional presence at LASA, and reports of all Latina/o studies panels overflowing with attendance. The membership asked that we set up a junior faculty mentorship program with the journal *Latino Studies*.

Section awards. The Frank Bonilla Public Intellectual Award Committee for 2015 was composed of Frances Aparicio (Northwestern University), Lorgia García Peña (Harvard University), Desireé Martín of (University of California, Davis), and Nicole Guidotti-Hernández (chair). After evaluation and deliberation, we agreed to offer the award to both Dr. Ana Cecilia Zentella and Dr. Silvio Torres Salliant in the name of their tremendous, but distinct, contributions to community, scholarship, and public knowledge.

This year, the council issued awards that recognized excellence in both scholarship and public engagement.

The Book Prize for Best Monograph in Latina/o Studies Committee in 2015 was made up of Maritza Stanchich (University of Puerto Rico), José Quiroga (Emory), and Marisel Moreno (chair). The Book Prize for best monograph in Latina/o Studies was awarded to Urayoán Noel, *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam* (University of Iowa Press, 2014). Honorable Mention for Best Monograph in Latina/O Studies was awarded to Dolores Inés Casillas, *Sounds of Belonging: U.S. Spanish-Language Radio and Public Advocacy* (New York University Press, 2014). The Latino Studies Section Council thanks all colleagues who served in the evaluation committees.

Sponsored panels. The Section sponsored three panels: Wednesday, May 27, “Blackness in Latina/o America: Working Across Latina/o Latin America and Black Diaspora Studies”; Thursday, May 28, “Diálogos Sur-Norte para el estudio de la diversidad sexual desde América Latina”; and Friday, May 29, “Reconfiguring Latina/o Studies through Transnationalism.”

Recommendations. Future recommendations made at the section business meeting: (1) a LASA-sponsored panel in honor of Juan Flores, the late Puerto Rican Studies scholar who helped found the field; (2) possible panel ideas include Latinos in New York City (given the location of LASA2016) and Latinos in nineteenth-century New York City; (3) need for better scheduling of Latina/o studies panels so they do not compete against one another; (4) schedule Latina/o studies panels in better rooms (Murphy rooms gave the perception of ghettoizing the field).

Medios Masivos y Cultura Popular / Mass Media and Popular Culture

Por Silvia G. Kurlat Ares, Chair

Durante LASA2015 en Puerto Rico, la Sección de Medios Masivos y Cultura Popular presentó dos mesas. Una organizada por la membresía (“La cultura popular en los medios masivos”) sobre la relación entre cultura, medios masivos y mercado; y otra organizada por el Board (“Los paradigmas teóricos frente a la cultura: Prácticas, lecturas, reconstituciones”) sobre los nuevos desafíos teóricos y los nuevos vocabularios necesarios para pensar los cambios en nuestro campo de estudio. Ambas contaron con una nutrida asistencia y fueron seguidas de interesantes discusiones en las que intervinieron tanto los presentadores como el público. Lamentablemente, por cuestiones organizativas fue necesario suspender la recepción.

Durante el *business meeting*, se renovó el cargo de chair a Silvia Kurlat Ares (silviakares@hotmail.com) y de co-chair a Matthew Bush (Lehigh University). El resto de los miembros de Board (Pablo Alabarces, Pedro Pablo Porbén, Giancarlo Stagnaro y Juanita Darling) acordó permanecer en sus cargos por otro año. El Board decidió que para LASA en New York se mantendrá el mismo formato de mesas dado que la sección mantiene la posibilidad de hacer dos mesas (correlativas al número de miembros) para el 2016. Un llamado a los miembros saldrá en los próximos días. En relación a este punto, se decidió volver a trabajar los listados del Google group para actualizar la información y agilizar las comunicaciones. Se decidió no incurrir en gastos y seguir acumulando capital por otro año (el tercero) para dejar que la sección afiance tanto membresía como

identidad. A partir del 2016 se planeará qué hacer con los fondos acumulados desde la fundación de la sección.

Mexico

By Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado, Co-chair

Section officials: Co-chairs 2014–2015: Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado (Washington University in St. Louis) and Yliana Rodríguez González (El Colegio de San Luis); Secretary-treasurer: Brian L. Price (Brigham Young University), 2014–2016; Executive Committee 2013–2015: Guadalupe Rodríguez Gómez (CIESAS); Celia del Palacio. (Universidad Veracruzana); Beth L. Jørgensen (University of Rochester); Executive Committee 2014–2016: Alfonso Valenzuela (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México); Armando García (University of Pittsburgh); Jason Dormady (Central Washington University).

Committee elections. The co-chairs Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado and Yliana Rodríguez González ran unopposed and were reelected for a second term (2015–2016). They cannot be reelected further. Three vacancies became available in the Executive Committee and three candidates stood for election to cover the spots: Juan Rojo (Lafayette College), Andrae Marak (Governors State University), and Rebecca Janzen (Bluffton University). All three were elected and will serve in the period 2015–2017.

Panels. The Mexico Section organized five panels, which featured talks by a total of 19 section members. Fourteen of these members are from the Mexican academy and five from the United States academy.

Student travel grants. Due to a budget surplus carried from previous years, the Section decided to spend the totality of the surplus on supporting students attending the Puerto Rico conference. Ten grants, in the amount of US\$250 each, were given to the following section members: David Dalton, Erin Gallo, Tobin Hansen, Vasundarah Jairath, Anna Kingsley, Rafael Lemus, Mara Polgovsky, Víctor Hugo Reyna, Bruno Ríos, and Elyse Singer.

LASA Mexico awards. It is our privilege to announce the outcome of the LASA Mexico awards in the five categories, recognizing the value of contributions to Mexican studies by articles, dissertations, and books. Winners were granted US\$500 for the book and dissertation categories and US\$250 for article categories. The 2015 LASA Mexico Award for Best Dissertation: Casey Lurtz, “Exporting from Eden: Coffee, Migration and the Development of Soconusco, Mexico, 1867–1920” (defended at the University of Chicago, director, Emilio Kourí); Honorable Mention: Ana Sabau Fernández, “Revoluciones y revelaciones: Una arqueología de la imaginación política del siglo XIX en México” (defended at Princeton University, director, Gabriela Nouzeilles). The 2015 LASA Mexico Award for Best Essay in the Social Sciences: Chris Tilly, “Beyond Contratos de Protección: Strong and Weak Unionism in Mexican Retail Enterprises,” *Latin American Research Review* 49, no. 3 (2014): 176–198; Honorable Mention: Alfonso Valenzuela Aguilera and Rafael Monroy-Ortiz, “Formal/informal/ilegal: Los tres circuitos de la economía espacial en América Latina,” *Journal of Latin American Geography* 13, no. 1 (2014): 117–135. The 2015 LASA Mexico Award for Best Book in the Social Sciences:

Raphael Folsom, *The Yaquis and the Empire: Violence, Spanish Imperial Power, and Native Resilience in Colonial Mexico* (Yale University Press, 2014); Honorable Mention: Vera Candiani, *Dreaming of the Dry Land: Environmental Transformation in a Colonial Mexican City* (Stanford University Press, 2014). The 2015 LASA Mexico Award for Best Essay in the Humanities: Oswaldo Zavala (CUNY), “Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Drug War: The Critical Limits of Narconarratives,” *Comparative Literature* 66, no. 3 (2014): 340–360; Honorable Mentions: Oswaldo Estrada, “Crónica de un fracaso anunciado: Bernal Díaz y el viaje a las Hibueras,” *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos* 769/770 (2014): 104–118; Michelle Greet, “Del cubismo al muralismo: Ángel Zárraga en París”, in *Ángel Zárraga: El sentido de la creación*, ed. Evelyn Iseda Miranda et al. (Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, México, 2014), 77–92. The 2015 LASA Mexico Award for Best Book in the Humanities: Claudio Lomnitz, *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* (Zone Books, 2014); Honorable Mention: Laura Isabel Serna, *Making Cinelandia: American Films and Mexican Film Culture before the Golden Age* (Duke University Press, 2014).

Peru

Por Jo-Marie Burt, Co-chair

La reunion de la Sección Perú fue dirigida por la co-chair Jo-Marie Burt y el secretario Carlos Parodi. El segundo co-chair Guillermo Salas no participó en LASA. Setenta y cinco personas asistieron a la reunión.

Se informó sobre las actividades del año anterior, incluyendo la organización de tres sesiones en LASA y el co-auspicio de una

sesión invitada, junto con CLACSO y LASA, con Aníbal Quijano. La sección Perú presentó a Quijano un reconocimiento para su trayectoria académica. Se realizó una convocatoria abierta para las becas de viaje, que se otorgaron con prioridad a investigadores jóvenes residentes en el Perú, recién graduados, y participantes en sesiones de la sección Perú. El Comité Ejecutivo realizó un proceso de evaluación a cada propuesta para seleccionar los ganadores. Diecisiete personas se postularon a las becas. Se logró recaudar \$4,000 que fue otorgado a ocho personas: Daniel Encinas Zevallos, Joseph Feldman, Noelia Chavez, Gissella Vila, Lorena de la Puente, Piero Escobar, Diego Chalan y Carmela Chavez.

Finalmente se presentó los ganadores del concurso para el mejor libro y mejor artículo publicado sobre el Perú en 2014. El Consejo Ejecutivo lanzó la convocatoria para autonominaciones a los premios, y nombró los jurados para cada concurso: Julio Cotler y Natalia Sobrevilla (mejor libro) y Aldo Panfichi y Claudia Salazar (mejor artículo). Los ganadores: Mejor artículo: Paula Muñoz Chirinos, “An Informational Theory of Campaign Clientelism: The Case of Peru,” *Comparative Politics* (2014). Mejor libro: Jelke Boesten, *Sexual Violence during War and Peace: Gender, Power and Post-conflict Justice in Peru* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

Seguidamente se realizaron elecciones para el Consejo Ejecutivo de la sección: Eduardo Dargent fue elegido co-chair en Perú, y Jo-Marie Burt fue re-elegido co-chair en EEUU; Carlos Parodi continuó como secretario-tesorero para un segundo año. Se eligió cinco miembros del Consejo Consultivo: Natalia Sobrevilla, Cynthia

Vich, Angelina Cotler, Rocío Ferreyra y Narda Henríquez.

Durante el próximo año, está programado realizar convocatorias (a) para las cuatro sesiones de la sección para LASA2016; (b) para los premios para el mejor libro y mejor artículo sobre el Peru publicado en 2015 (para entregarse en LASA2016); y (c) para las becas de viaje para peruanos jóvenes para participar en LASA2016.

Political Institutions

By Felipe Botero, Chair

The Latin American Political Institutions Section (LAPIS) business meeting took place on Thursday, May 28, at 8 pm. About 10 to 12 people attended the meeting. We held elections for the 2015–2017 period. These are the new LAPIS officers: chair, Raúl-Sánchez-Uribarri (La Trobe University, Australia); treasurer, Julieta Suárez-Cao (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); members of the Executive Council, Moira MacKinnon (Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, Argentina), Santiago Basabe (FLACSO, Ecuador), Margarita Batlle (Universidad Externado, Colombia), and María Laura Tagina (Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina).

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, and the travel grants. As is our tradition, we awarded a prize for the best paper presented by a member of our Section at the 2014 Congress. In addition, we awarded a prize for the best book published during 2014 by a member of our Section. Furthermore, we awarded two travel grants. The following term we plan

to continue the activities of the sessions, prizes, and travel grants.

As was decided in the 2014 business meeting, no prize money is allocated to the best paper and book awards. We believe that the recognition that comes with the award is far more important than the symbolic prizes we were giving (\$100 for the best paper, \$200 for the best book, to be split among coauthors in case of multiple authorships). We decided to use those moneys to increase travel grants or create new ones. Thus we discussed the possibility of creating a third travel grant specifically for graduate students.

Travel grants were awarded to Laura Cucchi (\$600) and Raúl Sánchez-Uribarri (\$600). The committee was formed by María Laura Tagina, Mariana Caminotti, and Felipe Botero. To apply for a grant, an applicant submits their CV and fills out a form with the title and abstract of their paper, the city from which they are travelling, the amount of funding already secured, and the amount of funding pending. The committee evaluates the documents submitted and decides who will receive grants.

The Best Paper Award was given to Katherine Bersch, Sérgio Praça, and Matthew M. Taylor for their paper “State Capacity and Bureaucratic Politicization in Brazil,” presented at the 2014 Congress in Chicago. The committee was formed by Alisha Holland, Brian Palmer-Rubin, and Julieta Suárez-Cao. 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 Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro for *Curbing Clientelism in Argentina*. The committee was formed by Jennifer Pribble, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, and Raúl Sánchez-Uribarri. 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

Five section members attended the 2015 business meeting. We have not yet held elections for 2015. Our current (outdated) slate of officers is as follows: chair, Sarah Buck Kachaluba (2013–2015); secretary-treasurer, Brooke Wooldridge (2013–2015); council members, Kaydee McCann (2014–2016), Tracy North (2014–2016), Jennifer Osorio (2014–2016), and Maria Estorino (2013–2015). We need to hold elections for chair, secretary-treasurer and one council member position. Gayle Williams volunteered to run the elections.

The activities of the group have been centered on various aspects of open access (OA) scholarship and publishing. The group is going to explore ways in which open access can be discussed and advocated within the LASA community. We discussed some possible panel topics for 2016; here, again, open access is a main theme. We are exploring the possibility of inviting researchers who have published in OA to talk about their experiences with this type of publishing.

Another idea we have been discussing for the past few years is a panel on archives.

We continue to discuss, brainstorm, and flesh out ideas. We continue to support the idea so want to keep it on the radar for a possible future conference.

The section members also discussed raising awareness of the section within the Latin American librarian community to bolster participation.

At LASA2015 the Section sponsored the workshop “Bridging Scholarly Divides: Open Access Publishing in Latin American Studies,” organized by Pamela M. Graham (Columbia University). The panel was well attended and the discussion was wide-ranging and informative. Examples of Latin American publishers who are exploring the benefits of open access (OA) publishing were enlightening. In particular, the example of the Mexican OA journal *Problemas del Desarrollo* linking journal policy with university (UNAM policy) with government policy is a potential model for other countries. Most journal publishing in Latin America is done through openly accessible journals, not through commercial publishers. Platforms and portals such as SciELO and Redalyc have standardized publishing and promote a higher quality of scholarship. There was also discussion about how to make members of LASA more aware of OA publishing and that as an organization, LASA does not have a public position or statement on OA.

Sexualities Studies

By Maja Horn, Co-chair

The Sexualities Studies Section business meeting took place as scheduled on May 28 with a total of 16 members present. During our business meeting we elected by unanimous vote two new co-chairs for the

upcoming year: Claudia Salazar (Sarah Lawrence College) and Marcos Wasem (Purdue University). Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel (Rutgers) will continue on for a second year as secretary-treasurer.

The jurors for the Sylvia Molloy and Carlos Monsiváis essay prizes did not receive sufficient entries to award section prizes this year. We elected new jurors for both prizes for the upcoming year. The jurors for the Monsiváis prize for best peer-reviewed article in the social sciences are James Green and Carson Morris. The jurors for the Molloy prize for best peer-reviewed article in the humanities are Carlos Riobó, Vincent Cervantes, and Dara Goldman.

Based on membership our Section was allowed to organize two panels. Our panel “New Critical Frameworks for the Queer Caribbean” took place as planned; however, our second panel, organized by section co-chair Laura Arnés, had to be cancelled because various Latin American participants did not receive sufficient funding from LASA to attend the Congress in Puerto Rico.

The Section also organized a joint reception with the Latino Studies and Haiti/Dominican Republic Sections on Friday, May 29, from 9 to 10:30 pm.

The Section and the new co-chairs are planning on organizing a pre-conference meeting for LASA2016 in New York.

Southern Cone Studies

By Fernando A. Blanco, Chair, and Cristián Opazo, Treasurer

The Section held elections for the treasurer position. Cristián Opazo (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) was elected for the 2015–2016 term. Because the current chair, Fernando Blanco, was elected last October, he was reconfirmed as chair for the 2015–2016 term.

The Section conferred two book awards, one in the humanities and one in social sciences. Laura Demaría's book *Buenos Aires y las provincias: Relatos para desarmar* (Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 2014) won the prize in the humanities. Natalia Milanesio's book *Workers Go Shopping in Argentina: The Rise of Popular Consumer Culture* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2013) won the prize in social sciences. Three books were awarded honorable mention: in humanities, Gisela Heffes, *Políticas de la destrucción / Poéticas de la preservación: Apuntes para una lectura (eco)-crítica del medio ambiente en América Latina* (Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 2013), and Mariano Siskind, *Cosmopolitan Desires: Global Modernity and World Literatures in Latin America* (Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 2014); in social sciences: Paula Abal Medina, *Ser sólo un número más: Trabajadores jóvenes, grandes empresas y activismos sindicales en la Argentina actual* (Buenos Aires: Biblos, 2014).

Fifty-two members attended the business meeting. The chair and the former treasurer Gloria Medina-Sancho reported that we have reached a total number of 221 members (May), increasing our section numbers by 45 new members.

In other news, there is a new journal online: *Conversaciones del Cono Sur*, <https://conosurconversaciones.wordpress.com> (editor: Leila Gómez; review editor, Laura Demaría; assistant editor, Victoria Garrett; Web designer, Katherine Karr-Cornejo).

Our first symposium will take place in Chile, August 4–7, 2015, with three keynote speakers (Jon Beasley-Murray, Francine Masiello, and Mabel Moraña), 350 accepted proposals, six featured panels, several roundtables, and one workshop on journal policies in the field of the arts and humanities.

Two more symposia are planned, in Montevideo, 2017, and Buenos Aires, 2019. Additionally, three publications will result from the symposium proceedings.

According to the Section's number of members, four featured panels will be organized for LASA2016 in New York City.

A graduate student elected by the Section will serve as liaison between senior and junior colleagues. James Staig (University of Texas) will be the first to fulfill this role.

Subnational Politics and Society

By Lucas González and Eduardo Moncada, Co-chairs

Over the course of the last year the Section undertook a number of activities. The first major activity was to rename the Section, which was originally called the Section on Decentralization and Subnational Politics. The change in name was discussed and approved during the 2014 business meeting, where nearly a dozen participants

concurred that the name change would better reflect the current membership's broad range of theoretical and empirical interests while also signaling to potential members carrying out research with a subnational element the value of becoming a member of the Section. The Section was pleased to provide Dr. Rigoberto Soria Romo of the Universidad de Guadalajara with a travel award to support his participation in the 2015 LASA International Congress in Puerto Rico, where he presented a paper entitled "An Estimate of the Costs of Violence and Insecurity in the States of Mexico." Finally, during the 2015 business meeting nearly a dozen section members discussed ways to increase the membership, including the use of social media.

Venezuelan Studies

By Alejandro Velasco, Secretary-Treasurer, and Javier Guerrero, Chair

Much of the meeting was devoted to discussing economic difficulties in Venezuela that have dramatically reduced how many scholars from Venezuela can participate in LASA. Javier Guerrero proposed using the Section's budget to supplement travel grantees as much as possible, as well as to raise private funds to enable their participation. Those present verbally supported the proposal in principle, though no formal vote was taken. The plenary voted on two other proposals: (1) to expand the eligibility of the Fernando Coronil Book Award to include books published by non-LASA members (currently only books published by LASA members are eligible); and (2) to allow Portuguese-language books on Venezuela to enter the competition. The first proposal passed by a hand vote of 13 in favor, 7

against, and 8 voting for an amended proposal. On the second proposal, attendees decided to table the proposal and take it up at a future meeting. A minor change was approved by acclamation: in future awards, winners will have both their LASA memberships and their Venezuelan Studies Section dues covered for two years (currently LASA membership is covered). The discussion then turned to reprising LASA-SVS in Venezuela in 2016. The plenary settled on November 2016 by acclamation; a planning committee headed by Vicente Lecuna will be convened. Guerrero also read extensively from a three-page letter submitted by section member Verónica Zubillaga and signed by seven Venezuela-based professors, outlining grave difficulties facing Venezuelan academics and the university system more broadly. The letter raised three main points: (1) challenges to university autonomy and admission standards; (2) major deficiencies in public university budgets; (3) exceedingly low faculty salaries that are dropping further due to inflation and currency exchange controls, impeding research and development. Attendees urged supporting the letter as a section.

Secretary-Treasurer Alejandro Velasco then read the results of the section elections. Forty-two members voted in online balloting hosted by LASA. Vicente Lecuna ran unopposed for the position of Secretary-Treasurer, while seven candidates ran for four open spots in the Council, with the results as follow: Raul Sánchez Urribarri (Venezuelan, resident outside Venezuela), Cecilia Rodríguez Lehmann (resident in Venezuela), Iria Puyosa (resident in Venezuela), Nathalie Bouzaglo (resident outside Venezuela).

To conclude the meeting, Vicente Lecuna read the citation for the winning Best Paper in Humanities, which was presented to Charles Briggs for his article “Dear Dr. Freud” published in *Cultural Anthropology* (May 2014). Guillermo Guzmán read the citation for Best Paper in the Social Sciences, awarded to “*Chismosas and Alcahuetas: Being the Mother of an Empistolado within the Everyday Armed Violence of a Caracas barrio*,” by Verónica Zubillaga, Manuel Llorens, and John Souto, published in the edited collection *Violence at the Urban Margins* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Guzmán also read a citation for Gabriel Hetland’s article “The Crooked Line: From Populist Mobilization to Participatory Democracy in Chávez-Era Venezuela,” which received honorable mention in the Social Sciences category, and appeared in *Qualitative Sociology* (December 2014). All winners will receive two years of LASA and SVS membership. (Awardees for the Social Science article will share the award.)

Visual Culture

By Lisa Blackmore, Incoming Chair

The Visual Culture Section had a very productive LASA2015. Prior to the business meeting the Section conducted its elections for the coming period, through which the members elected Lisa Blackmore as chair, Kevin Coleman as vice chair, Joaquin Barriendos Rodríguez and Miriam Haddu as members of the council, and Anna Kingsley as secretary-treasurer. The business meeting also provided an opportunity for a quorum of members to approve the move to create a prize to celebrate the work of visual culture scholars. The council will work to implement this as soon as possible. A

further priority is to establish a topic for sponsored panels at LASA2016 and to continue to create outreach and social events during the Congress to provide opportunities for members to meet and to share their research.

This year the council organized a very well-attended double event with the local artist-run space Beta Local, in San Juan. More than 20 members of the Section, whose current membership is set at 112, met at the space to talk about their research and to hear the directors of Beta Local talk about their research, art practice residencies, and outreach activities in the community, and also how they interact with academia. This event was followed by the Section’s presence at the monthly community dinner that raises funds for Beta Local activities.

At the Congress, the Section sponsored two well-attended panels: the first, “Dis/placed Visualities,” considered archival photographs as a means of making histories of corporate and state violence visible and knowable, and contemporary art strategies that remediate violent histories to make them accessible to us today. The second panel examined the topic “Negotiating Identity at the Art Museum in Latin America” by charting the histories of different institutions in the region, their emplacement in urban landscapes and parks, the role of specific individuals in crafting the projects, and their interface with the state. ■