

Elections 2016: Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates: two candidates for vice president and six candidates for three open positions on the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2017, as president from June 1, 2017, to May 31, 2018, and as past president from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2018.

Nominees for Vice President

Raul L. Madrid
University of Texas at Austin

Aldo Panfichi Huamán
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Nominees for Executive Council

Jo-Marie Burt
George Mason University

Eduardo Dargent Bocanegra
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Claudia Ferman
University of Richmond

Jane Landers
Vanderbilt University

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea
University of Oxford

Daniela Spenser
CIESAS/Mexico City

The Candidates

Raúl L. Madrid

Raúl L. Madrid es profesor en el Departamento de Gobierno de la Universidad de Texas en Austin, donde está afiliado con el Instituto Lozano Long de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LLILAS) y el Centro de Estudios México-Americanos (CMAS). Raúl ha sido profesor de la Universidad de Texas-Austin desde 1999. Recibió su BA (1985) en la Universidad de Yale y su MA (1995) y Ph.D. (1999) en la Universidad de Stanford.

Antes de cursar estudios de posgrado, él se desempeñó como voluntario del Cuerpo de Paz en zonas rurales de Costa Rica y como analista en el Centro de Investigaciones para Inversiones Con Responsabilidad Social en Washington, DC.

Actualmente él trabaja en un libro sobre los orígenes de la democracia en América Latina basado en gran parte en fuentes de archivo, incluidos los textos de los debates legislativos sobre las reformas, periódicos de la época, y cartas y memorias de los participantes claves. La investigación trata de explicar el surgimiento de leyes que aseguraron elecciones razonablemente libres y justas en América Latina a finales del siglo 19 y principios del siglo 20. Sus libros anteriores exploraron el ascenso de los partidos indígenas en los países andinos, el desempeño de los gobiernos de izquierda en América Latina, y la privatización de la seguridad social en la región. Su investigación es interdisciplinaria por naturaleza, basándose en el trabajo de los historiadores sobre los orígenes de la democracia, el trabajo de antropólogos y sociólogos en áreas de política indígena y el trabajo de economistas en el tema de la privatización de las pensiones. Ha llevado a cabo investigaciones de campo en

Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, México, Perú y Uruguay.

Es el autor de *The Rise of Ethnic Politics in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) y *Retiring the State: The Politics of Pension Privatization in Latin America and Beyond* (Stanford, 2003) y es co-editor de *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings* (Cambridge, 2010). También es autor de *Overexposed: U.S. Banks Confront the Third World Debt Crisis* (Westview, 1992) y es co-autor de *U.S. Arms Exports: Policies and Contractors* (Ballinger, 1988). Sus artículos han aparecido en *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Studies*, y *World Politics*, entre otras revistas. Ha recibido becas de investigación de la National Science Foundation y el Institute for the Study of World Politics, así como de la Universidad de Stanford y la Universidad de Texas en Austin.

Raúl Madrid ha sido miembro activo durante muchos años en la Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos, participando en todos los congresos de LASA celebrado en las últimas dos décadas. Se desempeñó como Co-coordinador del Programa del Congreso de LASA 2014 en Chicago. También sirvió como editor asociado de LARR (2004–2006) y como miembro del comité de selección del Premio Literario Bryce Wood (2007). Fue miembro del consejo asesor del Archivo Electrónico de Datos Latinoamericanos (2008–2012) y del Proyecto de Recursos de Investigación Latinoamericanista (2008–2014).

Además de su trabajo de enseñanza y responsabilidades administrativas, Raúl ha

supervisado o co-supervisado 15 disertaciones de doctorado en U.T. Austin, y se ha desempeñado como miembro de otro 35 comités de doctorado. También ha supervisado 20 tesis de maestría y 17 de tesis de licenciatura. En 2012, ganó el primer premio anual de profesor sobresaliente otorgado por los estudiantes de postgrado del Departamento de Gobierno de la Universidad de Texas en Austin.

Madrid Statement

LASA es una gran asociación y en los últimos cincuenta años ha crecido en forma significativa. Sin embargo, podemos aún hacer mucho para mejorarla. En los próximos años LASA debe revitalizar sus congresos, aumentar sus recursos tecnológicos, ampliar y diversificar aún más su base de socios, y ofrecerles a éstos más oportunidades de desarrollo profesional.

Nuestros congresos son la función más importante de LASA y tenemos que asegurarnos que sigan siendo relevantes para académicos establecidos e investigadores que están comenzando sus carreras. Debemos esforzarnos para atraer a nuestros congresos a los intelectuales más prominentes de la región. Hay que incrementar las becas del viaje de modo que LASA pueda permanecer abierta a nuevas ideas y accesible a todos. Es necesario también promover paneles, talleres e iniciativas de investigación interdisciplinaria para que nuestros socios sean expuestos a ideas y metodologías fuera de sus disciplinas.

Es importante también expandir la membresía de LASA, acercándonos a académicos en disciplinas y áreas que últimamente no han estado bien representadas: por ejemplo, los estudios del Caribe, economía, lingüística, y las ciencias de la información. Pero la diversidad

disciplinaria no basta si no logramos reafirmar y expandir los logros alcanzados hasta ahora para atraer investigadores de grupos sub-representados: estudiantes, académicos independientes y en posiciones sin permanencia, e intelectuales indígenas y afrolatinos.

LASA también debe tratar de aumentar sus miembros fuera de los Estados Unidos, especialmente en América Latina, pero también en Europa y Asia. Debemos continuar organizando algunos de nuestros congresos fuera de los Estados Unidos lo que nos ayuda a aumentar nuestra visibilidad y presencia en el extranjero y a afianzar la composición internacional de nuestra membresía.

LASA también necesita expandir las actividades académicas que realiza entre congresos. Debemos robustecer y difundir mejor las actividades de las secciones de LASA y asignar recursos para las actividades que ellas patrocinen. Es necesario ampliar el uso de las redes sociales para mantener a nuestros miembros informados e interesados en las actividades de la asociación. A través de las redes, LASA puede llegar a ser un puente para una nueva generación de investigadores que trabaja en aislamiento de otras disciplinas y sin posibilidad de entablar colaboraciones internacionales.

LASA debiera también crear una base de datos con las áreas de especialización de sus socios que sea accesible a las fundaciones, centros de investigación, y medios de comunicación. Nuestros miembros constituyen la base del liderazgo intelectual de la región y LASA debe jugar un mayor rol promoviendo sus competencias académicas.

LASA también puede hacer más en términos del desarrollo profesional de sus

afiliados. Podemos construir una base de datos para facilitar la búsqueda de puestos de trabajo y becas para nuestros miembros. Debemos ampliar el número de talleres sobre publicación e investigación que se ofrecen durante los congresos y se debe crear un programa de mentores para apoyar a los investigadores jóvenes. Por último, LASA también podría ampliar el número de opciones de publicación disponibles para los latinoamericanistas, patrocinando la creación de nuevas revistas electrónicas.

Obviamente, muchas de estas actividades cuestan dinero. Por ello, debemos seguir trabajando para expandir la dotación de LASA y obtener subvenciones especiales. También tenemos que buscar la manera de ser aún más eficientes. LASA tiene la suerte de contar con personal administrativo emprendedor e infatigable, quienes constantemente buscan formas de ahorrar recursos. Ejemplo claro de ello es la increíble App del programa que LASA ha diseñado para los últimos congresos. LASA también tiene la suerte de tener una membresía brillante y comprometida que está generando continuamente nuevas ideas para fortalecer nuestra misión. Trabajando juntos podemos construir una asociación aún más vibrante, inclusiva y productiva la que pueda ayudar a estimular el surgimiento de una generación futura de intelectuales, investigadores y activistas comprometidos con la región.

Aldo Panfichi Huamán

Aldo Panfichi Huamán is professor of sociology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), and president of the 2017 Centennial Commission of that institution. He has a PhD in sociology from the New School for Social Research and an MA and BA in social sciences with concentration in sociology from the PUCP. He has lived for four years in Santiago de Chile and six years in the United States. He has been a visiting scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, a visiting professor at the Universidad del País Vasco, Program on International Migration, in Spain, and a guest lecturer at various universities in Latin America.

Dr. Panfichi's research interests include urban politics and political representation, social movements and conflicts, and sports and society. He has published over 50 books, book chapters and articles in publications in Latin America, the United States, and Europe. He is active in various national and international academic networks, including FLACSO and CLACSO as well as LASA, and his work has often taken a regional perspective. He has participated in comparative research projects with colleagues at universities and academic centers in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela, the United States, Holland, and the United Kingdom.

His recent publications include: "Formas emergentes de representación política en el Perú del siglo XXI," in Silvia Gómez Tagle, ed., *Alternativas para la democracia en América Latina* (México: El Colegio de México, 2015); "Crecimiento y exclusión: La calidad de la democracia en Perú," in Giorgio Alberti, ed., *Movimientos e instituciones y la calidad de la democracia:*

Análisis de casos en América Latina y la Unión Europea (Barcelona: Octaedro Editorial, 2014, with Mariana Alvarado); *Lima, siglo XX: Cultura, socialización y cambio*, coeditor, with Carlos Aguirre (PUCP 2013); "Contentious Representation and Its Impact in Contemporary Peru," in John Crabtree, ed., *Fractured Politics: Peruvian Democracy Past and Present* (University of London, 2011); "Identity and Rivalry: The Football Clubs and Barras Bravas in Peru," in Rory Miller and Liz Crolley, eds., *Football in the Americas: Fútbol, Futebol, Soccer* (University of London, 2007, with Jorge Thieroldt); *La disputa por la construcción democrática en América Latina*, coeditor with Evelina Dagnino and Alberto Olvera (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2006), and *Sociedad civil, esfera pública y democratización en América Latina*, vol. 1: *Andes y Cono Sur* [Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Perú], coordinador (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2003).

Dr. Panfichi also has broad experience in teaching and university governance, having been chair of the Social Science Department, president of the Center for Research in Sociology, Economics, Politics and Anthropology (CISEPA), and coordinator of the Master's Program in Political Science, all at the PUCP. He was also director of the Network for the Development of the Social Sciences in Peru, involving the Universidad del Pacífico, PUCP, and the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos. In 2015 the Peruvian Ministry of Culture invited him to form part of the Jury for the prestigious Premio Nacional de Cultura. He appears frequently on Peruvian television, radio, and in print media, where he is called upon to give scholarly opinions on social, political, and cultural issues. In addition to his academic work and media presence, he has been a consultant to various foundations and development

agencies, including the Latin American Program of the Open Society Foundation and the Andean and Southern Cone Office of the Ford Foundation.

He has been an active member of LASA since his graduate student days and has participated on panels and in round tables in at least ten international Congresses. Since 2005 he has served on a number of LASA committees, including being chair of the Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship and Dissertation committees, co-chair of the selection committee for the Flora Tristan Book Prize (Peru Section), member of the Bryce Wood Award Committee for best book published on Latin America, and track chair for "Social Movements and Civil Society in Latin America."

Panfichi Statement

I have been a member of LASA since my graduate student days in the early 1990s, and have participated actively in several commissions and sections as well as in most of the international Congresses since that time. In this period, I have witnessed not only the amazing growth and diversity in LASA membership but also the globalization of the study of Latin America and the Caribbean in universities and research centers that I have had the fortune to visit around the world.

As a Latin American, native of Peru and the Andes, it fills me with satisfaction to see this community grow so far beyond its origins 50 years ago, in U.S.-based area studies centers and exchange programs. It is exciting to see new generations of Latin Americans involved in collaborative research with colleagues from neighboring countries and from North America, but also from as far away as China and Japan.

While the expansion of LASA is seen most graphically in our now-annual Congresses,

behind that lies the hard work of many people all year round. LASA members from different generations, disciplines, and origins contribute to making this more than just a professional association and more of a community, with a shared identity despite our differences. Members of LASA have been my professors, study partners and coauthors, students, and former students. But beyond those LASA members who each of us personally know, I think we all consider ourselves colleagues in the ongoing effort to understand and contribute to this beautiful and complex region.

My vision of LASA in the years ahead is as an association that will continue to promote multidisciplinary, transnational, and multicultural exchanges. Given the challenges facing all of our countries today, I hope to see further involvement by colleagues in the natural sciences and environmentalism. Our region faces threats to its biodiversity, its land and water supplies, and to its many native and indigenous peoples whose ancestral lands and lifestyles are at risk. In many parts of our countries, human rights and civil liberties remain a challenge to guarantee for all. When I think of LASA, I think of people who are not only scholars but also progressives in the broadest sense, who speak out about injustices and work to change these societies.

Given my own vantage point, working in a Latin American university, I also believe that it is necessary for LASA to incorporate more colleagues from the different countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean, especially younger scholars and public university faculty who do not have the resources to travel to the United States or Europe with ease. This includes new generations of Cubans, who despite recent changes in their relations

with the U.S. still find it difficult to travel for scholarly purposes. The universities in our region have many talented scholars and students eager to join an organization like ours as a way of sharing their own work and broadening their horizons. In order to make this possible, I believe it is essential to hold more LASA meetings in our region. I also consider it fundamental to expand participation in LASA book fairs to more Latin American university and professional presses, and to promote more regional and global distribution of our publications.

As LASA prepares to celebrate a half century of promoting academic and cultural exchange across the Americas and beyond, it would be an honor for me to help expand and deepen our membership and our commitment to progressive change in the years ahead.

Jo-Marie Burt

Jo-Marie Burt is associate professor of political science at George Mason University, where she has taught since 2000. For the past four years she has served as director of Latin American studies at GMU. Between 2010 and 2014, she was codirector of the Center for Global Studies, and between 2007 and 2009, she was associate chair for undergraduate studies at the Department of Public and International Affairs. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), where she engages in research-based advocacy about human rights and transitional justice in the region. She is currently serving a second term as co-chair of the Peru Section of LASA, and she is an individual member of the Latin American Transitional Justice Network.

Dr. Burt's early research focused on state and insurgent violence in Peru, and civil

society responses to violence and violent actors. This was the subject of her 2007 book *Silencing Civil Society: Political Violence and the Authoritarian State in Peru* (Palgrave Macmillan), which received an Honorable Mention for the WOLA-Duke Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America, and which was published in Spanish as *Violencia y autoritarismo en el Perú: Bajo la sombra de Sendero y la dictadura de Fujimori* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2009; 2nd expanded edition, 2011). She is also coeditor of *Politics in the Andes: Identity, Conflict, Reform* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004).

Currently, Dr. Burt's research focuses on human rights, transitional justice, and historical memory. She has been an international observer to the trials of former heads of state Alberto Fujimori in Peru and Efraín Ríos Montt in Guatemala and has written extensively in scholarly and journalistic outlets about these proceedings and their significance locally and globally. Dr. Burt directs an ongoing research project monitoring domestic prosecutions of human rights violations in Peru, which was launched with support from the LASA Otros Saberes Initiative. She is also a consultant on a two-year project with the Due Process of Law Foundation working with practitioners of transitional justice in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Peru, and developing the research and advocacy capacity of civil society organizations engaged in strategic litigation for grave crimes cases. Dr. Burt is completing a manuscript entitled *Guilty as Charged: The Fujimori Trial and Its Significance for Global Justice*, and she is working on another manuscript that traces transitional justice efforts in Peru and Guatemala, exploring the conditions that made high-profile trials like the Fujimori and Ríos Montt trials possible, as well as the

challenges of overcoming impunity in postconflict societies.

Dr. Burt has received grants and fellowships from Open Society Foundations, the United States Institute of Peace, the Aspen Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, the Latin American Studies Association Otros Saberes Initiative, the Tinker Foundation, the Institute for the Study of World Politics, and the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. In 1988–1989, she was an International Human Rights Fellow of the Institute for International Education/Ford Foundation and worked at the Servicio Paz y Justicia in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she collaborated with and documented the campaign to overturn the 1986 amnesty law. In 2006, she was a Fulbright scholar at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP). In 2010, she returned to the PUCP as the Alberto Flores Galindo Visiting Professor at the Department of Social Sciences and taught a course on comparative transitional justice processes.

Dr. Burt has commented frequently on Latin American politics for various national and international news media, including BBC World News, CNN, the *New York Times*, *Time*, the *Washington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, Al Jazeera, *Democracy Now*, *El País*, and Pacifica Radio, as well as print and electronic media in several Latin American countries. She has authored articles in the *Nation*, the *Huffington Post*, *Truth-Out*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *Open Democracy*, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, and in Peruvian newspapers such as *La República*, *El Comercio*, and *Diario 16*, among others.

Between 1995 and 2000, Dr. Burt was associated editor and then editor of the English-language magazine, *NACLA*

Report on the Americas. In 2002 and 2003, she was a researcher for the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She has been an expert witness for human rights cases before the Peruvian courts as well as the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. Dr. Burt is a member of the Advisory Board of the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) in Peru and the International Advisory Board of the Luz Ibarburu Observatory for Human Rights Investigations in Uruguay. In 2011, the Government of Peru recognized Dr. Burt with the Award in Merit, in the Grade of Grand Official, for Distinguished Service in Defense of Democracy, Rule of Law, and the Promotion of Human Rights in Peru. She holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

Burt Statement

I'm honored to have been invited to be a candidate for the LASA Executive Council. I have been a member of LASA since 1991, when I was a graduate student. LASA has been critical to my professional development, but not only as a space to present new research, to learn about the research of colleagues, and to network. It is all these things, but it is far more: LASA is an epistemic community that has helped me, and scholars and practitioners across the globe, connect to each other and maintain critical, vibrant dialogues about the field of Latin American studies, to think critically about our role as researchers and how we can make our research relevant in socially significant ways, and to develop collaborations that are productive and meaningful.

LASA is important to me because it actively promotes the production of research of consequence, research with real social significance, and it has done so by developing innovative initiatives that have benefited hundreds of its members, such as

the Special Projects Funds, the Otros Saberes Initiative, and travel grants to facilitate broad participation in the annual Congress. In my case, I was the recipient of an Otros Saberes grant, which supported a collaborative research project I developed with the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos in Peru. We developed this project in response to a growing concern that despite some very important transitional justice successes—including the 2009 conviction of former president of Peru Alberto Fujimori for human rights violations—judicial efforts in other grave crimes cases were stumbling. No one was collecting systematic data about the status of these cases. The Human Rights Trials in Peru Project developed a database to track and monitor human rights prosecutions in order to document the scope of accountability efforts in postconflict Peru, detect trends, and identify problem areas around which advocacy could be focused. The project also monitors trials in specific cases, continues its advocacy work, and has published articles in numerous print and online media outlets in Peru and internationally.

As a member of the LASA Executive Council, I would seek to strengthen and expand initiatives such as Otros Saberes. Such programs provide unique opportunities for collaborative research and for building connections between scholars and activist and practitioner communities. Otros Saberes in particular is critical in recognizing, developing, and incorporating competencies and knowledges that exist beyond traditional academic settings, and creating opportunities for our members to produce actionable research and more integrated theoretical understandings of complex social realities.

As a member of the Executive Council, I would also endeavor to strengthen LASA's existing partnerships, and develop new ones, with universities, think tanks, and academic associations based in Latin America. Such partnerships can generate new opportunities for meaningful research and collaboration. I would focus on reaching out to new constituencies, particularly the new generations of Latin American students. Sustaining such partnerships requires generating ways of interacting and engaging in intellectual exchanges beyond the annual meeting. Technology could be put to more effective use in this regard to construct meaningful networks and collaborations. For example, LASA could develop a series of thematic working groups that engage in more structured exchanges and research collaborations in an ongoing way throughout the year.

I am currently serving my second term as co-chair of the Peru section. I have expanded the use of new social media to generate new members and facilitate section communications, and steered fundraising efforts to fund travel of more young researchers and graduate students to attend the annual Congress. It would be an honor to continue serving LASA as a member of the Executive Council.

Eduardo Dargent Bocanegra

Eduardo Dargent (Lima, 1974) es profesor asociado de ciencia política y director de la Maestría de Ciencia Política en la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Estudio derecho en la PUCP (BA), filosofía política en la Universidad de York, UK (MA) y tiene un PhD en gobierno (ciencia política) en la Universidad de Texas en Austin. En su tesis doctoral estudia la fortaleza y permanencia de las tecnocracias

económicas en Colombia y Perú, contrastando esta mayor solidez con la relativa debilidad de las tecnocracias en salud de ambos países. El libro *Technocracy and Democracy in Latin America: The Experts Running Government* (Cambridge University Press) basado en dicha tesis fue publicado en enero de 2015.

Inició su carrera como investigador en la Comisión Andina de Juristas (2000–2001), ONG especializada en justicia y derechos humanos en la región andina. Del 2003 al 2004 fue abogado del Estado en la Procuraduría Ad-Hoc para el Caso Fujimori-Montesinos. Ha escrito los libros *Demócratas precarios: Elites y debilidad democrática en el Perú y América Latina* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2009), *El Estado en el Perú: Una agenda de investigación* (Escuela de Gobierno y Políticas Públicas PUCP, 2013) y el ya mencionado *Technocracy and Democracy*. Asimismo, ha publicado artículos en revistas como *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of Politics in Latin America* y *Revista de Ciencia Política*, entre otras, y en una serie de volúmenes editados, el más reciente *Perú in Theory* (Paulo Drinot, ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

En la actualidad es co-presidente de la Sección Perú de LASA y miembro del Comité Ejecutivo (2015–2017) de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política (ALACIP). Asimismo, es miembro del Consejo Editorial de la Revista *Política y Gobierno* del Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). Sus temas de investigación son la política de las políticas públicas, el Estado, economía política y partidos políticos. Actualmente viene desarrollando una investigación comparada sobre la universidad pública en la región Andina.

Dargent Statement

Descubrí la importancia de los estudios latinoamericanos en mis primeros años de estudio en la Pontificia universidad Católica del Perú donde muchos cursos situaban el caso peruano en un contexto regional más amplio. Luego, en la Comisión Andina de Juristas, ONG especializada en temas de justicia y derechos humanos, confirmé este interés en los estudios regionales. Situar el Perú en el contexto histórico, social y político de América Latina ha estado en el centro de mi trabajo desde entonces. Por ello, ser elegido miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de LASA, una institución que tiene por objetivo fomentar el estudio de la región y el diálogo interdisciplinario entre académicos y activistas, sería un honor que asumiría con gran responsabilidad.

Aposté por la Universidad de Texas en Austin para realizar mis estudios doctorales en ciencia política precisamente por la fortaleza de su programa en política comparada, su amplia comunidad de expertos en América Latina y sus recursos para el estudio de la región. Además de la dimensión académica, en esta universidad existe un amplio diálogo entre alumnos, profesores, activistas y en general cualquier interesado en la región, que resultó muy positivo en mi formación. LASA es un espacio central para promover este tipo de diálogo en forma mucho más amplia.

He tenido en estos años la suerte de conocer diversas comunidades de investigación en temas latinoamericanos y valoro lo que estas asociaciones aportan a nuestro trabajo y la sociedad. Además de LASA, soy miembro de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política y parte de su Comité Ejecutivo. Del mismo modo, participo desde su inicio en la Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política en América Latina (REPAL). Este rico diálogo

interdisciplinario, que evita los excesos y limitaciones de la especialización, es uno de los aspectos que más valoro en el trabajo académico y de mi pertenencia a LASA.

En mi propio trabajo he logrado realizar estudios a profundidad sobre mi país y Colombia. He desarrollado contactos y amistades con académicas y académicos de ese país y más recientemente también en Chile. Actualmente estoy realizando dos investigaciones comparadas, una sobre la universidad pública en la Región Andina y otra más acotada sobre el impacto diferenciado del boom de recursos en actividades ilegales en Bolivia y Perú. Asimismo, conozco de cerca el trabajo de ONG's vinculadas al tema de la democracia y los derechos humanos, temas centrales para nuestra asociación.

Como miembro del comité organizador, pude contribuir al buen desarrollo de la Octava Conferencia de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política (ALACIP), llevado a cabo en la Pontificia Universidad Católica el año pasado. Uno de mis intereses de participar en el Comité Ejecutivo de LASA es colaborar con el éxito de LASA 2017 en Lima. Considero que nuestra asociación tiene mucho que ganar al profundizar su presencia en la región y realizar algunas de nuestras conferencias en universidades de América Latina es una forma de lograrlo.

Aspiro desde el Comité Ejecutivo de LASA a seguir contribuyendo a esta construcción de redes y diálogo amplio entre diversos actores de la región. Estaría feliz de apoyar en este esfuerzo.

Claudia Ferman

I hold a joint appointment at the Department of Latin American, Latino and Iberian Studies, and the Film Studies Interdisciplinary Program at the University of Richmond. I studied literature at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and have a doctorate degree in Latin American literature from Arizona State University. I have developed a career as a documentarian that combines my studies of literature and culture with the film medium. My research has mainly focused on Central American literature as well as on current trends in Latin American literature and cinema, especially documentary cinema. I have produced and directed documentaries examining the relations between print writing, digital culture, and film, which I call "videolits." These films concern the writings of Ernesto Cardenal (Nicaragua), Rigoberta Menchú (Guatemala), Alberto Fuguet and Sergio Gómez (Chile), Mariana Enríquez (Argentina), and Leonardo Padura and Pedro Juan Gutiérrez (Cuba). These documentaries, for which I have received several recognitions, have been shown at numerous venues: festivals, museums, congresses, classrooms, and special functions in Latin America and the United States. I am currently working on a film about Roberto Bolaño's oeuvre. Among other distinctions, I have been awarded fellowships from Fulbright-Hays Program, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities at different points in my career.

At the University of Richmond, I contributed to the creation of the Department of Latin American and Iberian Studies (formerly the Spanish Section of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department), and I was its first chair. I was also instrumental in the creation of the Interdisciplinary Film Studies Program at

the University of Richmond, which has experienced a continuous growth since its inception. I created, and directed for many years, a Summer Abroad Program in Cordoba City, Argentina, which is still an innovative and quite healthy program. I have taught courses and seminars on Latin American literature and film, some of which were coordinated with university and community-wide events. Among these are: "Political Action and Latin American Indigenous Film"; "Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll: Contemporary Writing in Latin America"; "Constructions of Identity," a National Endowment-sponsored seminar and lecture series; "Latin America Through Film"; "2001: Truth in the Lens," an International Symposium and Film Festival; and "Latin American Film / Latin America as Subject of Film," a seminar and film series sponsored by the Tucker-Boatwright Festival of the Arts and NEH.

As a LASA member, I was cofounder of the Film Studies Section (2002) and chaired the section twice. I have participated in this section up until the present. I have organized sessions and roundtables, presented papers and workshops at the LASA Congresses, served in the LASA Media Award Committee, and edited a dossier on Latin American film in the *LASA Forum*. Since 2003, I have been directing and programming the LASA Film Festival, which takes place concurrently with the Congress. Before becoming LASA Film Festival director, I was awarded the LASA Award for Merit in film three times for my documentary series "videolits." My work organizing the LASA festival has been prompted by the conviction that the digital revolution has inaugurated forms of intellectual production, as well as means for its transmission and dissemination of great democratic potential and educational power. Since the first edition I organized (Las Vegas), the LASA Festival has been

oriented toward building bridges between Latin American audiovisual production, academic activity, and the university classroom. The festival has consistently shown the many social, environmental, ethnical, cultural, and political complexities of the region through well-researched documentation and high-quality filmmaking, and has been able to present not only emergent social struggles and the new trends in the work of community organizations, but also the direct testimony of some of its protagonists. When possible, directors, community organizers, and protagonists have attended the festival in connection with the presentation of their productions. The LASA Film Festival has consistently grown in quality and relevance, and today it constitutes an integral part of LASA Congresses.

Ferman Statement

LASA has been the professional organization in which I have always felt represented and into which, almost exclusively, I have devoted my efforts and conducted my professional activity. LASA is a unique organization in many senses, since interdisciplinarity is not its enunciated ideal but an intrinsic part of its constitution. Congress participants are not only academics but also activists, indigenous organizations, film directors, community organizers, graduate students, musicians, librarians, artists, politicians, poets, writers, journalists, editors, representatives of academic and nonacademic presses and foundations, etc., coming from everywhere in the Americas as well as from Europe, and other parts of the world. These are realities and experiences of a very distinct nature that rub shoulders in every Congress, offering opportunities for dialogue that transcend disciplines, countries, interest groups, organizations, institutions, and individuals. I feel fully identified with this plurality of voices and

experiences, both personally and professionally. In the context of this plurality I am interested in supporting strategies so that LASA, its Congresses, publications, and radius of action might be a more receptive and proactive space for virtual communities and networks to create, share, or exchange information. This would include initiatives such as digital and hybrid scholarship, participation in social media, and Open Access.

In each Congress, debates emerge on critical questions regarding Latin American reality, past and present. Such discussions in sessions, workshops, pre-congress sessions, roundtables, lectures, section meetings, ad hoc meetings, discussions in corridors and bars, continue to resound well after the end of the Congress throughout the length and breadth of our Americas. This breadth, flexibility, and richness that the LASA Congresses offer every year must be preserved, without a doubt, but we must also find ways of promoting and extending them from one Congress to another, and throughout the continent, reaching ambits and peoples that do not participate in the Congress or that are not even aware of the existence of this institution and its Congresses.

LASA has enormous potential for promoting ideas, disseminating information collected in research of the highest academic level, establishing avenues of dialogue between different social actors, and energizing academic circles. These also have enormous educative potential, which can be broadened thanks to the new communicative forms offered by the digital era (platforms, social media, streaming, Open Access). I am interested in participating in the LASA Executive Council precisely in order to promote actions to multiply LASA's communicative

and educational capacity. My aspiration is to bring my experience in the field of audiovisual communication to contribute to the strengthening and energizing of LASA, extending the benefits that the institution and its Congress bring today to its membership to other people in the region, promoting greater democratization and access to the various *saberes* created in and about the region.

Jane Landers

Jane Landers is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she served as associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, grants officer for the Vanderbilt International Office, and twice as director of the Center for Latin American Studies, a Title VI Center funded by the Department of Education (DOE). Landers also directed four multiyear DOE/Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education student exchange programs with Brazilian universities (USP, UFBA, UFRGS, UFPE), that exchanged over 50 students and produced two student-authored publications. Landers created a Brazilian studies minor at Vanderbilt and is now codirector of Vanderbilt's recently awarded Abdias Nascimento project grant from the Brazilian government. Landers also created the Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar at Vanderbilt and has directed it since its inception

Raised in the Dominican Republic, Landers is an historian of colonial Latin America and the Atlantic world, specializing in the history of Africans and their descendants in those worlds. She directs the Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies Database, which is preserving the oldest serial records for Africans and their

descendants in the Americas (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/esss/index.php>). She and her teams have preserved records of more than one million Africans and their descendants in Brazil, Cuba, Colombia and Spanish Florida dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, which are now online for public use. She is the author of *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (Harvard University Press, 2010) which was awarded the Rembert Patrick Book Award and honorary mention for the Conference on Latin American History's 2011 Bolton Johnson Prize for the best English-language book on any aspect of Latin American history. Her first monograph *Black Society in Spanish Florida* (University of Illinois Press, 1999) was awarded the Frances B. Simkins Prize for Distinguished First Book in Southern History and was a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title. Landers coauthored the college textbook *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400–1888* (Harlan Davidson, 2007) and edited *Colonial Plantations and Economy in Florida* (University Press of Florida, 2000,) and *Against the Odds: Free Blacks in the Slave Societies of the Americas* (Frank Cass, 1996). She also coedited *Slaves, Subjects and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006), and *The African American Heritage of Florida* (University Press of Florida, 1995), which won the Rembert Patrick Book Award and a commendation from the American Society for State and Local History. She is currently working on three monographs: "A View from the Other Side: The Saint Domingue Revolution through Spanish Sources," which she delivered as the 2015 Nathan I. Huggins Lectures at Harvard University; "African Kingdoms, Black Republics and Free Black Towns in the Iberian Atlantic"; and "Atlantic Transformations: The Many Lives of Francisco Menéndez and his Free Black 'Subjects,'" She has published essays in

American Historical Review, Slavery and Abolition, New West Indian Guide, The Americas, Colonial Latin American Historical Review, Journal of African American History, and a variety of anthologies and edited volumes, including Cuban, Mexican, and Colombian publications. Her research has been supported by the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the British Library Endangered Archives Programme.

Landers has served as president of the Conference on Latin American History, the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction, and the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association. She has held other elected positions in those organizations and in the American Historical Association. She has served on the editorial boards of *The Americas, Colonial Latin American Review*, and *Slavery and Abolition*. She has also served as an historical consultant on archaeological investigations, museum exhibits, and documentary films on the African experience in the Americas, including most recently, the PBS documentary, "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross," winner of the 2014 George Foster Peabody Award and 2014 Emmy, Outstanding Historical Program. She is on the advisory board of the Studies in the History of the African Diaspora African Biography Database, hosted at the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Diaspora of African Peoples, York University, Toronto. In 2015 she was appointed to a three-year term as the U.S. member of UNESCO's International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project, where she works with colleagues from Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, and Haiti to research and commemorate

important cultural and historic sites of African history in the Americas.

Landers Statement

Having attended LASA meetings since graduate school days, I am deeply honored to be nominated for the Executive Committee of the largest and most internationally diverse organization devoted to Latin American studies. My interdisciplinary MA at the University of Miami and five years of social work in that city led me to the University of Florida, where my good fortune was to become the historian for an interdisciplinary investigation of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose in Spanish Florida, the first free black town in what is today the United States. This project allowed me the chance to work with archaeologists of the Caribbean, museum curators, education specialists, schoolteachers, documentarians, government institutions, and the engaged public to bring the site's story to life. This formative experience shaped my academic career and since then I have been dedicated not only to academic production but to public outreach and engagement, bringing the lesser-known history of Africans in Latin America into school curricula, museums, documentaries, and digital humanities, to reach the broadest audience possible. This work has allowed me to engage with scholars from Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Chile, and Argentina who also work on their country's African heritage. Over the years I have also been deeply involved in administration, grant writing, program building, international student and faculty exchanges, digital humanities, and public outreach. I would use my experience to advance LASA's goals and international visibility. I am, by nature, a collaborator, and I would welcome the opportunity to work on LASA's international agenda to expand exchanges between Latin and

North Americans. Of particular interest to me is the Otros Saberes project, which I have supported to underwrite the participation of indigenous and black scholars and activists in LASA programming.

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea is director of the Latin American Centre, associate professor in the political economy of Latin America at the University of Oxford, and member of St. Antony's College. Before joining Oxford in 2008, he was lecturer and senior lecturer at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London.

Sánchez-Ancochea studied his BA (1997) and MPA (1998) in Madrid at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid and the Instituto Ortega y Gasset. He completed his PhD in economics at the New School for Social Research in 2004.

He has collaborated with many universities in Europe and Latin America. He has been visiting researcher or lecturer at FLACSO-Dominican Republic, the Universidad de Costa Rica, FLACSO-México, the University of Economics in Prague, the Universidad de Salamanca, and the program Desigualdades at Freie Universität Berlin.

Sánchez-Ancochea is currently coeditor of the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, where he has been a member of the Editorial Board since 2009, and associate editor of *Oxford Development Studies*. He was a member of the management committee of the Society of Latin American Studies (UK) between 2004 and 2008, coordinator of the Globalization and Socio-Economic Development network at the Society for the Advancement of

Socioeconomics (SASE) between 2007 and 2013, and member of the Latin American Program Board at the Research Council of Norway between 2008 and 2012. At LASA, he was co-chair of the Economics and Politics Section between 2007 and 2010, as well as member of the program committee (for the economics track) on two occasions.

Sánchez-Ancochea's research concentrates on income inequality, social policy, and economic transformation in Latin America. His PhD thesis focused on state-society relations and the impact of globalization in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, and various chapters were published in the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *World Development*, and several co-edited volumes. He was later involved in a Ford-LASA funded project on the middle-income trap, directed by Eva Paus. The project resulted in a special issue of *Studies in Comparative International Development*, which compares economic trajectories and policy responses in Ireland, Singapore, Chile, Jordan, and the Dominican Republic.

More recently he has explored with Juliana Martínez Franzoni (Universidad de Costa Rica) different dimensions of social policy in Latin America and beyond. Sánchez-Ancochea and Martínez Franzoni began their collaboration with the publication of a special issue on Latin American capitalism in *Economy and Society* in 2009. The special issue, which evaluated changes in social policy and economic models in the region since the 1990s, was also coedited by Maxine Molyneux. Sánchez-Ancochea and Martínez Franzoni have also published the monograph *Good Jobs and Social Services: How Costa Rica Achieved the Elusive Double Incorporation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) as well as papers on social and market incorporation (in *Development Policy Review*) and universal social policy (in *Latin American*

Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, and *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencias Políticas*). Their forthcoming book *The Quest for Universal Social Policy in the South: Actors, Ideas and Architectures* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) explores the political preconditions for the creation and expansion of universal social policies in Latin America and other parts of the developing world. Sánchez-Ancochea and Martínez Franzoni are now studying changes in social policy across the region and, together with Rossana Castiglioni, developing a Latin American research network of social policy with funding from a LASA-Ford grant as well as the Chilean government.

Sánchez-Ancochea has also edited volumes on Central America (*Handbook of Central American Governance*, Routledge, 2013, with Salvador Martí), fiscal policy (*The Political Economy of the Public Budget in the Americas*, Institute for the Study of the Americas, 2009, with Iwan Morgan), transnational corporations (*Transnational Corporations and Development Policy: Critical Perspectives*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, with Eric Rugraff and Andrew Sumner), and regional integration (*The Political Economy of Hemispheric Integration: Responding to Globalization in the Americas*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, with Kenneth C. Shadlen), as well as an article on Bolsa Família with Lauro Mattei.

Sánchez-Ancochea Statement

LASA has been a central part of my academic development. Since first joining in Dallas in 2003 as a graduate student, I have participated in all conferences but one. For me, like for many other members, LASA has become a unique platform to discuss research projects, foster multidisciplinary collaborations, participate in policy debates, and meet friends. As a

heterodox economist who does a lot of qualitative research, LASA has also been a safe haven.

I am excited about the possibility of joining the Executive Council and cherish the opportunity to work with LASA's fantastic administrative team and academic colleagues on several fronts. First, I would love to foster bridges between European institutions and those in the Americas. Latin American studies in some European countries are still in an infant stage and in others (like the United Kingdom) have suffered some blows in recent years. As a truly international association, LASA is in a unique position to support collaborations across the Atlantic and build ties with European partners like the Society of Latin American Studies. I would also be excited to contribute to the organization of the first LASA conference in Europe.

Second, I would work to strengthen the presence of young Latin American researchers at LASA. Thousands of research students have presented their findings for the first time at one of our conferences. We need to make sure that many others across the region can participate through fundraising and direct engagement. We should also devise new ways to support graduate students, particularly from Central America and the Caribbean, through LASA-sponsored seminars at the country level and a diversity of training sessions. For example, LASA could help them in the process of publishing in international journals through conference sessions, Web resources, and even country-level events.

Third, it is extremely important to preserve economics and political economy at our association. LASA conferences have always been a unique gathering place for economists and political economists from

different perspectives and methodological inclinations. We have supported the work of heterodox economists and those—like me—working on economic issues through qualitative research. Yet the number of economists and political economists participating in our conferences has stagnated. We should find new ways to engage with them and, particularly, expand the presence of young economists and political economists. We should also promote more active conversations between Latin American economists working in the structuralist tradition and others. This will enhance multidisciplinary research and also promote richer economic debates across Latin America

Finally, I would work to strengthen the links between the academic and the policy worlds. We should adapt our registration rules to facilitate the participation of policy makers and public servants from national and international institutions at LASA. In this way, we can expand our influence in policy debates, increase public engagement, and make our research more relevant.

Daniela Spenser

Daniela Spenser has been a researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social in Mexico City since 1980. She joined CIESAS to participate in a group project dealing with the history of the German entrepreneurial community in Mexico since the nineteenth century, during the Second World War and the postwar years. That research led her to a long-standing interest in political history. Spenser has worked on the history of Mexican and Latin American communism and the study of the cold war. Her publications in Mexico and in the United States have become standard classroom assignments. Chief among them

are *El triángulo imposible: México, Rusia Soviética y Estados Unidos en los años veinte*, foreword by Friedrich Katz (2008, second edition 2004; published in English as *The Impossible Triangle* (Duke University Press, 1999), based on research in the Soviet archives; *Los primeros tropiezos de la Internacional Comunista en México* (1999), in English as *Stumbling Its Way through Mexico* (University of Alabama Press, 2011); editor of *Espejos de la guerra fría: México, América Central y el Caribe* (2004), and coeditor with Gilbert M. Joseph of *In from the Cold: Latin America's New Encounters with the Cold War* (Duke University Press, 2008).

Spenser was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Following the Soviet-led military invasion in 1968, she left for England, studied Spanish and Latin American literature at King's College, London, and anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 1972 she immigrated to Mexico and lived and worked in Chiapas for a number of years, with Paolo Freire's texts under her arm. Spenser earned her MA degree at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Latin American studies and a PhD in Latin American history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, under the guidance of Gilbert Joseph.

Currently, Spenser is finishing a biography of the Mexican politician and labor leader Vicente Lombardo Toledano (1894–1968), a controversial figure in Mexico's labor history. Through a study of the personal in multiple contexts, she seeks to narrate and analyze the many sides of Mexico's twentieth-century political and social, domestic and transnational trajectory. Research for this book was underwritten by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Spenser Statement

As we are entering the unpredictable year of 2016, Latin American Studies Association's experience, at 50, provides a rich reservoir of ideas about the social, political, cultural, economic, and linguistic processes that have brought us to this *coyuntura*. At the same time, LASA's collective spirit offers a unique opportunity to face the future with cautious and creative optimism.

LASA has always stimulated innovative research, teaching initiatives, and transnational networking, and it cannot do otherwise in the coming years. We face several unforeseen scenarios, stemming from a number of recent factors: (1) the presidential election in the United States, the result of which will affect two major areas: migrations policies to the United States and the initiated and unfinished normalization of diplomatic, commercial, political, and migration relations with Cuba; (2) recent elections in Argentina; (3) recent elections in Venezuela; (4) peace agreements between the FARC and the Colombian government; (5) the violation of human rights; (6) the "Guatemalan Spring"; (7) the security factor stemming from terrorism, holdover from old colonialisms and new shifts in local and international alignments; (8) rising economic debts; (9) rampant corruption; (10) rising poverty; (11) stagnant development, to name those areas that will shape the immediate social, political, cultural, and economic environment in the new year.

As an international association in a trouble-driven area, LASA has never shied away from confronting difficult issues intellectually and politically. This I hope will continue. In order to fulfill its mandates and the collective spirit that has motivated it so far, LASA will no doubt

embark on retrospective and prospective examinations of our region from the multidisciplinary perspectives that have characterized it in order to reexamine how we have come this far, examine critically where and why our analysis have misled us, and glean from them new pointers.

In the globalized world, I envisage LASA as making fruitful connections with other specialized associations, beyond the current sections, in order to complement our understanding of the world in which we live and examine in our work. ■