

## LASA2016 Awards and Recipients

### Kalman Silvert Award

The committee was honored to name Rodolfo Stavenhagen the 2016 Kalman Silvert awardee. He obtained a PhD in sociology at the University of Paris in 1965 with a dissertation that was later published as *Social Classes in Agrarian Societies* (in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Swedish, and Arabic).

In the international social science field, he has been active in the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), the United Nations University (Tokyo), and the United Nations University for Peace (Costa Rica). He was also a member of the board of the Social Science Research Council (USA) and of the SSRC's Joint Committee on Latin American Studies, as well as vice president of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).

Since 1984 Stavenhagen has served as vice president of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (Costa Rica). He was also a board member for ten years of the public ombudsman office, Mexico's National Commission for Human Rights (1990–2000). In 1993 he became chairman of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and he was also an active member of UNESCO's International Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century.

His work on agrarian issues, ethnic conflicts, indigenous peoples, and human rights contributed to public debates on these issues mainly but not only in Mexico and Latin America. In 1997 he was awarded the National Prize of Science and Arts by the government of Mexico. He has received several honorary doctorates

internationally, and one of his most rewarding experiences was being named an honorary elder of the Ogiek forest tribe in Kenya.

Some of his principal publications include: *Pioneer on Indigenous Rights* (New York: Springer, 2012), *The Emergence of Indigenous Peoples* (New York: Springer, 2012), *Racism and Public Policy*, coedited with Yusuf Bangura (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), and *Between Underdevelopment and Revolution: A Latin American Perspective* (New Delhi: Abhinav, 1980).

The award committee consisted of Debra Castillo, chair (Cornell University), Merilee Grindle (Harvard University), Evelyne Huber (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Philip Oxhorn (McGill University), and Manuel Antonio Garretón.

### Premio Iberoamericano

The recipient of Premio Iberoamericano is Isabella Cosse for *Mafalda: Historia social y política* (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2014).

Isabella Cosse's book is an excellent study of mass media and civil society in Argentina. Cosse treats the interaction of these subjects through the fascinating lens of the comic strip *Mafalda* not simply in relation to popular culture but as a critical dimension of the public sphere. Her sensible attention to daily life, global understanding of politics, and careful analysis of changing gender relations allow Cosse to successfully provide her readers with an intimate and global look at the most contentious decades of the twentieth century.

Members of the 2016 committee were Jaime Pensado, chair (University of Notre Dame), Araceli Tinajero (CUNY, Graduate Center), Ricardo Salvatore (Universidad Torcuato Di Tella), Claudio Barrientos (Universidad Diego Portales), Renata Keller (Boston University), Mary Kay Vaughan (University of Maryland, College Park), and Allert Brown-Gort (University of Notre Dame).

### Premio Iberoamericano Honorable Mention

The committee also awarded an honorable mention to Nadia V. Celis Salgado for *La rebelión de las niñas: El Caribe y la "conciencia corporal"* (Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2015), and an honorable mention to Ugo Pipitone for *La esperanza y el delirio: Una historia de la izquierda en América Latina* (Taurus, 2015).

*La rebelión de las niñas* is a powerful study of the conflicting relations of young female sexuality and male desire. Drawing from feminist theory and cultural studies, Nadia Celis Salgado provides an innovative study of the historical representations of girlhood and successfully highlights, with fascinating detail, the multiple rebellions against patriarchal power in the Hispanic Caribbean from the 1940s to the present. The author's accessible prose not only captures the voices of women writers who have received little attention from scholars, but also is enjoyable to read.

*La esperanza y el delirio* is fundamental reading for understanding the divergent voices of the Left that have emerged in Latin America, from its founding ideologies and social movements at the end of the nineteenth century to its reformist and demagogue movements of today. Ugo Pipitone effectively navigates through the

multiple paths, mistakes, and successes that have historically characterized the four main tenets of the Latin American Left—anarchism, communism, populism, and armed struggle—to suggest that social democracy might be the most viable option for the problems of today, mainly global warming, organized crime, corruption, and rampant poverty. The author’s call for self-criticism and clear prose make this an accessible and truly enjoyable read and a required study for all interested in the multiplicities of the Latin American Left.

#### Bryce Wood Book Award

The recipient of the 2016 Bryce Wood Book Award is Ann Twinam for *Purchasing Whiteness: Pardos, Mulattos, and the Quest for Social Mobility in the Spanish Indies* (Stanford University Press, 2015).

*Purchasing Whiteness* represents both the author’s own decades-long quest to find and explain the legendary right of African-descended colonial subjects to buy writs of whiteness (known as “cédulas de gracias al sacar”) as well as that of two quite different academies of history, that of the United States and of Latin America. *Purchasing Whiteness* takes on the task of unraveling this Spanish policy’s importance and role as a potential instrument for stabilizing the superiority of “whiteness” in the colonial realm; more importantly, this book takes its scholarly predecessors’ approaches, its own methodology, and the goal of solving the mysteries this policy represents to task on multiple levels: Why did so few subjects purchase whiteness? Why did only *pardos* and *quinterones* (subjects of one-fifth African descent) appear to do so? And after the Spanish permitted the practice in 1795, why was the “gracias” so relatively cheap compared to other similar, intangible legal

commodities such as legitimacy, the title of don, and the right to live in Spain for non-Spaniards?

As a committee, we found Twinam’s book intellectually exceptional for its analytical precision, painstaking research, remarkably engaging prose, and admirably bold “whodunit” style. She provides clear, direct answers to thorny, often uncomfortable questions of personal versus collective strivings for racialized power over time. With *Purchasing Whiteness*, Twinam also reminds scholars of Latin America that grappling with the great challenge of understanding and explaining the past matters because its results remain embedded in the “everyday ways” that define who we all are as Americanos today and who we might become tomorrow.

The award committee consisted of Lillian Guerra, chair (University of Florida), Paulo Drinot (University College London), Joel Wolfe (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), John Mill Ackerman (UNAM), Joy Gordon (University of Loyola, Chicago), Paul Eiss (Carnegie Mellon University), Jennie Purnell (Boston College), John French (Duke University), Enrique Mayer (Yale University), Daniel Wilkinson (Human Rights Watch), K. David Jackson (Yale University), and Neil Harvey (New Mexico State University).

#### Bryce Wood Book Award Honorable Mention

The committee also awarded an honorable mention to Fabiana Li for *Unearthing Conflict: Corporate Mining, Activism and Expertise in Peru* (Duke University Press, 2015).

Fabiana Li provides a beautifully written account of conflicts related to the recent

expansion of mining activities in Peru. She closely traces the long history of pollution at La Oroya, the town where her own maternal grandfather was born and lived, and the more recent controversy over the large-scale gold mine at Cajamarca. Li uses a novel approach that asks how certain things become politically contentious (such as pollution, mountains, and water), shifting our focus from objectively given “matters of fact” to socially contested “matters of concern.” *Unearthing Conflict* is the product of two years of ethnographic research in the Peruvian highlands. Li critically examines the diverse perspectives and forms of expertise that are deployed by government agents, corporations, community members, and international NGOs, while highlighting the impact of grassroots movements in unsettling dominant views of nature and development in Latin America today.

#### Media Award

The recipient of the 2016 LASA Media Award is Juan Luis Font from *ContraPoder*, Guatemala.

In Guatemala in the past year, an active civil society has propelled many changes, including the resignation of President Otto Pérez Molina and Vice President Roxana Baldetti on corruption charges. An estimated hundred thousand people packed Guatemala City’s Plaza Central to demand Pérez Molina’s resignation. The Guatemalan press has played a key role in the fight against impunity and the strengthening of civil society.

As a reporter, editor, media entrepreneur, and mentor for dozens of journalists, Juan Luis Font is at the forefront of that change, playing a decisive role in Guatemala’s postwar transition.

His rigorous and courageous journalism seeks to explain the complex reality of his country. His insights and commentary provide compelling arguments for strong institutions, civic participation, and democratic values. In his role as entrepreneur, Font is an innovative leader in the development of new media channels that reflect and amplify the voices of a wider spectrum of Guatemalan society, including the recent creation of *Diario Digital*, a site targeting millennial news consumers.

Whether as host for the popular talk show *A Primera Hora* or as founder of *El Periodico*, whether as executive editor and co-founder of the weekly magazine *ContraPoder* or as leading anchor of Canal Antigua, a television channel specializing in sociopolitical themes, Juan Luis Font has made a profound difference in Guatemalan journalism and in Guatemalan society.

The members of the 2016 selection committee were June Erlick, chair (Harvard University), Carlos Dada (*El Faro*), Peter Winn (Tufts University), Maria Teresa Ronderos (*Semana.com*), and Tracy Wilkinson (*LA Times*, México D.F. desk).

#### Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

The Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History is awarded to Mexican graduate students in the last phase of doctoral research. This year's selection committee included William Beezley, chair (University of Arizona), Daniela Spenser (CIESAS), and Romana Falcón (El Colegio de México).

The committee selected as the 2016 recipient of the award Carlos Alberto Ortega González, currently a PhD

candidate at the Colegio de México. Ortega's dissertation project, entitled "Insolvencia, bancarrota, y administración de justicia en la ciudad de México, 1841–1872," examines insolvency and bankruptcy in an intriguing examination of commercial activity, using the law as prism for this study of daily business practices. With both cultural and social history lenses, he provides a different look at commerce and economics of Liberal programs. The dissertation examines social and economic relations of merchants in debt, judicial and government institutions that dealt with the issue, and local economic repercussions. He accomplishes this using four dimensions: social relationships; justice and its agencies; insolvency and the economy; and statistical and geographic methodologies (especially mapping), which enable him to study bankruptcy and insolvency of merchants in Mexico City during the Liberal era (1841–1872). Because this is a broad-based interdisciplinary study, the committee selected Ortega to receive the Hale Fellowship.

#### Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award

The committee selected Christine Hatzky's book *Cubans in Angola: South-South Cooperation and Transfer of Knowledge, 1976–1991* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015) as winner of the 2016 competition.

The Tomassini Book Award Committee found *Cubans in Angola* by Christine Hatzky to be an outstanding work of scholarship. Hatzky conducted archival research in Angola, Cuba, Portugal, and the United States. She supplemented her archival work with interviews with 139 Angolans and Cubans. Hatzky demonstrated that the views of the people

who participated in the technical assistance programs, both Angolans and Cubans, differed remarkably from the official versions of the Cuban mission in Angola. Her findings are certain to spark serious academic debate. Committee members were also impressed by Hatzky's decision to shift focus away from the superpower dynamics of the Cold War toward South-South interactions. Professor Hatzky demonstrates that the Cuban mission in Angola has had profound implications for the African nation's contemporary political and socioeconomic development.

Members of this year's committee included Stephen Rabe, chair (University of Texas, Dallas), Fernando Purcell (Pontificia Universidad Católica), Felipe Loureiro (University of São Paulo), Hal Brands (Duke University), Rose Spalding (DePaul University), Dustin Walcher (Southern Oregon University), and Amelia Kiddle (University of Calgary).

#### Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award Honorable Mention

The committee also awarded an honorable mention to *Alien Nation: Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era through World War II* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), by Elliott Young. Young has written a theoretically sophisticated study that is based on multicountry archival research. The committee believed that his study of Chinese migration to the Americas operates at a place between foreign relations history, national histories, borderlands study, and cultural studies in a way that pushes scholarship forward in innovative and exciting ways. Young's work on serial Chinese migration to the Americas creatively captures the interplay between

diasporic movements and state efforts to define borders and control identities. *Alien Nation* is a genuinely original and broadly imagined masterwork.

#### **LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship**

The committee named Maria Mercedes Olivera y Bustamante as the 2016 recipient of the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship. Dr. Olivera y Bustamante is a researcher at CESMEC (Centro de Estudios Superiores de México y Centroamérica) in Chiapas. She completed her doctorate in anthropology at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Her dissertation work was on “modos de producción en la provincial de Tecali del siglo XVI al XVIII.” Dr. Olivera y Bustamante is a social, intellectual, and feminist activist. She continues to teach and shape the path for women to politically and socially influence the difficult realities facing Chiapas and Central American countries. Her work with indigenous women has deeply shaped her outlook on society’s bias based on class, gender, and ethnicity and has led her to publish many books on the topic, such as *De sumisiones, cambios y rebeldías: Mujeres indígenas de Chiapas* (2004). She has made a profound impact on her students and colleagues with her politically aligned research and social justice work. She is the voice fighting for indigenous women’s rights and will continue to push boundaries that lead to change.

This year’s committee consisted of: Sonia Alvarez, chair (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Charles Hale (University of Texas, Austin), Lynn Stephen (University of Oregon), and Susan Eckstein (Boston University).

#### **LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award**

The recipient of this year’s LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award is Diana Gomez Correal from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Gomez completed both a BA in anthropology and an MA in history at the National University in Bogotá. Her PhD thesis is titled “Of Love, Blood and the Belly: Politicization of Intimate Ties of Caring and Belonging in Colombia.”

#### **Merit in Film Awards**

The recipients of the 2016 Merit in Film Awards:

*Chacal: Proibido fazer poesia*, dir. Rodrigo Lopes de Barros

*El costo humano de los agrotóxicos*, dir. Pablo Piovano

*Dibujando memorias*, dir. Marianne Eyde

*Doña Grégoria*, dir. Emily Laliberté

*Mirar morir: El ejército en la noche de Iguala*, dir. Coizta Grecko

*La muerte de Jaime Roldós*, dir. Manolo Sarmiento and Lisandra I. Rivera

*La sombra*, dir. Javier Olivera

*Sumú*, dir. Teresa Camou Guerrero

*Tus padres volverán*, dir. Pablo Martínez Pessi

*La verdad oculta*, dir. Roberto Olivares Ruiz ■