

Acknowledgements

LASA celebrates one more year as a professional association encouraging discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America and the Caribbean and its people throughout the Americas, by returning to Latin America for its 35th congress. Thank you to all our members for making LASA what it is today and for accompanying us throughout the years. This year, we are grateful for the partnership of many organizations, institutions, and individuals. Among them are the Tinker Foundation Incorporated, the Inter-American Foundation, the LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, and the Ford Foundation. We thank them for their sponsorship and continuous support of scholars, along with that of our other contributors, especially those in our Leadership Circle. A special thank you has to be given to the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) for opening its doors and cooperating with us in the planning and organization of this congress.

As in previous years, many participants and students living in Latin America and the Caribbean would not have been able to attend LASA without the financial support of the Tinker Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, and the individuals who contributed to the LASA Travel Fund, the Student Fund, the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Travel Fund, and the LASA Endowment. Proceeds from the Endowment are used every year to support hundreds of Latin American scholars with travel grants. We also greatly appreciate Oxfam America's generous contribution to the Martin Diskin Lectureship. Additionally, this year we are excited to celebrate our first Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award, which recognizes either outstanding scholarship in the field of democracy studies or particularly meritorious public service that promotes

democracy and democratic values in Latin America and the Caribbean. This award is possible thanks to the generosity of many of our members. Special thanks to Gabriela Ippolito-O'Donnell and Kevin Middlebrook for making this award a reality.

All the events occurring at the year's congress would not have been made possible without the commitment, work, and support of our LASA president, Joanne Rappaport, along with the program co-chairs, Juliet Hooker and Mauricio Archila, whose never-ending commitment helped make this a successful congress. We are also looking forward to another exciting Film Festival program in the hands of our newly appointed and gifted festival directors, Ana Laura Lusnich and Andrea Cuarterolo. Thank you for your hard work and that of your team.

Finally, with the membership of LASA continually growing, we would not be able to do the work we do today without the tireless efforts of the LASA Secretariat staff. It takes a village to support our more than 12,000 members, and I cannot thank the staff enough: Pilar Rodríguez Blanco, Operations Director; Emily Boal, Congress Coordinator; Paloma Díaz-Lobos, Social Media Coordinator; Jocelyn Inlay, Executive Assistant; Ghisselle Blanco, Sections and Awards Coordinator; Mirna Kolbowski, Financial Administrator; Sara Lickey, Publications Specialist; John Meyers, Data Analyst. Thank you! I would also especially like to thank the congress staff who accompany us every year and support our members to make their experience enjoyable. We hope this congress is a memorable one!

Milagros Pereyra-Rojas
Executive Director,
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