The Program Committee has put together seven excellent presidential panels with prominent participants. The topics include:

- Migraciones, guerra fría y solidaridad: Estudios de América Latina desde Europa
- Repensando las relaciones entre América Latina y Europa: Entre desigualdades interdependientes y “cooperaciones” para transiciones civilizatorias
- 1968: 50 Years After
- Los estudios latinoamericanos en Asia y Rusia
- La prensa bajo fuego
- Reflexiones sobre la producción cultural y conocimiento en el siglo XXI
- Memory Studies from the Americas and Spain in a Globalized World

These panels bring together an excellent group of specialists from Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Russia, and North America, with more than a dozen disciplines represented. We look forward to sharing more details in December.

Finally, LASA members are asking what the current situation in Catalonia will mean for the Congress. As I write this (October 9) nothing indicates that it will affect the Congress. Protests have been nonviolent, and the recent aggression by Spanish police appears to be an aberration and not the beginning of escalated violence. All sides in
Our 51st Congress in Lima, Peru, was filled with exciting panels, stimulating debates, and wonderful networking opportunities. Overall, from our perspective, it was a successful Congress. We were honored to welcome 6,620 registered participants, 1,680 local students, and 3,816 members who presented their research at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Lima. It is significant to note that 29% of the members attending were graduate students and 68% of them non-US residents.

Regardless of all the enthusiasm around the Congress we wanted to make sure that our most important constituents, our members, agree on the success of LASA2017, and thus our yearly online survey was sent to collect demographic information, respondents’ feedback, and to measure the overall experience during our time in Peru. We thank the 900 attendees who participated in this year’s survey, who represent 13.5% of all of the LASA2017 registered participants.

Half of the respondents to this year’s survey were Latin American residents and 40% were from the United States and Canada. Similar to previous years, the majority of respondents work primarily on research activities (56%), while 30% focus on education. About one-third of respondents were attending a LASA Congress for the first-time (30%), while 31% of respondents were seasoned attendees, having attended five or more LASA Congresses. Both groups are important to us, as you evaluate the Congress with new lenses as well as with experienced ones.

Most participants (47%) attended between four and seven sessions during the Congress.

Overall, 65% of the survey respondents were satisfied with LASA2017, 16% were neutral, and 19% were dissatisfied. This was a decrease of 12% from last year’s satisfaction rate. Based on the feedback, this decrease is likely due to two major reasons: the registration process and small size rooms. We apologize to those who had to endure the wait and thank all for your patience and understanding. LASA is actively working to offer a better service. At the same time, there was an unanimous 95% positive response for having opened the Congress to local students. We realize that many sessions occur at the same time, some of them on the same topics. Due to the high volume of sessions accepted in order to honor LASA’s spirit of inclusiveness, multidisciplinarity, and diversity, this overlap is bound to happen. We hope that the multiple simultaneous sessions permit a wide range of session options in which you can participate and grow.

A recurring concern is that room size was inadequate for the number of attendees in a session. Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to predict the number of attendees for a particular session; thus this factor is not usually considered when assigning rooms. Additionally, since LASA2013, to further allow networking opportunities between colleagues in the same disciplines, we started assigning neighboring rooms by program tracks or similar themes. Sometimes this practice risks having small meeting rooms next to each other. However, we have received very positive feedback on having track-designated rooms as it has improved networking opportunities. We hope this additional networking compensates for the sometimes crowded rooms.