

LASA2018 Congress Report

LASA2018 in Barcelona, the first Congress in Europe, was an exciting opportunity to attend a variety of panels, stimulating debates, and wonderful networking opportunities. From our perspective, it was a great success.

We were honored to welcome 7,125 registered participants, 6,099 presenters with some role during the Congress (86%), and 1,026 people who attended without presenting. Out of the 7,125 registered participants, 26% were students and 3,610 (74%) were nonstudents. It is significant to note that 66% of participants were 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 LASA2018, and thus our yearly online survey was sent to collect demographic information, respondents' feedback, and to measure the overall experience during our time in Barcelona. We thank the 779 attendees who participated in this year's survey, who represent 10.9% of all of the LASA2018 registered participants. We encourage all of you to answer our survey to have a better sense how to improve.

Forty percent of the respondents to this year's survey were United States residents, 37% were residents from Latin America, and 21% from Europe. Similar to previous years, the majority of respondents work primarily on research activities (60%), while 29% focus on education (see figure 1). More than one-third of respondents were attending a LASA Congress for the first-time (35%), while 26% of respondents were seasoned attendees, having participate to five or more LASA Congresses. Both groups are important to us, as they evaluate the Congress with new lenses as well as with experienced ones.

As was the case in Lima at LASA2017, 43% of respondents in Barcelona 2018 attended four to seven sessions during the Congress.

Overall, 76% of the survey respondents were extremely satisfied with LASA2018, which represents a jump of 11% compared with satisfaction rates from Lima 2017. Only 9% were neutral, and 15% were dissatisfied. Compared with Lima2017, dissatisfaction rates decreased by 5%. Our goal is that all participants have a great experience. Barcelona 2018 offered 1,714 sessions, and given the size of the event it is inevitable that sessions with similar topics overlap. Due to the high volume of sessions accepted in order to honor LASA's spirit of inclusiveness, multidisciplinary, 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.

This overall satisfaction approval was measured by three aspects: 60% of respondents learned a lot about recent work in Latin American studies; 43% of respondents learned a lot about current work in other fields, and 60% of respondents of the survey considered the LASA Congress in Barcelona a good opportunity to network and make contact with colleagues (see figure 2).

Regarding the use of technology, 75% of respondents downloaded the program app and 97% of them used it.

As in every Congress, LASA is very grateful to our faithful sponsors/foundations and to the Endowment Fund, which continue year after year to provide partial travel grants to our participants. This year we were able offer 314 travel grants to participants to come to LASA2018 and share their research.

Finally, around 35% of the survey respondents are planning to attend LASA2019 in Boston. We are looking forward seeing you in Boston on May 24-27, 2019, for our Congress with the theme “Nuestra América: Justice and Inclusion.”

We thank all those who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback helps us improve by acknowledging situations that we may have not been aware of, and thus allows us to focus on our members and their needs. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or further suggestions. //

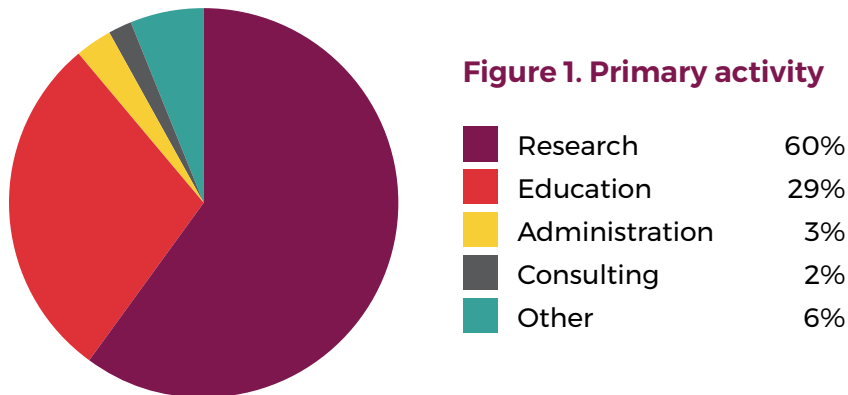


Figure 2. LASA2018 provided an opportunity to:

