

From the President

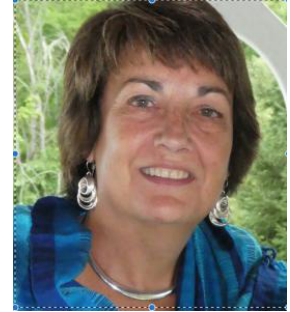
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Almost exactly one calendar year ago, on March 6, 2018, LASA published a “Statement on Sexual Harassment and Jorge Domínguez,” available at <https://lasaweb.org/en/news/lasa-statement-sexual-harassment-jorge-dominguez/>

At that time, LASA had no anti-harassment policy or set of procedures to follow. On April 18, 2018, I named an Anti-Harassment Task Force, which has been working hard and has accomplished much in the space of ten months. Our purpose was and continues to be to investigate multiple forms of harassment and hostile climate connected with and part of the larger context for sexual harassment. As we stated originally, “sexual harassment is part and parcel of broader structures, cultures and practices of domination and inequality.” We needed to study and respond to harassment based on race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, citizenship, and able-bodiedness as well as gender. We continue to insist that LASA provide a safe and welcoming environment for all participants, free from harassment based on age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, disability, health conditions, socioeconomic status, marital status, domestic status, or parental status. Today, one year later I am proud that we have a policy.

Toward that end, I am extremely grateful to a wonderful group of people who have worked hard with me and for you over the past year to create LASA’s first ever Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures for Addressing Alleged Violations of LASA’s Anti-Harassment Policy. This policy and the procedures that go with it outline expectations for all members of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), including those who serve in elected or appointed positions. It reminds all members, and especially those serving in key roles in the Association, that all professional academic ethics and norms apply as standards of behavior

and interaction in the course of LASA-related activities. The policy and procedures are published in full in this issue of the LASA Forum and can be found at <https://www.lasaweb.org/en/anti-harassment-policy/>. The policy



and procedures are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. I want to thank LASA Executive Council (EC) members Vivian Martínez Díaz and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán; LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra; former LASA president Joanne Rappaport; Tanya Hernandez, member of the LASA Anti-Harassment Task Force; and Kevin O’Leary, an attorney dedicated to investigation, training and consulting on anti-harassment work, for their help in crafting this policy and procedure.

In addition, as discussed in the special dossier on anti-harassment work found in this LASA Forum, a special Anti-Harassment Task Force has been working over the past ten months to collect information, provide input for a LASA questionnaire, publish a dossier, and participate in a special presidential session at the LASA2019 Congress in Boston. The members of the LASA Anti-Harassment Task Force include: Mercedes Prieto, Co-chair, of FLACSO, Ecuador; Vivian Martínez Díaz, Co-chair, of the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia; Michelle McKinley, Co-chair, University of Oregon; Tanya Hernández, of Fordham University; Alexandre Da Costa, of the University of Alberta; Ginetta E. Candelario, EC member, of Smith College; Juan Carlos Callirgos Patroni, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, and Sales Augusto Dos Santos, of the Universidade Federal de Vicosa. I thank them all for their work over the past ten months and for the rich conversations we have had in moving forward with a questionnaire for the

LASA membership. In the process of our ongoing work, we have had a detailed exchange about the complex intersectional meanings of harassment and how to get at both the structural and micro-dimensions of it. As explained in the article by Vivian Martínez included in this issue's dossier, this work is ongoing and has entered a new phase in which we are working through a human subjects application and refining and fine-tuning the questionnaire and its contents and tools of inquiry. We expect to continue with this work into the next academic year.

In the meantime, I am delighted that in just ten short months we have gotten so much done and have a policy and set of implementation procedures in place for LASA and for our upcoming Boston Congress. Our anti-harassment work is a long-term commitment that I will continue with after my presidency, and I look forward to collaborating with LASA President-Elect Mara Viveros as we move forward. Correcting decades with no anti-harassment policy and procedures is a process, not an event, and happily we have a strong group of LASA members and leaders with an ongoing commitment to this project.

With just a couple of months to go until our Boston Congress, I am extremely pleased and excited about our amazing program. I look forward to seeing you there and to celebrating many things. //