

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

FORUM

SUMMER 2014 | VOLUME XLV | ISSUE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Tulio Halperín Donghi, Recipient of the
2014 Kalman Silvert Award

by JOEL HOROWITZ, MARK HEALEY,
NILS JACOBSEN, and PETER H. SMITH

Martin Diskin Memorial Lecture, Chicago,
24 de mayo de 2014

por ALBERTO J. OLVERA RIVERA

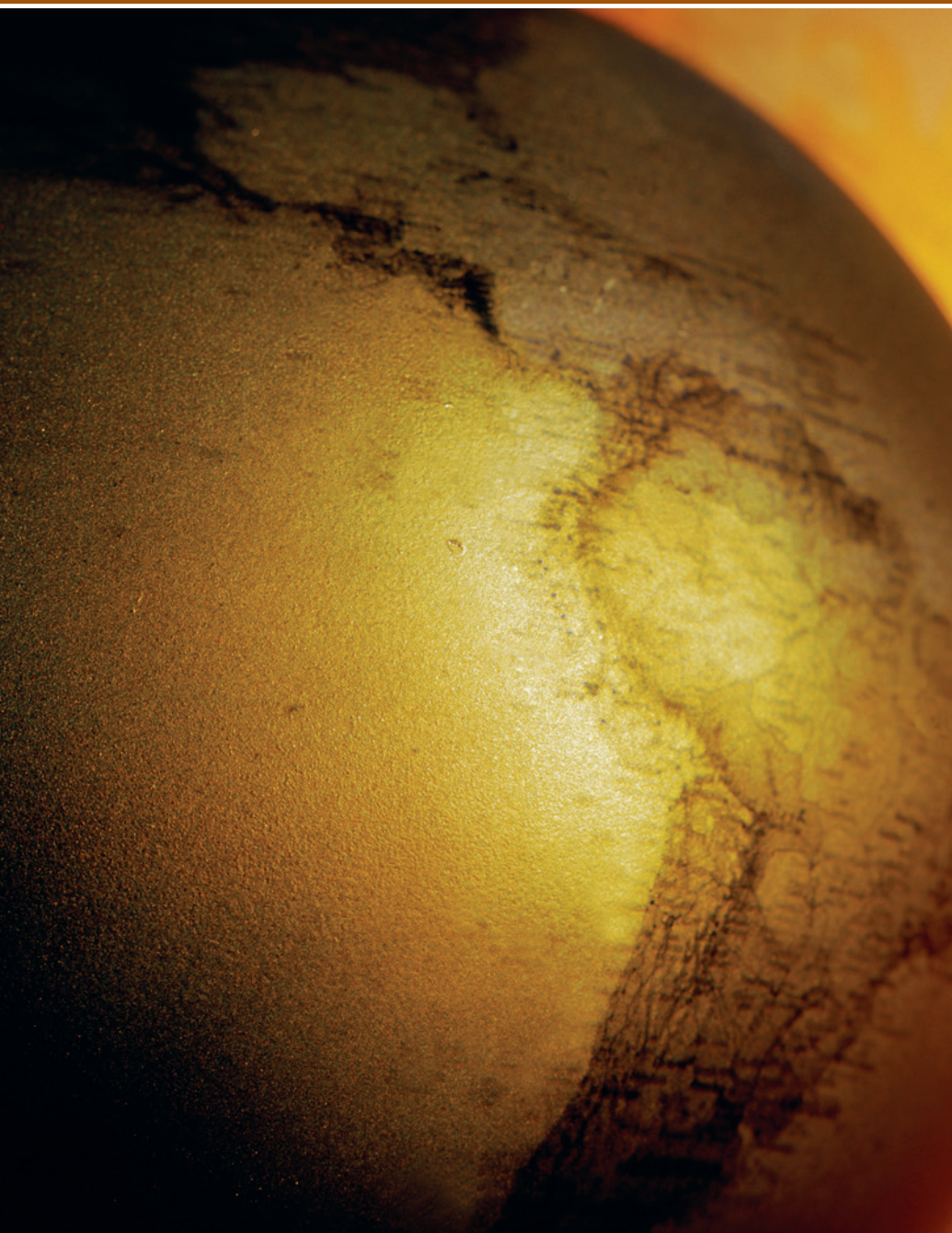


Table of Contents

- 1 From the President | *by* DEBRA CASTILLO
- 3 From the Outgoing President | *by* MERILEE GRINDLE

2014 KALMAN SILVERT AWARD RECIPIENT

- 4 Tulio Halperín Donghi, Recipient of the 2014 Kalman Silvert Award | *by* JOEL HOROWITZ, MARK HEALEY, NILS JACOBSEN *and* PETER H. SMITH

LASA/OXFAM AMERICA 2014 MARTIN DISKIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

- 8 Martin Diskin Memorial Lecture, Chicago, 24 de mayo de 2014
por ALBERTO J. OLVERA RIVERA

ON LASA2015

- 14 ¡LASA regresa a San Juan, Puerto Rico! | *por* LUIS E. CÁRCAMO-HUECHANTE y ROSALVA AIDA HERNÁNDEZ CASTILLO
- 16 Call for Papers
- 18 Reservation Form for the LASA2015 Book Exhibit

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

- 19 Nominations Invited

ON LASA2014

- 24 Final Report on the 32nd International Congress in Chicago
by FLORENCIA GARRAMUÑO *and* RAÚL MADRID
- 26 LASA Business Meeting
- 27 LASA2014 Awards and Recipients
- 32 Seen at LASA2014
- 34 LASA2014 Survey Report | *by* MILAGROS PEREYRA-ROJAS

President

Debra Castillo
Cornell University
dac9@cornell.edu

Vice President

Gilbert Joseph
Yale University

Past President

Merilee Grindle
Harvard University

Treasurer

Timothy J. Power
University of Oxford

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

For term ending May 2015:

Claudio A. Fuentes, Universidad Diego Portales
Katherine Hite, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
Mary Louise Pratt, New York University

For term ending May 2016:

Carmen Martínez Novo, University of Kentucky
Angela Paiva, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
Charles Walker, University of California, Davis

Ex Officio

Luis Cárcamo-Huechante, University of Texas at Austin and
Comunidad de Historia Mapuche
Rosalba Aida Hernández Castillo, Centro de Investigaciones y
Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS - México
Philip Oxhorn, McGill University
Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, University of Pittsburgh

FORUM EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Managing Editor

Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, University of Pittsburgh

LASA STAFF

Special Projects Coordinator

María Soledad Cabezas, University of Pittsburgh

Assistant Director for Institutional Advancement

Sandra Klinzing, University of Pittsburgh

Communications Specialist

Sara Lickey, University of Pittsburgh

Executive Director

Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, University of Pittsburgh

Membership Coordinator

Israel R. Perlov, University of Pittsburgh

Operations Manager – Congress Coordinator

Pilar Rodríguez Blanco, University of Pittsburgh

The *LASA Forum* is published four times a year. It is the official vehicle for conveying news about the Latin American Studies Association to its members. Articles appearing in the *On the Profession* and *Debates* sections of the *Forum* are commissioned by the Editorial Committee and deal with selected themes. The Committee welcomes responses to any material published in the *Forum*.

Opinions expressed herein are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Latin American Studies Association or its officers.

ISSN 0890-7218

From the President

by DEBRA CASTILLO | Cornell University | dac9@cornell.edu

A Taste of Culture

A number of years ago a comparative literature graduate student came to my office in Cornell University to inquire about possibilities for funding research she hoped to pursue in Mexico. I asked her what specifically she wanted to do there, and she told me, “Honestly, what I really need to do is to breathe the air and eat the food.” I told her she needed a more compelling academic justification in order to satisfy the evaluators.

Years later, looking back on this incident, we might well ask if the student had a point, undertheorized but implicit in the blunt statement of her underlying need, something that sounds—on the face of it—all too distant from the objective, academic work we are taught we ought to aspire to. I pondered her comment again as I was thinking about what I wanted to share with you in my first column as president of our association. Why (and how) can we argue that it is necessary to spend time in-country, even for natives of that country, not just reading in the archives, but eating the food, speaking to the people? How does that make us better writers, thinkers, scholars? Why, conversely, is it also essential to scholarship to leave our home spaces, to share our ideas in international fora like the LASA annual conference, and participate in debates with people from other cultural contexts?

Many years ago, in “Problemática de la actual novela latinoamericana,” Cuban author Alejo Carpentier argued that the novel as we know it is a late-blossoming genre, an urban, middle-class, European phenomenon that does not necessarily transfer easily to other contexts or cultural environments. When it does make the transatlantic voyage, the novel needs to evolve to effectively narrate the spaces and

people in the American continent for Latin American readers as well as to translate Latin American realities for consumers from other parts of the world. In this 1964 article Carpentier enumerates a series of cultural, geographic, and ideological contexts that will require a fundamental rethinking and reshaping of the genre for Latin America. He takes into account racial formations, economic structures, political and social realities, considerations of distance and proportion and light. He also considers nature and foodways: “Nankín huele a salsa de soya como el Asia Central huele a grasa de carnero y pan sin levadura, en tanto que muchas ciudades mexicanas huelen a chile, mole y tortilla de maíz . . . porque la cocina Mexicana responde a una filosofía, a un sistema, a un discurso de método” (30). Only a few of the world’s cultures, he says—debatably—take food so seriously. More profoundly, he provides a reasoned context for the student who needed to go to Mexico to eat the food; according to Carpentier, to understand the Nanjing massacre, one needs to breathe the air of that city; to understand Mexican literature, one needs a basic grasp of that nation’s philosophy of cooking.

In his further elaboration of his theory, Carpentier argues why this kind of profoundly grounded research is even more crucial in the global south than it is in the north:

Enrique Heine nos habla, de repente, de un pino y una palmera, árboles por siempre plantadas en la gran cultura universal. La palabra *pino* basta para mostrarnos el pino; la palabra *palmera* basta para definir, pintar, mostrar la palmera. Pero la palabra *ceiba*—nombre de un árbol americano al que nos negros cubanos llaman “la madre de los árboles”—no basta para que las gentes



de otras latitudes vean el aspecto de columna rostral de ese árbol gigantesco, adusto y solitario, como sacada de otras edades, sagrado por linaje, cuyas ramas horizontales, casi paralelas, ofrecen al viento unos puñados de hojas tan inalcanzables para el hombre como incapaces de todo mecimiento. . . . A centenares de metros de allí . . . crecen unos papayos, herbáceas salidas de los primeros pantanos de la creación, con sus cuerpos blandos, cubiertos de medallones grises, sus hojas abiertas como manos de mendigo, sus ubres-fruta colgadas del cuello. (34–35)

Carpentier’s description of the trees, with the plain “pine and palm” set against the lush *barroquism* of the ceiba and the papayo, makes his stylistic point. Furthermore, in this paired juxtaposition of the pine and palm vs. the ceiba and papaya tree, in each case the first tree of the pair represents a symbol linked to primordial sacred practices while the second tree provides exotic or everyday fruit, depending on the geography—dates, perhaps, or papayas.

In the twenty-first century, globalized markets make papayas (a sad, much diminished replica of the udder-fruits Carpentier evokes) available to consumers across the globe, but they cannot speak to the conjunction of the ceiba and the papayo, or capture the fragrance of the *selva* or the taste of freshly picked fruit in the mouth. (The same cultural observation can go in the opposite direction, though Carpentier does not speak of this aspect; a Puerto Rican student once observed that

she never understood the attraction of eating an apple until she came to the United States.) How does a North American explain cranberries to someone from other latitudes without talking about Thanksgiving and the history of that maligned, celebrated holiday in the United States? In what way does the now-common practice of decorating plastic Christmas trees across the entire American continent speak to the omnipresence of Heine's pine? How does one talk about the ceiba without telling the story of Africans in the Caribbean (I am thinking, for example, of Roberto Burgos Cantor's brilliant 2007 historical novel set in Cartagena, *La ceiba de la memoria*), or of the deep Maya respect for the world-tree, now hybridized with European Christian overtones in "traditional Catholic" practices?

Burgos Cantor's novel ranges from the travels of a post-9/11 Anglo-Texan to the horrendous forced journeys of the Middle Passage and captures the polyphonic layerings of memory in new settlements. One of the characters muses:

Me aferro a mi nombre Analia Tu-Bari.
Atrapo mi memoria joven. A penas
comenzaba a poblarse con la historia de
los míos, mis aventuras recientes, el
sendero del cual vengo, mi lugar en la
aldea, esa pertenencia de la cual nos
vamos nutriendo, en la cual crecen las
raíces que nos sujetan y nos alimentan y
nos hacen fuertes como las ceibas que
nacieron de semillas de ceibas untadas
de lluvia y de tormentas. (73)

Just before writing this column, I was in Chiapas, Mexico, where Argovia coffee plantation owner Bruno Giesemann, a third-generation German-Mexican, pointed out to our combined group of students from the Tecnológico de Monterrey and

Cornell University some of the ways he was reinvesting in the selva, by listening carefully to elder knowledge, observing the ways of plants, and (he is a businessman, after all) finding at least three ways to capitalize on each product. We had just come from breakfast, with the taste of Argovia coffee, Argovia star fruit jam, and Argovia cardamom honey butter still in our mouths. Of no clear economic value but nevertheless a source of immense pride is a venerable ceiba—one of the oldest denizens on his land, over 200 years old, the sovereign of his carefully husbanded landscape. Carpentier or Burgos Cantor help bridge these mysteries for us.

Yale graduate student and poet Melissa Castillo-Garsow (LASA member and my daughter) was also on this trip to Chiapas; her response reflects another kind of intellectual engagement and scholarly reflection. Here's an excerpt:

The Ceiba

Attention: talent is why they keep us. Down.
We weren't always this poor
3,000 years before Christ
we wrote poems then too
...

I dig my hand deep and pull out
roots of my culture.
...

It's like the ceiba tree reaching
roots from the underworld
to the leaves. We grow. Cut us
and we grow again. From prickly
youth to pregnant trunk.
There's a reason why the ceiba tree
full grown looks like a pregnant woman
in her second trimester.

We glow.

References

- Burgos Cantor, Roberto**
2007 *La ceiba de la memoria*. Bogotá: Planeta.
- Carpentier, Alejo**
1967 *Tientos y diferencias*. Buenos Aires: Arca.
- Castillo-Garsow, Melissa**
2014 "La ceiba." Unpublished poem, cited with permission from the author. ■

From the Outgoing President

by MERILEE GRINDLE | Harvard University | merilee_grindle@harvard.edu

I'd like to thank all of the LASA members who participated in the Congress in Chicago. At the meeting, many people shared with me how excited they were about the panels they participated in, the discussions they were able to have about their work, and the connections they made with those who had mutual interests. And Chicago could not have been more welcoming. The weather was perfect, the lakefront and museums beckoned, the parks were at their greenest, and the restaurants lived up to their great reputation. Bravos to Florencia Garamuño and Raúl Madrid, who organized the meeting, and to all the track and Section chairs and the committees who put in great service to the Association. As always, the Secretariat ensured that all would run smoothly. I felt fortunate to be a part of it all.

How quickly a year in the presidency of LASA passes! I learned a great deal in this role—the amount of work that goes into an annual Congress, the wide range of skills that are called into action to make it happen, and the significance of the intellectual agendas that bring people together. I was delighted, given the busy lives we all lead, to learn how willing so many people are to accept responsibilities to serve on committees and as chairs of tracks and Sections. As your president, I learned why LASA works so well and how much it seeks, through the Secretariat and the Executive Council, to respond to its members. Through discussions with members, with the Secretariat, and with the Executive Council, I learned that the rules and guidelines that members sometimes chafe against are established, and

sometimes altered, with very clear criteria in mind: to ensure equity for our members, quality in the scholarship characterizing the meetings, and the sustainability of a membership association. I would like to thank you all for this great opportunity to see, close up, the dynamics of this organization and its clear and important mission.

And so the beat goes on. On June 1, Debra Castillo of Cornell University became the new president of LASA. With Program Co-Chairs Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo and Luis Cárcamo-Huechante, she has a large group of people already planning for the next LASA Congress, with the fascinating theme of “Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias.” I hope many of you are in the midst of planning proposals for panels and papers, because the success of a meeting depends on the diversity and richness of the program. I am looking forward to an excellent Congress in San Juan and will enjoy having somewhat more time to attend panels and peruse the book exhibit and the film festival. I hope to see many of you there. ■



2014 KALMAN SILVERT AWARD RECIPIENT

Tulio Halperín Donghi, Recipient of the 2014 Kalman Silvert Award

by JOEL HOROWITZ | St. Bonaventure University

MARK HEALEY | University of Connecticut

NILS JACOBSEN | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

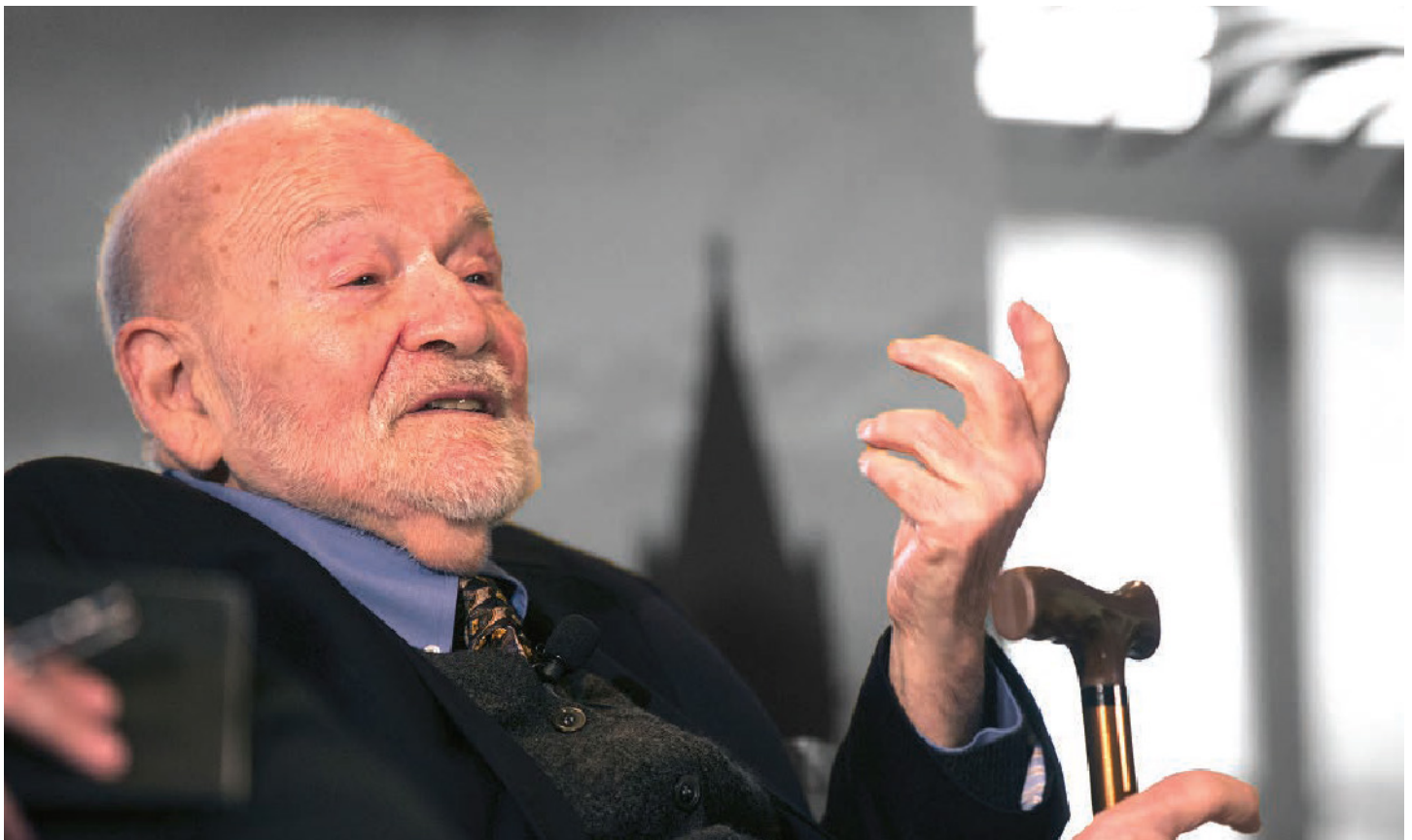
PETER H. SMITH | University of California, San Diego

Tulio Halperín Donghi is one of the most distinguished historians of Latin America alive today. He is revered across the United States, Europe, and Latin America, and he is a national institution in his native Argentina. Above and beyond his astounding productivity, erudition, and brilliance, his scholarship has had a broad impact on virtually all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Being honored with the Kalman Silvert Award of the Latin American Studies Association is a wonderful capstone for a long and illustrious career.

Halperín has received numerous honors and awards, including a major prize for “scholarly distinction” from the American Historical Association (1998). He is one of only eight Latin American historians who are fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received honorary degrees and awards from universities in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay.

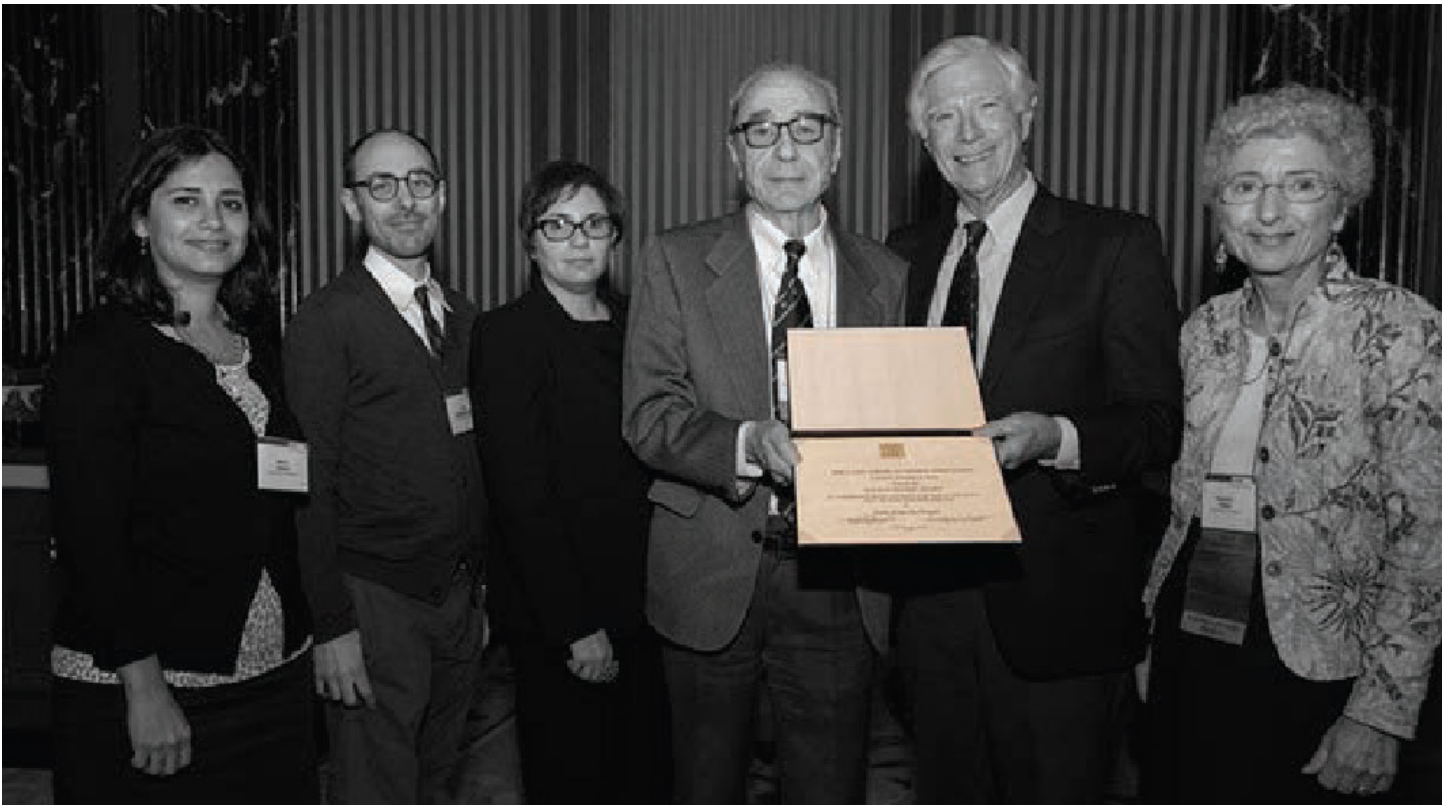
Halperín’s scholarly oeuvre is broad, complex, and not easy to pigeonhole because it eschews monocausal explanations and always explores the full

range of options in any given historical circumstance. He is the author of 22 books, including pioneering monographs, essay collections, crucial works of synthesis, and three anthologies with book-length introductory essays. His written work ranges from medieval Spain (his dissertation) to the late twentieth century, with particular focus on three areas: late colonial and early national Latin America, mid-nineteenth-century Argentina, and Latin America and Argentina from 1930 to the present. Halperín’s work has encompassed different historiographical approaches and perspectives, from



UC Berkeley, April 2014 / Photo by Jim Block/CLAS Berkeley

Halperín's scholarly oeuvre is broad, complex, and not easy to pigeonhole because it eschews monocausal explanations and always explores the full range of options in any given historical circumstance.



Kalman Silvert Award ceremony at the LASA2014 Congress / Photo by LASA 2014

economic and social history to political and especially intellectual history. His hypotheses and insights have driven major debates in a dozen subfields of history and the social sciences across Latin America.

By far his most widely read and probably most influential work has been *The Contemporary History of Latin America*. Originally published in 1967 in Italian, it thereafter appeared in French, Swedish, Portuguese, German, and (eventually) English editions. Written when Argentina and the entire subcontinent were undergoing political polarization and repression, *The Contemporary History of Latin America* privileges economic

structures and sociopolitical configurations during the “neocolonial” era and its crisis after 1930, but always insists on the individuality of politicians and political movements as determining the responses in each country to social and economic challenges and transformations. The book thus became a powerful indictment of the international, local, regional, and countrywide structures holding back the full development of the Latin American nation-states and their multifaceted social and ethnic groups. At the same time, it managed to celebrate the rich variety of social and political movements seeking to push forward distinct class and national agendas within this structural framework.

In a subsequent study, *The Aftermath of Revolution in Latin America* (1973), Halperín stressed the revolutionary nature of the struggles for independence and the subtle and complex political arrangements that new and old social elites established so that political upheaval could not impinge on their social domination. The book offers a masterful portrait of the complex mingling of continuity and change.

Broadly speaking, Halperín's prolific work on Argentina falls into three strands. The first relates to the creation of a new nation in the nineteenth century. The crowning achievement within this area is *Revolución y guerra*, published in English by Cambridge University Press as *Politics, Economics, and Society in Argentina in the*

Revolutionary Period. Halperín has claimed that it is “above all a book of political history,” but it is much more than that. Embracing geography, economics, and sociology, the book describes the destruction of old elites and the creation of new ones in the crucible of the war for independence. It thus recasts the history of a much-studied period in a totally new way, tying elites to society in a complex and nuanced way and making the familiar both new and more understandable than before.

A second strand consists of intellectual history, especially in the nineteenth century. Halperín’s first book was a pioneering interrogation of the ideas of patriot Esteban Echeverría; his latest book (2013) is a tour de force on the autobiographies of Latin American intellectuals. Especially outstanding here is Halperín’s study of José Hernández, the author of *Martín Fierro*. The book focuses not so much on the poem itself as on how this “rank-and-file journalist and second-tier participant in the tangled political life of his age” came to write the national classic. Examining Hernández’s intellectual formation through his long career as a journalist, Halperín manages to make the poet’s ideas both

clearer and more complex, while transforming the study of this convoluted era and recasting literary studies of a landmark work.

The third strand has focused on Peronism. Halperín’s essays in this area have influenced not only scholarly research but also public debates. One of his works, *La larga agonía de la Argentina peronista*, made best-seller lists and was broadly discussed in the country’s leading newspapers and professional journals. Here Halperín elaborates upon and refashions themes and ideas that he first explored 30 years earlier in *Argentina en el callejón*. He argues essentially that with the coming of Peronism, Argentina fell into a stalemate with contending political elites unwilling to accept each other’s legitimacy or to agree on basic social values. The final breakdown of this stalemated society finally came from the disappearance of the social structure that had given rise to it, and from the fear produced by the hyperinflation of the late 1980s.

At the beginning of his career, Halperín played an active and leading role in the

renovation of Argentine academic life after the overthrow of Perón, providing intellectual leadership and administrative services at the University of Buenos Aires and the Universidad Nacional del Litoral. After leaving Argentina and teaching briefly at Harvard and Oxford, he landed at Berkeley, where he would become a powerful figure in Latin American history in the United States and mentor of dozens of doctoral students. With the return of democracy to Argentina in 1983, Halperín became a crucial figure in the renewal of Argentine history as his texts became centerpieces of scholarly debate and he became deeply involved in teaching and shaping the next generation of scholars. Today he remains a national icon, his pronouncements debated by presidents and taxi drivers alike.

Beyond his exceptional scholarly distinction, Halperín is one of those rare individuals who possess a deep understanding of many fields of intellectual endeavor and a seemingly unlimited curiosity about human affairs. He is widely read in the social science literatures of Italy, France, Spain, Germany, England, the



Kalman Silvert Award ceremony at the LASA2014 Congress / Photo by LASA 2014



United States, and, of course, Latin America. He has an avid interest in and knowledge of world literatures, and he can talk with authority about works, whether fiction or nonfiction, far removed from his chosen field of scholarship, aided by what appears to be a photographic memory.

For Halperín, living and studying appear to be seamlessly connected, feeding upon each other and connected by ceaseless observation, reading, and reflection. It is thus not surprising that he approaches his work with a profound appreciation of the human comedy, although balancing it always with a sense of caring about individuals and peoples. He has thus established a reputation as a brilliant commentator and sharp critic with an irreverent sense of humor.

For all these reasons we are delighted that Tulio Halperín Donghi was chosen for the 2014 Kalman Silvert Award. ■

Beyond his exceptional scholarly distinction, Halperín is one of those rare individuals who possess a deep understanding of many fields of intellectual endeavor and a seemingly unlimited curiosity about human affairs.

Martin Diskin Memorial Lecture, Chicago, 24 de mayo de 2014

por ALBERTO J. OLVERA RIVERA

Es un gran honor para mí recibir el premio Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship, instituido en honor de un gran antropólogo comprometido con la justicia en Centroamérica y practicante convencido de la investigación activista. Saber que este reconocimiento ha sido otorgado anteriormente a personalidades tan importantes del mundo académico y del activismo civil en América Latina y en Estados Unidos (y cito ahora sólo a los que me resultan cercanos), como Claudia Paz y Paz, extraordinaria abogada y fiscal guatemalteca que recientemente fue depuesta de su cargo por su valor para llevar a juicio y condenar por genocidio al ex dictador Efraín Ríos Montt; el gran sociólogo colombiano Orlando Fals Borda (inspiración de muchos de los aquí presentes); Jonathan Fox, activista en favor de la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas a nivel internacional, y quien ha apoyado a México toda la vida; los mexicanos Rodolfo Stavenhagen y Rosalva Aida Hernández, quienes han mantenido un largo activismo en favor de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas; Carlos Iván Degregori, uno de los grandes intelectuales peruanos, y a quien recordamos hoy aquí; y Terry Karl, gran intelectual y decidida luchadora a favor de los derechos humanos en Guatemala y El Salvador. En verdad que frente a ellos me siento empujado porque mi misión en la vida ha sido menos visible y trascendente que la de las personas que me han antecedido en este premio. Como profesor de una universidad pública de provincia en México, la Universidad Veracruzana, y como activista civil con fuerte implantación local, la visibilidad de mi trabajo en un país tan centralizado como el mío es mucho menor a la que normalmente tienen los intelectuales y activistas que viven y participan en redes en la ciudad de México, o de manera similar, en las capitales nacionales en otros países de la región. Esta circunstancia sin duda

afecta el conocimiento que de nuestro propio trabajo tienen los colegas nacionales e internacionales. El otorgamiento del premio a quien les habla es un hecho casi inédito para un país que no suele mirar a sus regiones ni pensarse desde ellas, con contadas excepciones históricas. En ese sentido, quiero compartir este premio con las decenas de intelectuales y activistas que desarrollan un trabajo callado pero fundamental en la provincia mexicana.

Quiero agradecer a Oxfam América por apoyar este premio. Reconozco la importancia del trabajo que esta organización generosa desarrolla en el mundo combatiendo la pobreza y la injusticia, y también porque ha mantenido como principio a lo largo de su historia su autonomía política respecto del gobierno de su país. Este es un valor importantísimo, no solamente en Estados Unidos, sino también en América Latina. Agradezco a LASA, la asociación la cual pertenezco desde hace 22 años, por tener la capacidad para integrar jurados para éste y otros premios, que son plurales, con presencia de intelectuales tanto norteamericanos como latinoamericanos, y que han demostrado a lo largo de los años una notable independencia de criterio y una disposición para ampliar los horizontes del reconocimiento del trabajo académico y del compromiso cívico.

Quisiera hacer ahora algunas reflexiones sobre mi propia trayectoria personal, que me parece ilustran los problemas tanto teóricos como prácticos que plantea la democratización mexicana y al mismo tiempo explican la naturaleza de mi propia experiencia en la investigación activista. Yo pertenezco a la generación post-1968, que realizó sus estudios universitarios a fines de los años setentas en el contexto de un enorme activismo estudiantil y de la más grande movilización social de la segunda



Alberto Olvera Rivera is honored with the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship by Rosalva Aida Hernández

mitad del siglo XX. Para mi generación el activismo estudiantil fue casi natural, pero a diferencia de los estudiantes de la Universidad Nacional (UNAM), los de provincia teníamos que luchar contra un enemigo interno en las universidades: el llamado “porrismo estudiantil”, es decir grupos de jóvenes contratados por el gobierno para amenazar violentamente a los activistas y evitar su movilización crítica. La lucha por abrir espacios de libertad dentro de las universidades públicas de provincia fue muy desigual y tuvo lamentablemente pocos efectos. La política del régimen autoritario consistió en tolerar islas de crítica sólo en tanto éstas no contaminaran al conjunto de las instituciones. Una política de aislamiento de la izquierda, combinada con la clásica política de cooptación, fue instrumento eficaz para controlar a las universidades, pero al costo de degradar sus fundamentos académicos y morales. Lamentablemente, este argumento aplica también para las universidades que fueron controladas por la izquierda desde fines de los años setenta: Guerrero, Sinaloa y Oaxaca, así como las de Puebla y Zacatecas, que lo fueron por menos años, ya que los grupos que las dirigieron no privilegiaron las labores académicas y se entregaron a distintas formas de politización interna que no ayudaron ni al conocimiento ni a los movimientos populares. En general, la

forma de control corporativo, vía privilegios administrados a los trabajadores del sector público, en especial en la educación, fue políticamente eficaz para el régimen, pero catastrófica para el país, pues su efecto fue destruir la ética laboral al premiar la lealtad política e ignorar el desempeño profesional.

Tuve la suerte de egresar de la licenciatura en una época de acelerada expansión de las universidades. Mi generación encontró empleo rápidamente, algunos de nosotros en la propia universidad. Estudié economía, pero por accidente empecé mi carrera como historiador sin tener la formación ni el entrenamiento para ello. Aprendí sobre la marcha conforme estudiaba a los trabajadores petroleros de la época de la nacionalización de la industria petrolera, a fines de los años 30 del siglo XX. Esta experiencia me permitió tener una visión crítica de eventos fundamentales de la historia mexicana, al mismo tiempo que me sorprendía el contraste entre la calidad de los debates internos, la radical autonomía de los líderes sindicales de la época y el triste presente de un sindicalismo corrupto y autoritario en la empresa petrolera nacional. Mi trabajo no resultó muy popular en esos tiempos, pues critiqué ciertas interpretaciones de la heroicidad obrera que no necesariamente reflejaban la realidad mucho más compleja y difícil del mundo del trabajo. La nacionalización petrolera se convirtió desde los años 40 en una narrativa oficial hegemónica que no admitió cuestionamientos. Comprender cómo se produce una cultura laboral, cómo se experimenta la vida sindical, cómo se entiende al Estado desde el lugar de trabajo, y el análisis desde la perspectiva de los trabajadores de base de los grandes momentos de transformación histórica, fueron mis aportes en este campo.

En mis años tempranos como académico trabajé también como asesor de la Unión de Productores de Café de Veracruz, una organización campesina novedosa en cuanto tenía como principio su autonomía política del Estado y evitaba concentrar el poder en los líderes y asesores externos del movimiento. La Unión tenía su base en el centro de Veracruz, el segundo estado productor de café más importante de México, y de esta experiencia de varios años de trabajo directo con las comunidades campesinas aprendí mucho acerca de la cultura y de la capacidad organizativa, discursiva y política de los campesinos. Esta experiencia, sumada al conocimiento que me había dado el estudio del sindicalismo petrolero, me convenció de que en los movimientos populares hay siempre potenciales Emilianos Zapata, que no logran convertirse en grandes líderes nacionales por la ausencia de condiciones históricas favorables. Mi asombro ante la capacidad deliberativa y el valor político de muchos de estos trabajadores y estos campesinos sigue vigente hasta la fecha, así como también mi frustración por la impotencia colectiva para contrarrestar las estrategias del régimen autoritario, tan sabias en su capacidad de desgaste y cooptación de los movimientos populares. Reconozco que los activistas tuvimos también responsabilidad por el progresivo debilitamiento del movimiento cafetalero, pues nuestros proyectos políticos no necesariamente eran comprendidos por las bases y nuestras estrategias no se adaptaron con la suficiente rapidez a las condiciones específicas de cada coyuntura. La sostenibilidad en el tiempo de un movimiento popular es un reto político formidable. Por cierto, escribí poco de esta experiencia, y esta es una de mis grandes deudas con los campesinos de mi región.

Al mismo tiempo, en esos años ochenta, una década de crisis terrible en mi país,

participé con diversos colegas en un intento de democratizar el sindicato de trabajadores académicos de mi universidad y la universidad misma. En esa época, por primera vez en la historia, los trabajadores académicos nos movilizamos en reclamo de mejores salarios y de reconocimiento profesional de nuestra labor. En esos años los salarios reales cayeron dramáticamente y el sindicato autoritario asignaba categorías a los profesores de manera discrecional y arbitraria. Nuestro intento democratizador terminó en la expulsión de 19 profesores del sindicato académico, yo mismo en primer lugar, pero las autoridades y los líderes sindicales no nos pudieron despedir de la Universidad porque era legalmente difícil y políticamente riesgoso. Esta derrota nos enseñó que las instituciones universitarias son sumamente conservadoras y difíciles de cambiar, sobre todo una universidad pública estatal como la mía, que en esa época ni siquiera gozaba del estatuto de autonomía, por lo que el gobierno tenía un control político total. No obstante, logramos una pequeña victoria cultural, pues muchos profesores jóvenes asumieron una actitud crítica frente al autoritarismo, que después ayudaría a una progresiva academización de la universidad y a lograr, apenas hace 16 años, la autonomía de la institución.

De forma tardía para una carrera académica normal, pude realizar mis estudios de maestría y doctorado en la New School for Social Research entre 1989 y 1993, gracias a una beca Fulbright-LASPAU y otra de la propia New School. En esa época descubrí la sociología y la ciencia política, campos que siempre había querido estudiar. Era un marxista autodidacta, y me encontré de pronto leyendo con asombro a Weber, a Habermas y a tantos otros gigantes del pensamiento filosófico, sociológico y político. Aprendí mucho sobre los procesos de

democratización a partir de las lecturas de O'Donnell, Schmitter, Stepan y otros. Tuve la enorme fortuna de recibir clases de Eric Hobsbawm, Agnes Heller, Claus Offe, Andrew Arato, Charles Tilly, William Roseberry, Sheila Benhabib, José Casanova y varios otros formidables profesores. Asistí a muchas conferencias y debates sobre la caída del Muro de Berlín, sobre las transiciones a la democracia en América Latina y Europa Oriental, y de pronto sentí que por primera vez pertenecía al mundo, que era parte de él. Adquirí nuevos intereses académicos, ante todo la preocupación por la emergente sociedad civil, por las transiciones a la democracia, por las implicaciones globales y locales de la caída del Muro. Pero además, tuve la inmensa fortuna de ser parte de una generación de estudiantes latinoamericanos de los cuales aprendí tanto como de la propia escuela. Especialmente he compartido preocupaciones, conocimientos y experiencias con mi amigo de buena parte de la vida, Leonardo Avritzer, y con mi no menos querido Enrique Peruzzotti. Agradezco la presencia de ustedes y de varios otros compañeros de viaje aquí, y aprovecho para manifestarles a todos mi amistad y mi agradecimiento por lo que me han enseñado.

Al regreso a mi universidad, me dediqué profesionalmente a investigar la relación entre la sociedad civil y los procesos de democratización en mi país, participando de lleno en el proceso como activista civil, y compartí esta experiencia con una generación de intelectuales y activistas que trabajaban en el mismo proyecto. Ya desde 1988 México experimentó grandes protestas civiles por el fraude electoral cometido contra Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. Antes de irme a Estados Unidos fundé, junto con mis colegas universitarios, el Foro Cívico Xalapeño, organización civil que protestó contra el fraude, y fui, como

miles y miles de mexicanos, miembro fundador del Partido de la Revolución Democrática en 1989, partido que pronto habría de decepcionarnos a muchos, de manera que en 1993 decidí no renovar mi membresía partidaria, aunque seguí votando por el PRD a falta de mejores alternativas. Con ese bagaje a cuestas, participé de lleno en las luchas por la democracia electoral desde 1994, lo cual me llevó a ser parte de la Dirección Nacional de la Alianza Cívica (1994–2000), un movimiento prodemocrático de carácter nacional, que propuso y desarrolló nuevas formas de control democrático de los ciudadanos hacia el Estado, particularmente la observación electoral, un instrumento que fue importante en la época de creación y consolidación de las leyes e instituciones electorales de mi país. La Alianza Cívica también realizó consultas populares, ofreció su solidaridad al movimiento zapatista y desarrolló las primeras formas de exigencia legal de rendición de cuentas y transparencia. Estos años fueron importantes para mí no sólo desde el punto de vista académico, sino también político, pues mi participación en la Alianza me permitió conocer mejor mi propio país y compartir de viva voz la experiencia de múltiples activistas civiles que trabajaban en condiciones sumamente complejas y difíciles en los estados de la República. Trabajé además con la élite de la sociedad civil mexicana, los líderes de organizaciones no gubernamentales, también llamadas organizaciones civiles, que encabezaban los esfuerzos democratizadores.

Sin duda, la investigación activista permite no sólo la realización personal de un compromiso político, sino un nivel de conocimiento imposible de alcanzar desde la perspectiva del observador, un conocimiento íntimo que permite ver también los errores y límites de los

movimientos. Sin embargo, mi experiencia indica que la mayoría de las veces, los investigadores-activistas guardan sus críticas por considerar que hacer públicas sus opiniones personales puede ser políticamente inconveniente. Difiero de ese criterio. Creo que la crítica solidaria es absolutamente necesaria para los movimientos. En lo particular, critiqué el centralismo de Alianza Cívica, su incapacidad para convertir los problemas locales en temas nacionales, los éxitos locales en ejemplo nacional. Critiqué también el prejuicio antipolítico (que yo compartía) que dominaba el ambiente de las organizaciones civiles, temerosas de la cooptación por el gobierno y los partidos. Este temor era por cierto justificado, pero condujo a la parálisis política en momentos críticos, sobre todo después de la alternancia. Vencer el miedo al debate franco al interior de la sociedad civil y de la academia es todavía una tarea no completada.

Mis estudios y los de otros colegas sobre el papel de la sociedad civil en México permitieron darle visibilidad a la sociedad en un proceso de transición que desde 1989 se veía monopolizado por los partidos políticos, tanto establecidos como emergentes, los cuales sistemáticamente ignoraban a la sociedad civil. Esto era paradójico, pues la creación de las instituciones electorales mexicanas, particularmente del Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE), que a partir de 1997 se convirtió en una especie de referente internacional de institucionalidad autónoma en materia electoral, fue un producto indirecto de la gran movilización por la democracia que tuvo lugar en México desde principios de los años noventa hasta el año 2000. Los fundamentos morales y legales del IFE, ante todo la autonomía política, la profesionalización y la dirección colectiva

por parte de personajes independientes de los partidos, fueron propuestos por el movimiento civil prodemocrático. Lamentablemente, el movimiento no tuvo la capacidad de influir ni en la agenda ni en las prácticas de los partidos políticos, quienes a partir del momento en que pudieron usufructuar el generoso financiamiento público previsto en las nuevas leyes electorales, radicalizaron sus tendencias a la autorreferencialidad y se tornaron en simples maquinarias políticas cuyos vínculos con la sociedad fueron fundamentalmente clientelares. Por cierto, debe añadirse aquí que, como bien ha señalado Guillermo Trejo, el movimiento zapatista fue un factor decisivo en la decisión del régimen autoritario para permitir elecciones más o menos libres, dado el temor que en su interior suscitó el espectro de la movilización popular.

A partir de 1998 tuve la oportunidad de participar en varios proyectos que impulsó la Fundación Ford, en primer lugar en un gran proyecto internacional comparado sobre la sociedad civil y la gobernabilidad en el mundo. A través de esta experiencia, pude ampliar mi horizonte de conocimiento de los movimientos sociales locales, regionales y nacionales y su papel en los procesos de democratización. Como responsable del estudio de México, este proyecto me permitió continuar y profundizar el conocimiento de la sociedad civil mexicana en su enorme complejidad. Este trabajo reforzó mi crítica a la idea dominante, tanto en círculos académicos como civiles, de que la sociedad civil se limitaba en México a las ONGs y los movimientos prodemocráticos urbanos. Uno de los problemas que hemos tenido en mi país ha sido el no entender la naturaleza plural y heterogénea de la sociedad civil, incomprensión que condujo a una forma primaria de entender la dualidad entre sociedad civil y Estado: la sociedad civil es

el polo de la virtud y el Estado es el polo de la maldad, idea que criticara acertadamente hace años mi colega Evelina Dagnino. Esta arraigada incomprensión ha logrado ser atenuada lo largo de los años, de muchos debates y de la dura experiencia de la realidad de una democratización frustrada. En el libro colectivo que edité con Evelina Dagnino y Aldo Panfichi, llamado *La disputa por la construcción democrática en América Latina*, se presenta una síntesis y crítica de los debates que en los años noventa y primeros del nuevo siglo se dieron en torno a la naturaleza del papel de la sociedad civil en el proceso de democratización. La conclusión principal fue que esta dicotomía polar entre sociedad civil y Estado era errónea, como lo son los conceptos que homogeneizan a la sociedad civil y al Estado. Es precisamente la naturaleza compleja y heterogénea de esas dos entidades lo que nos obliga a entender la democratización como un proceso de co-construcción de un Estado democrático de Derecho y de una sociedad civil democrática. Se trata de un proceso que no tiene un ritmo estable, sino que se caracteriza por altas y bajas, avances y retrocesos. Sin duda las experiencias de cada país de América Latina son distintas y es por ello que no se puede establecer un modelo ideal del proceso, en el cual están en disputa distintos proyectos políticos. Lo cierto es que esa co-construcción exige mediaciones funcionales entre la sociedad y el Estado. En el nivel programático-ideal (proyectos) se ubica un plano necesario de confluencia de intereses y visiones; en las trayectorias personales de líderes civiles y políticos se pueden detectar las migraciones de liderazgos y proyectos entre la sociedad y el Estado. Pero la estabilización de los potenciales de alianza entre sectores de la sociedad civil y el Estado requiere de la mediación de partidos políticos y de la construcción de instituciones, tanto formales como informales, de participación

y deliberación. Esto ocurrió, por ejemplo, en varias ciudades de Brasil en los años noventa gracias a una nueva constitución democrática, la existencia del Partido de los Trabajadores y los cientos de experimentos participativos desarrollados en colaboración entre gobiernos locales y movimientos sociales, como bien lo ha demostrado Leo Avritzer en sus libros. Esta confluencia de actores y procesos es excepcional y no dura para siempre. Donde no hay los actores ni las condiciones históricas apropiadas, la transición se limita al espacio electoral y no da lugar a un verdadero proceso de construcción democrática, como es el caso prototípico de México.

Al entusiasmo inicial por la democracia electoral ha seguido en varios países, pero especialmente en México, un profundo desencanto con esa democracia tan difícilmente ganada, y tan fácilmente descarrilada por los intereses de una clase política muy poco democrática y de escaso nivel intelectual y moral. En otro libro que edité, *La democratización frustrada*, se habla precisamente de cómo los avances jurídicos e institucionales en la democratización mexicana han sido vaciados por una clase política que tiene como estrategia la colonización de todos los espacios de participación ciudadana y de las instituciones garantes de derechos y de participación. Este fracaso de la democratización entendida como un proceso de construcción de un Estado democrático de Derecho coincide en el tiempo con un debilitamiento de los distintos sectores de la sociedad civil mexicana, los que, de una forma u otra, fuimos víctimas de una esperanza desproporcionada en los potenciales de la democracia electoral. Por el contrario, en los años de la alternancia política, durante los gobiernos del Partido Acción Nacional, se ha vivido la progresiva fragmentación

del poder político, la descomposición del tejido social y el colapso moral de la clase política, en un ambiente de creciente violencia criminal que un Estado incompetente y en parte coludido con los poderes fácticos ha sido incapaz de controlar. Coinciden así una crisis de representación política y social, una crisis de seguridad que en realidad es una expresión de la crisis del Estado, y un prolongado estancamiento económico, todo lo cual crea una sensación de desaliento. Se ha desperdiciado una oportunidad histórica única para llevar a cabo un verdadero proceso de democratización, de lo cual son culpables por igual una clase política que no estuvo a la altura de los retos y una sociedad civil demasiado débil en términos sociales, organizacionales e intelectuales. Y de esto somos corresponsables los académicos-activistas por no ser capaces de incidir de manera más decisiva en la vida política.

En años recientes muchos académicos mexicanos nos tornamos, por la fuerza de las circunstancias, y por la necesidad de entender lo que le pasa al país, en estudiosos, aun principiantes, de la violencia, la inseguridad y la injusticia. Mis trabajos recientes van en esa dirección, y debo decir que he entendido mejor la increíble debilidad del Estado en mi país. Acostumbrado a pensar, como todos los mexicanos, que el Estado era casi omnipotente, y concentrado, por otra parte, en analizar y acompañar a la sociedad civil, debo reconocer que había perdido la perspectiva del Estado. Al estudiar las entrañas de las instituciones de seguridad y justicia se descubren vacíos gigantescos, aparatos vaciados de institucionalidad, de sentido ético, de mínimos estándares profesionales, penetrados hasta la médula por intereses criminales. La precariedad del Estado es, del otro lado de la moneda, la vulnerabilidad extrema de la ciudadanía.

La angustiosa pregunta que nos hacemos hoy los mexicanos es si la mediocre clase política que debemos tolerar es capaz de la hazaña de construir el Estado en medio del desastre.

Por fortuna, la resistencia sigue y los años recientes no se han perdido del todo. Se han logrado avances legales e institucionales relevantes en materia de acceso a la información y reconocimiento, protección y garantías de los derechos humanos; se ha iniciado también una reforma de la justicia, si bien todo ello de manera incipiente. Han surgido movimientos sociales adecuados a la necesidad urgente de construir instituciones democráticas funcionales, sobre todo desde la perspectiva de la contraloría ciudadana. Se han multiplicado en varias partes del país los observatorios de toda índole, especialmente aquellos dedicados a los derechos de ciudadanía y a las políticas urbanas, la calidad de los gobiernos locales y la calidad de la democracia en general. Se han llevado a cabo múltiples estudios y creado instituciones civiles que avanzan sobre la tarea central de la transparencia y el acceso a la información. Movimientos sociales populares de toda índole se multiplican en el país, sea en defensa de los bienes comunes contra la voracidad extractiva, sea en defensa de la vida contra la delincuencia organizada, sea contra tantas formas que toma la injusticia en la vida cotidiana. En el ámbito legal, se ha entendido la importancia del litigio jurídico para poder consolidar las instituciones democráticas. En ese carácter me precio de participar en el Consejo Directivo de Fundar, una ONG de investigación integrada por jóvenes comprometidos con la democracia y la justicia, que desarrolla precisamente la agenda de litigio estratégico por derechos y proyectos diversos en el campo de la transparencia y el derecho a la información.

Es importante decir que al otorgárseme este premio, se reconoce de facto la importancia del activismo en terrenos que no necesariamente son considerados heroicos en lo público, sino que son propios del trabajo cotidiano de largo plazo y de la persistencia de una actitud crítica en la vida. En lo personal, junto a esta tarea académica y de activismo que he tratado de reseñar, también he sido un intelectual público, a través de muchos años de escribir en las páginas editoriales de diversos periódicos locales y nacionales, de otorgar entrevistas a los medios de comunicación locales y nacionales y de ofrecer innumerables conferencias a públicos académicos y civiles por igual. En ese carácter, me ha tocado experimentar también la intolerancia y el autoritarismo, los cuales no se limitan únicamente a los espacios institucionales. Los medios de comunicación mexicanos están extraordinariamente cercanos al poder e incluso los medios críticos viven una condición económica precaria y requieren algún tipo de financiamiento público no siempre transparente y muchas veces no legal. Por ello, el brazo controlador de los gobiernos, incluso de los locales, puede alcanzar a la prensa nacional. He tenido la oportunidad de escribir, por ejemplo, en un diario de circulación nacional, y ser después excluido de sus páginas bajo el argumento de que el gobernador de mi estado se sentía molesto con mis escritos, un gobernador que invertía enormes cantidades de dinero en los medios nacionales (al igual que lo sigue haciendo el gobierno veracruzano actual). Muchos otros intelectuales públicos en México han sufrido la misma suerte, sobre todo en provincia. La intolerancia no es monopolio del PRI, sin embargo. También la prensa de izquierda me excluyó de sus páginas por no atenerme a sus propias líneas editoriales.

Es importante en este punto subrayar que la débil transición a la democracia no ha sido un proceso homogéneo en el tiempo y en el espacio. Veracruz, mi estado, que es el tercero más poblado de México, sigue siendo tan autoritario como 30 años atrás. De hecho podemos decir que el autoritarismo despótico local, revestido de democracia electoral, es hoy aún peor que antes en buena parte del país. México, como todos los países grandes de América Latina, se mueve a varias velocidades, y persisten nichos autoritarios de importancia mayor o menor, pero ultimadamente reales y que afectan la vida de millones de personas. Este es un dato fundamental de reconocer si hemos de orientar correctamente nuestra investigación y nuestro activismo. En México coexisten avances democráticos y prácticas autoritarias. El reto es lograr que los primeros venzan a las segundas.

No podría terminar este recuento sin reconocer las muchas deudas personales que tengo con mis seres queridos. Para empezar, fue mi padre quien me inculcó un sentido de la moralidad pública que 50 años atrás era verdaderamente excepcional. Mi padre, un médico veterinario militar al que le tocó trabajar con uno de los peores caciques político-militares posrevolucionarios, y que fue después funcionario público del estado desarrollista, fue inmune a la tentación de la corrupción y del poder. Preservó la dignidad y la decencia en una época y en un medio en donde ambas virtudes eran casi inexistentes. Su ejemplo de rebeldía, compartido por mi madre, fue mi poderosa escuela. Le debo mucho también a ambos por algo más mundano: el cariñoso cuidado que prodigaron a mis hijos durante mis frecuentes ausencias. En el mismo sentido, fue importantísima para mí la solidaridad y acompañamiento de la madre de mis hijos, Cristina Millán, a lo largo de

muchos años, seguramente los más difíciles. Estoy también en deuda con mis hijos Ameyali y Diego por su paciencia y amor incondicional. Y desde hace 14 años tengo la fortuna de recibir el cariño y el apoyo cómplice de Celia del Palacio, sin los cuales no habría hecho muchas de las cosas que les he narrado.

Agradezco, por fin, el otorgamiento de este premio y me siento honrado de estar acompañado en esta ocasión tan especial de muchos amigos, que son también, como yo, en sus respectivas esferas y países, activistas por la democracia y la justicia. Recibo este premio en nombre de ustedes y de los otros muchos colegas que están haciendo lo mismo de manera callada y menos afortunada que yo. Muchas gracias. ■

¡LASA regresa a San Juan, Puerto Rico!

por LUIS E. CARCAMO-HUECHANTE | University of Texas at Austin and Comunidad de Historia Mapuche | carcamohuechante@austin.utexas.edu

y ROSALVA AIDA HERNÁNDEZ CASTILLO | Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) | aidaher2005@gmail.com

Después de nueve años, LASA regresa a tierras boricuas. El XXXIII Congreso Internacional de LASA tendrá lugar en San Juan, Puerto Rico, entre el 27 y 30 de mayo del 2015. El entorno de la isla ya nos pone en movimiento. Su imaginario nos sugiere una movilización intelectual y cartográfica cargada de sentidos. Es el imaginario de la isla, con sus cruces norte/sur, locales, hemisféricos, transoceánicos, transnacionales y transcontinentales. Todo ello comienza a resonar en nosotros para convocarles a pensar e imaginar debates académicos que agiten las aguas.

Con este horizonte, más que un tema acotado, para el LASA2015 proponemos tres trops de reflexión: precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias. Se trata así de una invitación a navegar y moverse en mar abierto. Nuestra convocatoria temática apunta a sugerir más que a dirigir posibles trayectorias del debate LASA. Es una convocatoria hecha en “co-labor” con la Presidenta Debra Castillo, con el deseo común de que todos nuestros impulsos intelectuales se pongan en acción. Desde ya, les invitamos a pensar en colectivo, ojalá enviando propuestas de paneles que involucren diversidad de voces, metodologías, enfoques, instituciones, geografías y proveniencias; y, por cierto, haciendo uso de los variados idiomas que conforman las vidas de los sujetos y comunidades con que trabajamos en el campo de estudios latinoamericanos. Los paneles propuestos como fruto de diálogos entre colegas poseen mayores posibilidades de aprobación que el envío individual de una propuesta de ponencia. Para informarse de los contenidos específicos de la Convocatoria para el Congreso del 2015, les recomendamos visitar el sitio web de LASA: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/>. En dicho sitio, pueden acceder a la información requerida, a través de entradas en español, portugués, francés e

inglés; y allí encontrarán los formularios, las instrucciones y los plazos de envío para propuestas de paneles, talleres y/o ponencias individuales.

Hacemos entonces esta convocatoria con el LASA de regreso a San Juan, y asimismo haciendo memoria. En este sentido, no podemos dejar de evocar el XXVI Congreso realizado en San Juan, Puerto Rico, del 15 al 18 de marzo del 2006, cuya temática hoy aun nos parece pertinente: “De-centering Latin American Studies”. Explicando el tema del Congreso 2006, la entonces Presidenta, Sonia Álvarez, señalaba:

“A pesar del crecimiento de nuestra membresía internacional (cerca del 30 por ciento), los Estudios Latinoamericanos, como forma institucionalizada de formación del conocimiento, continúa estando prioritariamente centrada en los Estados Unidos y LASA sigue siendo polémicamente ‘US-céntrica.’ El Congreso del 2006 se propone contribuir a su ‘descentramiento’ y a la transnacionalización del campo de estudio organizando sesiones de cómo se estudia América Latina y el Caribe y sus pueblos, de forma muy distinta en los Estados Unidos (por ejemplo Estudios Latino/latinas), en América Latina y en el Caribe, así como en otras regiones del mundo” (http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/lasa2006_archive/; traducción nuestra).

Nueve años más tarde, este llamado cobra nuevas formas y sentidos. A la fecha, LASA ha logrado que casi la mitad (44 por ciento) de sus actuales cinco mil+ socios estén ubicados fuera de los Estados Unidos. Para el Congreso del 2015, hemos constituido 33 áreas temáticas y que se hallan a cargo de coordinadores de áreas temáticas (*track chairs*) de variadas proveniencias geográficas, raciales, de

género, culturales, disciplinarias e institucionales, y que totalizan poco más de 60 colegas participantes en este rol. La mitad de éstos se encuentran afiliados a alguna institución de investigación o educación superior de América Latina u otros continentes. Este “descentramiento” ha contribuido a enriquecer nuestros diálogos académicos y crear nuevas redes de colaboración entre el norte y el “sur global.”

Como ya indicamos al comienzo, el tema del Congreso 2015, “Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias”, fue producto de un diálogo entre la presidencia y los coordinadores del programa, buscando conceptos que reflejen no solamente las preocupaciones y urgencias que nos atraviesan a quienes formamos parte de la academia, sino que arrancan de los variados entornos y sujetos económicos, políticos, sociales, culturales y lingüísticos con quienes trabajamos. De allí que nos hallamos compelidos a darle urgencia en la conversación a la precarización de la vida laboral y la vida misma de millones de personas a nivel continental, una realidad que resulta de las llamadas “reformas estructurales” acontecidas en las sociedades de las Américas y a nivel mundial en los últimos decenios. Este asunto se halla en el centro de los discursos y las prácticas que emergen de los movimientos sociales; y, más aún, se trata de una problemática que afecta de manera directa a las nuevas generaciones de académicos/as en el continente y en la sociedad global hoy en día.

Deseamos también invitarles a pensar en torno a la problemática de las exclusiones. Lo planteamos en plural, para dejar abierta la posibilidad de discutir sobre los múltiples sistemas de desigualdad y exclusiones que marcan las vidas de personas y pueblos en el continente

latinoamericano, en sus localidades, regionalidades y diásporas: el racismo, el sexismo, la marginación y explotación laboral, la homofobia, los monoculturalismos y monolingüismos, las exclusiones epistémicas, por nombrar algunas de sus dimensiones. Aún más, invitamos a debatir en cruces transoceánicos y transnacionales, hemisféricos y planetarios, en tiempos que el flujo de cuerpos y comunidades se ha intensificado y complejizado: excluir sujetos indígenas, afro-latinos o de otras proveniencias étnicas, raciales y culturales no hispánicas, u obliterar Asia o Africa en la conversación “latinoamericana” hoy por hoy no sería dar cuenta de las abigarradas intersecciones y entretejimientos que forman nuestros pasados, presentes y potenciales futuros. Queremos que este LASA, en San Juan, Puerto Rico, se engarce con dicha pluralidad y multiplicidad.

Pero deseamos también hablar de emergencias, en un sentido polisémico: como urgencias y resurgencias. Urge continuar debates a partir de las emergencias de tipo social y medioambiental que estremecen la presente era, o que resuenan al indagar en otros períodos históricos. En el presente, estamos pensando en aquellas imperativas demandas que surgen en el campo de la educación, de las instituciones políticas o la vida cívica, o las crisis ambientales producto del cambio climático y la deforestación, o la vulnerabilidad humana a que nos exponen las catástrofes naturales. Urge compartir nuestros estudios de estas dimensiones de emergencia humana, ambiental y social, tanto en un horizonte inmediato como en la indagación del archivo y de otras etapas históricas.

Emergencias es un concepto que también nos convoca a pensar en agencias y resurgencias, como contraparte y

contracorriente de las propias realidades de vulnerabilidad, precariedad y catástrofe que connota. En las literaturas, las artes, las economías, las prácticas políticas, los movimientos sociales, los liderazgos públicos, las intimidades de subjetividades y cuerpos, las comunidades nativas y diaspóricas, los entornos naturales, los espacios urbanos, rurales, aéreos u oceánicos, las tecnologías y las ciencias, han surgido y siguen surgiendo diferentes respuestas ante experiencias, fenómenos o regímenes de precariedad y exclusión. Con LASA, de regreso a San Juan, les invitamos entonces a movilizar y agitar la imaginación, la mente y los sentidos para pensar debates que también den cuenta de sujetos y procesos de agenciamiento, como lo inusitado y novedoso del presente; o aquellos que resurgen, como memorias y presencias de largas historias e imborrables pasados. ■

Call for Papers

Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias

Many of us, from our different locations and disciplines, have been thinking about precariousness and emergent practices a good deal lately, focusing on three large and very different realms: social and labor issues in Latin America; the academic workplace and education; and modalities of knowledge exchange (how our work and networks are evolving). Precariousness is often associated with exclusions of class, gender, race, age, and sexual identity and yet, in these times of permanent crisis and emergency, we also see some of the most exciting flowerings of emergent practices.

These are large questions that have a bearing on many forms of human and social expression. For example, the recent mobilization of millions of citizens in Brazil, the massive student manifestations of the past years in Chile or Puerto Rico, the growing environmental crisis and its effects on local communities across countries and regions, or the plight of 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States are events that strike to the heart of how we think of democracy in a neoliberal hemispheric context. All of them also speak all at once on the three concepts that we would like to engage in the 2015 LASA Congress.

While the conditions of the academic workplace vary tremendously throughout the Americas, one of the huge shifts in higher education in the United States and many countries in Latin America has been to move away from the tenure system towards a system of contingent, contract labor. The recently released Delphi Project report, for example, confirms that approximately 70% of all instructors in U.S. colleges and universities are now contingent faculty. The squeeze on tenure line positions and their replacement by short-term contracts has made the job market very challenging for many of our young colleagues, who can now look forward to little more than poverty-level

income with no benefits. Even more precarious is the status of students from Latin America, who increasingly find green card or citizenship requirements as the bar they must meet for consideration. Likewise, in Latin America the structural reforms and the flexibilization of labor have affected the working conditions in academia. According to reports from members of the Federación de Colegios del Personal Académico de la UNAM, in the higher education system in Mexico, approximately 70% of the teaching is now under the responsibility of professors in part-time positions and under temporary contracts. “Tenured positions” (plazas con definitividad) are being substituted by temporary positions under partial contracts, leaving the new generations of Latin American academicians without any labor security. In the midst of these critical realities, academic communities seem to be facing not only their own internal issues but also a pressing need to imagine and establish other modes of linking the university to public life and scholarship to social service.

As part of this process, we experience the precariousness of our conventional concepts of knowledge production and sharing—the book, the academic article, the conference—as well as the challenge to old understandings of intellectual practice that are suggested by new forms of expression, often finding their homes on the vast world we call the internet. The new media—as well as broader material, technological, and ecological changes—have suggested to us new and unexpected forms of exchange, opening up exciting possibilities for the future. Moreover, new technologies have become central to linguistic, cultural, social, political, and economic subjects as tools to challenge existing exclusions, exercise new horizons of knowledge, and forge creative forms of emergence, visibility, and empowerment.

Debra Castillo
Cornell University
LASA PRESIDENT

Luis Cárcamo-Huechante
The University of Texas at Austin
and Comunidad de Historia Mapuche
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR

Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo
Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios
Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR

You are invited to submit a paper or panel proposal addressing either the Congress theme or any topics related to the program tracks. LASA also invites requests for travel grants from proposers residing in Latin America or the Caribbean as well as from students. Visit the LASA website for eligibility criteria. All proposals for papers, panels, and travel grants must be submitted electronically to the LASA Secretariat via the online proposal system by **September 8, 2014, 5pm.**

The deadline to submit proposals is September 8, 2014, 5pm.

Proposal forms and instructions will be available on the LASA website: <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>.

No submissions by regular mail will be accepted. The Secretariat will send confirmation of the receipt of the proposal via e-mail.

All participants will be required to pre-register for the Congress.

PROGRAM TRACKS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Select the most appropriate track for your proposal from the following list and enter it in the designated place on the form. Names of Program Committee members are provided for information only. Direct your correspondence to the LASA Secretariat ONLY.

Afro-Latin/Indigenous Peoples

Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj, Investigadora Maya K'iche
Emiko Saldivar, University of California Santa Barbara

Agrarian and Rural Life

Sara Ma. Flores, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Cristobal Kay, Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands;
University of London

Art and Architecture

Tatiana Flores, Rutgers University
Ray Hernández-Durán, University of New Mexico

Biodiversity, Natural Resources, and Environment.

Jonathan Ablard, Ithaca College
Miguel Altieri, University of California, Berkeley

Cities, Planning, and Social Services

Claudia Zamorano, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, University of Pittsburgh

Civil Society and Social Movements

Evelina Dagnino, Universidade Estadual de Campinas
Maristella Svampa, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Culture, Power, and Political Subjectivities

Margara Millán, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Juan Poblete, University of California, Santa Cruz

Democratization

Juliet Hooker, The University of Texas at Austin
** Pending nomination of Co-Chair*

Defense, Violence, and, Insecurity

Mariana Mora, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
María Clemencia Ramirez, Universidad de los Andes

Economics and Social Policies

Mahrukh Doctor, University of Hull
Marcelo Paixão, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Educational Policies and Pedagogy

Maria Bertely, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Cecilia Pittelli, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Film Studies

Miriam Haddu, Universidad de Cambridge
Gabriela Copertari, Case Western Reserve University

Gender and Feminist Studies

Pamela Calla, New York University
Monica Szurmuk, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, CONICET

Health and Society

Clara Han, John Hopkins University
Graciela Freyermuth, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS

History and Historiography

Silvia Alvarez Curbelo, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
Eduardo Elena, University of Miami

Human Rights and Memories

Carlos Aguirre, University of Oregon
Alejandro Cerda García, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

International Relations

Gratzia Villarroel, Saint Norbert College
Gustavo Flores Macias, Cornell University

Labor Studies and Class Relations

Heidi Tinsman, University of California, Irvine
Graciela Bensusán, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco

Latino(as) in the United States and Canada

Raúl Coronado, University of California, Berkeley
Yolanda Padilla, University of Washington-Bothell

Law, Rights, Citizenship, and Justice

Rachel Sieder, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS
Cath Collins, Universidad Diego Portales

Linguistics, Languages and Language Policy

Emiliana Cruz, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Serafin Coronel-Molina, Indiana University

Literary Studies: Contemporary

Estelle Tarica, University of California, Berkeley
Mayra Santos-Febres, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras

Literary Studies: Colonial and 19th Centuries

Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Michigan State University
Juan Carlos González-Espitia, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Literature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches

Rubí Carreño, Universidad Católica de Chile
Jerome Branche, University of Pittsburgh

Mass Media and Popular Culture

Beatriz Jaguaribe, Universidade Federale do Rio de Janeiro
Hilda Chacón, Nazareth College

Migration and Latin American diasporas

Ana Morales Zeno, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Bayamón
Sara Poggio, University of Maryland-Baltimore

Otros saberes: Collective Methods and the Politics of Research

Maylei Blackwell, University of California, Los Angeles
Shannon Speed, The University of Texas at Austin

Performance Studies

Gabriela Vargas, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan
Jimmy Noriega, Wooster College

Political Institutions and Processes

Carlos de la Torre, University of Kentucky
Raul Sanchez-Urribarri, La Trobe University

Religions and Spiritualities

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, University at Buffalo
Catalina Romero, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru

Sexualities and LGBTQ Studies

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, Sociology, American University
Shawn Schulenberg, Marshall University

States, Markets, and Political Economy

Kathryn Hochstetler, University of Waterloo
Diego Sanchez-Ancochea, University of Oxford

Transnationalism and Globalization

Liliana Suárez, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Jossiana Arroyo, The University of Texas at Austin



LASA2015 RESERVATION FORM

Organization Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Primary Contact:				Title:	
Phone & ext. (office):				Fax:	
E-mail:					
Web-site:					

FULL EXHIBIT SPACE (10' x 8')

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$885 Commercial/ University Press	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$785 each additional commercial		
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$755 Charitable Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$655 each additional charitable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$450 + \$80 (sharing fee) Booth Share (\$530 total)				
Total # of Booths:	<input type="checkbox"/> one	<input type="checkbox"/> two	<input type="checkbox"/> three	<input type="checkbox"/> four	<input type="checkbox"/> five
Combined booth:	One \$75 book <input type="checkbox"/>	Additional \$55 <input type="checkbox"/>	More than five please contact msc49@pitt.edu	"Take one" display \$125 <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADVERTISING

Deadlines

Reservations: March 31, 2015
Materials: April 15, 2015

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600 full page	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1500 Back Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1500 Inside back cover
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350 half page	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1100 Inside Front Cover	Total # of pages	

MAILING LIST

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$450 Pre-registrant list (commercial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350 Pre-registrant list (nonprofit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500 On-site list (commercial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$400 On-site list (nonprofit)

Payment information

Check Credit Card Wire Transfer

Amount (check must be payable to LASA)		Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/>	Transaction # (outside USA)	
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR BOOTH PREFERENCES:		Card #		
		Exp. Date		
		CVV #	SUBMISSION DATE	

Cancellations

If an exhibitor is forced to withdraw from participation by January 5, 2015, all sums paid by the exhibitor less a \$350 service fee will be refunded. No refunds will be issued after January 5, 2015. Cancellations are not effective until received in writing by LASA. No refund will be made if an exhibitor fails to occupy the space. No refund on late or no arrival of materials.

Payment

A minimum deposit of 50% of the total booth rental fee is required. Booths will not be assigned without the 50% deposit. Failure to remit payment for the booth rental by January 5, 2015 constitutes cancellation of the contract, and the space will be subject to resale without refund.

As the authorized contact for the above organization, I agree to comply with, and be bound by, the terms of LASA's Rules and Regulations.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name of the company/ organization ID sign: _____

Return form to:

LASA Book Exhibit
416 Bellefield Hall
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260.
Telephone: 412-648-7929 Fax: 412-624-7145
Email: lasa@pitt.edu / msc49@pitt.edu

Nominations Invited

Nominations Invited for 2015 Slate

Deadline: October 15, 2014

LASA members are invited to suggest nominees for vice president, treasurer, and three members of the Executive Council, for terms beginning June 1, 2015. Criteria for nomination include professional credentials and previous service to LASA. Each candidate must have been a member of the Association in good standing for at least one year prior to nomination. Biographic data and the rationale for nomination must be sent by October 15, 2014, to LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (milagros@pitt.edu).

The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity until May 31, 2016; as president from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2017; and then as past president for an additional year. The treasurer and the Executive Council members will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2017.

Members of the Nominations Committee are Merike Blofield, University of Miami; Luis Duno-Gottberg, Rice University; Marshall C. Eakin, Vanderbilt University; Rachel Meneguello, Universidade Estadual de Campinas; Cynthia A. Sanborn, Universidad del Pacífico; Patricia Tovar Rojas, CUNY/John Jay College; and Katherine Hite, Vassar College, who will serve as the liaison with the LASA Executive Council.

Kalman Silvert Award Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Kalman Silvert Award Committee invites nominations of candidates for the year 2015 award. The Silvert Award recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America. The award is given at each LASA International Congress. Past recipients of the award are John J. Johnson (1983); Federico Gil (1985); Albert O. Hirschman (1986); Charles Wagley (1988); Lewis Hanke (1989); Victor L. Urquidi (1991); George Kubler (1992); Osvaldo Sunkel (1994); Richard Fagen (1995); Alain Touraine (1997); Richard Adams (1998); Jean Franco (2000); Thomas Skidmore (2001); Guillermo O'Donnell (2003); June Nash (2004); Miguel León-Portilla (2006); Helen Safa (2007); Alfred Stepan (2009); Edelberto Torres-Rivas (2010); Julio Cotler (2012); Peter Smith (2013); and Tulio Halperín Donghi (2014).

Members of the committee are Merilee Grindle (chair), LASA immediate past president; Evelyne Huber and Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida, past presidents; Philip Oxhorn, editor of the *Latin American Research Review*; and Peter Smith, 2013 Kalman Silvert awardee. Nominations should be sent to LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (milagros@pitt.edu) by October 15, 2014. Nominations must include a substantive nomination letter by a LASA member and the nominee's current curriculum vitae.

Bryce Wood Book Award Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 15, 2014

At each International Congress, the Latin American Studies Association presents the Bryce Wood Book Award to the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in English. Books eligible for the LASA2015 International Congress will be those published between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Although no book may compete more than once, translations may be considered. Anthologies of selections by several authors or re-editions of works published previously normally are not in contention for the award. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Persons who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy of the book directly to each member of the award committee and to the LASA Secretariat, at the expense of the authors or publishers. A nomination packet should include, in addition to a copy of the nominated book, a rationale for the nomination, and the nominee's complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

All books nominated must reach each member of the Award Committee by October 15, 2014. By February 1, 2015, the committee will select a winning book. It may also name an honorable mention. The award will be announced at the LASA2015 Welcoming Reception, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA membership is not a requirement to receive the award.

Members of the 2015 committee:

Sherrie L. Baver
233 Brewery Rd
New City, NY, 10956
USA

Jon P. Beasley-Murray
University of British Columbia
Department of French/Hispanic/Italian
Studies
797-1873 East Mall
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1
CANADA

Claudio J. Barrientos
Escuela de Historia Universidad Diego
Portales
Avenida Ejército Libertador 333, Primer
Piso
Santiago de Chile, código postal 8370127
CHILE

Arturo Arias
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
150 W 21st Street, Stop B3700
Austin, TX 78712-1611
USA

Deborah A. Poole
595 11 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
USA

Orlando J. Perez
Associate Dean, School of Humanities &
Social Sciences
Millersville University
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551-0302
USA

Laura A. Podalsky
Ohio State University
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
298 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd.
Columbus, OH, 43210
USA

Marcelo Paixão
Instituto de Economia, UFRJ
Av Pasteur 250, Urca
Rio de Janeiro, RJ
CEP 22290-240
BRAZIL

Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson
Westminster College
1840 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
USA

Latin American Studies Association
Attn: Bryce Wood Book Award
University of Pittsburgh
416 Bellefield Hall
315 South Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
USA

**Premio Iberoamericano Book Award
Call for Nominations**

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Premio Iberoamericano is presented at each of LASA's International Congresses for the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in Spanish or Portuguese in any country. Books eligible for the 2015 award must have been published between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. No book may compete more than once. Normally not in contention for the award are anthologies of selections by several authors or reprints or re-editions of works published previously. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Persons who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy of the book directly to each member of the award committee and to the LASA Secretariat, at the expense of the authors or publishers. A nomination packet should include, in addition to a copy of the nominated book, a rationale for the nomination, and the nominee's complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

All books must reach each member of the committee by October 15, 2014. LASA membership is not a requirement for receiving the award. The award will be announced at the Welcoming Reception, and the awardee will be publicly honored.

Members of the 2015 committee:

Raul Marrero-Fente
2950 Dean Parkway #1804
Minneapolis, MN 55416
USA

Silvia G. Kurlat Ares
10869 Deborah Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854
USA

Silvia Valero
Calle 1A N° 13-159 Avda. Brión
Apto 2113, Edif. Nuevo Conquistador
Laguito, Cartagena
COLOMBIA

Latin American Studies Association
Attn: Premio Iberoamericano Book Award
Nominations
University of Pittsburgh
416 Bellefield Hall
315 South Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
USA

LASA Media Award Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce its competition for the year 2015 LASA Media Award for outstanding media coverage of Latin America. These awards are made every year to recognize long-term journalistic contributions to analysis and public debate about Latin America in the United States and in Latin America, as well as breakthrough journalism. Nominations are invited from LASA members and from journalists. Journalists from both print and electronic media are eligible. The committee will carefully review each nominee's work and select an award recipient. The award will be announced at the LASA2015 Welcoming Reception, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA may invite the awardee to submit materials for possible publication in the *LASA Forum*.

Recent recipients of the awards include: Raúl Peñaranda, *Página Siete* (2014); Marcela Turati, *Periodistas de a Pie* (2013); José Vales, *El Universal de Mexico* (2012); Carlos Dada, *El Faro* (2010); Mario Osava, *América Latina Inter Press Service* (2009); Hollman Morris, Colombia (2007); Maria Ester Gilio (2006); Julio Scherer, Mexico (2004); Eduardo Anguita, Buenos Aires (2003); Guillermo González Uribe, *Número*, Bogotá (2001); Patricia Verdugo Aguirre, Conama, Chile, and *Diario 16*, Spain (2000); Gustavo Gorriti, *Caretas*, Lima (1998).

To make a nomination, please send one copy of the journalist's electronic portfolio, complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address work to LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (milagros@pitt.edu) by October 15, 2014.

Members of the Media Award committee are Fred Rosen, North American Congress on Latin America, Chair; Michelle Garcia; and Gustavo Faverón Patriau, Bowdoin College.

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding individual who embodies Professor Diskin's commitment to both activism and scholarship.

This distinguished lectureship is made possible largely by a generous contribution from Oxfam America, an organization committed to grassroots work and one with which Martin Diskin was closely associated. Past lecturers were Ricardo Falla, SJ (1998); Gonzalo Sánchez Gómez, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (2000); Elizabeth Lira Kornfeld, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile (2001); Rodolfo Stavenhagen, El Colegio de México, and Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo, CIESAS, Mexico City (2003); Jonathan Fox, University of California, Santa Cruz (2004); William Leogrande, American University (2006); Orlando Fals Borda (2007); Terry Karl, Stanford University (2009); Carlos Ivan Degregori, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (2010); Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey (2012); Stefano Varese, University of California, Davis (2013); and Alberto Olvera, Universidad Veracruzana (2014).

Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. A nomination should include a substantive nomination letter by a current LASA member, the nominee's current curriculum vitae, complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. To nominate a candidate, send these materials no later than October 15, 2014, to LASA Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (milagros@pitt.edu).

Members of the 2015 Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship Committee are Katherine T. McCaffrey, Montclair State University; Armando Bartra Vergés; Alejandro Cerda García, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana/Xochimilco; Michael E. Shifter, Inter-American Dialogue; and Susan Eckstein, Oxfam America.

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Martin Diskin Dissertation Award is made possible through the generosity of Oxfam America, LASA, and LASA members. This award is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding junior scholar who embodies Professor Diskin's commitment to the creative combination of activism and scholarship. The award will be presented to an advanced doctoral student or recent PhD. All advanced PhD candidates must demonstrate that they will complete their dissertations prior to the LASA International Congress. LASA limits recent PhD recipients to those individuals who received their degrees after the LASA Congress prior to the one at which the award is to be received. LASA welcomes dissertations written in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

The Award Committee will evaluate candidates on the following criteria: (1) overall scholarly credentials, based upon the candidate's curriculum vitae; (2) the quality of the dissertation writing, research, and analysis as determined by the dissertation outline and sample chapter submitted; (3) the primary advisor's letter of recommendation. The definition of activist scholarship shall remain broad and pluralist, to be discussed and interpreted by each selection committee.

Applicants should submit a current curriculum vitae; a dissertation abstract of 250 words; the dissertation outline or table of contents; one sample chapter, which exemplifies the author's approach to activist scholarship; and a letter of recommendation from the candidate's

primary advisor which focuses explicitly on the candidate's qualifications for the Martin Diskin Dissertation Award.

All application materials must be submitted electronically and received at the LASA Secretariat by October 15, 2014. The e-mail address is milagros@pitt.edu. The Martin Diskin Dissertation Award recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend. We encourage you to distribute this call for nominations as widely as possible with particular attention to circulating it among your colleagues and students.

The 2015 selection committee consists of: Alberto Aldo Marchesi, Universidad de la República; Sara Z. Poggio, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Stuart A. Day, University of Kansas; and Susan Eckstein, OXFAM America.

**Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History
Call for Nominations**

Deadline: October 15, 2014

This fellowship will reward excellence in historical research on Mexico at the dissertation level. It will be awarded every year to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his or her doctoral research in Mexican history, broadly defined. Selection will be based on scholarly merit and on the candidate's potential contribution to the advancement of humanist understanding between Mexico and its global neighbors.

Members of the 2015 selection committee are Paul J. Gillingham, University of Pennsylvania; Erika Gabriela Pani Bano, El Colegio de México; and Raymond B. Craib, Cornell University (chair).

A qualified applicant must hold Mexican citizenship and be in the final phase of her/his doctoral program, that is, finished with coursework and exams but not yet granted the PhD. Applications must be accompanied by (1) verification by the dissertation committee chair of the student's good standing in the doctoral program; (2) a one-page (single-spaced) statement that summarizes the dissertation project, in either English or Spanish; (3) a brief (two pages maximum) curriculum vitae.

To nominate a candidate, send these materials no later than October 15, 2014, to Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, LASA Executive Director (milagros@pitt.edu).

**Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award
Call for Nominations**

Deadline: October 15, 2014

The Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce the establishment of the Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award to the author(s) of an outstanding book on Latin American Foreign Policies and International Relations published in English, Spanish, or Portuguese in any country. Books eligible for the 2015 award must have been published between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Anthologies of selections by several authors are not eligible. Books will be judged on the originality of the research, the quality of the analysis and writing, and the significance of their contribution to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers.

Persons who nominate books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to each member of the award committee and to the LASA Secretariat, at the expense of the authors or publishers, by October 15, 2014. A nomination packet should include, in addition to a copy of the nominated book, a statement justifying the nomination, and the nominee's complete mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

By February 1, 2015, the committee will select a winning book. It may also name an honorable mention. The award will be announced at the LASA2015 Welcoming Reception, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA membership is not a requirement to receive the award.

Final Report on the 32nd International Congress in Chicago

by FLORENCIA GARRAMUÑO | Universidad de San Andrés | florg@udesa.edu.ar

and RAÚL MADRID | University of Texas at Austin | rmadrid@austin.utexas.edu

Members of the 2015 committee:

Viviane Brachet-Márquez
El Colegio de México
Camino al Ajusco #20
Colonia Pedregal de Santa Teresa
México DF, 10740
MEXICO

Tanya Harmer
London School of Economics
Department of International History
Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE
UNITED KINGDOM

Brian Loveman
(San Diego State University)
439 S. Granados
Solana Beach, CA 92075
USA

Latin American Studies Association
Attn: Luciano Tomassini Latin American
International Relations
University of Pittsburgh
416 Bellefield Hall
315 South Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
USA

More than 3,200 LASA members arrived in beautiful Chicago, where spring was in full bloom, for the 32nd International Congress of our Association, which was held from May 21 to May 24. During four memorable days, members and guests converged in the historic Palmer House Hilton Hotel for over nine hundred panels, roundtables, and special sessions. The quality of debates and discussions kept us bonded to our seats, but those who ventured outside for a walk found the amazing Chicago Art Institute and the Millennium Park just steps from the hotel.

The meeting started with a series of pre-Congress workshops organized by some of the Sections and one workshop on publishing directed primarily to younger members of the profession. This year the Welcoming Ceremony was organized in conjunction with the Kellogg Institute, which sponsored the inaugural Guillermo O'Donnell Memorial lecture. This year's address was delivered by former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos. He used the theme of the conference, "Memory and Democracy," to reflect on the legacy of Guillermo O'Donnell's work, especially his analysis of bureaucratic authoritarian regimes.

The presidential and invited panels attracted great interest. All of the presidential panels addressed the Congress theme and dealt with the many and often conflicting uses and meanings of the concepts of memory and democracy. Invited panels organized by the track chairs were packed with attendees and generated many comments and debates. These innovative panels, which were devised as a way to enable the track chairs to have a greater substantive impact on the meeting, engendered a great deal of enthusiasm and we were happy to learn that they will be continued by our successors, Luis

Cárcamo-Huechante and Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo.

The panels organized by the Sections and by regular LASA members were also well attended for the most part, and in many of them dozens of people had to sit on the floor for lack of space. As in previous years, the cancellation of participants from Latin America due to economic hardships in their country of origin depopulated some panels, which was unfortunate. In addition, the growth of interdisciplinary approaches and interests that cross different tracks and Sections has made it increasingly difficult to avoid scheduling panels with similar topics at the same time. Nevertheless, we were on the whole quite pleased with the audience and the participation at the panels that we attended.

The LASA Film Festival, curated by Claudia Ferman, was an important complement to the panels and workshops. And the Book Exhibit, with more than 73 exhibitors, offered an efficient way to explore new publications and to meet with editors. As always, of course, much of the real intellectual and social exchange of the Congress took place in informal meetings among friends and colleagues.

We have received much positive feedback from colleagues. As expected, the change to annual meetings that started with LASA2012 in San Francisco has brought supply and demand more into balance, and for the Chicago Congress track chairs were able to accommodate more than 80 percent of individual proposals and 94 percent of panel proposals, allowing for a more inclusive program. Please note that under the annual cycle, proposals for LASA2015 will be due soon, on September 8, 2014.

As in previous years, the LASA Secretariat had to deal with some unpleasant issues regarding visas for scholars planning to attend the meeting. We are happy to report that thanks to the intervention of President Merilee Grindle more than 114 Cuban scholars were able to join us in Chicago, although we were disappointed to learn of the denial of visas to four of their compatriots, several of whom had participated previously in LASA Congresses held in the United States.

Having completed our work for Chicago 2014, we would like to thank the 52 track chairs (listed below) who worked hard during the past year, donating their time and energy to evaluate proposals and to organize invited panels. We also want to thank the outgoing LASA president, Merilee Grindle, for her congenial leadership and for choosing us for this rewarding experience. We also are grateful to the members of the LASA Executive Council for their guidance and support. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the staff of the LASA Secretariat at the University of the Pittsburgh: Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, Sandra Klinzing, Pilar Rodríguez, Soledad Cabezas, and Israel Perlov. Their immeasurable experience and knowledge about meeting planning made our job much easier and we are sure it will facilitate the work of our successors, Luis Cárcamo-Huechante and Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo. We wish them great success in planning LASA2015!

Gonzalo Aguilar
Paula Alonso
Krister Andersson
Pablo Ansolabehere
Elizabeth Aranda
Claudia Bacci
Anthony Bebbington
Denise Humphries Bebbington
Jason Beech
Ivana Bentes Oliveira
Katrina Burgess
Juan-Camilo Cárdenas Camps
Marcelo Caruso
Rossana Castiglioni
Kate McGurn Centellas
Eduardo Dargent Bocanegra
Donna De Cesare
Christina Ewig
Claudia Feld
Candelaria Garay
María Elena García
Virginia Garrard-Burnett
Carlos Gervasoni
Gabriel Giorgi
Héctor Hoyos Ayala
Sallie Hughes
Lázaro Lima
José Antonio Lucero
Agnes Lugo Ortiz
Sergio Montero
Juan Carlos Moreno-Brid
Italo Moriconi Jr.
Katsuo Nishikawa
Rodrigo Nunes
Brian Owensby
Viviana Patroni
Clarisa Pérez-Armendáriz

Karl Posso
Mercedes Prieto
Juan Carlos Quintero Herencia
José Quiroga
Sybil Rhodes
Amy Risley
Fermín Rodríguez
Alessandra Russo
Jeffrey Staton
Natasha Borges Sugiyama
Guillermo Trejo
Harold Trinkunas
Alexandra Vázquez
Brian Wampler
Gregory Weeks ■

LASA Business Meeting

President's Report

LASA President Merilee Grindle welcomed everyone to the Association's business meeting. She commented on the success of the Congress program, adding that the program had come together rather miraculously. She thanked the program co-chairs and track chairs and Evelyne Huber, who served this year as past president and continued to deal with various issues. Grindle also acknowledged Treasurer Tim Power as a "wonderful" treasurer and thanked the guest editors of the *LASA Forum* for doing a spectacular job. For the first time LASA was successful in obtaining Cuban visas; 125 of 129 requests were approved. We hope this success will continue in the future.

Report of the Secretariat

Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas commented on the status of LASA membership and the Executive Council discussion regarding future venues for LASA Congresses. Currently there are 4,904 individual members, a 30 percent decrease from the previous year, but the number of renewals will grow with 2015 Congress proposal submissions. Of this number, 1,125 or 23 percent are students. Of the 4,904 individual members, 3,715 have renewed from 2013, 629 are lapsed members who have renewed, and 524 are new members. There are also currently 297 institutional memberships, which represents a decrease of 20 percent from 2013. There has been a steady decline in institutional memberships due principally to the availability of digital access for libraries that are members.

LASA2016 will take place in New York City. For 2017 the most favored site is Panama, and for 2018, both Barcelona and

Sevilla are being considered. This would be the first time that a LASA Congress would take place in Europe. (Lisbon also was considered.)

Treasurer's Report

LASA Treasurer Timothy Power commented on the general financial condition of the Association and the status of the LASA Endowment. LASA contracted with D'Angelo and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, to perform the annual audit and passed with flying colors. The value of the endowment has increased since the bad years in the market; the return on investment last year was 14 percent. The Association has increased the portion of the endowment invested in socially responsible funds to 39 percent. The returns from these funds are about the same as for the S&P overall; thus there has been no negative impact from this strategy. Power thanked the endowment managers at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and the members of the LASA Investment Committee. He concluded that "LASA in good financial shape."

Report of the XXXII Congress Program Committee

LASA2014 Program Co-chairs Raúl Madrid and Florencia Garramuño reported that number of proposals submitted increased 32 percent from the Washington, DC, Congress. There were 1,172 individual proposals and 849 panel submissions. There was a definite increase in the number of submissions for complete panels. After evaluation by the track chairs, 3,974 individuals were accepted. The acceptance rate for LASA continues to be high, with 94 percent of proposed

panels and 89 percent of individual proposals approved.

This year the program co-chairs asked the track chairs, in addition to their review responsibilities, to assemble invited panels that would highlight cutting-edge research in their fields. There was very positive feedback on this, and the track chairs enjoyed "molding" the program. This practice will be repeated for LASA2015.

Vice President's Report

LASA Vice President Debra Castillo thanked the new program co-chairs for the San Juan Congress, Luis Cárcamo-Huechante and Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo. They already have been working hard to assemble a fine program with the new track chairs. One presidential panel has already been confirmed. The presidential panels will be organized as dialogues between two individuals. For example, Robert Warrior, president of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, will have a discussion with a member of the Mapuche Collective History Project.

Resolutions

Debra Castillo reported that no resolutions were proposed this year. During the previous year the Executive Council worked to enhance the resolution process to make sure that resolutions have solid backing from the membership; she wondered if the "higher bar" set by the new process contributed to the lack of resolutions this time.

In a case presented to the Commission on Academic Freedom, a LASA member protested the denial of his application for a

LASA2014 Awards and Recipients

visa to Cuba. Grindle will send a letter to individuals involved in this case before she relinquishes her position on June 1.

Castillo presented a gift to Grindle on behalf of the Association to thank her for her dedication and commitment as president; Grindle thanked the Association for her gift. She will go on to become LASA past president.

New Business

Grindle asked for new business or questions. No one came forward. She thanked all who had attended. ■

Kalman Silvert Award

Tulio Halperín Donghi is one of the most distinguished historians of Latin America alive today. His scholarship has had broad impact on virtually all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

He is one of only eight Latin American historians who are fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received honorary degrees and decorations from universities in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay.

He is the author of 22 books, including pioneering monographs, essay collections, crucial works of synthesis, and three anthologies with book-length introductory essays. His written work ranges from medieval Spain to the late twentieth century, with particular focus on three areas: late colonial and early national Latin America, mid-nineteenth century Argentina, and Latin America and Argentina from 1930 to the present.

Beyond his exceptional scholarly distinction, Halperín is one of those rare individuals who possess a deep understanding of many fields of intellectual endeavor and a seemingly unlimited curiosity about human affairs. He approaches his work with a profound appreciation of the human comedy, balancing it always with a sense of caring about individuals and peoples. For all these reasons the Silvert Committee was honored to award the 2014 Kalman Silvert Award to Tulio Halperín Donghi.

The award committee consisted of Evelyne Huber (University of North Carolina), Chair, Joel Horowitz (St. Bonaventure

University), Mark Healey (University of Connecticut), Nils Jacobsen (University of Illinois-Champaign), and Peter H. Smith (University of California-San Diego).

Premio Iberoamericano

El recipiente del Premio Iberoamericano es Víctor Goldgel, por *Cuando lo nuevo conquistó América: Prensa, moda y literatura en el siglo XIX* (Siglo XXI Editores, 2013).

El libro de Goldgel nos ofrece una explicación de cómo la novedad se convirtió en un concepto legítimo para la asignación de valor y sentido a situaciones, objetos y prácticas, en sociedades hispanoamericanas que hasta las postrimerías del siglo XVIII y principios del XIX, veían en el cambio un peligro. Es otra manera de entender el proceso de modernización y los caminos diversos que fueron recorridos para llegar a la convicción de que el cambio era deseable por sí mismo.

El autor recurre al concepto de *novedad*, a la comparación entre Argentina, Chile y Cuba, y a un minucioso trabajo de archivo, para recuperar el legado de la Ilustración en las generaciones románticas, y reconstruir el vínculo entre literatura y consumo. Goldgel encuentra que la búsqueda de la ruptura con el pasado se instala en estas sociedades como un tema de autoidentificación política e intelectual, y como un objetivo deseable, aunque no para todos, pues había quienes buscaban proteger las continuidades heredadas de la monarquía española.

Cuando lo nuevo conquistó América examina el papel de la prensa en la transformación de las prácticas de la

lectura y escritura, en la formación de criterios estéticos y en la evolución, por ejemplo, de la novela. Asimismo, analiza el papel de la moda y de su lógica de renovación acelerada en el desarrollo de la literatura.

Es éste un trabajo académico, informado y sugerente que nos introduce a la experiencia romántica hispanoamericana, a “sus errores y extravagancias”, en forma original, y su análisis contribuye “a esclarecer la complejidad de las cuestiones que estudia”, como afirma Tulio Halperín Donghi en la Presentación de la obra.

Los miembros del Comité eran Gerardo Luis Munck (University of Southern California), Chair, Sol Serrano (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), y Soledad Loaeza Tovar (El Colegio de México.)

Premio Iberoamericano Honorable Mention

Un “Honorable Mention” se otorgó a Sebastián Pereyra, por su libro *Política y transparencia: La corrupción como problema público* (Siglo XXI Editores, 2013).

Tomando un tema de gran relevancia actual en la política de América Latina —la corrupción— Pereyra analiza cómo se ha instalado este tema en el debate público e ilumina qué efectos tiene sobre la forma de hacer política. Pereyra nos ofrece una discusión detallada, basada en gran parte en Argentina, sobre el papel de los corruptólogos —los expertos en material de corrupción— los periodistas, y los magistrados, así como de las respuestas al problema de los políticos. Esta es una reflexión académica que aborda la riqueza y complejidad del tema de la corrupción y

que tiene obvias implicaciones para la calidad de la política contemporánea.

Bryce Wood Book Award

The Bryce Wood Book Award Committee, composed of Ana Araujo (Howard University), César Braga-Pinto (Northwestern University), Natalia Brizuela (University of California, Berkeley), Eva-Lynn Jagoe (University of Toronto), Bryan McCann (Georgetown University), Rachel O’Toole (University of California, Irvine), Mark Overmyer-Velazquez (University of Connecticut), and Kurt Weyland (University of Texas at Austin) as committee chair, received 85 books. After three rounds of thorough evaluation, the committee achieved overwhelming agreement on the winner, Lillian Guerra’s superb book on *Visions of Power in Cuba: Revolution, Redemption, and Resistance, 1959–1971* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012).

This study offers a brilliant analysis of the unfolding, transformation, and consolidation of the Cuban Revolution during its first dozen years. *Visions of Power in Cuba* combines a deep commitment to historical accuracy with a wealth of insightful observations on the sources of popular participation and the strategies of political leaders. With telling details, Guerra exemplifies broader points and sheds light on the powerful forces that pushed for profound change, brought the quick radicalization of the Revolution, and ushered in authoritarian Communist rule.

The book does a fabulous job analyzing the Cuban Revolution from the bottom up and insightfully reconstructs the participation of common people and civil society. Yet Guerra also pays systematic attention to the intersection of contentious mass

energies with the efforts of political leaders to channel and guide these transformational impulses. Moreover, she highlights the inept attempts of the United States to combat the revolution, which uniformly backfired.

A great strength of the book is the precision and subtlety with which Guerra elucidates the sequential unfolding of the Cuban Revolution. She skillfully disentangles the twists and turns through which a pluralistic nationalist movement turned, first, into a “grassroots dictatorship” that suppressed dissent, and then into a communist system dominated by centralized leadership. *Visions of Power in Cuba* convincingly explains the inner logic of this radicalization.

This magnificent volume draws on an amazing wealth of sources. In a deeply engaged but admirably dispassionate way, Guerra considers the broadest range of viewpoints and perspectives. Based on her profound knowledge of the topic, she puts the evidence in its proper context and extracts its substantive meaning and theoretical significance. Last not least, the book is written in a clear and attractive style, enlivened with fascinating photos, caricatures, and other visual material.

A model of scholarship in Latin America studies, Lillian Guerra’s book amply deserves LASA’s Bryce Wood Award for 2014.

Bryce Wood Book Award Honorable Mention

The committee also decided to honor *Making Samba: A New History of Race and Music in Brazil*, by Marc A. Hertzman (Duke University Press, 2013) as the runner-up for the Bryce Wood Book Award.

This excellent book traces emerging trends in Brazil's popular culture over several decades. Based on admirably thorough research, Hertzman reconstructs the historical and cultural origins of samba and examines how its emergence and amazing gain in popularity—inside and outside Brazil—intersected with issues of gender and, especially, race. Hertzman makes great use of a wealth of documents and testimonies to bring his story to life.

Media Award

The recipient of the 2014 LASA Media Award is Raúl Peñaranda, a courageous Bolivian journalist who resigned from his editor's job at *Página Siete* to keep the paper from being the target of government attacks against the paper for being allegedly pro-Chilean. Peñaranda, who was born in Chile and came to Bolivia when he was six months old, is a feisty journalist who is also a visionary entrepreneur in the news business. He founded *Página Siete* at a time when newspapers around the world were closing. He has increased the paper's online presence with an innovative business model. He continues to fight for freedom of the press in Bolivia from a less prominent role.

The members of the 2014 selection committee were Cecilia Alvear (independent multimedia journalist), Chair; June Carolyn Erlick (Harvard University); Elio Gaspari (journalist and writer); Alfredo Corchado (*Dallas Morning News*); María Teresa Ronderos (*Semana.com*); and Carolyn Curiel (Purdue University).

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 Javier Garciadiego (El Colegio de México), Chair; Aurora Gómez Galvarriato (Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico); Sergio Silva (Instituto Tecnológico Antónimo de México); and Halbert Jones (Oxford University).

The committee gave this year's award to Diana Irina Córdoba of El Colegio de México. Her dissertation, "Los centros de contratación del Programa Bracero: Desarrollo agrícola y acuerdo político en el Norte de México, 1948–1964," offers an innovative perspective of the Bracero Program, a key issue in the history of Mexican immigration to the United States and bilateral relations between the two countries. By introducing the analysis of Mexican nonstate and regional actors, which have not been sufficiently studied, her work will shed light on complex and crucial processes that have shaped the experiences of both countries. The committee is convinced that it will contribute to the "advancement of humanist understanding between Mexico and its global neighbors," which the Charles A. Hale Fellowship hopes to promote.

Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award

El comité del Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award, formado por Mónica Herz (Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), Francisco Monaldi (Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración) y Rut Diamint (Universidad Torcuato di Tella), Chair, por unanimidad eligió el libro *After Neoliberalism? The Left and Economic Reforms in Latin America* de Gustavo Flores-Macías (Oxford University Press, 2012) como merecedor de este premio.

El libro de Flores-Macías ofrece un análisis innovador de los efectos de las instituciones políticas en las reformas económicas. Se pregunta porque algunos países avanzaron con políticas más arriesgadas en sus reformas económicas y su estudio demuestra que un sistema de partidos débil ha posibilitado que algunos presidentes latinoamericanos impongan políticas más radicales. El autor suma a un riguroso y extensivamente documentado estudio de las reformas económicas, los efectos la fragmentación política, la polarización, y el sistema de partidos, en las transformaciones económicas.

Tiene un abrumador trabajo fuertemente ajustado a datos empíricos, centrado en tres países, Chile, Brasil y Venezuela, con amplias comparaciones hacia el resto de la región. Un apreciable aporte de este texto es tanto el recorrido por los trabajos teóricos existentes, como su propio aporte teórico.

Además, su escritura es atractiva y de fácil lectura. Es un libro netamente académico. Por lo tanto, por su riqueza conceptual, su sofisticado trabajo analítico, y su simpleza narrativa hemos considerado el libro *After Neoliberalism? The Left and Economic*

Reforms in Latin America como el candidato más destacado para recibir el premio Luciano Tomassini.

Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award Honorable Mention

El comité consideró que debían entregarse dos menciones, que por su calidad merecían destacarse. Uno es *The International Monetary Fund and Latin America: The Argentine Puzzle in Context* de Claudia Kedar (Temple University Press, 2013). El segundo es *Imperial Portugal in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions: The Luso-Brazilian World, c. 1770–1850*, por Gabriel Paquette (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship

El recipiente del 2015 LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship es Alberto J. Olvera Rivera. Dr. Olvera ha sido investigador del Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico-Sociales de la Universidad Veracruzana desde 1981. Es miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI), Nivel III, y de la Academia Mexicana de Ciencias, y obtuvo el Premio al Decano de la Universidad Veracruzana para el período 2007–2010. Sus líneas de investigación son: teorías de la sociedad civil y de la innovación democrática, participación ciudadana y construcción de la democracia en México y América Latina, movimientos sociales, acción colectiva y formas de la relación sociedad-Estado en México y América Latina. Realizó sus estudios de licenciatura en la Facultad de Economía de la Universidad Veracruzana, graduándose con honores en 1981. En sus primeros años como investigador, se dedicó a la

historia de los trabajadores petroleros de Poza Rica, resultando de ello artículos y capítulos de libro publicados en México, España y Estados Unidos. Al mismo tiempo, realizó estudios diversos sobre la problemática económica y social de los pequeños productores de café y de sus movimientos sociales, varios de los cuales fueron publicados en libros y revistas nacionales a fines de los ochenta y primera mitad de los noventa. En 1989 obtuvo una beca Fulbright-LASPAU para realizar sus estudios de maestría y doctorado en la Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science de la New School for Social Research, universidad situada en la ciudad de Nueva York, en la cual obtuvo en 1991 su grado de Master of Arts y en 1995 el de PhD en sociología. Su tesis doctoral obtuvo el Frieda Wunderlich Award for an Outstanding Dissertation en 1996. Desde entonces Olvera se tornó especialista en la sociedad civil (tanto desde una perspectiva teórica como en el análisis empírico del caso mexicano), así como en temas de participación ciudadana e innovación democrática en América Latina. Fue fundador y miembro de la dirección nacional de la Alianza Cívica, el gran movimiento social prodemocrático nacional, entre 1995 y 2000. Fue editorialista del *Diario de Xalapa* entre 1982 y 1989, de *La Jornada* entre 1997 y 2003, y lo es de *El Universal* desde 2009, y ha sido asiduo participante en infinidad de talleres, seminarios, encuentros y congresos, tanto académicos como civiles, siempre relacionados con la búsqueda de la democracia y la consolidación de la ciudadanía. Ha sido miembro del Comité Técnico de la Comisión de Educación Cívica del IFE (2005–2006), miembro del Comité Técnico Consultivo de la Ley Federal de Apoyo a las Actividades Desarrolladas por las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil (2006–2008), del Consejo Consultivo de la Secretaría de la Función

Pública (2007–presente) y consultor de la Secretaría de Gobernación y del PNUD en temas relacionados con la sociedad civil, así como miembro del Consejo Directivo de FUNDAR, A.C., (2010–presente), la ONG de investigación sobre derechos de ciudadanía más importante de México.

Los miembros del Comité incluyen a Shannon Speed (University of Texas/Austin), Chair; Jonathan Fox (University of California/Santa Cruz); Cynthia Sanborn (University of the Pacific) y Gabrielle Watson, representando a Oxfam America.

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award

The committee named Aurora Vergara-Figueroa as the 2014 recipient of the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award. Dr. Vergara-Figueroa is director of the Center of Estudios Afrodiaspóricos at the Universidad Icesi, Colombia. She completed her PhD in sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her dissertation was titled “Race, Gender, and Land Property Rights in Colombia: A Historical Ethnography of the Afro-Colombians’ Struggles over Land, 1851–2011.”

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award Honorable Mention

Lina Britto was named recipient of the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award Honorable Mention. Dr. Britto is an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. She received her PhD from New York University. Her research interests include emergence and consolidation of narco-trafficking in the Caribbean and Andean regions of

Colombia in the postwar period, and economic, political, and cultural articulation between Colombia and the United States during the Cold War.

Merit in Film Awards

The recipients of the 2014 Merit in Film Awards are:

Diagnóstico Esperanza, dir. César González (Argentina, 2013)

Dzi Croquettes, dir. Raphael Alvarez and Tatiana Issa (Brazil, 2009)

Gimme the Power, dir. Olallo Rubio (Mexico, 2012)

Nacidos vivo/Born Alive, dir. Alejandra Perdomo (Argentina, 2013)

Palabras mágicas para romper un encantamiento / Magic Words (to Break a Spell), dir. Mercedes Moncada (Guatemala/Mexico/Nicaragua, 2012)

Revelando Sebastião Salgado, dir. Betse de Paula (Brazil, 2013)

Songs of Redemption, dir. Miquel Galofré and Amanda Sans (Jamaica/Spain, 2013)

Stuart Hall Project, dir. John Akomfrah (UK, 2013) ■

ON LASA2014

Seen at LASA2014



President Ricardo Lagos presents the inaugural Guillermo O'Donnell Memorial Lecture, established by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies



LASA President Merilee Grindle with President Lagos, Gabriela O'Donnell, and representatives of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies



President Grindle and friends enjoying themselves at the Welcoming Reception



Lillian Guerra accepts the Bryce Wood Book Award from Committee Chair Kurt Weyland and LASA Vice President Debra Castillo



Gustavo Flores-Macías accepts the Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award from Committee Chair Rut Diamint and Vice President Castillo



Aurora Vergara-Figueroa is presented with the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award by Vice President Castillo



Evelyne Huber, Kenneth Roberts, and Santiago Anria enjoying themselves at the Welcoming Reception



President Grindle, Raúl Madrid, and Paloma M. Díaz at the Welcoming Reception



The LASA Congress staff

LASA2014 Survey Report

by MILAGROS PEREYRA-ROJAS | Executive Director

As with previous LASA International Congresses, participants were asked to complete a 25-question online survey on Congress-related issues. Additional comments were requested this year on the LASA2014 application and registration processes.

Seven hundred and seventeen participants responded; this is a 9.7 percent decrease from 2013 and represents 18 percent of the total LASA2014 participants. Half of the respondents were from the United States and Canada while 40 percent were from Latin America. The majority are involved in research (55 percent) and education (40 percent). Thirty-one percent of the respondents were first-time attendees and offered new perspectives.

Most participants attended between four and seven sessions during the Congress. Survey responses indicate that the small number of sessions attended could be due to the need for a lunch break, slow elevators, or conflicts in scheduling. Because of LASA's focus on increasing participation at LASA Congresses, however, the number of simultaneous sessions is unlikely to decrease.

Evaluations

Overall, 76 percent of the participants were satisfied with LASA2014, 20 percent were neutral, and only 4 percent were dissatisfied. This was an increase of 1 percent from last year's satisfaction level.

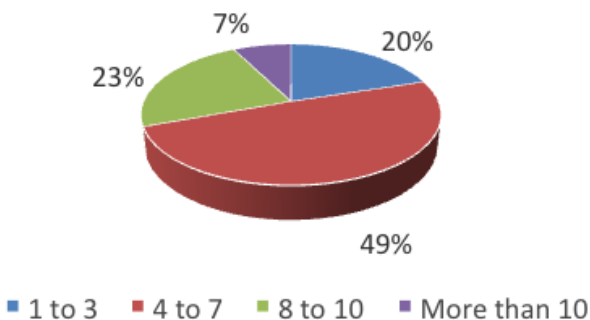
Participants were very satisfied with the quality of the panels and other sessions, but many respondents noted that too many panels with similar topics occurred at the same time. Although LASA tries to correct overlaps before finalizing the schedule, it is impossible to resolve all conflicts. LASA staff will continue efforts to correct these in LASA2015. Additionally, for next year, chairs will be assigned from the presenters' pool in the panels created from individual paper proposals to ensure that all panels are chaired and have more cohesion. Participants agreed that the Congress provided opportunities to learn about recent work in Latin America, to present their ideas, and to network with colleagues.

Additional Feedback

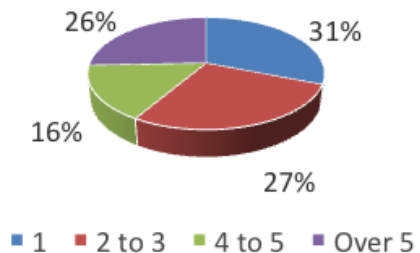
In this year's survey we asked for comments on the registration and application processes. We want the first day to be as welcoming as possible and also to help participants solve any issues with the increasingly popular online application. This year, online applications were filed by 49 percent of the respondents (an 11 percent increase over last year). We hope this trend continues as LASA strives to reduce its use of paper.

Additionally, we were happy to see that 66 percent of the participants were at least partly reimbursed to attend the Congress. LASA is grateful to our sponsors and the endowment fund, which continue year after year to provide partial travel grants to our participants. If you are interested in receiving a grant, please make sure you apply by September 8, 2014 (17h00 EDT).

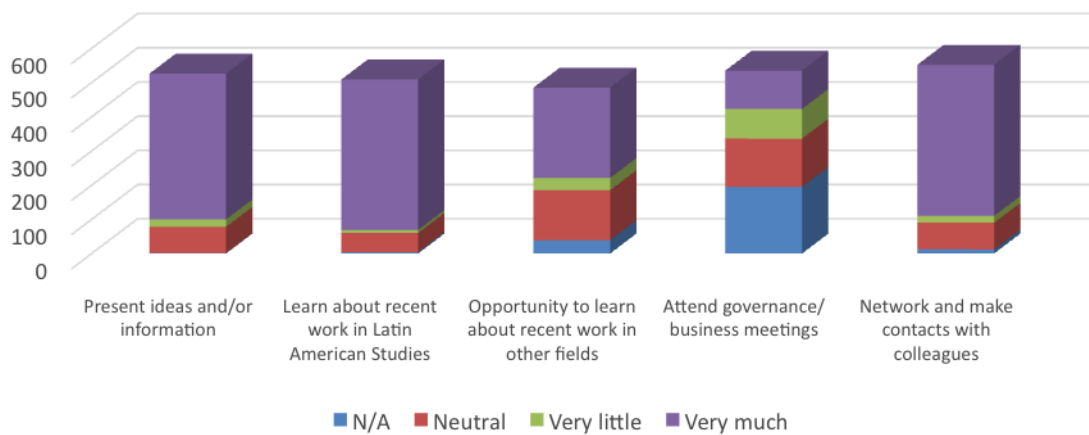
Sessions attended at LASA2014



LASA Congresses attended in the past (including LASA2014)



LASA2014 provided an opportunity to...



Future Congresses

Around 46 percent of the LASA2014 survey respondents are planning to attend LASA2015 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

We are definitely excited about the upcoming Congress and its theme, “Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias.” LASA2015 will be held in the Caribe Hilton, a hotel near Old San Juan. Hotels are the most popular venues for conferences. We also consider alliances with local universities and the use of their facilities but often encounter limitations on space and problems with availability. Please feel free to suggest future university venues.

In response to our request for suggestions we received 131 comments, which mostly centered on the following two topics:

Congress location and high costs:

Suggestions were made for future Congress sites, ranging from U.S. locations with less expensive accommodations to Latin

American countries outside the Caribbean. Cities within the United States are selected based on their appeal to the membership. Though New York City is not inexpensive, it is the top city selected by our respondents to host a Congress. This is where LASA’s 50th anniversary will occur in 2016. Keeping costs low is always our goal, and after some aggressive negotiations we were able to reduce the cost of accommodations in New York to a decent price (for New York). For 2017 we are finalizing our contract with a Latin American country to be announced.

Discontent with yearly Congresses and with the number of simultaneous panels.

The yearly schedule was created based on feedback collected from previous years regarding the overwhelming size of LASA Congresses and the lack of opportunities to participate due to so many panels being rejected. The yearly schedule is meant to allow for smaller LASA Congresses and to offer more opportunities for participation in LASA. Though the number of simultaneous panels may not change (to

allow more participants to take part), the number of attendees each year may be smaller, allowing for a less overwhelming experience.

Thanks to all who took the time to fill out the survey. Your feedback helps us to improve and to be an association that continues to strive to meet our members’ needs. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions. Have a great summer, and don’t forget to submit a proposal for LASA2015! ■

Become part of a unique, up-and-coming program.

Atlantic History Ph.D.

The Ph.D. Program in Atlantic Civilizations in the Department of History at Florida International University is proud to have entered its second decade. Our graduate fellowship packages are competitive, and Miami—where all peoples and cultures of the Atlantic world meet—provides our vibrant program an ideal intellectual home. Doctoral students train with award-winning faculty who specialize in transnational, Atlantic themes as well as national histories. Our students receive national and international research fellowships and prestigious post-docs, and recent graduates have gone on to tenure-track positions at Research-1 institutions.

GRADUATE FACULTY

N. David Cook (*Latin America; Spain*)

Aurora Morcillo (*Spain; Gender*)

Gwyn Davies (*Ancient; Military*)

Okezi Otovo (*Brazil; African Diaspora*)

Rebecca Friedman (*Russia; Europe*)

Bianca Premo (*Latin America*)

Jenna Gibbs (*US; British Atlantic*)

Darden Pyron (*US*)

Sherry Johnson (*Caribbean; Environment*)

Kenneth Lipartito (*US*)

Ma. del Mar Logrono Narbona (*Mid East*)

April Merleaux (*US; Transnational*)

Aaron Slater (*British Atlantic*)

Victor Uribe-Urán (*Latin America*)

Chantalle Verna (*Haiti; US*)

Kirsten Wood (*US*)

And we welcome
in 2013-14:

Hilary Jones (*Africa*)

Ricardo Salvatore (*Latin America*)



FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Visit history.fiu.edu/graduate/doctorate-atlantic-history
for more information and application instructions



UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO
ARECIBO



CALL FOR PAPERS / CONVOCATORIA

Quinto Congreso Internacional "Escritura, Individuo y Sociedad en
España, las Américas y Puerto Rico."
Encuentro hispánico en homenaje a Ana Lydia Vega.

Dedicado a la Imagen y la Palabra

UPR- Arecibo, 18, 19 y 20 de marzo de 2015

Homenajeada, plenaristas y estudiosos invitados:
Ana Lydia Vega, PUERTO RICO

Alejandro Zambra, CHILE
Lina Meruane, CHILE
Leopoldo Brizuela, ARGENTINA
Jorge Perugorria, CUBA

Los interesados en someter un trabajo para leerse en el Congreso lo pueden escribir y presentar en español, inglés o portugués. Se deberá enviar un resumen completo de una página para un texto de 8 cuartillas a doble espacio, 20 minutos de ponencia, acompañado de un *curriculum vitae* abreviado en o antes del **30 de noviembre de 2014**. Los interesados en crear una sesión especial deberán informarnos del título de la mesa, nombre y dirección de los participantes. Favor de remitir la información pedida a la siguiente dirección:

Emma I. Domenech Flores
Copresidenta Comité Timón
emma.domenech@upr.edu
Universidad de Puerto Rico
3760
PO Box 4010

(787) 815-0000, ext. 3751,
Fax (787) 880-2245, 880-6277

Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00614

Para más información sobre el Congreso visite www.upra.edu/congreso2015

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. With over 7,000 members, 49 percent of whom reside outside the United States, LASA is the one association that brings together experts on Latin America from all disciplines and diverse occupational endeavors across the globe. LASA's mission is to foster intellectual discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas, promote the interests of its diverse membership, and encourage civic engagement through network building and public debate.



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

416 Bellefield Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

lasa.international.pitt.edu