

EL TERRAPINO

2023-2024

WWW.LACS.UMD.EDU



LATIN AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN STUDIES
CENTER

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Director's Farewell

Dear LACS Community,

As I step down from my role as Director of LACS, I am filled with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment. The past three years have been an incredible journey, one marked by collaborative success and significant growth within our vibrant community.

When I assumed the directorship, one of my primary tasks was to strengthen the bonds between LACS and BSOS, extending our impact and collaborations across campus and beyond. Today, I am proud to say that these years have been defined by exactly that—enhanced partnerships and shared successes. LACS involvement in co-sponsoring events with so many research and community partners, both within the University and externally, has truly broadened our horizons.

Our collaboration with SACNAS and sister centers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Pennsylvania stand out as highlights. These partnerships have not only brought us closer to like-minded colleagues but also enriched our scholarship and community mission with diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.

Moreover, the expansion of our residency program marks another milestone in our history. Welcoming community affiliate resident Mr. George Escobar from CASA, and scholar-activist in residence Ms. Chana Mamani from Identidad Marrón Argentina, has furthered LACS commitment to community engagement and public-facing scholarship.



Hosting three conferences in as many years has been challenging, but each conference has been a hub of knowledge and lasting connections!

I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to making the last three years so productive for LACS, but I am especially thankful to our graduate students.

Their enthusiasm and commitment have been contagious and pivotal in my decision to embrace the opportunity to serve as Associate Dean of Graduate Education at BSOS.

As I transition into this new role, I am excited about LACS future and the additional ways I can support our academic community. Although I will miss my daily interactions at LACS, I am comforted by the knowledge that Dr. Ryan Long will be taking over as Director. His leadership is sure to propel LACS to new heights.

I will remain connected to LACS as an affiliate faculty, looking forward to contributing in new ways and continuing to engage with all of you.

Thank you for three remarkable years. It has been a privilege to serve as your director.

Isabella Alcañiz



From the Editors

Dear LACS Community,

As we move through another vibrant and enlightening year at LACS, we reflect on the myriad of events that have shaped our academic and cultural journey thus far in 2024. Our community has thrived on an eclectic blend of scholarly pursuits and cultural celebrations, each contributing to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx heritages and scholarly discussions.

We kicked off with a poignant film screening commemorating the September 11, 1973 coup d'état in Chile, an event that remains vital in our collective memory and historical discourse. This set the tone for a year committed to deepening our historical consciousness and academic rigor.

The LACS Graduate Student Open House introduced new members to our community, expanding our vibrant network of scholars and advocates. The sense of camaraderie continued with the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Food Celebration Potluck, where flavors and stories from diverse backgrounds came together in a delicious mosaic of cultural exchange.

Our series of LACS-CLACS Charlas Virtuales Políticas offered insightful virtual discussions around the critical elections in Guatemala, Argentina, and El Salvador. These sessions not only informed but also engaged our community in the vibrant political landscapes of these regions, highlighting the interconnectedness of our diasporic ties and global citizenship.

The Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research Conference and The LACS Graduate Lecture Series further exemplified our commitment to academic excellence and interdisciplinary research, providing platforms for emerging scholars to share their groundbreaking work and for established academics to impart their wisdom.

A highlight of our cultural calendar was the Día de los Muertos celebrations, co-hosted with SACNAS. These events offered a solemn yet joyful opportunity to honor our beloved departed. The community brought offerings and shared stories, weaving together personal memories and cultural heritage in a tapestry of respect and remembrance.



We were also honored to host "Chana" Condori Mamani, who engaged with our graduate students in meaningful dialogue, enriching our understanding of indigenous knowledge and activist strategies. Her presence during Maryland Day, where she was part of our Meet & Greet event, allowed the wider community to benefit from her insights.

Lastly, the inauguration of our first Scholar Activist in Residence marked a significant milestone in our commitment to melding academic inquiry with social activism, setting a precedent for future engagement and impact.

As editors, we are privileged to recount these moments that not only define but also propel our community forward. We look forward to the continued exploration of our rich and diverse landscapes of knowledge and culture. Here's to more learning, sharing, and growing together.

Warm regards,

The Editors of El Terrapino



GA 2020-2024

Celebrating 4 Remarkable Years with Victor M. Hernández-Sang at LACS

My journey as the GA of LACS has been one of profound professional and personal growth. I finish my time at LACS with a strong network of colleagues, a long-lasting community of friends, and wonderful mentors. Because of my tenure as GA, I am a better scholar, team member, leader, and communicator. My involvement with the Center started a few years before becoming the GA. As a master's student, I was invited to participate in the planning committee for the 2016 student conference "Hybridity," which was organized by a group of graduate students with the leadership of Director Laurie Frederik. After that, I was a member of the planning committee for every student conference held since.

When I started my tenure as GA, I came to my position with the objective of continuing the work that the LACS Graduate Collective (our graduate student organization) and the two prior GAs (Sabrina González and Ana Mendes) had been doing for a few years. Broadly, that was to nurture the community of graduate students, to enrich our time at UMD, and to foster interdisciplinarity in our research and work. I am very proud of all the academic and community events that the Collective was able to organize and all other initiatives I collaborated on, supported, and led as the Center's GA. The remote nature of the semesters during the Covid-19 pandemic posed a great challenge in doing this work. And I went through and through. I am especially appreciative of the three multi-day student conferences that I help coordinate and execute. With the unmatched dedication and labor of a large group of graduate students from many programs around campus, the planning committees successfully held two fully online conferences, "Fuego y Leña // Slow Burn" in Fall 2020 and "Disruption," in Spring 2021, and the hybrid mode conference "Oye Como Va," in Spring 2023. These conferences brought together a wide range of scholars, students, activists, and artists from the humanities, social sciences, cultural studies, and more. As a student organization, the Collective organized online and in-person multi-day writing retreats for graduate students held writing hours, and maintained community with our Dissertation Support Group. Based on our academic and professional interests, we developed two speaker series, "Sembrando Seeds," in Spring 2022 and the "Graduate Lecture Series," inaugurated in Spring 2024. All these events, conversations, and meetings enriched and strengthened my career in graduate school.



I am forever grateful for the mentorship and guidance I received as a GA. I was privileged to have worked under two Directors: Dr. Merle Collins and Dr. Isabella Alcañiz. From these two wonderful scholars and educators, I learned a lot about their work ethics, leadership within academia, and how to navigate administration in higher education. Assistant Director Eric Tomalá, who was my supervisor all four years, was a key figure in my success as GA, and more broadly, as a Ph.D. student wrapping up my time in graduate school. I am indebted to his kindness and compassion as a mentor, and I am tremendously grateful for his support and grace all these years.

I have often expressed that the community I found and helped build at LACS was one of the main drivers that got me through graduate school. Because of the community of graduate students, the friends I made, the intellectual community, and the mentorship, I triumphantly finalized my graduate studies. Above all, I am filled with gratitude for all of this.

Victor Hernández Jang



Meet our 2023-2025 Post Doc

¿Quién es el Dr. Juan Díaz?

Dr. Juan Manuel Díaz, the esteemed 2023-2024 Postdoctoral Fellow at UMD's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center, holds a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature from UMD and dual bachelor's degrees from Argentina's Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. Renowned for his profound scholarship, Dr. Díaz has been granted a second-year term in his current role, affirming his valuable contributions to the academic community.

Dr. Díaz's research intricately explores the complexities of marginalized voices in cultural discourse, focusing on why certain writers are overlooked and the strategies they employ to assert their presence in the literary canon. His work seeks to dissect the construction of identity narratives and assess their influence on political discourse, dovetailing with contemporary discussions on identity struggles and the evolving role of literature in our digital age.

An active member of the editorial team at the prestigious Revista Bife, Dr. Díaz's contributions to creative writing have earned him several awards, including first prize in the XXVII National Contest of Poetry and Short Story "Letras Argentinas de Hoy 2012." This accolade led to the publication of his book, *Evangelio Nocturno*. Beyond his academic and literary achievements, Dr. Díaz is also a passionate DJ and avid reader, bringing a unique blend of creativity and insight to his professional and personal pursuits.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



September 11, 1973 Coup d'etat in Chile

REFLECTING ON CHILE'S HISTORICAL PATH TO SOCIALISM: A FILM SCREENING AT UMD

The University of Maryland's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center, in collaboration with the Department of History, recently hosted a film screening that served both as an educational experience and a solemn remembrance. The event featured the documentary *Chile 1973: Los Trabajadores No Participan en el Gobierno, Son el Gobierno* (1973), translated as "The workers do not participate in the government, they are the government." Produced by Dutch filmmakers in early 1973, the film provides a unique lens into the socialist Unidad Popular government in Chile.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-backed military coup that occurred on September 11, 1973, an event that drastically altered Chile's trajectory towards socialism. The documentary meticulously highlighted the various aspects of the Unidad Popular's efforts under President Salvador Allende's administration, showcasing the involvement of Chile's workers, campesinos, artists, neighborhoods, students, and youth in the collective struggle for a just society.

The screening was followed by a panel discussion where historians and Latin American studies experts, including Dr. Karin Roseblatt, delved into the profound impact of the coup, which not only ended Allende's government but also initiated years of dictatorship under General Augusto Pinochet. The dialogue explored the ramifications of the coup on democratic processes and social justice movements within Chile and provided comparative insights into global political shifts during the 1970s.

Audience members were deeply engaged, posing thoughtful questions and drawing parallels to contemporary social movements around the world. This event not only commemorated a pivotal moment in Chilean history but also emphasized the ongoing relevance of learning from past struggles to better understand present and future challenges in global politics and human rights. The film screening was a poignant reminder of the aspirations and resilience of the Chilean people, offering profound lessons on the power and pitfalls of political activism and social reform initiatives.





LACS Graduate Student Open House

September 27, 2023



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LACS Graduate Student Open House:

Fostering Community and Academic Growth

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) program at the University of Maryland held its annual Graduate Student Open House, an event that showcased the vibrant and diverse academic community fostered by LACS. The open house provided a platform for new and returning students to engage with each other, meet with faculty, and learn about the extensive support structures available to them.

The LACS program is renowned for attracting a highly diverse student body and faculty, who are deeply involved in promoting campus diversity and developing a dynamic academic and supportive community. Each member, from undergraduate and graduate students to faculty, staff, and the public, plays a vital role in the program's ecosystem. This inclusivity and collective engagement were palpable throughout the event.

During the open house, prospective and current graduate students had the opportunity to explore the numerous resources offered by LACS.



Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Food Celebration Potluck



Celebrating Diversity through Cuisine:

On October 3, 2023, the University of Maryland's Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) program, in collaboration with the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and the Latina/o Studies program, hosted a vibrant and delicious Food Celebration Potluck. This event, held at a welcoming venue on campus, was open to all students, faculty, and staff, who were encouraged to bring and share a traditional dish from their own Latin American or Caribbean heritage.

The potluck was not just a feast for the taste buds but also a celebration of the rich cultural diversity within the university community. Each dish came with a story of personal or familial significance, providing a unique opportunity for participants to engage with each other through the universal language of food. From savory empanadas and spicy jerk chicken to sweet tres leches cake, the array of dishes offered a gastronomic journey through Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event served as a significant accomplishment for the organizing bodies, highlighting their commitment to fostering an inclusive community where cultural expressions are valued and shared. It also provided a valuable learning experience, allowing attendees to deepen their understanding of the diverse culinary landscapes and cultural histories of Latin American and Caribbean regions. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many appreciating the chance to celebrate and learn about the heritage of their peers in such a convivial setting. The success of the potluck has encouraged LACS, SACNAS, and the Latina/o Studies program to consider making this an annual event, continuing to build bridges and strengthen bonds within the university community through cultural exchange and appreciation.



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES CENTER



Insights and Analysis: LACS-CLACS Charlas Virtuales Políticas on Guatemala's Elections



The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center at the University of Maryland (LACS) and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (CLACS) co-hosted an enlightening virtual roundtable discussion titled "Charlas Virtuales Políticas: Elecciones en Guatemala." This event took place on October 9, 2023, focusing on the current elections and ongoing political crisis in Guatemala.

The session was conducted entirely in Spanish without translation, aiming to provide an authentic platform for discussing complex political issues directly affecting the Latin American region. Esteemed guest speakers included Dinorah Azpuru from Wichita State University, Secundino González from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and Pablo Hurtado García from Universidad Rafael Landívar. These experts provided valuable insights into the dynamics of Guatemala's electoral process and the broader implications for democracy in the region.

Moderated by Isabella Alcañiz from LACS University of Maryland and Gisela Sin from CLACS University of Illinois, the discussion delved into the intricacies of Guatemala's political landscape, offering attendees a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the country during this pivotal electoral period.

This event not only served as an educational platform but also fostered a deeper connection and engagement among scholars and students interested in Latin American politics, enhancing the academic community's comprehension of and response to developments in Guatemala.

Fernando Chavarria

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ANNUAL
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ER 19-20, 2023

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LITICS
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فانين الصخر
ممنوع الكلام بالانكليزية
ممنوع التسلية
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SUMMER

OCTOBER 19 -20



DEPARTMENT OF
GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS



COLLEGE OF
BEHAVIORAL &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



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Success at the 8th Annual Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research

The 8th Annual Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research (SWMMR), co-hosted by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS), the Department of Government and Politics (GVPT), and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) at the University of Maryland, was hailed as a major success. This year's event continued the tradition of methodological innovation and interdisciplinary dialogue that SWMMR has been known for since its inception in 2015.

Founded by four women assistant professors and graduates of the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research (IQMR), SWMMR has always promoted methodological pluralism. The workshop is dedicated to advancing the use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to develop theories and test hypotheses effectively. This year's sessions included a range of topics, from methodological best practices to the practical challenges of implementing mixed methods in research.

Participants from various academic disciplines gathered to share insights, engage in rigorous debate, and explore new frontiers in research methodologies. The workshop provided a valuable platform for both seasoned researchers and emerging scholars to network, collaborate, and learn from each other's experiences.

The success of this year's workshop underscores its importance as a cornerstone event for researchers dedicated to enhancing the rigor and reach of mixed methods research. The organizers and participants look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence in the years to come.



LACS-CLACS Charlas Políticas: Elecciones en Argentina

Highlighting Democracy in Action: A Deep Dive into Argentina's Presidential Elections



On October 30, 2023, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies departments at the University of Maryland and the University of Illinois joined forces to host a pivotal discussion on the presidential elections in Argentina. This virtual event, conducted entirely in Spanish without translation, aimed to provide an in-depth analysis of the electoral process and its broader implications.

Distinguished speakers, María Esperanza Casullo from Universidad Nacional de Río Negro (UNRN) and Ernesto Calvo from the University of Maryland, enriched the dialogue with their expertise. Their insights offered attendees a unique perspective on the political dynamics and voter behavior influencing Argentina's democratic journey.

The event not only facilitated a scholarly exchange on significant electoral themes but also fostered greater understanding among students and faculty interested in Latin American political affairs. It stands as a testament to the commitment of both LACS and CLACS to promote informed discussions on key international events, enhancing the academic community's engagement with global democratic developments.



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Center for Latin American
& Caribbean Studies



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Partnered with LACS and SACNAS, our event celebrated Día de los Muertos, a cherished Mexican tradition to honor departed loved ones. Our community placed offerings at the altar and gathered for pan dulce. Graduate students, Marco Polo Juarez and Sergio García, and Dr. Kevin Quinteros, member of SACNAS, shared their insights and personal experiences with Día de los Muertos.



LACS-CLACS Charlas Políticas: Elecciones en El Salvador

Critical Insights into El Salvador's Electoral Landscape: A Virtual Panel Discussion

LACS-CLACS ELECTORAL SERIES: CHARLAS POLÍTICAS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Virtual Event in English
No Spanish Interpretation

"PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR"

Round Table

Panelists:

- María J. Méndez**
Assistant Professor
Political Science
University of Toronto
- Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez**
Ph.D. candidate
Political Science
Harvard University

Moderators:

- Isabella Alcañiz** LACS-UMD
- Gisela Sin** CLACS-UIUC

Registration Link: <https://gs.umd.edu/ElectionsElSalvador>

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES CENTER

In February 5, 2024, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) at the University of Maryland and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at the University of Illinois hosted a pivotal virtual discussion as part of their ongoing Electoral Series. The focus was on the recent presidential election in El Salvador, where Nayib Bukele was anticipated to secure a decisive victory. The session provided an analytical framework to understand the election's implications for the nation's democratic health.

Moderated by Isabella Alcañiz of LACS-UMD and Gisela Sin of CLACS-UIUC, the event featured profound discussions with two esteemed experts: Professor María J. Méndez from the University of Toronto and Ph.D. candidate, Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez, from Harvard University. The panelists dissected the electoral results and debated the immediate political future of El Salvador, engaging a broad audience in a critical examination of the factors driving Bukele's expected landslide and its potential impacts on democratic governance.

Held in English, the session not only drew participants interested in Latin American politics but also served as an educational platform for students and academics to gain deeper insights into the complexities of electoral processes in the region.



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Center for Latin American
& Caribbean Studies



The LACS Graduate Lecture Series

**Exploring Frontiers
in Latin American and
Caribbean Studies:
The LACS Graduate
Lecture Series**



The LACS Graduate Lecture Series, held on February 23, March 29, and April 26, 2024, provided a dynamic forum for exploring cutting-edge research in Latin American and Caribbean studies. Emphasizing the intricate and interconnected challenges faced by the region, this series featured the innovative ideas and scholarly prowess of ARHU's graduate students, who are shaping the future of academic inquiry.

JOIN

*Breakfast will
be served*

FEARLESS

IDEAS

The first lecture, on February 23 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in room HJP 2118, spotlighted Víctor Hernández-Sang, a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology, and Marco Polo Juárez Cruz, a PhD candidate in Art History. Their presentations offered insights into the cultural narratives and historical dynamics of Latin America and the Caribbean, blending scholarly depth with engaging delivery.

Continuing the series, the second event took place on March 29, where Nohely Alvarez and Wanda Hernandez, both PhD candidates, presented their dissertation research in Urban Planning and American Studies respectively. Their work provided critical perspectives on urban development and cultural identities, reflecting the series' objective to prompt thoughtful academic and policy discourse.

On the third event, PhD candidate in Spanish, Daniela Hernández, showcased her research on contemporary literature in Latin America. Our postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Juan Díaz, offered his insights on the significance of holding space to feature graduate students and their work.

Each session was not only a showcase of graduate scholarship but also a call to the academic community to reflect on the implications of their research for governmental policies and regional development.



Ofelia Montelogo, Marco Polo Juarez Cruz and -Sang



Daniela Hernández



Nohely Teresa Alvarez, Wanda Roselee Hernandez and Dr. Juan Diaz

Community Resident Affiliate, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center



Bridging scholarship and activism to address critical social issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

George Escobar is the 2023-2024 inaugural Community Resident Affiliate (CRA) of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACS) and the Department of African American Studies (AASD) of the University of Maryland. Since 2011, Mr. Escobar has been Chief of Programs and Services of CASA, the largest immigrant organization in the mid-Atlantic region. His portfolio at CASA includes Departments of Education, Community Economic Development, Data and Evaluation, and Human Services. The programs he oversees at CASA address social disparities and help community members enter safe and stable situations.

With over 15 years of professional experience, Mr. Escobar has made significant contributions in both the public and nonprofit sectors. His work focuses on designing and directing various programs that target economic development, health, and employment assistance, primarily for the Latinx and immigrant communities. He has formerly held key roles such as Deputy Director in the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) and executive positions at the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the Latino Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Escobar is a certified Public Manager from George Washington University. LACS is thrilled to welcome him, and we are confident that his residency at the University of Maryland will enrich our engagement and strengthen collaborations between LACS, AASD, CASA, and the broader Latin American and Caribbean immigrant community.



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Engaging Dialogue and Luncheon with Sandra "Chana" Condori Mamani



On April 24, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM at HJP 2114, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) department hosted an enriching conversation featuring the esteemed Argentine writer and antiracist activist, "Chana" Condori Mamani. This event formed part of her residency at LACS, which spanned from April 22nd to May 2nd.

Students and faculty had the unique opportunity to engage directly with Chana, who is renowned for her impactful work in advocating against racial discrimination. The gathering on Friday April 26th at 11:00 to 12:30 PM, took place immediately following the LACS Graduate Lecture Series, facilitating a seamless transition from academic discourse to a more intimate dialogue. This arrangement allowed participants to delve deeper into discussions about race, identity, and activism in Latin America, enriched by Chana's firsthand experiences and insights.

The event not only fostered a greater understanding of antiracist movements in the region but also strengthened the community's commitment to addressing these critical issues. It highlighted the importance of integrating activist voices into academic settings to enrich learning and inspire action.

CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS
LATINOAMERICANOS Y CARIBEÑOS

**ARTISTA, ACTIVISTA Y ACADÉMICA EN
RESIDENCIA EN LACS**
EN ESPAÑOL SIN TRADUCCIÓN

RESIDENCIA 22 DE ABRIL - 2 DE MAYO 2024

SANDRA "CHANA" CONDORI MAMANI
Escritora Argentina y Activista Antirracista

CHARLA

- Miércoles 24 de Abril / 2-3 pm
2124 HJ Patterson

CONVERSATORIO CON ESTUDIANTES

- Viernes 26, de Abril / 11 am -12:30 pm
2114 HJ Patterson

ENCUENTRO Y SALUDO

- Sábado 27 de Abril / 10 am - 12 pm
Maryland Day, en la mesa de LACS
en McKeldin Mall



LATIN AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN STUDIES
CENTER

Maryland Day
2024

ARTS AND HUMANIT



LATIN AMERICAN AND
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Maryland Day 2024: Celebrating Community and Culture at UMD

On Maryland Day 2024, April 27th, the University of Maryland campus buzzed with excitement and engagement as volunteers and staff came together to ensure the day was a resounding success. This annual celebration once again showcased the spirited community and rich diversity of UMD.

A highlight of the day was the interactive trivia game organized by our team, which tested participants' knowledge of Latin America. The fun and educational game was a hit among attendees, fostering learning and laughter in equal measure. Additionally, participants had the delightful opportunity to receive unique Latin American bags. These bags, filled with cultural goodies, were not only a gift but a way to carry a piece of Latin American culture home.

Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers and staff, Maryland Day 2024 was not just a day of festivity but also a day of learning, appreciation, and community building. The success of the event is a testament to the collective efforts of everyone involved and highlights the vibrant, inclusive spirit that defines our university.



2024 LACS Pop-Up Research Grants

Grants Open for UMD Doctoral Students: LACS 2021-2024 Initiative "Justice in the Americas"



For the last three years, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACS) has been offering research grants as part of its "Justice in the Americas" initiative, with the support of the Office of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion and Dr. Christopher Perez. UMD doctoral students can now secure up to \$1,000 to support research projects that engage with social justice issues in Latin America and/or the Caribbean.

These competitive grants are intended to advance fieldwork or support creative projects, and are open to students from all disciplines. The initiative invites proposals focusing on social, racial, immigrant, gender, distributive, environmental, cultural, restorative, or transitional justice, among other aspects of social justice. Applicants must demonstrate a clear and compelling justification and/or publication plan within their proposal.

LACS especially encourages its graduate certificate students to apply, but all UMD master's and doctoral students who meet the eligibility criteria are welcome.

The 2024 awardees are:

- **Twanna Hodge** - PhD Student - Information Studies - "Black/Afro-Caribbean immigrants' conceptualization of mental health"
- **Danielle Laplace** - PhD Candidate - Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies - "How We Accomplish this Work: Black Labor and US Imperial Public Health in the Greater Caribbean, 1898-1934"
- **Virginia Gomes** - PhD Candidate - International Education Policy Program - "From Individualism and Competition to Cooperation and Solidarity: An Educational - and Life - Transformation in Ceará, Brazil"
- **Juan David Gelvez** - PhD Student - Department of Government and Politics - "Collective land titles for indigenous and Afro-communities"
- **Flavia Batista Da Silva** - PhD Student - Department of Government and Politics - "The Impeachment Calculus: Exploring Motivations Behind Impeachment Requests in Brazil"
- **Yuri Saldarriaga** - PhD Student - Department of Government and Politics - "Case-Selection in High Courts and Judicial Behavior in Latin America"

POP-UP GRANTS

NEWS AND AWARDS



Wanda Hernández (American Studies) will be joining the faculty in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of Mexican American and Latino/a Studies at the University of Texas-Austin.

Juan Gelvez (GVPT & LACS Spring 2024 Graduate Resident) recently co-published an article with Matilde Serrano titled "Incentives War: The Consequences of Announcing a Substitution Policy on Coca Cultivation in Colombia" in *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development* at the LSE. With Professor Marcus Johnson, Juan published the article: "Los nadies y las nadies: The Effect of Peacebuilding on Political Behavior in Colombia" in the *Latin American Politics and Society Journal*. His article "Coca politics: The politics of the "war on drugs" in Colombia" won recognition as the "Best paper presented at the Latin American Peace Science Society 2024 Meeting." Finally, Juan was a visiting guest researcher at the Department of Survey Data Curation at GESIS (Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences), Cologne, Germany in the winter of 2023.

Professor of Spanish, **Ryan Long**, recently published "Women Within and Beyond the Boundaries of Photography in Twentieth-Century Mexico: Tina Modotti, Kati Horna, Mariana Yampolsky, and Elsa Medina." *Women Photographers and Mexican Modernity*. Eds. Julia Brown, Radmila Stefkova, and Tamara Williams. New York: Routledge, 2024. 31-42.

Sergio García Mejía (Civil and Environmental Engineering) presented a panel presentation at the Latin American Social and Public Policy (LASPP) Conference from the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of Pittsburgh and three poster presentations, including American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) INSPIRE Conference in Arlington, VA.

Yuri Saldarriaga was awarded the 2023-2024 Jean Elizabeth Spencer Award by the Department of Government and Politics in recognition of an outstanding female student. She was also awarded the 2024 Lussier Summer Research Fellowship given by the same department to conduct collaborative research this summer. In February 2024, she presented "The co-creation of antagonism: a lexical analysis of legal mobilizations over abortion in Colombia" at the 2024 Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, University of Texas-Austin.



Special Congrats to the achieving LACS Students and Faculty!

LACS Director and Professor of Government and Politics, **Isabella Alcañiz**, has been appointed Associate Dean of Graduate Education of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences by BSOS Dean Susan Rivera

Laura Mendez Pinto participated in the American Political Science Association annual research conference and in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. She started a PhD in Political Science at Emory University.

Twanna Hodge Twanna Hodge, recipient of the Helen A. Tegnell Scholarship, has published influential works on cultural humility and mentorship in librarianship, including "Building Connections, Crucial Conversations & Cross-Cultural Relationships" and "Redressing Power Imbalances in Librarianship Using Cultural Humility."

Danielle LaPlace was awarded the American Dissertation Fellowship by the American Association of University Women for 2024-2025. The fellowship will support work on her dissertation, which is tentatively titled "How We Accomplish This Work: Black Labor and US Imperial Public Health in the Greater Caribbean, 1898-1934."

Marco Polo Juarez Cruz, PhD candidate in Art History, was awarded the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship by The Graduate School of Fall 2024.

Nohely Alvarez, PhD candidate in Urban and Regional Planning and Design, was awarded the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship by The Graduate School of Fall 2024.

Graduating Students

Victor Hernández-Sang, Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology

Wanda Hernández, Ph.D. in American Studies

Gerson Lanza, MFA Performance Studies & Dance



LACS

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center At the University of Maryland is an interdisciplinary center that invites students to learn about Latin America and the Caribbean through academic courses and cultural events and to meet others with similar interest. For over 30 years, LACS has been active in promoting faculty and student research, bringing visiting scholars, hosting conferences and events, and working with the community.



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