



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

EL TERRAPINO

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER 2017-2018



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Image cover credits: Water color map of America by Lissette Escariz Ferra. As LASC's 2018 Queer/Cuir Americas featured artist, Lissette chose to paint in water color for the medium's fluidity, adaptability, and uncontrollability, which are qualities she believes are inherent to the queer community. (For more information, see pg. 24)

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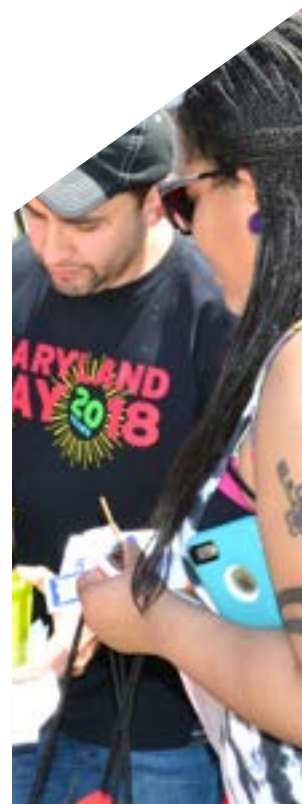
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

LASC has long thrived through a community committed to promoting the vitality of Latin American scholarship and populations at the University of Maryland. Years of hard work from Saúl Sosnowski, Karin Rosenblatt, Alejandro Cañeque, Laurie Frederik, and from our staff and network of affiliate faculty, established a vibrant community invested in learning about Latin America and the Caribbean. My term as Interim Director began in June 2017, when Laurie Frederik stepped down after three years of excellent leadership. LASC is deeply indebted to her for her dedication and skillful management. Through her advocacy for our center, Dr. Frederik secured a new home to serve as the axis of our community. The lively interactions that our space on the 4th floor of H.J. Patterson now facilitates is a fitting tribute to her warmth and vision for the center. Our lounge, conference room, kitchen, and offices regularly host writing group meetings, student organizers, global visitors via video conferences, workshops, birthday celebrations, study hours, and neighbors from other international programs. I invite you to stop by for a coffee or tea.

Our program remains strong and visible. Seven students completed their Latin American Studies Certificates with brilliant capstone projects, on topics including Salvadoran folk tales, the politics of hair in the Dominican Republic, and the Puerto Rican Young Lords. The six students who completed internships through our growing experiential education course, with organizations including Casa de Maryland and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, displayed impressive poise and professionalism. The record twenty-four new students who registered for the LASC certificate this year demonstrates our growing momentum and relevance.

Throughout the year's events, our fabulous coordinator Eric Tomalá showed his dedication to connecting with the community. With "Barriga Llena, Corazón Contento: A Taste of Latin America," he showcased the culinary skills of local chefs from Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Argentina, and El Salvador, alongside a panel of food studies and nutrition experts. Other campus programming highlights include a discussion with Dr. Carlos Pabón about Puerto Rico's structural violence preceding Hurricane Maria; a moving Día de los Muertos altar building event; and a Latin American professional pathways panel discussion about students' post-graduation options including non-profit work, foreign service, and graduate research.

A graduate committee from 7 different departments, along with 4 undergraduates, modeled creative interdisciplinary collaboration through their year-long efforts planning our conference, "Queer/Cuir Américas: Rebels, Counternarratives, Solidarities." The students worked tirelessly to carry out their bold reimagining of what a conference can be, from brainstorming a theme and collectively writing the call for papers, to applying for funding, painting original publicity imagery, studying our keynote panelists' work, and designing interactive art activities. The conference included panels with undergraduate and graduate students from UMD and other campuses, a student-led mask-making workshop and first-generation student discussion circle, a keynote panel discussion that brought together artists, activists, and academics, an art exhibition, a performance night, and a reception featuring a queer Latinx punk band. The committee's preparations for the conference included workshops on queer theory and experiences from Latin America. The group reflected extensively on the many meanings of queer/cuir. The theme from the conference that they most put into practice, though, was that of solidarity.

Daily in the LASC community, I witness the generosity of individuals taking risks for each other, caring for each other in small, rarely acknowledged ways, enacting solidarity by making time

for vulnerability and empathy. When feelings of uncertainty and fear leave us isolated and in competition with each other, generosity is revolutionary. Collaboration can be radical, when it unifies, when it builds a refuge within academic spaces. For many, LASC provides this sanctuary.

I see solidarity in practice through the building of collective opportunities, through conversations that acknowledge complexity and difficulty, and through gestures that request accountability and offer understanding. Solidarity shows up in a slow cooker of soup bubbling in the kitchen, offered to nourish staff members and tired students. It appears in the hours spent at recruitment events and volunteering at local schools. It emerges when our students stay engaged in a challenging discussion, when committee members open their homes to host visiting students, and when our affiliate faculty members offer their time in service, such as Iván Ramos' evening discussing queer theory with students. Solidarity spreads through a willingness to reveal our creative voices, such as Lissette Escariz Ferra's watercolor paintings and Cara Snyder's sensational singing. It's also found in the quiet commitment of students in the writing group: checking in on each other's emotional health before critiquing their works in progress, spending hours seriously reading each other's texts, and openly sharing their imperfect, incomplete drafts.

I close filled with gratitude for a year of generosity displayed through collaborative acts. Thank you to our incredible graduate assistant Sabrina González, for her three years of constant service, for her outstanding capacity to bring people together, and for her work in building this community. Our center would not function without our coordinator, Eric Tomalá. Thank you for being the definition of dependability, resourcefulness, and positivity. Thank you to Laurie Frederik, for her guidance, experience, and love of LASC. Thanks also to our advisory board, our affiliate faculty, our leadership in ARHU, and to our creative, smart, adaptable student workers Pablo Murga, Daniela Pardo, and Liana González. Thank you to the entire graduate conference committee, for your innovative ideas and hours of labor. Finally, thank you to our students, for your sincerity and desire to learn. We are here for you.

In the coming year, we welcome our new graduate assistant Ana Mendes, who is eager to integrate more initiatives on her native Brazil. We also welcome graduate residents Victor Hernández-Sang and Analía Gómez Vidal into our space. LASC is initiating a program which will pair undergraduate students completing their capstone research projects with graduate mentors. I am excited to see the productive dialogues resulting from this collaboration. We also plan to launch a new minor in Latin American Studies. Through this minor, which will have a focus on career preparation and internships, we hope to expand undergraduate students' investment in Latin American Studies and to develop new partnerships with campus units and local organizations. LASC continues to grow, itself a work in progress buoyed by the commitment of an extensive community.

In Solidarity,

Britta Anderson



FALL



First Look Fair

September 14 -15, 2017

Latinx Bienvianda

September 25, 2017

LASC shared information about our resources during this event hosted by the *Hermanos of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda*.

House Warming Reception

September 26, 2017

We launched *El Terrapino* and celebrated our new space as well as the outgoing Director Dr. Frederik's contributions to LASC.



Screening and discussion of "Brazil: A Racial Paradise?" from the "Black in Latin America" Documentary Series

October 5, 2017

This event featured a documentary about Brazil's racial history, and a discussion connecting the film to racial biases in the US and at UMD.

Barriga Llena, Corazón Contento: A Taste of Latin America

October 11, 2017

LASC explored the cultural and emotional meanings behind Latin American cooking. The event included aguas frescas and a food sampling with recipes and information from a range of Latin American countries. Lastly, a discussion was held about culturally relevant nutrition education and the many meanings we attach to food.

Puerto Rico: The Politics of Catastrophe

October 25, 2017

Dr. Pabón discussed the aftermath and consequences of the destruction produced by hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, in the context of the structural financial, economic, and political crisis that has been taking place in this Caribbean Island during the last few decades.

Día de los Muertos Altar Celebration

October 25, 2017

The UMD community learned about the history of Day of the Dead in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America. We warmed up with Mexican hot cocoa (*champurrado*), watched a demonstration of its preparation, and enjoyed *pan dulce* pastries. An Altar was created and decorated with paper marigold flowers (*cempasuchil*) and colorful flags (*papel picado*).

"Hoje Eu Quero Voltar Sozinho" Film Screening

November 9, 2017

Supported by the Office of International Affairs, LASC screened a Brazilian coming of age film about disability and sexual identity to celebrate International Education Week.

Queer Theory Workshop

December 5, 2017

Dr. Ivan Ramos led a workshop to prepare our graduate committee for the 2018 annual student conference, Queer/Cuir Américas.

SPRING

Job Talk Workshop with Graduate Writing Group

January 19, 2018

Students participated in a workshop on strategies to tailor a job talk.

LASC Certificate Recruitment Open House

February 14, 2018

Students interested in Latin America and the Caribbean learned how they could enhance their degree with a certificate in Latin American studies.

Prospective Latin Americanist Graduate Student Open House

March 12, 2018

LASC welcomed prospective graduate students interested in studying Latin America and the Caribbean.

Professional Pathways for Latin American Studies

Wednesday, March 28

As part of our renewed focus on career preparation, we held a panel discussion with representatives from local organizations for students to learn about career options related to Latin America.

Queer Theory Workshop & Graduate Student Conference Meeting

April 4, 2018

LASC undergraduate and graduate students participated in a workshop on queer theory to prepare for the 2018 annual student conference. We discussed articles by our keynote speakers and generated a list of questions to ask them at the conference.

Community Engagement: International High School at Langley Park's Career Day

April 13, 2018

LASC staff participated at career day at the International High School located in Langley Park, where a large majority of students are either immigrants, refugees, or asylees from Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The Shape of Water" Film Screening

April 19, 2018

In recognition of Pride Month 2018's theme of BETWEEN/BEYOND, LASC screened and hosted a discussion of Guillermo del Toro's Oscar-winning *The Shape of Water*.

Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring Workshop

April 23, 2018

Members of LASC's graduate committee volunteered to assist undergraduate students in preparing for their presentations at the student conference.

Maryland Day 2018

April 28, 2018

LASC participated in Maryland Day by testing knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean through a fun trivia game. Visitors learned facts in these six categories: pop culture, history, geography, sports, politics, and wild card.



Annual Student Conference Queer/Cuir Américas

May 3-4, 2018

The conference featured a keynote panel with scholars, community members, artists, and activists. It included graduate and undergraduate student research panels and sessions offering different ways of exchanging ideas. The event provided innovative formats to re-imagine the conventional conference session structure as a means of not only addressing queer as a topic, but in order to queer the conference itself.



Ceremonia de Clausura

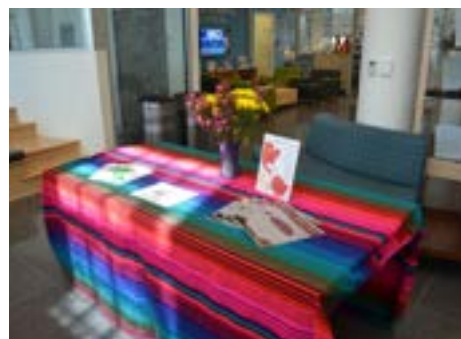
May 8, 2018

The event celebrated the accomplishments of the 2018 graduating LASC certificate students and the experiences of five students completing LASC internships.

Café Con LASC Productividad con Comunidad

Bi-weekly

Every other week, LASC organized a writing space to support undergraduate and graduate students in their writing goals.



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

Nuestras Raíces

Co-sponsored with the hermanos of *La Unidad Latina*, *Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity*
September 28, 2017

Participants learned about indigenous art and created their own interactive art projects.

Spanish film club by PRAGDA: Celebrating the New Wave of Ibero American Cinema

Hosted by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
October 2, 9, 23, 30, November 6, 2017

St. Mary's Hall Language House, with the Spanish and Portuguese Department, presented five films related to Latin America, and held discussions coordinated by affiliate faculty professors.

Cartoonist Ricardo Catè

Latinx Heritage Month Co-sponsorship, Multiracial & Native American Indian, Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy
October 9, 2017

Special guest speaker and cartoonist Ricardo Catè joined us from New Mexico. He shared personal stories, talked about how he started cartooning and discussed his experience at Standing Rock



Cristina Rivera Garza Book Launch and Panel

Co-sponsorship with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
October 12, 2017

Author Cristina Rivera Garza came to campus to discuss the recently released translation of her novel, *The Iliac Crest* (Feminist Press, 2017). Our director, Dr. Britta Anderson gave a talk, along with colleagues from the Spanish department.

Latinx Heritage Month Closing Potluck

Latinx Heritage Month Co-sponsorship with the Coalition of Latinx Student Organizations
October 13, 2017

Students gathered to celebrate the end of the Latinx Heritage Month with games and activities at la Plata Beach.

Estudios Universitarios

Organized by the Office of Community Engagement
October 21, 2017

LASC shared resources at this community outreach event designed to introduce local Latinx families to the process of applying for college.

Literary and Cultural Critic Ignacio Bajter

Co-sponsorship with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
November 9, 2017

Uruguayan literary critic, journalist and research librarian Ignacio Bajter shared his latest research.

The Cost of Flattening Hispanic Origin and Race: Erasing the Color Line and the Implications for Civil Rights Policy

Co-sponsorship with the Consortium for Race, Gender and Ethnicity
November 9, 2017

The event convened scholars, researchers, practitioners, community members, and policy makers to engage in a conversation about the long-term civil rights consequences of race, and ethnic measurements and its impact on the future of social inclusion policy in the U.S. A guiding premise of the

conversation was that the collection of demographic data on race, gender, class, ethnicity and other axes of stratification is primarily for civil rights use.

Researching, Reading, and Writing Latin American History: Theory Method, Politics

Co-sponsorship with the Department of History
January 3-4, 2018

This event was organized in honor of Florencia Mallon and Steve Stern, two Latinamericanist historians from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



The panels included discussions about archival research, memory, and narratives in history, and politics, activism, and violence. The last day of the conference was held at the Mexican Cultural Institute, followed by a closing reception.

Indigenous Amazonian Cinema: An Evening with Mebêngôkre-Kayapó Filmmakers

Co-sponsorship with the Department of Anthropology
February 22, 2018

Kayapó filmmakers from the Brazilian Amazon joined us for this film screening and discussion. The Kayapó Peoples govern one of the world's largest intact tropical rainforests and are on the frontlines of protecting their lands and lifeways

in the Amazon Region. Bpunu Mebêngôkre and Pat-i Kayapó, Indigenous artisanal crafts were available for purchase.

“A Literary Threesome: Cervantes, Shakespeare and Fletcher in Cardenio” and “Pabellones nacionales y zoológicos humanos: los contextos de La jaula de los onas” with Carlos Gamerro

Co-sponsorship with the Spanish Department

February 28- March 1, 2018

Carlos Gamerro is an Argentinean novelist, critic, and translator. His publications include the novels *Las Islas* (1998), *El sueño del señor juez* (2000), *El secreto y las voces* (2002), *La aventura de los bustos de Eva* (2004), *Un yuppie en la columna del Che Guevara* (2011), *Cardenio* (2016), the book of short stories *El libro de los afectos raros* (2005) and the books of essays *El nacimiento de la literatura argentina* (2006).

Spring Critical Race Studies Conference

Co-sponsorship with Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy
March 1-3, 2018

Focusing on the resistance, reclamation, and reimagination of multiraciality, this interdisciplinary and transnational conference was dedicated to fostering relationships between people of color, dismantling racial hierarchies, and affirming an ethics of love to subvert dominant paradigms of social identity.

Dream Gala

Co-sponsorship with Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society

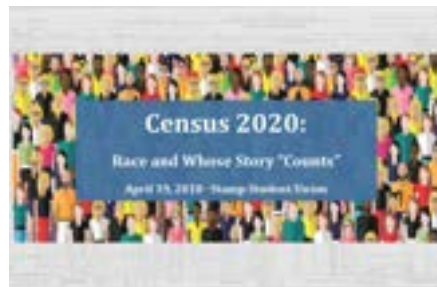
April 12, 2018

The gala launched a crowdfund for legal services for undocumented students and the immediate needs of family members of UMD students.

Symposium on Census 2020: Race and Whose Story “Counts”

Co-sponsorship with the Center for Global Migration Studies

April 19, 2018



The Center for Global Migration Studies hosted Census 2020, an interdisciplinary conference exploring the role of racial categorization in the upcoming census. These categories determined which Americans will be counted. The conference focused on how racial categories are created, how they reflect the politics of contemporary and historical America, and how they shape the experiences of citizenship, identity formation, and belonging.

Bare Necessities

Co-sponsorship with the Coalition of Latino Student Organizations
February 27 - March 7, 2018

LASC participated in a drive to collect new packages of underwear and socks to donate to Nst Village, a non-profit organization that provides resources to women with low-income, living in the D.C area.

Eduardo Chavez’s “Hailing Cesar”

Co-sponsorship with the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity
March 27, 2018

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and the US Latino/a Studies Program presented a screening of Eduardo Chavez’s film *Hailing Cesar*, followed by a discussion with Chavez. Eduardo is the grandson of both the legendary civil rights

activist Cesar Chavez on his father’s side, and the Cuban revolutionary Max Lesnik on his mother’s side.

“The Senses of Democracy: Perception, Politics, and Culture in Latin America” A Conversation with Francine Masiello

Co-sponsorship with CLSO and the Spanish Department

April 12, 2018

Francine Masiello is Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. She works on topics related to Latin American literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, gender theory, and comparative North/South literatures. Her books include *Lenguaje e ideología: los movimientos de vanguardia de los años 20*, *Between Civilization and Barbarism: Women, Nation, and Literary in Modern Argentina*, *El periodismo femenino del s. xix*, and *The Art of Transition: Neoliberalism and Latin American Culture*.

Latina/o Studies Association Biennial Conference

Co-sponsorship with The Latina/o Studies Association
July 11-15, 2018

The conference focused on efforts to foster dialogue, build community, and highlight the activism needed to effectively address and combat the racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, and other repressive policies currently dominating our national politics.

BARRIGA LLENA, CORAZÓN CONTENTO:

El Poblano
Comida Casera
Veronica Herrera Mexico



Lucrecia Espinal &
Husband Mexico



Sazón
Fiorella and
Fabiola Perea
Peru



CaféAzul
Caracas de Ayer
Venezuela



Paul Iglesias
Argentina



La Casita Pupuseria
Gaithersburg
El Salvador



A TASTE OF LATIN AMERICA

“ This event was very original, and I enjoyed it due to the amount of food I could taste. The way it involved the community and the panel that addressed the relationship between food and identity was very interesting. The event consisted of two parts, one in which students and the community could taste different foods from several countries of Latin America, followed by a panel that described food's relationship to culture. The different foods I was able to taste were cooked by chefs of several restaurants. As I walked around, everyone at each table explained thoroughly what the food was, with a little bit of background. After this, the panel began with the nutritional information of the food that was given, and we got to see the cultural impact of food as well. The panel included Dr. Mira Mehta, Dr. Ana Patricia Rodriguez, Wande Akinkuowo, and Monica Ocasio-Vega. It was very interesting to see that even though the panelists came from different backgrounds, they were all able to demonstrate the importance of food. This event taught me the importance of community involvement, which truly helped me celebrate the diversity of Latin America. ”

Pablo Murga



Roundtable Discussion

Dr. Mira Mehta

Director, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Maryland

Dr. Ana Patricia Rodríguez

Associate Professor, U.S. Latina/o and Central American Literatures
Coordinator, Community Engagement
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Maryland

Yewande (Wande) B. Akinkuowo

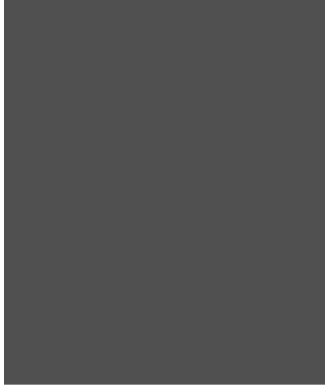
Graduate Coordinator, Cross-Cultural Student Involvement & Advocacy in Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy
Faculty Assistant, Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE)
Maryland's SNAP-Ed Program
University of Maryland

Mónica Ocasio Vega (via Skype)

MA Spanish and Portuguese Dept,
University of Maryland
PhD Student, UT Austin

BRAZIL: A RACIAL PARADISE?

FILM SCREENING



“ The Latin American Studies Center hosted a community event to showcase the PBS documentary, *Black in Latin America, Brazil: A Racial Paradise?* and foster a discussion about the major themes and conflicts portrayed throughout the documentary. Professor Henry Louis Gates questions the validity of Brazil’s ideology of a racial democracy by examining the realities of Afro-Brazilians throughout different regions of Brazil.

Ultimately, this documentary reveals that there is indeed a common black experience of discrimination, poverty, and perseverance throughout the world, and understanding this similar experience can unify people across countries. ”

Paris Rowe



PUERTO RICO: THE POLITICS OF CATASTROPHE

Dr. Pabón discussed the aftermath and consequences of the destruction produced by hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, in the context of the structural financial, economic, and political crisis that has been taking place in this Caribbean Island during the last few decades.



Carlos Pabón



LASC hosted Dr. Carlos Pabón in our offices for three weeks following Hurricane Maria, to offer him the opportunity to restart his research.

Carlos Pabón is a professor of History at the University of Puerto Rico. He is the author of the books *Nación Postmortem. Ensayos Sobre los Tiempos de Insoportable Ambigüedad* (San Juan, Ediciones Callejón, 2002); *Polémicas. Política, Intellectuales, Violencia* (San Juan, Ediciones Callejón, 2014); and *Mínima Política: Textos Breves y Fragmentos Sobre la Crisis Contemporánea* (San Juan, Ediciones La Secta de los Perros, 2015). He is editor of the collection of essays titled *El Pasado Ya no es lo que Era. La Historia en Tiempos de Incertidumbre* (San Juan, Ediciones Vértigo, 2005); and has published a great number of articles and essays on nationalism, globalization, intellectuals, historiography and memory. At present he is working on a book on the ethical and political implications of the representations of genocide and other forms extreme violence in the twentieth century; and the problem of history and memory of traumatic events in Latin America.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION



“ My favorite part of the event was the *champurrado* and *pan de muerto* tasting. *Champurrado* is a Mexican corn-based hot chocolate and *pan de muerto* is a sweet bread roll that is traditionally baked into the shape of skulls, round loaves, and even people to represent the bones of the dead. *Pan de muerto* is an important part of the holiday because it is a way for those celebrating to lighten the mood and satirize death in an attempt to make the mourning process easier.

Another takeaway from the event was the significance of the altar. Altars are made as a way to welcome the ancestors' spirits into the home and make them offerings in the form of candles, flowers, art, crosses, sugar skulls, and their favorite foods.

One lesson I took away from this event is that Día de los Muertos is not a purely Mexican holiday. I believe my ignorance comes from the widespread misconceptions that the holiday is simply “the Mexican halloween”, ignoring its origins and meaningfulness and remembering only the pretty sugar skulls and face paint. The appropriation of Mexican holidays in the United States is nothing new: Cinco de Mayo gets boiled down to “Mexican Independence Day” and an excuse to wear sombreros and drink margaritas, which totally misconstrues the actual meaning of the historic day. ”

Melody Meyers



“ During this event we learned how to make traditional *papel picado* and the significance of the Day of the Death, and what specific traditions represent. There was a demonstration and serving of *champurrado*, a type of spiced hot chocolate, as well as sweet bread. *Papel picado* is traditionally used to decorate the homes of people celebrating el Día de los Muertos, as well as the altar, which is used to honor those who have passed away. ”

Keshav Bhatnagar



“ Upon entering the event I felt as though the hosts captured the Mexican atmosphere through their decorations, arrangements, and music. During the event there were many interactive activities that kept the audience engaged while a speaker gave more detail about the Mexican culture. These arts and craft activities included festivity-coloring pages, making “*cempasuchil*” and “*papel picado*”, altar building, “*champurrado*”, and “*pan dulces*.” ”

Mayra Velasco

Professional Pathways for Latin American Studies Students Panel Discussion

On March 28, LASC hosted a panel discussion with representatives from the Career Center and local organizations representing a range of fields, to help students learn about their post-graduation options in Latin America or working with Latinx populations in the US.

Kate Juhl is a career services professional with 10+ years experience; she specializes in working with liberal arts students, faculty and staff. Her work experience includes career services positions at a small private liberal arts college and, currently, a large research university. Kate is very passionate about connecting people with information/resources and building relationships with students, employers and colleagues. Her current role is at the University of Maryland, working in the College of Arts and Humanities (ARHU).



Tristan Marquez is a due diligence researcher for the international consulting firm Control Risks in São Paulo. He graduated from UMD with a double degree in History and Government & Politics, a minor in International Development and Conflict Management, a certificate in Latin American Studies, a citation in International Studies, and as part of the the Global Fellows program. He was a 2016 Boren Scholarship recipient for Brazil. His previous Latin American related experiences include work in human rights, sustainability, and political analysis.



Maria Polinsky received her doctorate in Linguistics in 1986. She has taught at the University of Southern California, the University of California, San Diego and Harvard University. She specializes in linguistic theory and has done extensive work on endangered languages in different locations around the world. At UMD, she directs the Guatemala Field Station.



David Atkinson obtained his Bachelor from education from Princeton University, in Political Science and Government, and a law degree from Tufts University-The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy International Relations and Development. Dr. Atkinson has worked as representative in Brazil, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Mexico for the Inter American Development Bank (IDB). He is the president of the Board of Directors at Princeton in Latin America (PiLA), a non-profit organization that provides recent university graduates with full-year fellowships to work principally with civil society organizations throughout Latin America committed to economic development, social equity, environmental sustainability, conflict resolution and human rights.



Juan Cruz is the Data and Program Evaluation Specialist for CASA Maryland, working with social service programs to bring a mixed methods approach to evaluation and immigrant social change. As a Peruvian immigrant himself and long-time resident of Prince George's County, Juan believes that Maryland's local communities are enriched when the lives of under-represented populations are treated with dignity and respect. Juan's research interests, including his graduate work entitled "The Meaning of Political Engagement in First Generation Latino Americans," inform his work at CASA. Juan holds a B.A. in Geography and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). He is currently finishing a M.S. in Geography from the same university.



Brittany Lashley is an Education Abroad advisor at the University of Maryland. She uses her previous experiences from abroad to advise students and cultivate relationships with foreign institutions.



Internships and Experiential Learning

LASC offers an “**Experiential Learning**” course (LASC 286 and LASC 486) that provides university credit for internship or other unpaid work experiences. Taking this course encourages students to apply academic knowledge to potential career placements, and connects the university to area companies, institutions, and organizations, leading to a development of strong and mutually beneficial relationships with area professionals and community leaders. The Washington, D.C. area has a large variety of internship opportunities that relate to Latin America and the Caribbean. The students featured below completed internships in the local community as part of their LASC certificate course work.

Ana Ortiz-Rivera

CASA De Maryland: Mi Espacio Program

We are a group of passionate, community-conscious people working to organize, advocate for, and expand opportunities for Latino and immigrant people in the state of Maryland. We do this by providing employment placement; workforce development and training; health education; citizenship and legal services; and financial, language, and literacy training to Latino and immigrant communities throughout the state.

Daniella Medel

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)

START is a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland, College Park. They are dedicated to: Advancing the scientific study of terrorism, its causes and consequences and providing data-driven research to homeland security policy makers and practitioners

Santiago Rios

America Reads

“America Reads” is a program promoted by the federal government to use university Federal Work Study (FWS) students as reading tutors to help children improve reading skills. The goal of the program is to get children to read well by the third grade.

Olivia Delaplaine

CASA De Maryland: Mi Espacio Program

Since our humble beginnings in 1985 assisting Central American refugees fleeing wars and civil strife at home, we have worked tirelessly to bring immigrant communities in Maryland out of the shadows and into greater power, dignity, and legitimacy.

Zena Dhatt

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation identifies, inspires, prepares, and connects Latino Leaders in the community, classroom, and workforce.

Julian Moreno

National Security Archives

Founded in 1985 by journalists and scholars to check rising government secrecy, the National Security Archive combines a unique range of functions: investigative journalism center, research institute on international affairs, library and archive of declassified U.S. documents, leading non-profit user of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, public interest law firm defending and expanding public access to government information, global advocate of open government, and indexer and publisher of former secrets.



QUEER/CUIR AMÉRICAS

Rebels, Counternarratives, Solidarities

May 4 & 5, 2018



Although it defies a single definition, QUEER is an identity, an approach, and a politics. Queers may stand outside, beyond, or on the edge of institutions. Queer bodies are often unwieldy, moving against normative ways of being in the world. They question history, social structures, and cultural expectations, organizing their lives through unconventional schedules and routes.

We approach our inquiry into the Queer Américas through the themes of rebels, counternarratives, and solidarities. REBELS encourage us to oppose power and the official stories that come from authorities. They push us to imagine other possible futures, and shape alternatives histories, or COUNTERNARRATIVES in our everyday lives. We look to Latin American histories of rebellion for models of SOLIDARITY, strategies for taking collective action across difference.





Letitia “Leti” Gomez

Washington D.C. Latino/a LGBT Activist

Iván Ramos

UMD, Women’s Studies

Cristy C. Road

Cuban-American Artist, Writer, and Musician

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz

American University, Sociology

Maria Amelia Viteri

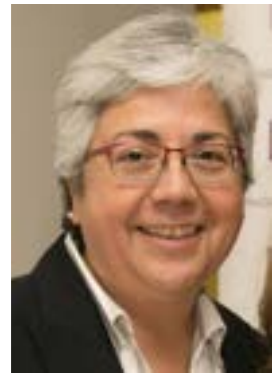
Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Anthropology

KEYNOTE PANEL



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE PANEL

Letitita “Leti” Gomez is the co-editor of *Queer Brown Voices: Personal Narratives of Latina/o LGBT Activism*. Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Leti volunteered with the 1977 Texas farm worker march from Austin to Washington, while a student at the University of Texas at Austin. After graduating, she moved to Houston, where she began organizing with the Gay Chicano Caucus. In San Antonio, while working on her Master’s in Urban Studies at Trinity University, Leti helped plan a first Latina Lesbian retreat and participated in organizing the Gay and Lesbian Tejano Network before moving to DC to begin an internship with the federal government. She arrived just in time for the 1987 National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights. In the 1990’s, she was a president of ENLACE, a support organization for lesbian and gay Latina/os in the D.C. metro area, and one of the founding co-chairs of LLEGÓ, the first national Latina/o LGBT organization. During the 1990’s, she participated in organizing the 1991 National Lesbian Conference, served on DC’s Civilian Complaint Review Board, served on the boards of D.C. Council on Women and AIDs, National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, AIDs Action, the D.C. Latino Civil Rights Taskforce, and served as a member and secretary of the D.C. Democratic State Committee. During the 2000’s, she served on advisory boards for the Lesbian Services Program of DC’s Whitman-Walker Clinic, the Rainbow History Project, and the D.C. Latino/a LGBT History Project, and served on the boards of the Whitman Walker Clinic, Many Voices, and La Trenza Leadership.



Iván A. Ramos is assistant professor of LGBTQ studies in the department of Women’s Studies at the University of Maryland. He was previously a University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside. He received his PhD in Performance Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality from UC Berkeley. His first book, *Sonic Negations: Unbelonging Subjects, Inauthentic Objects, and Sound between Mexico and the United States*, examines how Mexican and U.S. Latino/a artists and publics utilized sound to articulate negation in the wake of NAFTA. Iván’s broader research investigates the links and slippages between transnational Latino/a American aesthetics in relationship to the everydayness of contemporary and historical violence. In Fall 2016, he was a member of the “Queer Hemisphere: América Queer” Residential Research group at the University of California Humanities Research Institute at UC Irvine. His writing has appeared in several journals including *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*, *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, and *ASAP/Journal*. He has articles forthcoming in the catalog for the exhibition *Axis Mundo: Queer Networks in Chicano L.A.*, sponsored by the Getty Foundation, and the anthology *Turning Archival* from Duke University Press.



Cristy C. Road is a Cuban-American artist, writer, and musician. Through visual art, storytelling, and punk rock music, Road has thrived to testify the beauty of the imperfect since she began creating art in her hometown of Miami, FL. She grew up as a self-taught figure drawing artist with a penchant for all things that questioned society and began publishing Green'Zine in 1997-- a fanzine originally devoted to the punk rock group, Green Day. Merging with the anti-authoritarian intentions of the punk rock community, the zine transformed into a manifesto about being a queer Latina abuse survivor, and her journey towards self-acceptance. Road graduated from the the Ringling School of Art and Design in 2004 with a BFA in Illustration, in order to support her ambition to eventually teach. Now, Road has almost 20 years of independent publishing under her belt, along with years of creating countless illustrations for a slew of magazines, record albums, event posters, and social justice organizations; as well as years of teaching though unconventionally through workshops and lectures across the nation. Road is the creator of the illustrated novel *Indestructible*, a 96-page narrative about high school; a collection of postcards entitled *Distance Makes The Heart Grow Sick*; *Bad Habits*, an illustrated story about healing from an abusive relationship; and most recently, *Spit and Passion*, a coming-out memoir about Cuban identity, discovering Green Day, and surviving in the closet. Road's current project is *The Next World Tarot* (2017), a 78-card tarot deck detailing themes of justice, knowledge, accountability, and reclaimed magic. Aside from creating art; Road is a songwriter and guitarist, having fronted the pop-punk group, The Homewreckers from 2008-2016. She currently fronts Choked Up, a project that does not stray too far from the Homewrecker's foundations, but proves a departure in style and bilingual lyrics.



Salvador Vidal-Ortiz is associate professor of sociology at American University (AU), in Washington, DC. Aside from having published dozens of articles and book chapters, he coedited *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men* (NYU Press, 2009) and *Queer Brown Voices: Personal Narratives of Latina/o LGBT Activism* (University of Texas Press, 2015). He also co-authored, with two former students, *Race and Sexuality* (Polity Press, 2018). Aside from his Fulbright-based research on forced migration/internal displacement and LGBT Colombians, he is engaged in a new project, with Juliana Martínez, also from AU, on "Transgendering Human Rights: Lessons from Latin America." A book they edited in Spanish, *Travar el Saber*, or "*Trans-ing Knowledge*," based on narratives of trans and travesti people completing their high school degrees, and attending college, in Argentina, is coming out with Universidad Nacional de La Plata. He continues to work on his manuscript on Santería, tentatively titled: *An Instrument of the Orishas: Racialized Sexual Minorities in Santería*. Aside from these books and projects, he has team-edited several special issues of journals: 'Rethorizing Homophobias' (for *Sexualities*), '¿Cómo se piensa lo queer en América Latina? // How is queer thought of in Latin America' (for *Iconos: Revista de Ciencias Sociales*), and 'Decolonizing the Transgender Imaginary' (for *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*).



María Amelia Viteri is a recognized international, engaged and cultural anthropologist of Gender, Sexuality, Queer, and Migration Studies. Viteri's research critically analyses citizenship, belonging and identity illustrating how migration status, gender, sexuality, class, race, ethnicity and place of origin, impact the lives of marginalized communities across the Américas, as illustrated in her book *Desbordes: Translating Racial, Ethnic, Sexual and Gender Identities across the Américas* (2014: SUNY Press). She has published extensively, in English and Spanish, primarily for an academic audience, and additionally to inform public policy, the international development field, and the media. Dr. Viteri uses a variety of methodologies that bring academia closer to the local communities such as action research, multimedia, and film. Dr. Viteri's latest research work addresses Chinese immigrant trajectories and public discourses in the Global South - particularly in Ecuadorean media - and its impact on disrupting or reinforcing local gender and sexual norms.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, May 3rd

1:30-2:00 pm - Check-in and Opening Remarks

2:00-3:15 pm - **Berta Didn't Die, She Multiplied**

Short film screening and discussion of the legacy and murder of Honduran environmental activist Berta Cáceres, with her nephew Silvio Carrillo.

3:15-4:30 pm - **Queries in Queering Our Methods: Student Research Roundtables**

These simultaneous roundtable discussions featured graduate students from a range of disciplines exploring the questions: How can we queer our research methods? Can a queer perspective enrich our research?

Faculty Discussants

Isabella Alcañiz, Government and Politics

Laurie Frederik, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies

Ryan Long, Spanish and Portuguese

Iván Ramos, Women's Studies

Karin Roseblatt, History

Ruth Zambrana, Women's Studies, Director of the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.

Graduate Participants

Walter Arias Ramirez, UMD, Mechanical Engineering

Jonathan Brower, UMD, History

Sarah Dowman, UMD, Spanish and Portuguese

Analia Gomez Vidal, UMD, Government and Politics

Sabrina González, UMD, History

Víctor Hernández-Sang, UMD, Ethnomusicology

Eben Levey, UMD, History

Ana Paula Nadalini Mendes, UMD, History

Ana Ivelisse Sánchez-Rivera, UMD, Geographical Sciences

Cara Snyder, UMD, Women's Studies

Tulio Tablada, UMD, Operations Research

4:30-5:30 pm - **Mask Making Workshop**

Camila Tapia, UMD, Studio Art

5:30-6:30 pm - **Solidarity for First Generation Rebels: Roundtable Discussion**

Maria Aragon, UMD, English and Film Studies

6:30-8:00 pm - **Performance Night**

Friday, May 4th

10:00-11:00 am - **Desbordes: Fluidity and Mobility at the Border**

Discussant: **Mariana Reyes**, UMD, Spanish and Portuguese

Liza Brandli, UMD, History

Ga(y)ze at the Border

Ana Orteza-Rivera, UMD, Anthropology, LASC Certificate

Cuentos Que dan Miedo: Salvadoran Folktales and Migration

Emily Beatrix Starobin, UMD, Spanish, Environmental Science and Policy

Gloria Anzaldúa's Depiction of Bridges and the Borderlands: A Representation of the Transnational Perspective on Chicana Culture

11-11:15 am - Video Intermission: "Mujeres al borde"

11:15 am-12:15 pm - **Spirits and Animals: Lo Cuir Más Allá de lo Humano**

Discussant: **Lisette Escariz Ferrá**, UMD, English

Jorge Arredondo, Duke University, Economics, Human Development

Evolución Espiritual: Queer Body Rebels

Alejandro Escalante, UNC-Chapel Hill, Religious Studies

Transatlantic Religion: Intersexuality and Spirit Possession in Cuban Lucumí

Kristofer Jon Reed, UMD, English

Animals, Race, and Nation: Alternative Points of Reference in Ruiz de Burton's Who Would Have Thought it?

12:15-12:45 pm - Lunch

12:45-1:45 pm - **Queer Meditations on the Work of Zilia Sánchez**

Cecilia Battaui, UMD, Spanish and Portuguese

Mariluz Bort, UMD, Spanish and Portuguese

Sarah Dowman, UMD, Spanish and Portuguese

Patricia Ortega Miranda, UMD, Art History

1:45-3:00 pm - La Vitalidad Cuir: Defiance and Access
Discussant: **Kristofer Jon Reed**, UMD, English

Stephanie Niaupari, Gallaudet University, International Development
Re-Queering Disability: Deaf Vitality in Latin America

Gabriela Larkin, George Mason University, Latin American Studies
Carta a Rudy

Kevin Jordan Contreras, Community Health Worker
On the issue of Access to Care and Treatment for Queer individuals living on Latin America and the US

Kendra Pryor, UMD, Anthropology, LASC Certificate
Rolos and Relaxers: A Discussion of Hair and Identity in the Dominican Republic

3:00-3:20 pm - No te salvas solo
Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina

Short film screening of a collective research project developed by students at the Escuela Secundaria Técnica, Universidad Nacional de San Martín. The project shows the importance of building solidarities and collective action in a context of neoliberal policies.

Sabrina González, UMD, History

3:20-4:20 pm - Queer Brown Bodies in Movement: Inclusion and Violence on the Dance Floor
Discussant: **Víctor Hernández**, UMD, Ethnomusicology

Heyni Solera, UMD, Ethnomusicology
DC's Leading Ladies Putting DC's Queer Tango Scene on the Map

Caitlin Lemon, UNC-Charlotte, Masters of the Arts Program, Latin American Studies
Queer Brown Bodies Matter: Racializing Anti-Queer Violence

Chioma Agbaraji, UMD, Women's Studies, LASC Certificate
Queering Salsa: Gendered Dance in D.C. Latin Nightclubs plus dance workshop

4:30-6:30 pm - Keynote Panel: Tools, Tensions, and Practices in the Queer/Cuir Américas
Discussant: **Britta Anderson**, UMD, LASC

Letitia "Leti" Gomez, Washington DC, Latino/a LGBT Activist
Iván Ramos, UMD, Women's Studies
Cristy Road, Cuban-American Artist, Writer, and Musician
Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, American University, Sociology
Maria Amelia Viteri, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Anthropology

6:30-7:00 pm - Closing Conversation and Conclusions

¿Qué aprendimos y cómo nos sirve?

7:00 pm - Reception

Catering by Lucrecia Espinal and Karla Tomalá

Brewing by Ethan Katz and Eben Levey

Music by Humbalaya and Choked Up

Special thanks to Heyni Solera for the photography services.



ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

Lisette Escariz Ferrá

Watercolor Secreto a Voces

Lisette is a cisgender queer Cubana born and raised in La Habana Del Este, Cuba. She moved to the USA when she was eight years old and has lived in Miami, Florida for most of her time abroad. Educated in Cuba and later in the barrios of “la sagüesera” de Miami, Lisette took to dancing casino (Cuban salsa), painting watercolors, and playing the piano to escape the realities of not fitting in with the Cuban-American community of Miami. This series, which she fondly regards as “Frutos del Arbol Papayal y Otras Delicias,” explores queer sexualities, the fluidity of queer identities and, more personally, the silence that accompanies being a feminine lesbian in a highly homophobic and machista Cuban community. The series is also a meditation on the narratives that surround the queer community and the revolutionary potentials of queer subjectivities. As LASC’s 2018 Queer/ Cuir Américas featured artist, Lisette chose to paint in watercolor for the medium’s fluidity, adaptability, and uncontrollability, which are qualities she believes are inherent to the queer community. Currently, Lisette is a PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh, and her work focuses on the sensorial in Caribbean, Latinx, and US multiethnic literature.

Camila Tapia

Camila Tapia is an American-Chilean, pansexual, genderfluid artist attending the University of Maryland, studying Studio Art and Entrepreneurship. They work towards artistic expression and community organization as a worker-owner at the democratic collective, the Maryland Food Co-op, and as a student leader through the group Artsphere, as well as through their work outside of school. Camila is planning to continue this pursuit after graduation by working in and creating spaces for others to share artistic knowledge and make change through activism. Much of their personal artwork has to do with the perception people have of each other because of physicality and identity, which Camila plays with in their personal expression and explores in their workshop on mask-making at the conference. You can find them on instagram @weird._world.





CuirMericas Mashup La Tia y el Padrino

Cara K. Snyder and Victor M. Hernandez-Sang
Vocals, musical arrangement, film, costume

“CuirMericas Mashup” explores the multiple valences of “queer” introduced in the Queer/Cuir Américas CFP: (noun) the identities of the artists we are honoring, (adjective) the themes of the selected songs, and (verb) our methodology of presenting these. In their performance, La Tía y El Padrino (Cara Knaub Snyder & Victor Miguel Hernandez-Sang) pay homage to queer artists throughout the Américas “Mashup” refers to Snyder’s and Hernandez-Sang’s musical arrangement—we featured short excerpts from various songs, played in succession to create one new whole. Taken together, these songs speak to queer experiences of pleasure, sex, poverty, pride, shame, violence, resistance, joy, racialization, desire, gendering, religion, consent, rebeldia e solidaridad. As La Tía & El Padrino perform, we will project an edited film featuring the original artists, to honor their work. *A special note that La Tía’s costume is inspired by Janelle Monae’s “Pynk” and was created by Snyder and her supermom, Loretta.



“ At the Latin American Studies I had the opportunity to participate in the annual LASC graduate student conference, The Cuir/Queer Américas (2018). Unlike other graduate student conferences that I participated with on campus, LASC’s own commitment to interdisciplinarity, intellectual exchange, and horizontalism provided a unique space for the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students to collaborate together in creative and intellectually rewarding ways. Additionally, working on this conference pushed me in new and challenging ways, and as a result, I grew more as a scholar. ”

Jonathan Brower
PhD Student, History



“ Being a member of the conference committee has provided me with extremely valuable experience in organizing and planning a conference and with teamwork skills that are now key for my professional future. ”

Victor M. Hernandez-Sang
PhD Student, Ethnomusicology



“ The annual student conference is just one example of a collective, professional, and thoughtful work of LASC staff, faculty, graduates and undergraduates who meet to discuss a topic, organize panels, and plan artistic activities. This year’s conference, “Queer Américas: Rebels, Counternarratives, Solidarities” encouraged students to read about queer theory, to participate in workshops, and to discuss space, power, and sexuality inside and outside the academia. ”

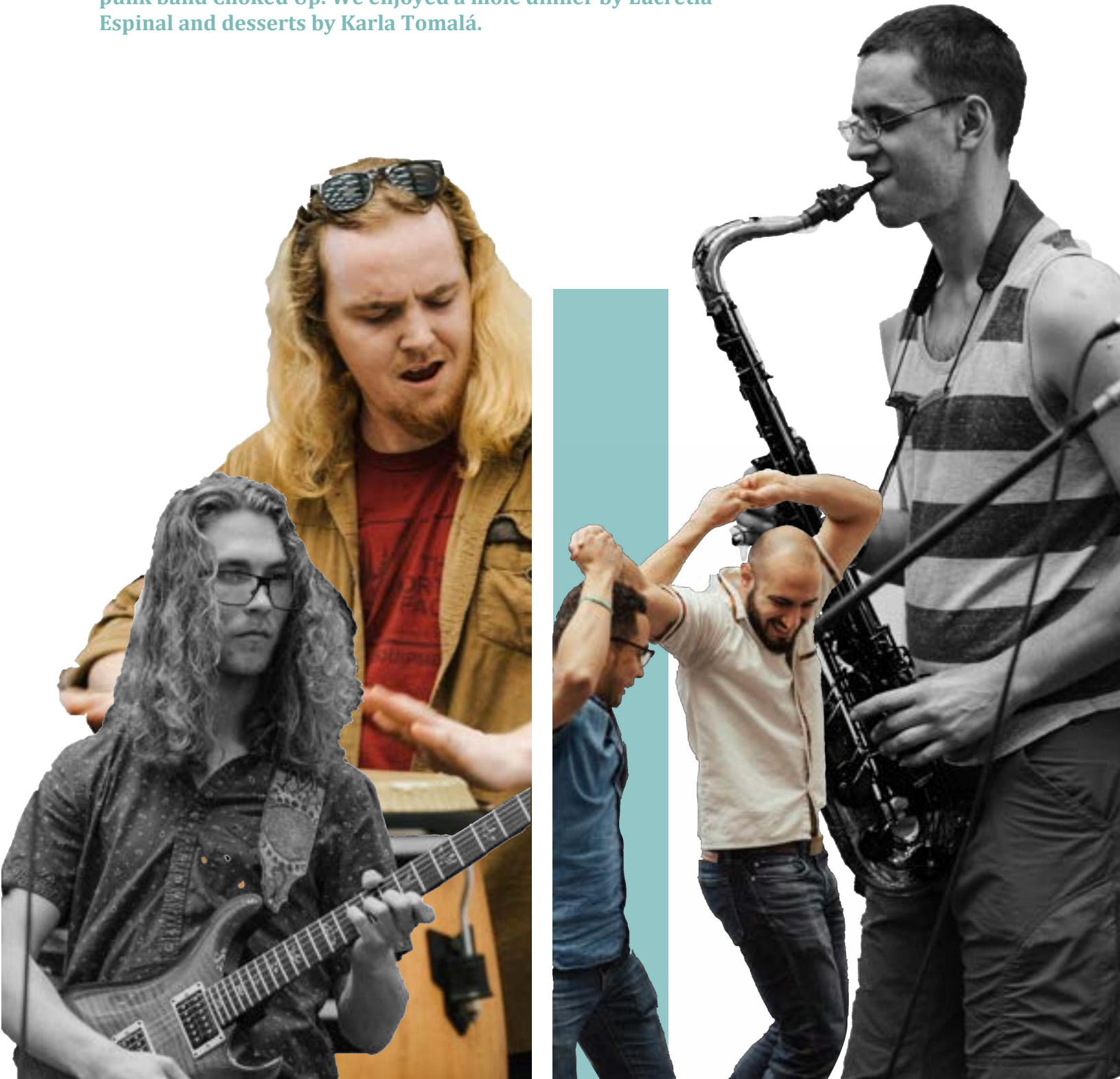
Sabrina González
PhD Student, History



RECEPTION

QUEER/CUIR AMERICAS

The two-day conference closed with a celebration that featured music by UMD student band Humbalaya and the queer Latinx punk band Choked Up. We enjoyed a mole dinner by Lucretia Espinal and desserts by Karla Tomalá.



CAFÉ CON LASC PRODUCTIVIDAD CON COMUNIDAD

¡Vamos a escribir! LASC shared our space in H.J. Patterson with our community through bi-weekly, structured open writing hours, which students from a range of departments attended all year. We supported each other in our writing goals, shared snacks, celebrated small successes, and created opportunities for interaction between undergraduate and graduate students.

GRADUATE WRITING GROUP

An initiative of LASC Graduate Assistant Sabrina González, the LASC Graduate Writing Group has become a thriving community of graduate student writers from many different departments who support and challenge each other at monthly writing workshops.

"While part of LASC, I have also participated in the graduate student writing group. Following in the spirit of LASC, our writing group is likewise committed to interdisciplinarity, intellectual exchange, and horizontalism. Members of the group come from all over campus, including Women's Studies, History, Ethnomusicology, Spanish, and English. It is this collaborative experience and our commitment to the spirit of LASC that not only makes the group a meaningful and cohesive community, but one that is always engaging, challenging, and rewarding." - Jonathan Brower, PhD Student, History

"This community of students has provided me with an opportunity to build a meaningful and resourceful network of scholars who are now an invaluable group for me. One of the most significant results of the collaboration between graduate students is the graduate writing group, which we founded almost two years ago. This group has been comprised of students from History, Literature, Women Studies, and Ethnomusicology. And, this has been a space where we provide each other with meaningful and helpful feedback on our work and discuss different approaches, methods, and theories from each of our fields to engage with and implement in our own research."

- Victor M. Hernandez-Sang, PhD Student, Ethnomusicology



CAFÉ CON LASC

Productividad con Comunidad

OPEN WRITING HOURS
ALL WRITERS WELCOME
BI-WEEKLY FRIDAY 10 AM - 1 PM
H.J. PATTERSON 4120



Sessions:
February 2, 16 / March 2, 16, 30 / April 13, 27 / May 11

For more information contact lasc@umd.edu

MEET OUR GRADUATE STUDENT RESIDENTS

LASC utilized our offices in H.J. Patterson by providing work space and support to two Graduate Student Residents who are focused on furthering research related to Latin America. Our first two LASC Graduate Residents, Sarah Dowman (Spanish) and Cara Snyder (Women's Studies), will share their work at a public lecture. The Graduate Residents for Fall 2018 will be Victor Hernández-Sang (Ethnomusicology) and Analía Gómez-Vidal (Government and Politics).

Sarah Dowman, Graduate Resident Spring 2018
PhD Candidate, Spanish



Sarah's research focuses on popular culture, cultural studies, and gender and sexuality studies. During her LASC residency, she made progress on her dissertation, titled "Change Is Sound: Resistance and Activism in Queer Latinx Punk Rock." Sarah states: "In general, I investigate the relationships among art, resistance, and contemporary activism in the context of queer Latina/o (sub)cultural production, practices, spaces, and communities. More specifically, I look at intersecting identities within queer Latina/o punk rock to put the marginalized at the focus and "decenter" culture and punk rock itself in order to challenge dominant narratives that exclude and erase diversity within the subculture. My project explores the potential for punk ethos, discourses, and collectivism to create resistant and activist practices within queer Latina/o punk communities, thereby explaining how resistance is being defined and constructed in the present."

Cara Snyder, Graduate Resident Spring 2018
PhD Candidate, Women's Studies



Cara's research examines feminist economics, the sexualization of female athletes, and transnational feminism. During her residency, she made progress on her dissertation prospectus. Cara writes: "Besides the intellectual benefits of this community, I appreciate the affective and psychological advantages of the residency. Namely, humanities scholars often work in isolation, which is in sharp contrast to the ways I prefer to live and labor. The intellectual friendships and communities of care I have through LASC bring me great joy; it does me well to have official access to this physical and emotional 'happy space' as I write my prospectus."



GRADUATE COMMITTEE

Jonathan Brower is a doctoral candidate in the History Department. He graduated from the Johns Hopkins University in 2010 with a BA in History and Near Eastern Studies. At the University of Maryland, Jonathan studies the French Revolution, with an emphasis on questions relating to religion, identity and the nation during the Terror. His dissertation argues that the cultural and religious policies of the Terror were actually part of a larger project of nation-building during the French Revolution. Besides his dissertation topic, Jonathan is also interested in questions relating to the transnational experience of revolution in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Finally, both within and outside academia, Jonathan is passionate about community organizing and labor rights.

Daniela Bulansky, originally from Argentina, is a PhD student at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She studied political science at the University of Buenos Aires. Before coming to UMD, she worked at FLACSO-Argentina (The Latin American School of Social Sciences) in the gender, society, and policies area, and in CIECTI (Interdisciplinary Centre of Studies in Science, Technology and Innovation). Her academic field of interest is Latin American literature, with special focus on Southern Cone dictatorship and post-dictatorship literature.

Sarah Dowman is a PhD candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese where she focuses on Latin American and U.S. Latina/o cultural studies, gender and sexuality studies, and transnationalism. Her dissertation project is titled "Change Is Sound: Resistance and Activism in Queer Latinx Punk." Sarah's conceptualization of punk includes all aspects of the subculture including performance, style and aesthetic, ideologies and activism, and the many cultural products that punk produce such as music, visual art and photography, zines, and other written texts. Sarah hopes to continue to spotlight the important cultural work of queer Latinx punk, still overwhelmingly unnoticed and marginalized within mainstream academia. She also enjoys going to shows, traveling, painting, and spending time with her cat.

Lisette Escariz Ferrá was born in La Habana del Este, Cuba and moved to the U.S. when she was eight years old. After completing her English B.A. at the University of Florida, she became a middle and high school teacher in Miami, FL, where she taught English and Language Arts. She is currently a graduate student in the English Department at the University of Maryland focusing on Caribbean literature, U.S. multiethnic literature, and critical theory. When she thinks she has spare time, Lisette enjoys dancing Cuban salsa, drawing and painting, taking pictures, and doing crossfit.

Sabrina González is a PhD student in the Department of History. She graduated from Universidad Nacional de La Matanza, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with a BA in social communication. Interested in education and social movements from her experience as an activist and teacher, Sabrina came to the University of Maryland to work towards a PhD in Latin American History. Her research focuses on education and childhood in Argentina in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In Argentina, she has taught multiple

classes at public universities, high schools, and alternative schools for adults. As an advocate for community building and collective action among graduate students in the Humanities, she has joined the Latin American Studies Center Writing Group, the reading group "Hoy: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Present," and the History Graduate Student Association.

Victor Hernandez-Sang is a Ph.D. student of ethnomusicology originally from the Dominican Republic. His doctoral project examines the performance of gaga (Haitian-Dominican music and dance) and explores race, immigration, and racial discrimination in the Dominican Republic. At the University of Maryland, he also worked toward his masters degree and his thesis focuses on the performance of palos music in fiestas de misterios in the Dominican Republic. In summer 2018, he started working on his doctoral project conducting field research with the support of the Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship. Before coming to UMD, he received his B.A. from Luther College, Decorah, IA in music (flute performance) and taught flute, ear training, and English in his hometown, Santiago. Victor has contributed to the LASC annual student conference since 2016 as a presenter and member of the organizing committee.

Eben Levey is a PhD student in the History Department. He graduated from Vassar College in 2008 with a BA in Urban Studies with a minor in Economics and from Georgetown University in 2013 with an MA in Latin American Studies. He comes to the University of Maryland to work towards a PhD in Latin American History, with a specific emphasis on the social constructions of race and indigeneity in the 20th Century. In particular, Eben proposes to examine the processes of urban development in Southern Mexico and the incorporation of indigenous peoples into the urban setting.

Ana Paula Nadalini Mendes received her BA and MA in History from the Universidade Federal do Paraná - Brazil in 2005 and 2009. In her MA, she dedicated to the study of sacred food in the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé. She comes to the University of Maryland to work towards an MA in early Latin American history, with a specific emphasis in cultural and gender history. She is particularly interested the use of food as an strategy of resistance used by enslaved women in Brazil and United States in the nineteenth century. Ultimately, she would like to pursue an academic history career as a professor and a researcher of history of slavery and history of food.

Kristofer Jon Reed is a first-year PhD student in the English Department at UMD. His research interests are in the literature of the colonial Americas and US American antebellum literature. He earned his MA in English (Rhetoric and Composition) from the University of South Carolina--Columbia. Animal Studies is an additional area of interest and his current projects include studies of the function and representation of animals in fiction, e.g. Aphra Behn's Oroonoko and Edgar Allan Poe's The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym.

Nidia Mariana Reyes was born in Chihuahua, México. She has a Masters degree in Spanish literature by the University of Texas at El Paso (2016). While doing her masters she studied the cultural representations of the Ciudad Juárez feminicides, with special focus on theater and the way the victims are portrayed. Now she is a first year student at the Spanish PhD program here at UMCP and is interested in contemporary Mexican literature from the U.S.-México border and the way in which different types of violence are represented. On her spare time she enjoys going to the movies, taking long walks and drinking coffee.

Ana Ivelisse Sanchez-Rivera is a first-generation student from an economically disadvantaged family and she is a product of the public education system. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, with a double major in Psychology and Geography. Her undergraduate research was based worked with cognitive processes involved in discrimination based on skin color. She completed her MA in Multicultural Geography at SUNY Binghamton. Her thesis was about how Whitening's patterns changed by places in Puerto Rico and the importance of these when identifying xenophobic attitudes against Dominicans living in the Island. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the Geography Department studying how the construction of places influence identity and racial identification".

Cara Snyder graduated with a BA from Agnes Scott College, where she double majored in Economics and International Relations, with a minor in Spanish (2009). Before joining the Women's Studies Department at the University of Maryland, Cara worked as a program assistant in The Américas Program at The Carter Center, as a Fulbright Scholar and English teacher in Brazil, and as an international admissions counselor at Agnes Scott College. She has also participated in a number of training and programs that sit at the intersections of civil society and government. Her previous research, "I'm Chiquita Banana and I'm Here to Stay: US-Latin Relations, Carmen Miranda, and the Role of Cultural Diplomacy

in Conflict Prevention," examined the symbolic deployment of Carmen Miranda as a heuristic device for understanding the successes and failures of cultural diplomacy in US-Brazilian relations. As a graduate student, Cara is interested in feminist economics, sexualization of female athletes, and transnational feminism.

Heyni Yanin Solera is a master's student in ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland. She is primarily interested in pedagogical practices in tango music, specifically how it applies to the bandoneón. Other research interests include contemporary tango music, music and transcultural exchange, and the queer tango dance scene. Heyni's research on Washington D.C.'s emerging queer tango dance scene was recently presented at UMD's Latin American Studies Center. Heyni holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Washington Adventist University. Although trained as a pianist, Heyni currently performs on bandoneón throughout the D.C. area with the Tango Mercurio Orchestra and the quintet, Da Capo Tango. Besides her academic and musical interests, Heyni works as a nurse anesthetist at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center.

Undergraduate Collaborators

Chioma Agbaraji, Women's Studies

Maria Aragon, English and Film Studies

Cecilia Marmolejos, Business

Camila Tapia, Studio Art



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CERTIFICATE :



The senior capstone course, LASC 458, is the final course requirement to complete the Latin American Studies Center Certificate. The course explores cutting edge trends in Latin American studies and the power of interdisciplinary perspectives in intellectual study and also in real life.

Every fall, the course is offered for a cohort of students, who work on independent research topics of their own choosing. The topic can be drawn from any part of Latin America and the Caribbean that is particularly exciting to each student. Students learn research techniques from various disciplines through visiting professors and professionals. They work closely with the LASC instructor and with each other. The course develops into a dynamic collective of shared ideas, and students often comment that this is the most meaningful part of their Certificate, sometimes also their undergraduate coursework overall.

The Capstone's primary learning objectives include:

To draw on interdisciplinary concepts, terminology, and tools found in scholarly approaches to Latin America and the Caribbean.

To craft a research question and a research plan that builds on the methodologies of one or more disciplines within Latin American Studies.

To synthesize varied primary and secondary sources into a cohesive thesis and a well-argued paper that is in dialogue with scholars in more than academic discipline.

To engage with fellow students and support each other in mastering new research methods, analysis, writing, and argumentation.



STUDENTS' SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Chioma Agbaraji

“Queering Salsa: A Study of Gendered Dance Performance in D.C. Latin Nightclubs”

This paper discusses and analyzes how culturally-based gender ideals have informed the performance of the woman Latina salsa dancer through clothing and performance style. Furthermore, it deconstructs and ultimately queers gender performance within salsa by revealing a more inclusive, non-binary dance performance predicated on personal enjoyment and outside of societal impositions and definitions of gender.

Alexa DeCesaris

“Women in Crime: Looking at Women’s Interaction with Gangs in the Northern Triangle”

This paper assessed the interaction women have with crime in the Northern Triangle. This research analyzed the literature with women involved in crime as members but also women in the periphery whether as accomplices or victims. Literature, including photos, were used to analyze these relationships.

Zena Dhatt

“A New Wave of Migration Through Mexico Into the United States”

This research examines the journey of Central American unaccompanied minor migrants and the ways they are perceived by different groups, and how they are represented in the U.S. legal system.

John Garcia-Tobarwill

“The Forgotten Lords: The Puerto Rican Young Lords of the 1960s-1970s”

This study repositions the dominant historical narrative to focus on the origins of the Young Lords Organization and provokes the thought of the Lords’ legacy.

Juan Herrera

“Crafting Chicano Identity Through the Scope of Fútbol”

This research examines the internal struggles of self-definition that Mexican-Americans (Chicanos) go through when crafting their own national identities.

Ana Orteza-Rivera

“Cuentos Que dan Miedo: Salvadoran Folktales and Migration”

This paper examines the phenomena of stories traveling across borders as people migrate. Three main Salvadoran stories are used as case studies: La Siguanaba, El Cipitio, and El Cadej

Kendra Pryor

“Rolloos and Relaxers: A Discussion of Hair and Identity in the Dominican Republic”

The purpose of this project is to examine the role that hair and beauty standards play into identity formation of Dominican women, especially those who are a part of the African Diaspora.

NEWS AND AWARDS

Matthew Aruch

Congratulations to Matthew Aruch, a Ph.D. candidate in the International Education Policy Program of the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education, for winning a 2018-19 Fulbright award for research with the indigenous Kayapó people in Brazil.

Sharada Balachandran Orihuela

Sharada Balachandran Orihuela published her first monograph, *Fugitives, Smugglers, and Thieves: Piracy and Personhood in American Literature* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018).

Francisco Barrenechea

Francisco Barrenechea from the Department of Classics continues to work on the reception of Greek drama in Spain and Latin America. In fall 2017, he was invited to participate in an international workshop entitled "Encounters with Classical Antiquity in Latin America," which was held at Yale University. He will be teaching a course on the topic in the spring of 2019. His book, *Comedy and Religion in Classical Athens: Narratives of Religious Experiences in Aristophanes' Wealth*, was published by Cambridge University Press this year. Prof. Barrenechea was also promoted this past spring to associate professor.

Barbara Bernstein

Barbara Bernstein, who teaches Salsa at the University of Maryland's Arts and Learning Center, was named a "Notable Alum" by the University of Chicago in the spring of 2018. In addition, she is producing and performing in several Hispanic Heritage Month programs at Prince Georges County Libraries this fall. These are free, for all ages, and open to the public.

Kelsey Corlett-Rivera

Kelsey Corlett-Rivera has been promoted to Librarian III with Permanent Status. This is the UMD Libraries' equivalent to Associate Professor with Tenure. She published two peer-reviewed articles in 2017-2018, "Intervening in French: A Colony in Crisis, the Digital Humanities, and the French Classroom" and "Subject Librarian as Co-Author: A Case Study with Recommendations." She was selected as Gemstone Librarian of the Year for her work with Team VIRUS. Kelsey and her family also welcomed a new baby on September 1, 2017, Lukas Antonio Rivera.

Sarah Dowman

Sarah was one of LASC's inaugural graduate residents. Congratulations to Sarah Dowman, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, for winning a Ann G. Wylie Semester Dissertation Fellowship to complete her dissertation on queer Latinx punk.

Jeffrey Franke

Congratulations to Jeffrey Franke for winning the Community award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness of LGBTQ+ issues in our community.

Laurie Frederik

Laurie Frederik published an article called "The Poetic Imaginings of the Real Guantánamo (No, Not the Base)" in the edited volume, *Guantánamo and American Empire: The Humanities Respond*, (Palgrave 2018). The article and the book have been translated and will be published in Spanish next year. The article discusses perspectives and (mis-) interpretations regarding the U.S. Naval Base and the broader province of Guantánamo in eastern Cuba.

Judith N. Freidenberg

Judith N. Freidenberg received the St. George's Day Award for 2018 from the Prince George's Historical Society for the publication of her book, *Contemporary Conversations on Immigration in the United States: The View from Prince George's County*. She taught a workshop entitled "Migration, Citizenship and Health", July 11-13, 2018, at Universidad Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil and co-chaired a session on Immigration as Emigration at the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences Meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil, July 14-20.

Analia Gomez Vidal

Analia Gomez Vidal Received the Adam Smith Fellowship at the MERCATUS Center for 2017-2018 and for 2018-2019. Analia was awarded with LASC's Graduate Resident for Fall 2018, and the BSOS Dean's Dissertation Research Initiative Award 2018-2019. She participated in the IAFPE conference 2018 in New Paltz, NY and the SeLAB Mini-conference 2018 in Vanderbilt University. She was featured in an interview for a project on Free Improv English as a Second Language.

Victor Hernandez-Sang

Congratulations to Victor Hernandez-Sang, a Ph.D. student in Ethnomusicology, for winning a Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship to complete his fieldwork in the Dominican Republic over the summer. Victor was awarded with LASC's Graduate Residency for Fall 2018.

Regina Igel

Regina Igel, Advisor & Coordinator of the Portuguese Program, is the new Chief Editor for the E-Journal *Amazônia Judaica*, published in Portuguese, Spanish, Ladino and English. Prof. Igel continues as a Contributing Editor for

the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (HLAS), for which she writes reviews and an introductory article in the section "Brazilian Novels." Last June, she contributed with a paper in the Congress on "Judeus Portugueses", in Lisbon and Oporto. She also organized and headed two panels, and delivered a paper at the Brazilian American Studies Association (BRASA) Congress, in July, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Blanca Palma

Congratulations to our certificate student Blanca Palma, who is the new Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society (PLUMAS) President (2018-2019). Blanca is an International Relations and Government and Politics major. In her new role as president of the Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society, she is committed to supporting minority students on campus and the Latinx community.

Ana Patricia Rodríguez

Professor Rodríguez was elected President of the Latina/o Studies Association (LSA) (2017-2019) and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Smithsonian Latino Gallery, Washington History, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), and Casa de la cultura de El Salvador (Washington, D.C.).

María Roof

In Managua in January 2018, María Roof (PhD, 1994) presented her book *Rosario Aguilar (Nicaragua): acercamientos críticos* (Washington, DC/Tegucigalpa: Casasola, 2017), a compilation of interviews and critical articles on this prominent fiction writer's works. This is the first in a projected series of anthologies on Central American writers. In addition, Dr. Roof's translation of *The Power of Love: My Victory over Breast Cancer* (2017), by Karla Icaza, is a finalist for the 2018

International Latino Book Awards. Dr. Roof is currently Humanities and Arts Editor for the online journal, Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies (MARLAS).

Karen Roseblatt

Karen Roseblatt was promoted to Full Professor this spring. She published *The Science and Politics of Race in Mexico and the United States, 1910-1950* (Univ. of North Carolina Press). With Leandro Benmergui, Roseblatt published "Japanese-American confinement and scientific democracy: Colonialism, social engineering, and government administration" *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*. Roseblatt attended the Latin American Studies Assoc Meeting in Barcelona, where she commented on a panel on "The U.S-Mexico Border Wall: A Newfound Challenge for Latin American Migrants." She also presented "*Eulalia Guzmán and the Controversy over Cuauhtémoc's Bones: Autochthonous Development, Gender, and Scientific Cosmopolitanism*" as part of a panel on Social Science and Development in Latin America Since 1945. Dr. Karen Roseblatt organized, with the help of LASC, the conference on "Researching, Reading, and Writing Latin American History: Theory, Method, Politics" at UMD and the Mexican Cultural Institute, and recently she won a Research and Scholarship Awards (RASA) for Fall 2019.

Cara Snyder

Cara was one of LASC's inaugural graduate residents. This year she published a single authored, peer reviewed article in *WSQ (Women's Studies Quarterly)* titled "The Soccer Tournament as Beauty Pageant: Eugenic Logics in Brazilian Women's Futebol Feminino". Cara also published "Late 20th Century Feminist Movements in the United States: Women's Bodies in Contention" with Adam Matthew Digital.

She received the International Graduate Research Fellowship (IGRF) to conduct research this Summer in São Paulo, Brazil at the Núcleo de Estudos de Gênero Pagu, Universidade de Campinas (UNICAMP), and following this, she will do ethnographic work at the Paris 2018 Gay Games.

Ruth E. Zambrana

Congratulations to Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana, CRGE Director, and Dr. Sylvia Hurtado, University of California Los Angeles, for their book, *The Magic Key: The Educational Journey of Mexican Americans from K-12 to College and Beyond* which won first place for Best Academic Themed Book and second place for Best Nonfiction Multi-Author Book at the International Latino Book Awards.

Saúl Sosnowski

Congratulations to Dr. Saúl Sosnowski, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, for the "Premio Honorífico Ezequiel Martínez Estrada" in recognition of his book *Cartografía de las letras hispanoamericanas: tejidos de la memoria* ((Poliedros - Zona de Crítica) that contributed to scholarship on Latin American literature. This award, granted by Casa de las Américas, is among the oldest and most prestigious literary prizes in Latin America.

Nelly Stromquist

Congratulations to Dr. Nelly Stromquist, for her recent retirement and for her impressive career in International Education Policy. Her work, which includes the books *Feminist Organizations and Social Transformation in Latin America* and *Genero, educacion y politica en America Latina*, has focused on the dynamics of educational policies and practices, gender relations, equity, and social change. Thank you to Dr. Stromquist for her years of service as a board member and advocate of LASC.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Are you interested in learning about Latin America from a variety of perspectives?

Consider pursuing a Certificate in Latin American Studies, a program that is open to all undergraduate students. Through the certificate's interdisciplinary coursework, you will explore Latin American and Caribbean cultures, governance, civil society, labor, gender, art, literature, ethnicity, and migration. As a certificate student, you will take four required courses and select three other courses from any department that emphasize Latin America or the Caribbean, which can overlap with your major or minor. In addition, you will demonstrate competence in Spanish, Portuguese, or another language spoken in Latin America.

A Certificate in Latin American Studies will:

Provide you with the flexibility to pursue your own interests and personalize your course of study.

Help you develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the history, geography, society, politics, economics, language and literature, and contemporary issues facing Latin America.

Provide insight into the region's particularly complex relationship with the United States and the globalized world.

Strengthen your employment possibilities by adding expertise in Latin America to your credentials. The certificate notation on your transcript makes you stand out to employers, by demonstrating a specialization beyond the general knowledge acquired through your major.

Core Certificate Courses:

LASC 234: Issues in Latin American Studies I: Space, Identity, and Inequality

LASC 235: Issues in Latin American Studies II: Social Movements and Migration

LASC 250/ HIST 250: History of Colonial Latin America

or

LASC 251/ HIST 251: Latin America Since Independence

LASC 258: Senior Capstone

Electives include classes from:

Anthropology, Art History, Criminology, English, Geography, Government and Politics, History, LGBT Studies, Theater and Performance Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, U.S. Latina/o Studies, Women's Studies.

LASC 486: Internship in Latin American/ Caribbean Studies

As a certificate student, you may receive elective course credit for completing an internship with an organization working with or studying Latin American or Caribbean populations

THANK YOU



OUR MISSION

The Latin American 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 interests.

For over than 30 years, LASC has been active in promoting faculty and student research, bringing visiting scholars, hosting conferences and events, and working in the community.



Dr. Laurie Frederik

Thank you to Dr. Laurie Frederik for her three years of dedicated service as LASC director. Her vision and leadership brought vitality and visibility to our community. Her background in performance studies led us to integrate dance, art, story-telling, and even Lucha Libre wrestling into our academic conversations. She remained an integral part of the life of LASC this year, teaching our Capstone research course and overseeing the internship experiential courses. Thank you for your constant generosity and for bringing us together as a community, Dr. Frederik!



Sabrina González

Thank you to Sabrina González, for her three years of hard work and commitment as our LASC Graduate Assistant. Thank you for the joy, authenticity, and love you have brought to LASC's mission, for the way that you challenge the boundaries between academics and activism, and for your dedication to bringing people together.



Regina Vila Verde

In the 1990's Dr. Saúl Sosnowski, director of LASC, commissioned a painting from Brazilian artist Regina Vila Verde. The painting was the LASC logo for many years. Regina passed away in 2018. Her beautiful art remains in our Center for exhibition.



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