

LASA2022 Congress Report

Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias

The XL International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), May 5 to 8, 2022, was the third virtual Congress of LASA. Its planning began in July 2021 as a hybrid Congress that would enable both, face-to-face participation in the city of San Francisco, USA, and virtual sessions.

However, in January 2022 and after keeping a close eye on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Council (EC) voted to change the modality of the LASA2022 Congress to virtual. Among the considerations against making the congress hybrid, and in favor of limiting it to the virtual modality was the fact that members from Latin America may have been vaccinated with vaccine brands not approved for entry into the United States (US). So, the face-to-face part of the congress would have been primarily for people from that country, Canada, and perhaps a few from Europe. Additionally, the cost of making the congress hybrid – joining the face-to-face and the virtual – was higher than making it only virtual.

Indeed, in March LASA announced that the transformation of the 2022 Congress to virtual allowed to adjust the registration fees to more affordable ones. The new reduced fees approved by the EC were based on a progressive scheme that recognizes the global diversity of the members, the economies of their countries of residence, and particularly subsidizes students by creating an even lower fee category just for them.

In this context, and taking into consideration the experience from the past two virtual Congresses, LASA2020 and LASA2021, LASA worked hard to carry out this third virtual Congress successfully and managed to increase the amount of Congress registration grants from 590 in 2021 to 1,177 in 2022. Similarly, the number of Sponsors, Contributors, and Institutional Partners increased from 27 in 2021 to 42 in 2022 and the Films and Documentaries also grew at the LASA2022 Film Festival from 40 in 2021 to 50 in 2022.

Regarding the participation figures, this Congress turned out to be smaller than LASA2021. The total number of participants dropped 24%, the number of presenters 13%, and the number events and sessions a 4% compared to last year.

LASA2022 Facts

Total Participants	4,523
Total Presenters	4,123
Total Sessions and Events	1,142
Films and Documentaries	50
Book Exhibitors	28
LASA Grantees	1,177
Book Presentations	18
Sponsors, Contributors, and Institutional Partners	42

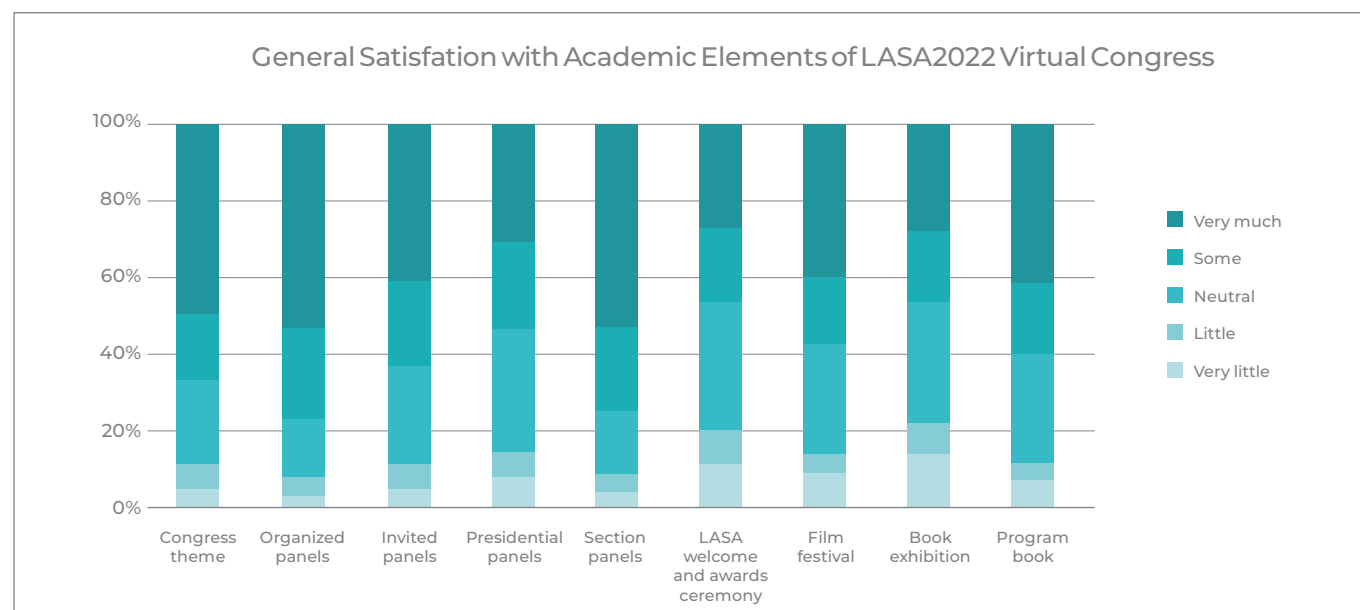
Satisfaction Rates

Every year, LASA sends a survey to collect demographic information and respondents' feedback about the LASA Congress with the objective of measuring the experience of our most important constituents, our members.

Their opinions are highly relevant, even more so when 82% of the respondents have attended two or more LASA Congresses, and 52% attended four or more sessions during LASA2022. Only 18% were attending a LASA Congress for the first time. Therefore, their responses are relevant to help us improve for future Congresses. We thank the 413 people who participated in this year's survey, who represent 9.1% of all of the LASA2022 registered participants.

Like the first and second virtual Congresses, LASA2022 also demonstrated the great support of its members for the Association. For this, we would like to start this report by thanking all participants for their willingness to continue with us in the virtual format and share their research, presentations, and knowledge in the academic space that LASA offered.

During this Congress 62% of respondents say they were satisfied, 11% were neutral and 28% were dissatisfied. Regarding the theme of the Congress, Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias, this year, 67% responded that they were somewhat or very satisfied with it. Among the academic elements of LASA2022, the two that obtained the greatest satisfaction were the organized panels with 77% followed by the section panels with 75%.



These were the percentages of approval (respondents who answered that were somewhat or very satisfied) with the academic elements of the Congress:

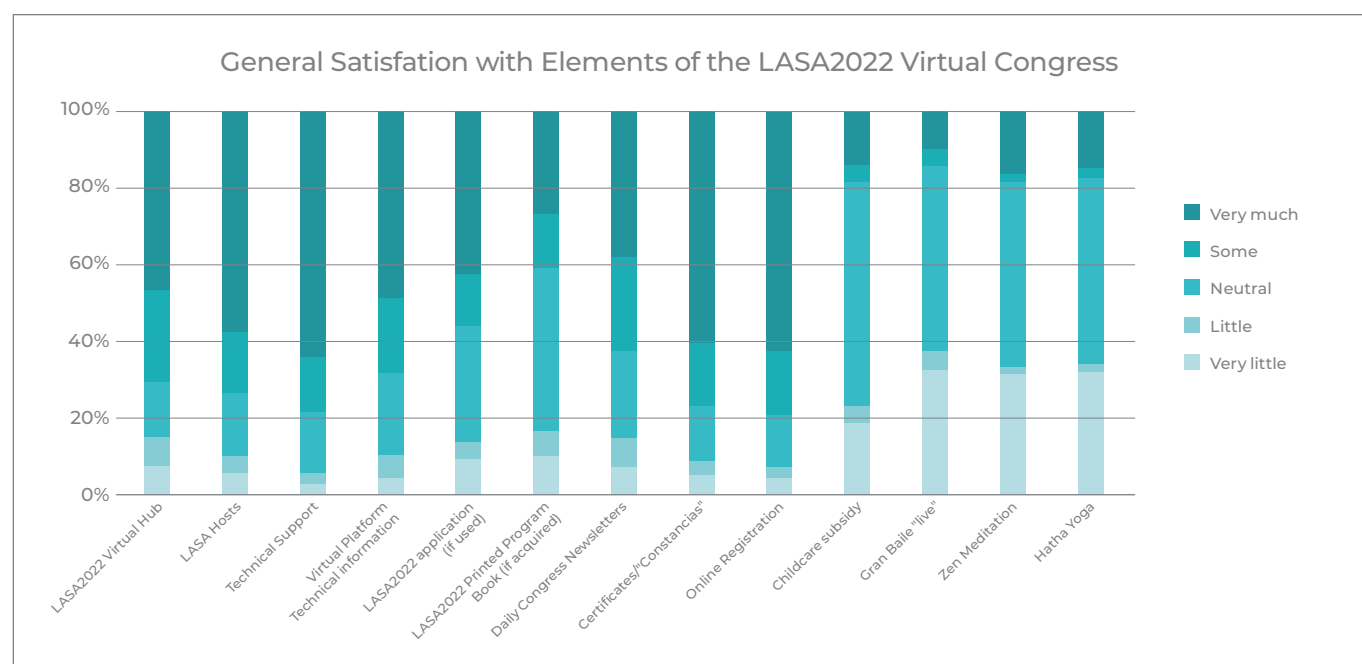
Organized Panels	77%	Invited Panels	63%	Film Festival	58%
Section Panels	75%	Program Book	61%	Welcome Ceremony	46%
Congress Theme	67%	Presidential Sessions	54%	Book Exhibit	47%

Very much	Some	Neutral	Little	Very little
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The online space of the LASA2022 Congress took place on the LASA2022 Virtual Hub, a website available in Spanish and English where registered participants visited to participate in or attend any academic session, meeting, or Congress activity including the Book Exhibit, the Film Festival, the Gran Baile, the informal meetings room, yoga sessions, and more. 70% of the respondents were pleased with this website, 14% were neutral, and only 16% responded that were not satisfied with the website.

The LASA2022 Hub had a direct link to download the LASA2022 mobile app. More than one third (34%) of respondents downloaded the app, and most who downloaded the app (91%) used it. Additionally, the LASA2022 Hub provided technical support from a LASA specialist. This service received a satisfaction rate of 77%.

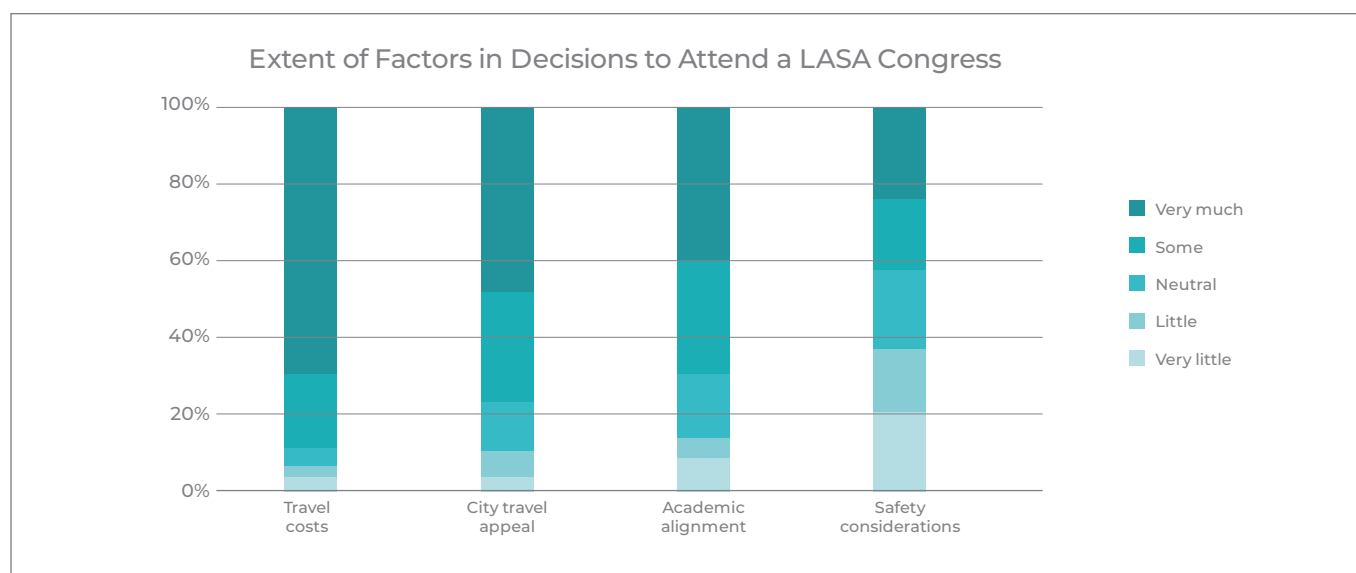
The online registration was the most appreciated non-academic element with 80% satisfaction (respondents who said were somewhat or very satisfied with it). It is worth mentioning that for LASA2022 a progressive registration policy was implemented based on the membership type and the country of origin to facilitate the participation of people financially stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The satisfaction (respondents who answered that were somewhat or very satisfied) of the non-academic elements of the Congress were rated as follows:

Online Registration	80%	Daily Congress Newsletters	62%	Gran Baile	14%
Technical Support	77%	Congress Certificates	76%	Zen Meditation	17%
Virtual Hub	70%	Mobile App	56% (if used)	Hatha Yoga	17%
LASA Hosts	73%	LASA2022 Printed Program Book	41% (if acquired)	Childcare Subsidy	18%
Virtual Platform Information	68%				

We know that the COVID-19 situation has affected the household income of academics, as well as university budgets in Latin America, and consequently has influenced the decisions of many of our members to attend a face-to-face Congress. In fact, when asked to what extent the travel costs are important for your decision to attend a LASA Congress, 88% of the respondents said it was somewhat or very important. Other factors such as city travel appeal, academic alignment, and safety are also considered by our members.

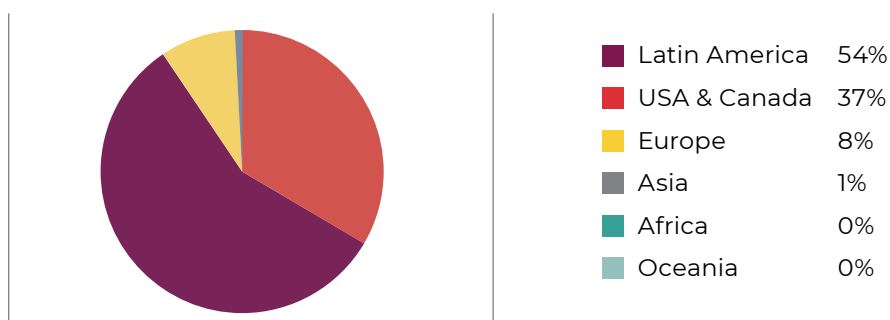


In this regard, and despite the pandemic situation, over half (38%) of respondents said they are planning to attend the LASA Congress next year, 50% were unsure and 12% said they were not planning to attend. Furthermore, when asked about the possibility hybrid Congress, 76% of respondents said they would be interested, while 24% showed no interest.

Demographics

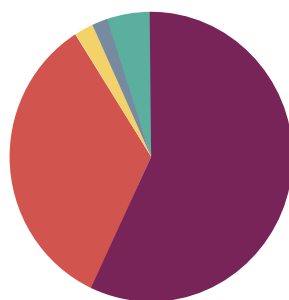
The demographic figures of the LASA Congress attendees remained similar compared to last year, with Latin America being the place where the majority resides (54%) compared to 57% on 2021. Likewise, 37% of scholars were from the United States and Canada, and only 8% of respondents were from Europe.

Figure 4.
Scholars Residency



Regarding the primary activity of our attendees, there was an increase in those focused on research, from 57% in 2021 to 59% in 2022, and a slight decrease in those focused on education (32%), compared to 34% last year.

Figure 5.
Primary Activity



Research	59%
Education	32%
Other	6%
Administration	2%
Consulting	1%

As in every Congress, LASA is very grateful to our faithful sponsors and foundations and to the Endowment Fund, which continue year after year to provide partial grants to our participants. This year LASA was able to offer 1,177 grants to participate in the LASA2022 virtual Congress.

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