

Elections 2019: Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for vice president, treasurer, and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for vice president will serve in that capacity from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020; as president from June 1, 2020, until May 31, 2021; and as past president from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2022. The winning candidate for treasurer will serve as incoming treasurer from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020; and as treasurer from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2022. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2021.

The Candidates

Nominees for Vice President

Gioconda Herrera

Sociology; FLACSO, Ecuador

Soy una socióloga ecuatoriana, estudié mi doctorado en la Universidad de Columbia en Nueva York y egresé a realizar mi carrera académica en Ecuador. Actualmente soy profesora titular del departamento de Sociología y Estudios de Género FLACSO Ecuador y coordino el doctorado en Estudios Andinos. Fui Subdirectora Académica de FLACSO entre 2014 y febrero de 2016. A lo largo de los veinte y un años de mi trabajo en esta institución he colaborado en la creación de los programas de estudios de género, de la maestría de sociología y de las especializaciones superiores en migraciones internacionales, y de violencia de género que ahora se ofertan regularmente. He co-dirigido tesis doctorales de estudiantes en la UCL (Université Catholique de Louvain) y la Universidad de Lieja en Bélgica, la Universidad de Hannover en Alemania y la Universidad Libre de Amsterdam. He formado también parte de comités doctorales en el Colegio de México, el Colegio de la Frontera, la Universidad de Syracuse, la Universidad Complutense de Madrid y en la Universidad de Paris 1 Pantheón-Sorbonne.

Mis investigaciones han girado en torno a preguntas acerca de los efectos de la globalización sobre las desigualdades sociales en América Latina. Para ello he analizado los nuevos procesos migratorios de la región andina de Europa y Estados Unidos, especialmente de mujeres y pueblos indígenas, y también los retornos y circularidades migratorias que se han producido a raíz de la crisis global. Actualmente me encuentro escribiendo un libro sobre la vida post deportación de migrantes indígenas en comunidades rurales del Ecuador y formo parte de una investigación comparativa de ocho países sobre migración venezolana en América Latina.

Mis trabajos han sido publicados en revistas como *Feminist Economics*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Migraciones Internacionales*, *Investigaciones Feministas*, *Amérique Latine: Histoire et Mémoire*, *Revista de Estudios Políticos*, *Mondi Migranti*, *Bulletin IFEA*, *Revista Política y Sociedad*, *Révue Mélanges de la Casa Velasquez*, *ICONOS*, *Nueva Sociedad*. Soy autora de *"Lejos de tus pupilas": Familias transnacionales, cuidados y desigualdad social en Ecuador*. (FLACSO Ecuador, 2013) y co autora *De memorias. Imágenes públicas de mujeres ecuatorianas*. (2007). Acabo de terminar para CLACSO la *Antología del pensamiento crítico ecuatoriano contemporáneo*. Buenos Aires: CLACSO, 2018) y he

co-editado varios textos con colegas de América Latina y Europa entre los cuales están Migraciones Internacionales en Bolivia y Ecuador: crisis global, estado y Desarrollo. (FLACSO-Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Université de Liège (ULG), ARES. (2018) *Nouvelles Migrations Latinoaméricaines en Europe. Bilans et défis* (UCL Presse Universitaire de Louvain, 2007) *América Latina migrante. Estado, familia, identidades* (FLACSO Ecuador – Ministerio de Cultura, 2008). *La persistencia de la desigualdad. Género, trabajo y pobreza en América Latina* (FLACSO-CONAMU, 2006).

He contribuido con capítulos de libros en distintos textos editados como *New Migration Patterns in the Americas: Challenges for the 21st Century*. Palgrave MacMillan. (2018), *¿Volver a casa? Migrantes de retorno en América Latina. Debates, tendencias y experiencias divergentes*. Ciudad de México: COLMEX. (2014) *Global Social Transformation and Social Action*. (London: Ashgate. 2013), *The Global Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*. (Blackwell Publishing and Wiley Online Library. 2011) *Cross Border Migration among Latin Americans: European perspectives and beyond*. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 2011) *La construcción social del sujeto migrante en América Latina: Prácticas, representaciones y categorías*. (FLACSO- Universidad Alberto Hurtado 2011) *The Globalization of Motherhood: Deconstructions and Reconstructions of Biology and Care*. (New York and London: Routledge. 2010) *Beyond States and Markets: The Challenges of Social Reproduction*. (New York: Routledge, 2010). *Ciudadanía y Exclusión. Ecuador y España frente a un espejo*. (Madrid: Editorial Catarata, 2007), entre otros. He recibido dos becas Fulbright, en 2004 y en 2013 y una beca de investigadora visitante en el programa Desigualdades.net, del *Latinamerican Institute, Freie Universität de Berlin* en 2012.

Soy o he formado parte de los comités editoriales de las siguientes revistas: *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*, *IdeAs - Idées d'Amérique*. Institut des Amériques, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Mondi Migranti* e *Iconos* y actualmente soy editora asociada de *Latin American Research Review* de la sección de Sociología. También formé parte del Comité Ejecutivo de LASA (2011-2013), del comité ejecutivo de la Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo y coordiné durante seis años MIGRARED, (Red de Programas universitarios latinoamericanos sobre Migraciones Internacionales de CLACSO).

Herrera Statement

I first attended the LASA congress in 1995 as a graduate student from Columbia University. As an Ecuadorian woman completing her graduate studies in the US, my first experience at LASA represented an encounter with a mentoring community that offered me openness for intergenerational dialogues, a wealth of scholarly informational resources, and most importantly, vibrant interdisciplinary discussions on Latin American states and societies that deeply enriched my work as a junior researcher. Twenty three years later, LASA offers these and much more, the most prominent transformation being the active participation of Latin American scholars together with Latin Americanists not only from the US but increasingly from Europe, Asia, and hopefully soon, from Africa as well. The globalization of LASA is one of the most promising achievements of the Association, and this process should be strengthened through actions from below and above, offering both more exchanges, encounters and opportunities for graduate students, and a more profound dialogue among scholars from different regions on the pressing social and political issues that Latin America and the Caribbean are currently facing. As a globalization and migration scholar, I deeply value the mobility of people and the circulation of ideas as privileged pathways for the production of critical views on social reality, where different knowledge traditions connect, converge, and are confronted with each other.

En los últimos veinte años, mi trabajo académico se ha desarrollado en Ecuador. Mi campo de estudios ha sido particularmente propicio para fomentar conexiones, redes y trabajos colaborativos tanto

dentro de América Latina como en Europa y América del Norte. Valoro mucho este tipo de intercambios sin por ello dejar de mantener una mirada reflexiva y crítica frente a las jerarquías, desigualdades y diferencias frecuentemente presentes en estas experiencias colaborativas. Han existido avances importantes en LASA al respecto. Es necesario, sin embargo, incrementar los esfuerzos para ofrecer a otros investigadores, especialmente a los y las jóvenes, la oportunidad de participar en la construcción de LASA como una comunidad global. El asegurar una participación más activa, robusta y horizontal de los actuales miembros de todas las regiones que actualmente componen LASA es parte importante de mi visión.

Los diálogos y diferencias entre el “Norte” y el “Sur” en la producción de conocimientos se reproducen también en las comunidades académicas locales en toda la región. Por ello, iniciativas de LASA como Otros Saberes aportan a la discusión de distintas epistemologías y metodologías de trabajo colaborativo con diversos actores sociales y deben ser fortalecidas. Cuando integré el Consejo Ejecutivo de LASA (2011-2013) tuve la oportunidad de apoyar estas iniciativas que contribuyen a cruzar las fronteras sociales de la producción de conocimiento.

Finally, bridging dialogues and debates between different knowledge traditions also means tackling issues of dissemination and publication. Specifically, LASA should not shy away from debating the relative devaluation of the region’s Spanish-language academic production vis-à-vis English-language publications in the region. My role as Associate Editor at LARR has led me to believe that LASA can become an important space for discussing the relevance of alternative ways of research dissemination.

In sum, my vision is to continue to strengthen LASA as a truly global space, with attention to the convergence of different knowledge traditions, creating more opportunities for collaboration between scholars from all around the world, and engaging with the diversity of ways research on Latin America is published and circulates. I am deeply honored to be a candidate for vice president and president-elect of LASA.

Daniel Mato

Social Sciences; Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), Conicet, Argentina

Daniel Matos es Licenciado en Economía (Universidad de Buenos Aires, 1974) y Doctor en Ciencias Sociales (Universidad Central de Venezuela-UCV, 1990), Desde 2010 es Investigador Principal del Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones científicas y Técnicas (CONICET, Argentina) y Director Adjunto del Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Avanzados-CIEA, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero-UNTREF, Buenos Aires, Argentina, donde dirige la Cátedra UNESCO “Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes”.

Entre 1978 y 2010 fue Profesor de Ciencias Sociales en la UCV e Investigador Nivel IV del Programa de Promoción del Investigador (Venezuela). Ha sido Profesor Visitante en universidades de Estados Unidos (Columbia University, Dartmouth College, UC-San Diego, UC-Berkeley, UT-Austin, UMiami, UMaryland), España (Universidad de Barcelona) y de varios países latinoamericanos (FLACSO-Quito, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar-Quito, Universidad de las Regiones Autónomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaragüense-URACCAN, además de varias de Argentina y Venezuela). También ha sido Investigador Visitante en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y la Smithsonian Institution. Desde 1990 ha sido conferencista invitado en reuniones científicas y universidades de Estados Unidos, Reino Unido, Bélgica, España, Japón, China, Australia y una decena de países latinoamericanos. Es, o ha sido, miembro de Consejo Editor de numerosas revistas; entre otras: Latin American Research Review, Journal of Latin American

Cultural Studies, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Revista Colombiana de Antropología, Cultural Studies, Identities, Revista de Estudios e Pesquisas sobre as Américas, Alteridad. Revista de Educación (Ecuador).

Es autor de 7 libros y de más de 100 artículos y capítulos de libros publicados en español, portugués, inglés y francés. Además ha editado 16 libros de múltiples autores, 6 de ellos resultado de proyectos internacionales de los que fue Director. Desde 1992 la mayoría de sus publicaciones son resultados de investigaciones en los campos de Cultura, Comunicación y Transformaciones Sociales, y de Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad en Educación Superior. Sus publicaciones de períodos anteriores son resultado de investigaciones en Economía y Antropología.

Entre otras distinciones ha recibido el reconocimiento LASA-OXFAM-America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureship y becas de la Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Japan Foundation, Smithsonian Institution, University of Sussex y Fulbright. Ha obtenido fondos de investigación para proyectos internacionales de: UNESCO, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation y Agencia Española de Cooperación.

Desde 1986 ha desarrollado experiencias de trabajo en colaboración con organizaciones e intelectuales indígenas y afrodescendientes de varios países latinoamericanos, con cuya participación y la de otras/os colegas ha desarrollado iniciativas que han incidido en políticas que han incidido en políticas públicas e institucionales. Por ejemplo, en 2007 estableció y hasta 2010 coordinó el “Proyecto Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad en Educación Superior” del Instituto Internacional de la UNESCO para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe-IESALC. Con la participación de 65 colegas de 12 países este proyecto publicó 4 libros y formuló recomendaciones de políticas que fueron adoptadas por la 2da. Conferencia Regional de Educación Superior-CRES (Cartagena, 2008) y por el Parlamento Latinoamericano (“Declaración de Panamá sobre la Educación en la Sociedad del Conocimiento”, 2012). Entre 2017 y 2018 dirigió el equipo de 13 colegas de 10 países que realizó el estudio regional y formuló recomendaciones sobre “Educación Superior, Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad” que fueron adoptadas por la 3ra. CRES (Córdoba, 2018). En 2014 promovió la creación de la “Red Inter-universitaria Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes”, que actualmente coordina, la cual -con la participación de 60 universidades de 10 países latinoamericanos- ha realizado 5 coloquios y publicado 4 libros colectivos. Desde la “Cátedra UNESCO Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes” actualmente coordina la “Iniciativa para la Erradicación del Racismo en Educación Superior”, la cual apoya su accionar en una Red de casi 100 colaboradoras/es y una Coalición de más de 30 universidades latinoamericanas.

Ha desarrollado una significativa labor de construcción y coordinación de redes y grupos de trabajo. Por ejemplo, en 1998 estableció el Grupo de Trabajo “Cultura y Poder” del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) que coordinó hasta 2002. Desde 1994 ha sido un miembro activo de LASA, en cuyo ámbito promovió la creación de la Sección “Culture, Politics and Power”, de la cual fue su primer “Chair”, reelegido para un segundo período (1997-2000). Además, ha sido un participante activo de esa sección y de las secciones Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples; Educación y Políticas Educativas en América Latina; y Otros Saberes. En LASA también ha sido miembro del Comité del Premio Iberoamericano Book Award (1997); miembro del LASA Elections Nomination Committee (2001-2002); miembro del Consejo Editorial de la Latin American Research Review (2005- 2011); y “Chair” del LASA-OXFAM-America Martín Diskin Memorial Lectureship Award Committee (2018). Ha publicado dos textos programáticos en LASA Forum: “Del ´diálogo de saberes´ a la construcción de modalidades de ´colaboración intercultural´: Aprendizajes y articulaciones más allá de la Academia” [48(3), 2017] y “Algunas ideas para mejorar la comunicación entre los investigadores de Estados Unidos y América Latina” [28(2), 1997], este último en co-autoría con Henry Dietz (Government, UT-Austin).

Mato Statement

Mi participación activa en la vida de LASA desde 1994 ha sido fuente de muchos aprendizajes sobre nuestra Asociación. Entre otras cosas he aprendido que nuestra Asociación se caracteriza por su diversidad internacional, disciplinar y epistemológica, por el cultivo de valores de justicia social, equidad e inclusión, por el manejo respetuoso y democrático de las diferencias y por su vocación por incentivar la investigación, la enseñanza, el debate intelectual y el compromiso cívico. Estos son los pilares sobre los que hemos logrado hacer crecer nuestra Asociación y su incidencia en la vida académica y social del continente. Es a partir de ello que debemos continuar trabajando.

También he aprendido que es posible impulsar transformaciones significativas en su seno, como por ejemplo cuando en 1996 el Executive Committee convocó a crear “secciones”. Esta fue una importante innovación que estimuló notablemente el trabajo en redes y la participación activa dentro de nuestra Asociación. Esta constatación sirve de base a algunas propuestas que promoveré en caso de resultar electo.

- *En vista del ascenso de los discursos y prácticas racistas, machistas y anti-inmigrantes, propongo de manera prioritaria que LASA establezca una “Iniciativa para la Erradicación del Racismo y todas las formas de discriminación”. Esta Iniciativa podría expresarse en la creación de una columna específica en LASA Forum y/o un espacio en nuestro sitio web, así como en sesiones especiales en el/los próximo/s Congreso/s. También se podría invitar a las Secciones a sumar sus aportes. Además, dada la inserción institucional de buena parte de la membresía de LASA, sería posible estimular investigaciones sobre el tema y construir alianzas con universidades y con otras asociaciones profesionales o académicas. Este entramado de relaciones facilitaría desarrollar campañas comunicacionales para incidir en la opinión pública. Utilizando Internet podrían solicitarse ideas adicionales a toda la membresía. (Es de estas formas que venimos encarando el tema desde la Cátedra UNESCO “Educación Superior y Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes”).*
- *En vista del debilitamiento de las democracias y del creciente poder de movimientos políticos y gobiernos autoritarios con sus prácticas de criminalización de las protestas sociales, persecución de dirigentes de organizaciones sociales (especialmente de derechos humanos, migrantes, mujeres, ambientalistas, LGBT, pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes), propongo de manera prioritaria que LASA establezca una “Iniciativa para el fortalecimiento de las democracias y de promoción de los derechos humanos, civiles y políticos”. Esta Iniciativa podría expresarse hacia adentro y hacia afuera de LASA de maneras análogas a las propuestas para la Iniciativa antes mencionada.*
- *Continuar la búsqueda de fondos para subsidiar la participación en nuestros congresos de colegas, estudiantes y representantes de organizaciones de pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes, poblaciones en situación de desplazamiento forzoso y otros grupos de población sub-representados.*
- *Encuestar a la membresía sobre posibles mecanismos que permitan estimular formas de participación más activa en la vida de la Asociación.*
- *Avanzar en el plurilingüismo en toda la vida de LASA. Actualmente la “Constitución y Estatutos” (Bylaws) solo están disponibles en inglés; las “Bios” y Propuestas de lxs candidatxs al EC y la Vicepresidencia solo pueden ser publicadas en un idioma.*

Kimberly Theidon

Anthropology; Tufts University, United States

I am a writer and medical anthropologist focusing on Latin America. My research interests include political violence, transitional justice, reconciliation, and the politics of post-war reparations. I am the author of many articles, commissioned reports, and two books. *Entre Prójimos: El conflicto armado interno y la política de la reconciliación en el Perú* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 1st edition 2004; 2nd edition 2009) was awarded the Latin American Studies Association 2006 Premio Iberoamericano Book Award Honorable Mention for outstanding book in the social sciences published in Spanish or Portuguese. *Entre Prójimos* served as the primary inspiration for the film *La Teta Asustada* (The Milk of Sorrow), Claudia Llosa's award-winning movie about sexual violence, memory and the complicated issue of reconciliation in ethnically-divided Peru. My second book, *Intimate Enemies: Violence and Reconciliation in Peru* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) has been reviewed in *London Review of Books*, *Foreign Affairs*, *American Ethnologist*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Journal for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *The Americas: Quarterly Review of Latin American History*, *Anthropology in Action*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, *Inside Story*, *ReVista*, *Tulsa Law Review*, *Hispanic America Historical Review*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *PoLar: Journal of Political and Legal Anthropology*, *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, *Journal of Peace, Conflict and Development*, *Revista Andina*, *Journal of Human Rights, Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, *Dialectical Anthropology*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. *Intimate Enemies* was awarded the 2013 Honorable Mention from the Washington Office on Latin America-Duke University Libraries Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America, and the 2013 Honorable Mention for the Eileen Basker Prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology for research on gender and health. I was awarded the 2017 Society for Medical Anthropology's Graduate Student Mentoring Award in "recognition of [my] contributions to the next generation of medical anthropologists," and the 2019 James L. Paddock Teaching Award from the Fletcher School, Tufts University. I am now completing two book manuscripts. *Pasts Imperfect: Working with Former Combatants in Colombia* is based on my research with former combatants from the paramilitaries, the FARC and the ELN. *Sex at the Security Council: A Greater Measure of Justice* draws upon my research in Peru on sexual violence, children born of wartime rape, and the politics of reparations. With my colleague Dyan Mazurana, I am editing *Challenging Conceptions: Children Born of Wartime Rape and Sexual Exploitation*. I completed my appointment as the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University in June 2014, and was then a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C for the 2014-2015 academic year. I am currently the Henry J. Leir Professor in International Humanitarian Studies at the Fletcher School, Tufts University, and Co-Director of the Gender Analysis and Women's Leadership Program. For information on the program see <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/Gender-Analysis-Women-Leadership>.

Theidon Statement

I am pleased to be considered as a candidate for vice president and president-elect of the Latin American Studies Association. I have served on the Executive Council, and participated in the most recent LASA strategic planning workshop convened in New York. My research has focused on gender-based and sexual violence, transitional justice, human rights and post-conflict reconstruction. More information about me can be found at www.kimberlytheidon.com; here I wish to say a few words about the issues that drive my research and political commitments, and to which I would dedicate my time serving LASA.

From the odious politics of United States President Trump to the right wing reactionaries coming to power in various countries in this hemisphere, I imagine many of us are reeling in the face of assaults on virtually everything we care about. If elected, I would focus on the following issues, encouraging LASA to be a vocal advocate for: sexual and reproductive rights; asylum-seekers and immigrants; and environmental justice. I would recommend we have a speaker's bureau of scholar-practitioners ready to respond quickly and insightfully to the barrage of reactionary propaganda being generated throughout the region. One goal is to drive the narratives and policy responses on these issues rather than merely conduct triage. The role of public intellectuals in Latin America is something scholars situated in the Global North should emulate, and LASA can more effectively harness both the media and social media to the cause of social justice.

On the issue of sexual and reproductive rights, I would suggest LASA take a stand on "gender ideology" and the ways in which this concept is being used to restrict women's rights, exacerbate homophobia, and use "sex panics" to generate and deploy a politics of fear. The gender-based violence that plagues the region — and I most certainly consider the forced recruitment of boys and young men into armed groups and gangs to be a form of GBV — requires alliances across regions and borders to mount a progressive response.

Alliances across regions and borders are also necessary to address the plight of asylum-seekers and immigrants. LASA members have already been speaking out forcefully about the crisis in Venezuela, and about the brutal politics of the US along the border with Mexico. If elected, I would suggest LASA use its networks to work with other organizations throughout the region that are conducting policy-relevant research on this issue. LASA can serve as a conduit for furthering collaboration and using the strength of numbers via its membership.

Finally, I think the environmental humanities are one of the most exciting areas of inquiry. From climate refugees to the "developmentally displaced," from lead leaching into waterways to extractive industries and their detritus — I advocate that LASA address not only political and criminal violence, but also the slower forms of violence that distorts lives and livelihoods throughout the region.

Nominees for Treasurer

Amy C. Lind

Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies; University of Cincinnati, United States

Amy Lind is Mary Ellen Heintz Professor and Head of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati (UC), where she has been a faculty member since 2007. An interdisciplinary scholar, she is also a faculty affiliate of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Program, Department of Sociology, and School of Planning. She has worked in several capacities at UC to increase study abroad opportunities and partnerships with universities in the Americas and the Global South, hire diverse faculty, strengthen the humanities and social sciences, and expand UC's Urban Futures initiative. In January 2019, she begins a new position as Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Humanities Research Center and Chair of Taft Faculty for a five-year term.

Prior to joining the faculty at UC, she held positions as Title IX Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst/Brown University, Visiting Faculty Fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and Assistant Professor at Arizona State University. She has

also served as an affiliate faculty member at FLACSO-Ecuador, where she has taught three graduate courses and later served as an external program reviewer for their Andean Studies and Gender Studies graduate programs.

She has published extensively on gender, development, and politics in Latin America, comparative neoliberalisms, transnational feminisms, queer politics, and global governance. She is the author of *Gendered Paradoxes: Women's Organizations and the Cultural Politics of Development in Ecuador* and editor of four volumes including *Development, Sexual Rights and Global Governance* and *Feminist (Im)mobilities in Fortress North America: Women's Rights, Citizenship and Identities in Transnational Perspective*. This latter edited volume derives from a transnational research project focused on women's human rights, identities, and citizenships in North America following NAFTA, and included researchers from six institutions in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. She was Investigator of a U.S. Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education grant that supported study abroad and two summer institutes amongst the six institutions.

Her forthcoming book focuses on the (im)possibilities of decolonial politics in Ecuador's Citizen Revolution. In 2017, with Dr. Christine Keating she co-authored the article, "Plural Sovereignty and *la Familia Diversa* in Ecuador's 2008 Constitution" (*Feminist Studies*, 2017), as part of her broader research examining comparative neoliberalisms, the Pink Tide, and colonial legacies in Ecuador and the Americas. She has also published articles in journals such as *Latin American Perspectives*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Politics & Gender*, *Development*, *Rethinking Marxism*, and *World Development*. Her book chapters have appeared in anthologies focused on rethinking the neoliberal state, re-imagining and/or queering development, feminist futures, the politics of global restructuring, and the making of social movements in Latin America.

Dr. Lind is a four-time Fulbright recipient and has held visiting research and faculty positions at universities and graduate institutes in Ecuador, Bolivia and Switzerland, including FLACSO-Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador), El Posgrado en Ciencias del Desarrollo - Universidad Mayor San Andrés (CIDES-UMSA, La Paz, Bolivia), Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios - Universidad Mayor San Simón (CESU-UMSS, Cochabamba, Bolivia), and Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement/ Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. Over the years, she has served on over 50 dissertation and master's committees at UC and other institutions. She has served as a consultant for United Nations agencies (UNIFEM, UNRISD), state agencies, and NGOs in Latin America and the United States. She has delivered over 55 invited lectures and keynotes. She has served as an expert witness on asylum cases in the United States and the UK. She received her BA in (what was then called) Women's Studies and Latin American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz and her master's and PhD in City and Regional Planning with an emphasis on critical development and postcolonial studies at Cornell University.

Lind Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association. I have been active in LASA since 1991, having missed only two conferences since I first joined the association. I have been active in several sections and have served in elected and appointed positions for LASA in the past, including as co-chair of the Gender and Feminist Studies section (2007-09), treasurer and member of the executive committee of the (then named) Gay and Lesbian Studies section (2000-03), appointed member of the President's Human Rights Task Force (2004-06), Track Chair for Gender and Sexuality Studies (2001) and later Track Co-Chair for Feminist Studies (2006). The intellectual work and space of LASA has certainly been generative for me and has enriched my

academic career over the years. In so many ways, it has been an important interdisciplinary academic home for me. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a member of the Executive Committee and to help LASA move forward with its goals to foster intellectual discussion, research and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas; to promote the interests of LASA's diverse membership; and to encourage civic engagement through network building and public debate.

I have relevant professional experience that prepares me well to serve as treasurer. As Head of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at the University of Cincinnati (UC), I am the fiduciary for our near \$1.3 million endowment and an annual operating budget of \$260,000, which includes Friends of WGSS endowed and discretionary funds, UC Taft Research Center department-designated funds, graduate assistantships, faculty grant funds, and general funds. As department head, I manage 37 people including faculty, staff, and graduate students, and each year I assign graduate student allocations. I have also served for the past two years on the College of Arts & Sciences Budget and Planning Advisory Committee which advises the Dean on the college budget, which operates within the institutional context of performance-based budgeting. From August 2017 through September 2018 I took on an additional role as Provost Fellow, in which capacity I oversaw reaccreditation in the College of Arts and Sciences, in anticipation of our Higher Learning Commission campus visit in September 2018. In this capacity, I worked with Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs and advised the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on strategies for preparing the twenty-one departments in the college for reaccreditation. My new position as Taft Center Director and Chair of Taft Faculty is the result of a very generous endowment of \$38 million from the Taft family, and my annual budget is \$1.3 million.

I am excited to work with the President, Vice-President, Executive Committee, and additional committees to best align LASA's resources with its strategic direction, to continue in the tradition of seeking and providing resources for participants from Latin American countries and under-represented groups more generally, and to find creative solutions to resourcing innovative interdisciplinary, transgressive, and hemispheric scholarship.

María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo

Social and Cultural Analysis; New York University, United States

María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo is a Professor with the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis (SCA) and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at NYU. During her time in SCA, she has served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Latino Studies Program, and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. She received her B.A. from Yale University in the English major, and her doctorate from Stanford University in the interdisciplinary Modern Thought and Literature Program. Saldaña-Portillo's latest book, *Indian Given: Racial Geographies across Mexico and the United States* (Duke UP 2016), received the 2017 John Hope Franklin Book prize for the most outstanding book published in American Studies, as well as the 2017 NACCS Book Award for an outstanding book in Chicana & Chicano Studies. *Indian Given* compares racial formations in Mexico and the U.S. from the colonial period to the present through historical, discursive, and textual analysis of the figure of the *indio bárbaro*. In 2015, Saldaña-Portillo co-edited *Des/posesión: Género, territorio, y luchas por la autodeterminación* with Marisa Belausteguigoitia Rius on indigenous women's leadership roles in the global struggle to defend their territories (UNAM). In her first book, *The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development*, Saldaña-Portillo analyzed the discursive complicity between Central American and

Mexican revolutionary movements and economic development discourse to elucidate the failure of these movements to understand their constituencies (Duke 2003). She has published over twenty-five articles in U.S. and Latin America on revolutionary subjectivity, subaltern politics, indigenous peoples, racial formation, migration, and Latin American and Latino cultural studies. She is currently working on her next monograph, NAFTA, Narcos, and Migration: How Free Trade Brought Us the Drug Economy and Its Refugees, which investigates multiple connections between free trade and the drug trade that have flourished in the aftermath of the North twenty years of U.S. deportation policy and its impact on Central America; and the contradictions between liberal citizenship and refugee policy in the era of globalization. This includes an exploration of the integral role that gendered labor and gender violence play in drug trafficking and narco economies of value. She is also Chairwoman of Coalición Mexicana, a New York City immigrant rights organization, and a volunteer and expert witness for Central American asylum cases with immigration legal aid agencies internationally.

Saldaña-Portillo Statement

I have been a member of LASA since I was a graduate student in the early 1990s, and though I belong to several professional Associations, I consider LASA my home. I have been in regular service to both the ASA and the MLA since my promotion to Associate Professor in 2003, and I look forward to the opportunity, if elected, to serve LASA in turn. I am currently a member of the Bryce Book Award Committee, and the position of Treasurer would continue my service to the Association. As LASA Treasurer, I will seek to execute the responsibilities of the office with good conscience and with transparency. I will familiarize myself with all the financial matters of LASA, monitoring the Operating, Reserve, and Endowment Funds to ensure the ongoing health of our Association. As a member of LASA's Ways and Means Committee, I view the role of the treasure as that of a watchdog, there to ensure that all our funds, but especially our Endowment Fund, are shepherded responsibly to ensure the greatest possibility of socially-responsible growth. Since the LASA treasure also serves as a member of the Investment Committee, I will bring a perspective of socially-responsible investment that is in keeping with the values and principles of our Association. In addition, I hope to encourage creative thinking in the Investment Committee, both in terms of campaigns for increasing contributions to our Endowment and for ways of spending our Endowment to ensure the growing diversity of our membership, across all intersectional and transnational constituencies. I will faithfully attend all of the yearly and quarterly meetings, and keep the Executive Committee and the membership abreast of all significant developments therein. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Nominees for Executive Council

Clara Arenas

Economics, Guatemala

Clara Arenas es guatemalteca nacida en la costa sur del país. Vive en la ciudad de Guatemala y es la directora ejecutiva de la Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales en Guatemala, AVANCSO, un centro de investigación en ciencias sociales en el que trabaja desde su fundación en 1986.

Su trabajo en la dirección de AVANCSO le ha permitido trabajar con diversos científicos sociales con los que ha logrado desarrollar formas de trabajo que ayuden a las y los investigadores a cumplir con el objetivo de AVANCSO de hacer investigación útil para los sectores populares y para la elaboración de políticas públicas orientadas a estos sectores.

El desarrollo de una comunidad epistémica en AVANCSO ha sido una de estas formas de trabajo, en la que la discusión y el debate sobre teoría y práctica han sido permanentes. En este espacio surgió el concepto de “investigación estratégica”, que ayuda a responder a preguntas como: ¿cuál es el efecto de poder del trabajo que hago? O bien, ¿Por qué decido investigar este tema de esta manera? Preguntas importantes en un país en el que el financiamiento para la investigación es prácticamente inexistente.

En AVANCSO se valora tanto el resultado final de la investigación, que son libros publicados, como el proceso de la misma. Esto porque el proceso involucra a actores sociales, sujetos políticos, que participan en las discusiones y en el análisis y conclusiones de los trabajos de investigación.

Con el tiempo, este proceso ha desembocado en la apuesta por el encuentro de saberes y, así, en la necesaria adaptación de agendas y métodos de investigación, así como de los tiempos de la misma, a las agendas, métodos y tiempos de comunidades y organizaciones sociales.

A lo largo del tiempo, AVANCSO ha contribuido con conceptos y perspectivas que han tenido un impacto en el debate público sobre temas trascendentales. Uno de ellos fue el concepto de desplazado interno, en la época previa a la firma de los Acuerdos de Paz; otro ha sido el concepto de economía campesina; y, otro más, el de dispositivo sexo/raza, para mencionar algunos.

Antes de ser miembro activo del equipo de AVANCSO y de convertirse en su directora ejecutiva, Clara trabajó en la Secretaría de Planificación Económica, en el sector de educación, en el Instituto Centroamericano de Investigación y Tecnología Industrial, como antropóloga en el Proyecto “Leña y Fuentes Alternas de Energía; y en la Secretaría del Tratado de Integración Económica como consultora en aspectos de tecnología. Es economista con estudios de maestría en antropología.

Arenas Statement

Abordo aquí tres aspectos que pueden resumir mi visión sobre: las ciencias sociales, sobre todo en mi país, Guatemala; la importancia de la convergencia y el debate entre esfuerzos académicos y de investigación; y la necesidad en esta época, de un trabajo conjunto en y sobre América Latina.

Lo primero a decir es que creo en unas ciencias sociales comprometidas con la transformación de la sociedad, preocupadas por el futuro de los grupos desposeídos, marginados y discriminados y dispuestas a hablar públicamente sobre estos asuntos. Entiendo claramente que esto implica al mismo tiempo, unas ciencias sociales comprometidas con el rigor, con la comprobación en el campo, con el abordaje crítico de la teoría. Implica también una apuesta por equipos transdisciplinarios y horizontes de mediano plazo en la investigación.

También creo en unas ciencias sociales capaces de romper con los muros de contención que suponen la organización de las mismas en disciplinas y la pertenencia a centros de investigación o universidades que se convierten en feudos. En contraste con prácticas frecuentes de competencia e individualismo, me parece indispensable crear espacios de convergencia, de análisis y de propuesta, que superen las aspiraciones y necesidades personales, sin dejar estas de lado. En este sentido, considero de extrema importancia la construcción de proyectos con proyección social amplia que, al mismo tiempo, ofrezcan la posibilidad de que coincidan los proyectos de vida personales de investigadoras e investigadores.

Finalmente, un tema especialmente importante para LASA, que se refiere a los años por venir en una América Latina que experimenta verdaderos huracanes políticos y sociales, de los que no pueden ser ajenas las ciencias sociales. LASA puede contribuir de manera determinante a la comprensión de lo que sucede y ofrecer lecturas e interpretaciones que resulten útiles para quienes toman decisiones, sobre todos en los movimientos sociales.

Graciela Di Marco

Sociology; Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina

I am a Sociologist (Argentine Catholic University) and a Doctor in Social Sciences (University of Buenos Aires). In 2016 I was awarded with a Doctoral degree *Honoris Causa* by the University of Misiones, Argentina. I joined the National University of San Martín (UNSAM) in 1994, where I am Full Professor since 2006. At UNSAM, I founded and have been Director of the Center for Studies on Democratization and Human Rights (CEDEHU) since 2007, which has a long-standing history on teaching, research and extension activities on social movements and social policies from a feminist approach, and runs a Master's Degree programme in Human Rights and Social Policies, receiving students from all Latin America. I have also taught at the University of Buenos Aires and currently I also teach at the University of El Salvador (Argentina).

My activities comprise research, teaching, and militancy in the field of democratization, feminisms and human rights. I have been invited speaker in meetings held in Latin and Central America, USA and Canada, and I presented papers in conferences in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

One of my strongest convictions is considering that the formation of groups and networks extends our limits for research and political advocacy, by approaching diversities of regional, national, ethnic, religious, gender, sexuality, etc. origins. Consequently, I have been a member of the Global Network in Women's Studies and Gender Research since 2005, conformed by Chairs from Universities' centers from several countries from Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Australia) with the initial support from UNESCO. With other members of this network I collaborated in the book *Making globalization work for women. The Role of Social Rights and Trade Union Leadership*, edited by Valentine Moghadam. (SUNY Series) (2011), authoring a chapter on "Women's Rights in Trade Union Organizations in Argentina". With the joint support of the International Research Center of Canada -IDRC- and UNSAM, I co-edited *Feminisms, Democratization and Radical Democracy: Case studies in South and Central America, Middle East and North Africa* (2011) (in Spanish and English) and authored the chapter on "Claims for Legal Abortion in Argentina and the Construction of New Political Identities".

I co-coordinate the CLACSO Working Group Families and Genders in Transnational and Local Dynamics (2013-2016), one of the outcomes was the book *Family and gender policies in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Cuba. 2000-2013*, edited by University of Caldas, Colombia, UNSAM and CLACSO (2015). Currently, I co-coordinate the CLACSO Working Group Families, Gender and Diversities (2016-2019) and I am also a member of CLACSO Working Group "Feminisms, resistances and emancipatory processes" (2016-2019). I was engaged in inter CLACSO Working Groups meetings in Colombia and Argentina, in which we organized joint activities with academics and activists, with the purpose of enhancing dialogue of different ways of knowing. This has been a constant in my research and advocacy on social movements.

I published extensively on democratization, democracy and social movements. With a research grant of Ford Foundation I co-edited with Hector Palomino *Reflexiones sobre los movimientos sociales en la Argentina*. (comps.) (2004) and *Movimientos Sociales en la Argentina. Asambleas. La politización de la sociedad civil* (2003), both published by Ediciones Baudino. Particularly, on the topic of women's and feminist's movements, I authored *Democratización de las familias*, UNICEF (2005), "*El Pueblo feminista. Lucha de las mujeres en torno a la ciudadanía*" published by Biblos (2011), and several articles published in international and national social sciences journals, more recently "Las democracias, las democratizaciones y los desafíos en torno a la inclusión plena de las mujeres en las teorías y prácticas democráticas. Un estudio comparativo de las transiciones en América Latina y el norte de África desde una perspectiva sur-sur", *Revista LA ALJABA* (2016).

My participation in LASA since 1994 strongly contributed to build networks with my colleagues. I collaborated with other LASA's members in several books, for example, *De lo privado a lo público: 30 años de lucha ciudadana de las mujeres en América Latina*, compiled by Lebon, N., and Maier, E. UNIFEM-Lasa-Siglo XXI (2006), that was translated into English, with the title *Women's Activism in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Rutgers University Press (2010) and was selected for inclusion in CHOICE's annual Outstanding Academic Titles 2010 list. The collaborative research on Sidestreaming feminisms (University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Universidad de San Marcos, Perú, and UNSAM), led by Sonia E. Alvarez and Millie Thayer (2009-2012) has broadened my insights about activism, social movements and feminist movements. I authored the chapter "Social Movement Demands in Argentina and the Constitution of a "Feminist People" in *Beyond Civil Society: Activism, Participation, and Protest in Latin America* edited by Alvarez, S., Baoiocchi, G., Lao-Montes A., Rubin J., Thayer, M. Duke Press. Durham, North Carolina. USA (2017). I also authored a chapter "Agencia feminista y cambios culturales en América Latina en torno a las demandas por la ciudadanía sexual", in *Agencia Cultural, Arte, Educación y Prácticas Sociales en América Latina y La Frontera*, edited by Moret, Z. Escribana Books. New York (2017).

During the last 10 years I expanded my research into transnational perspectives on feminism, democracies, neoliberalism and populism in Argentina, other Latin American countries, North Africa and Eastern European countries. I am currently working on the project "Women and 'The People'. Women's and feminist mobilization in the age of populisms and illiberal democracies" in collaboration with Södertörn University (Sweden).

Di Marco Statement

I started to attend LASA Congresses since 1994. I served in the committee of the Women's Task Force (1994-1995), as co-chair of the Gender and Feminist Studies Section (2001-2003) and as committee member (1997-2001/2003-2008). I was member of the selection committee and co-organizer of the Elsa Chaney's Award 2003 (2007/2009/2010). In 2018 I served as one of the co-chairs of the track Civil Society and Social Movements.

Participating in LASA has been an invaluable source of knowledge, networking and the building of long-standing and deep relationships, both in my academic and in my personal life. In these twenty four years, engaging in LASA activities was a priority for me. I witnessed the continuous increase of the number of members and the enthusiasm of the young academics to present their research, and I always sensed that there was a feeling of belonging to a "LASA community" that I would like to emphasize. The variety of themes, approaches, people from diverse national and ethnic origins, make LASA a fruitful and exciting academic environment. Maintaining and increasing the participation of researchers is crucial. It could be desirable to explore more dispositives to enhance the outreach of LASA related activities and look for more funding opportunities for early career scientist to attend the conferences.

The political map of the Americas (and other countries in the world) has drastically changed in the last years, challenged by the present phase of capitalism and of all kind of all kind of injustices, the ways of understanding what democracies, populisms, feminisms and gender and sexualities are, in the context of the growing consciousness about women's and LGBTQ's rights, and the simultaneous increased spreading of antigender and conservative movements.

Genders and Feminisms, Sexualities and LGBTQ Studies, Otros saberes and Alternative Methods, among others, that are the main subjects of specific sections, intersect in the panels and in this puts upfront this Latin-American saberes that are here to be shared, improved, and to allow comparisons among different regions of the world, considering of course the different issues in specific contexts.

In the third millennium we need to consider responses in an intersectional, transnational and global approach. In the Congress 2016 statement, transnational processes and actors were included together with other priorities, and in the Congress 2018, the theme evolved to be Latin American Studies in a Globalized World. This is a precise idea on how LASA is facing new challenges. I would very much like to continue contributing moving forward towards this path, if I am honored with being chosen to be part of the Executive Council.

Lorraine Leu

Cultural Studies/Literature; University of Texas at Austin, United States

Lorraine Leu is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin with a joint appointment in the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese. For five years she was an Associate Director of LLILAS, working with then-Director Charles Hale to radically diversify the Institute's student body and scholarly community. She continues to further that agenda of inclusion in her research, teaching, and service to the profession, including as Program Co-Chair for LASA 2019 Boston, alongside our current President and fellow Program Chairs.

Leu is a Cultural Studies scholar who has published in a number of different fields, including visual culture studies, urban studies, and critical race studies. Her first book, published by Ashgate Press, focused on the politics of Brazilian popular music during the military dictatorship of 1964-85. The book was selected by *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* as one of the most important publications in that field. Her articles and chapters in edited books analyze themes of urban violence and violent urbanization; racialized geographies; race and gender performance in film; urban space and memory; and mega-events and dispossession. She co-edited the anthology *Latin American Cultural Studies: A Reader*, which has just been published by Routledge (2017). Her forthcoming book, *Defiant Geographies: Race, Ethnicity, and Urban Space in 1920s Rio de Janeiro* (University of Pittsburgh Press) focuses on the destruction of a poor, multi-racial community in the center of Rio de Janeiro to make way for the country's first international mega-event in the 1920s. It examines how urbanization functions as a technology of racial oppression, and how racialized subjects defy the implantation of dominant spatial orders. It demonstrates how urbanism complemented other strategies (such as policing and public health policies) in attempts to eliminate black and blackened people from valued areas of the city, and to engage in a collective act of forgetting the country's recent slave past.

Since 2000 Leu has been an editor of the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, and in the course of nearly two decades has been closely following debates and setting agendas on a wide range of issues and across many disciplines within Latin Americanism. Her work for the journal facilitates productive exchanges and networks with colleagues around the world.

Leu Statement

Two of the guiding principles of my career have been mentoring and service. Very few of us probably enter the profession expecting those twin demands to impact our work as much as they do. I certainly didn't, yet have derived great satisfaction from guiding or supporting students and peers (and from being on the receiving end of that kind of support). Whether overseeing my department in the UK, as an Associate Director of a world-renowned Latin American Studies Institute committed to socially engaged scholarship, or influencing my own area of scholarship as an Editor of one of its most respected journals, I have been able to appreciate how service can positively impact an organization,

institution, or even field. For me, LASA is always a site of challenging intellectual production, and also a hub that links and values the other dimensions of academic life: mentoring and service. LASA could not survive without service, without the time and energy that colleagues give to running and sustaining this vital network of interlocutors. The expansion of LASA membership over recent years and the record attendance at our last Congress are testaments to the Association's importance to Latin Americanism not only as a field of inquiry, but as a community of scholars seeking dialogue with each other. Belonging to LASA means this, and it also means participating in a constant process of self-questioning and self-improvement – an ongoing search for how an institution that represents more than 12,000 individuals can and should respond to the conflicts, crises, and challenges of our field and of the region and communities we care about.

We ask more of LASA all the time, although not everyone is in a position to contribute the labor necessary to help make our demands materialize. I have had the privilege of serving LASA this year as a Program Co-Chair for Boston 2019. This opportunity has brought many rewards in terms of imagining the kind of Congress we need and that will serve us in the current social and political climate across the hemisphere. Some of the values that LASA as an association has embraced over the last few years, or even in the last year, such as the valorization of otros saberes, or the condemnation of harassment, make us better not just in the present moment, but are enduring principles on which we will continue to build. For others, different initiatives may hold more importance, but I cite these two that have been particularly meaningful to me as a woman of color from the Caribbean. Initiatives of this sort lead to conversations that impact people, or at least make them uncomfortable, and challenge us to think and re-think the politics of our knowledge production. I believe that as LASA continues to take the lead in such matters, mentalities can and will change. To give a couple of personal examples, I imagine that in the future blind peer reviewers may censure my work less for “seeing race in everything.” And colleagues I meet for the first time may ask me what I teach or research on, rather than which professor I'm working with on my dissertation.

I am committed to a LASA that values critical self-reflection and that insists on working towards inclusion. It would be a privilege to continue to serve in a different capacity, as a member of the EC responsible for making such values permeate every aspect of the Association's activities, discourse, policies, and practice. I would also like to ask more of LASA: that we focus in a sustained way on a variety of strategies for including and mentoring graduate students who are the future of our organization. I would be excited to lead an initiative, for example, that might eventually support a LASA-sponsored certificate program based on interdisciplinary workshops where students can interact with and receive feedback from leading faculty on a given theme, or focus on a particular set of skills to attain success in the profession or beyond academia.

Raúl Madrid

Political Science; University of Texas at Austin, United States

Raúl L. Madrid es profesor en el Departamento de Gobierno de la Universidad de Texas en Austin, y es profesor afiliado del Instituto Lozano Long de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LLILAS) y del Centro de Estudios México-Americanos (CMAS). Recibió su B.A. (1985) de la Universidad de Yale y su maestría (1995) y Ph.D. (1999) de la Universidad de Stanford.

Antes de ingresar a su programa de posgrado, se desempeñó como voluntario del Cuerpo de Paz en zonas rurales de Costa Rica y como analista en el Centro de Investigaciones para Inversiones Con Responsabilidad Social en Washington, DC.

Es miembro vitalicio de la Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos y ha asistido a todos los congresos de LASA desde 1995. Se desempeñó como Co-Coordinador del Programa para el Congreso LASA de 2014 y acaba de ingresar al Comité de Desarrollo de LASA. También se desempeñó como Editor Asociado para *Latin American Research Review* entre el 2004-06 y como miembro del comité de selección del Premio Bryce Wood en 2007.

Su trabajo es fuertemente interdisciplinario y arraigado en los estudios latinoamericanos. Ha realizado investigaciones en Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, México, Perú y Uruguay. Actualmente está trabajando en un libro sobre los orígenes de la democracia en América del Sur, que se fundamenta en el trabajo de historiadores y fuentes de archivo. La investigación trata de explicar el surgimiento de leyes que aseguraron elecciones razonablemente libres y justas en América Latina a finales del siglo XIX y principios del siglo XX.

Su libro anterior exploró el auge de los partidos indígenas en los países andinos y se basó en gran medida en el trabajo de antropólogos y sociólogos. Además, ha escrito sobre el desempeño de los gobiernos de izquierda en América Latina, la privatización de la seguridad social en la región y la intervención de los bancos estadounidenses en la crisis de la deuda de América Latina.

Es autor de *The Rise of Ethnic Politics in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press 2012) y *Retiring the State: The Politics of Pension Privatization in Latin America and Beyond* (Stanford, 2003) y es coeditor de *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings* (Cambridge, 2010) y *When Democracy Trumps Populism* (Cambridge, de próxima publicación). Sus artículos se han publicado en *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Panorama Social*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Studies* y *World Politics*, entre otras revistas. Ha recibido becas de investigación de la Fundación Nacional de Ciencia (EE.UU) y del Instituto para el Estudio de la Política Mundial, así como de la Universidad de Stanford y la Universidad de Texas en Austin.

Ha desempeñado diversos roles administrativos. En la Universidad de Texas, ha sido Director de Estudios de Pregrado en el Departamento de Gobierno desde 2007, y miembro de los comités ejecutivos del Departamento de Gobierno y del Instituto Lozano Long de Estudios Latinoamericanos. También, ha sido un miembro (2011-2014) y Co-Presidente (2014-present) del comité de College Board que desarrolla los exámenes de colocación avanzada en ciencia política. También fue miembro del consejo asesor del Archivo Electrónico de Datos Latinoamericanos (2008-2012) y del Proyecto de Recursos de Investigación Latinoamericanista (2008-2014).

Además de su trabajo investigativo y administrativo, ha supervisado 15 disertaciones del doctorado y 23 tesis de maestría, y se desempeñó como miembro de otros 38 comités de doctorado. En 2012, ganó el primer Premio a la Facultad Sobresaliente anual otorgado por los estudiantes graduados de Departamento de Gobierno de UT Austin.

Madrid Statement

En una era en la que gobiernos están cuestionando el pensamiento científico, adoptando nacionalismos obsoletos y restringiendo aún más sus fronteras, la necesidad de diálogo y cooperación académica en las Américas es mayor que nunca. LASA puede desempeñar un papel transformador en la región al seguir garantizando un espacio vibrante y pluralista para la investigación y colaboración internacional e interregional y al defender la libertad de expresión y el pensamiento crítico.

LASA es una gran asociación que continúa modernizándose y transformándose para enfrentar los desafíos que está planteando este nuevo emergente orden mundial. Los nuevos comités y grupos de trabajo de LASA están abordando algunos de estos apremiantes problemas (por ejemplo, los comités

sobre anti-acoso sexual, los derechos humanos, etc.). Sin embargo, requerimos aún más flexibilidad para continuar respondiendo a estos desafíos y expandiendo nuestra área de impacto dentro y fuera de la academia.

Nuestros congresos son nuestra función más importante y estoy firmemente comprometido a garantizar que permanezcan abiertos a diversas ideas, metodologías, disciplinas y actores. Para ello, necesitamos pensar de manera no convencional para generar más fondos de viajes, especialmente para estudiantes y académicos latinoamericanos. Tenemos que hacer esfuerzos para atraer a los/as principales intelectuales de la región, mientras al mismo tiempo creamos nuevas oportunidades para integrar investigadores jóvenes, los que brindan una nueva perspectiva en nuestro campo siempre cambiante. Además, debemos dar mayor visibilidad a voces sub-representadas en nuestros campos y expandir nuestra membresía en disciplinas que han tenido menor presencia en LASA estos últimos años, por ejemplo, estudios caribeños, lingüística, economía, ciencias de la información, y estudios latinos. Finalmente, LASA también debe tratar de ampliar su membresía fuera de los EE.UU. mediante la celebración periódica de Congresos en otros puntos de la región.

Además, necesitamos expandir las actividades entre nuestros congresos. Debemos proporcionar más recursos a las secciones y ampliar el uso de redes sociales para mantener a nuestra membresía informada e interconectada y promover la investigación y publicaciones que nuestra asociación y sus miembros producen. LASA podría desempeñar un papel positivo ayudando a promover y conectar la producción intelectual en los estudios latinoamericanos con la investigación desarrollada desde los medios de prensa, agencias de desarrollo y esferas de gobiernos. Eso se podría hacer a través de la creación de bases de datos públicas de especialistas por cada una de las secciones de LASA.

LASA está abriendo una importante brecha al mover su producción académica a plataformas de Acceso Abierto y difundir sin costo alguno sus publicaciones (incluyendo LARR y LARC) a audiencias académicas y no académicas. Eventualmente podríamos seguir expandiendo nuestras colecciones digitales y convertirnos en un centro de almacenamiento de la mayoría de las publicaciones y bases de datos relacionadas con América Latina. También podríamos patrocinar digitalmente revistas afiliadas que sean más especializadas que LARR.

Podemos hacer más en términos de desarrollo profesional. Deberíamos crear un programa de mentores, expandir nuestros listados de oportunidades de empleos y becas, y ofrecer más talleres de profesionalización.

Por supuesto, muchas de estas actividades cuestan dinero. Por lo tanto, debemos trabajar para aumentar los fondos de LASA y obtener subvenciones para actividades especiales. LASA tiene la suerte de contar con un personal talentoso y trabajador, y una membresía brillante y comprometida. No tengo dudas de que trabajando juntos podemos construir una LASA aún más vibrante, inclusiva y productiva.

Claudia Mosquera Rosero-Labbé

Social Work; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

Me desempeño como profesora Asociada del Departamento de Trabajo Social e investigadora del Centro de Estudios Sociales (CES) de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá. Trabajadora Social de la Universidad de Cartagena, Magistra en Estudios Latinoamericanos de la Universidad de Paris III. PhD en Trabajo Social por la Universidad de Laval (Canadá).

He sido consultora de ONU Mujeres, de la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM) y de

Fupad Colombia. Asesora por ONU mujeres ante la Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación (CNRR) en la elaboración del Programa Institucional de Reparaciones Colectivas (PIRC). Ex integrante del grupo consultivo para los temas de diversidad cultural y salud de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud con sede en Washington. Me desempeñé como investigadora en el Centro de Investigaciones sobre Dinámica Social- CIDS- de la Universidad Externado de Colombia junto a Lucero Zamudio y Norma Rubiano. Fue coordinadora y miembro fundadora del Programa de Iniciativas para la Paz y la Convivencia – PIUPC- entre 1998- 2001.

En la actualidad soy la directora del Grupo de Investigación sobre Igualdad Racial, Diferencia Cultural, Conflictos ambientales, y Racismos en las Américas negras- Idcarán-. Mis investigaciones han sido financiadas por Colciencias, La Fundación Ford área Andina y Cono Sur, la División de Investigaciones de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá y la AUCC canadiense.

Soy miembro activo del Centro de Pensamiento y Seguimiento al Proceso de Paz de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia y ex miembro del Comité Científico Internacional de la Ruta del Esclavo de la Unesco, fui pre-seleccionada para ser miembro de la Comisión de la Verdad: <https://verdadabierta.com/radiografia-de-los-candidatos-a-la-comision-de-la-verdad/>.

En la actualidad culmino una importante investigación sobre procesos de autorreconocimiento étnico-racial en el Caribe continental e insular colombiano. Entre mis publicaciones se destacan:

Debates en torno a las víctimas del conflicto armado interno dentro del actual proceso de negociación de finalización del conflicto (2016). En Alejo Vargas Velásquez (Ed.), Diálogos de la Habana: miradas múltiples desde la universidad (pp. 227 - 264). Bogotá: Unibibilis; Nuevos análisis sobre víctimas y procesos de victimización en el marco del conflicto armado interno colombiano (2017). En Ana María Vega Gutiérrez (Ed.), Derechos Humanos del siglo XXI. 50° Aniversario de los 2 pactos internacionales de Derechos Humanos (pp. 351 - 376). Pamplona: Thomson Reuters, Aranzadi, Gobierno de La Rioja, Universidad de La Rioja, Cátedra Unesco Ciudadanía Democrática y Libertad Cultural; Debates sobre ciudadanía y políticas raciales (2010) junto a Agustín Laó-Montes y César Rodríguez Garavito. Acciones Afirmativas y ciudadanía diferenciada étnico-racial negra, afrocolombiana, raizal y palenquera (2009) junto a Ruby Esther León Díaz. Escenarios Post- Durban para pueblos, y personas negras, afrocolombianas, raizales y palenqueras (2009) junto a Ruby Esther León Díaz y Margarita María Morales Rodríguez; Afro-reparaciones: Memorias de la Esclavitud y Justicia Reparativa para negros, afrocolombianos y raizales (2007) junto a Luiz Claudio Barcelos; Afrodescendientes en las Américas: trayectorias sociales e identitarias (2002) junto a Mauricio Pardo y Odile Hoffmann; Panorámica afrocolombiana: estudios sociales del Pacífico colombiano (2004) Junto a Mauricio Pardo y María Clemencia Ramírez; la Universidad piensa la paz: obstáculos y posibilidades(2002) junto a Carmen Lucía Díaz y Fabio Fajardo; relatos de la violencia: impactos del desplazamiento forzado en la niñez y juventud (2000) junto a Martha Bello, Leonardo Mantilla y Edna Camelo. He sido profesora visitante en el Greater Philadelphia Latin American Studies Consortium (GPLASC) y de centros de pensamiento en Canadá, Francia , Brasil y Suecia . Entre enero y julio del 2019 seré profesora visitante en la Universidad del Nuevo Brunswick en Canadá, gané la beca Harrison McCain 2018-2019. Correo electrónico: cpmosquerar@bt.unal.edu.co.

Rosero-Labbé Statement

Colegas de la Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Me siento honrada con la nominación que se hizo de mi nombre y trayectoria académica para ser parte del Consejo Ejecutivo Lasa 2019. Me siento agradecida con las personas que estimaron que mi experiencia pudiese ser de utilidad en el Consejo Ejecutivo LASA.

Soy Claudia Mosquera Rosero- Labbé, investigadora negra con nacionalidad colombiana y francesa, poseo una maestría en Estudios Latinoamericanos de la Universidad Paris III y un doctorado en Trabajo Social de la Universidad de Laval en Canadá.

En Colombia laboro en la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá, me desempeño como profesora asociada del Departamento de Trabajo Social y como investigadora dentro del Grupo de Investigación IDCARÁN, este Grupo está adscrito al Centro de Estudios Sociales- CES de la Facultad de Ciencias Humanas.

IDCARÁN ha realizado un sostenido trabajo de investigación social, de encuentros entre academia y líderes de organizaciones sociales, ha desarrollado iniciativas de intervención- investigación con las comunidades negras rurales; esta forma de trabajo ha impactado, consolidado y reactualizado los estudios negros, afrocolombianos, raizales y palenqueros, en los últimos años.

IDCARÁN investiga temas como la igualdad racial, las contradicciones raciales dentro de la política pública étnico-racial, los racismos dentro del conflicto armado y en las instituciones del Estado encargadas de atender a víctimas del conflicto armado.

Soy una investigadora comprometida con el cambio social, cultural y con el fortalecimiento tanto de los movimientos sociales como de las instituciones del Estado. Me interesa desde un punto de vista epistémico la teorización anclada y la reflexión sobre los saberes de acción que producen las y los funcionarios del Estado encargados de la cuestión racial negra en Colombia.

Me desempeñé como directora del Departamento de Trabajo Social, (2016-2018), Miembro del Consejo Académico de la Facultad de Ciencias Humanas de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia

(2016-2018) y tuve asiento durante cuatro años en el Comité Científico Internacional de la Ruta del Esclavo de la Unesco, proyecto que tiene asiento en París entre los años 2014-2017. Desde mi experiencia en estos espacios entiendo bien el lugar del Consejo de una institución académica de la relevancia de LASA y la importancia de seleccionar buenos y buenas consejeras.

Desde el Consejo Ejecutivo me estimula la idea de trabajar en la visibilización del cúmulo de conocimientos que las y los académicos han producido sobre la relación: pueblos negros e indígenas, despojos y violencia estatal, esto se puede realizar trabajando un número temático de la Revista, una serie de publicaciones especiales de LASA que se llame teorizaciones desde y con el sur global o promoviendo debates sobre este tema en los congresos de LASA. En estos momentos la vida y pervivencia cultural de los pueblos indígenas y negros están gravemente amenazadas por un capitalismo por apropiación violenta que se agudizó con los llamados gobiernos progresistas en muchos lugares de la región.

Por otro lado, me gustaría que desde LASA se abordara académicamente la pregunta sobre por qué la academia noratlántica afirma que la academia del sur global no produce conocimiento científico relevante. La idea es demostrar que en las universidades del sur se produce un conocimiento importante, quizá con otras características, que impacta quizá otros ámbitos y otros públicos, pero que puede entrar en diálogo simétrico con otras academias y que debe ser valorizado. La idea es emprender un proyecto que cuestione de manera radical las asimetrías epistémicas que rodean a las academias del norte y del sur global en los estudios sobre América Latina y el Caribe para tender puentes de diálogo relacional en torno al conocimiento científico social y la teoría que necesitamos en una realidad social cada vez más contradictoria, paradójica y llena de tensiones.

Estoy dispuesta a asumir las tareas en algún comité que me encarguen teniendo en cuenta mi perfil profesional y académico. En el momento no tengo un comité de preferencia.

Cuenten por favor con mi buen consejo, mi capacidad de trabajo interdisciplinario, mis ideas para hacer que las iniciativas funcionen y mi disposición para resolver situaciones complejas. Con sentimientos de aprecio y consideración.

Claudia Mosquera Rosero- Labbé. PhD

Rodrigo Patto Sá Motta

History; Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

I started my academic career in 1991 at the Federal University of Ouro Preto. Since 1995 I have been a professor and full time researcher of history at the Federal University of Minas Gerais and in 2016 became a titular professor at the same university. At UFMG, I have served as Chair of the History Department and Coordinator of the History Graduate Program. Furthermore, I have acted as visiting research-professor at the University of Maryland (2006-2007), offered a course to graduate students at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile (2009) and taught a short course at Universidad Nacional de Colombia (2015). I have been visiting professor at the Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique Latine of Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, where I occupied the Simón Bolívar Chair (2016) and offered a course for the Maestria de História Contemporânea of Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento (Argentina, 2018). I have also served on the editorial staff of several academic journals and as evaluator for agencies that promote academic research.

I have collaborated with the Brazilian History Association (ANPUH) on many occasions, especially as national president during the biennium 2013-2015. By that time we were already confronting the challenge posed by the ascension of conservative political groups and the initial appearance of the “Escola sem Partido” movement which alleges that there is a conspiracy among professors—principally in history—to indoctrinate the young and turn them into communists and gays. ANPUH positioned itself in the vanguard of the struggle to defend schools and instructors and in favor of the right to academic freedom. Aside from the major ANPUH conference—with nearly 7,000 participants—we organized seminars to discuss questions such as the issue of ethics in historical research and the challenges of teaching history in the context of the Brazilian crisis and the educational reforms in various countries. We have also led a campaign to enact a law establishing formal stages for the historian profession and achieved a partial victory when the lower Chamber approved the bill (March 2015).

As for research experience, since the beginning of my career my research has explored political phenomena in historical perspective. From the doctoral thesis on I have combined the study of classical political history themes with approaches closer to the Cultural History of the Political. Following this path I established contacts with the social sciences, seeking theoretical and methodological inspirations from anthropology, political science, sociology and literary studies.

Such thematic preferences and theoretical choices led me to research issues such as rightwing politics, authoritarian regimes, propaganda, political discourses, left-wing movements, iconography of power, memory and oral history and recent history. My current research is a comparative and connected history of the periodical press in Brazil and Argentina during the military dictatorships of the period 1960-80. The aim is to understand and explain processes of legitimation of the authoritarian states, but also their limits and the mobilization of discourses of resistance in the name of liberty.

Since 2002 my research projects have been financed by the National Research Council (CNPq) in which I have the status of researcher level 1. One of the projects that I am most proud of (and that combines research and outreach) was the organization of the archives of the Department of Political Police (DOPS) of Minas Gerais, which led to the opening to the public of a collection of hundreds of

thousands of documents. This was meaningful not only for academic research but also for the struggle for citizenship and human rights.

My main book-length publications include: *Em guarda contra o perigo vermelho: o anticomunismo no Brasil* (São Paulo, Perspectiva/Fapesp - soon to have an edition in Spanish language through Ediciones UNGS), in which I analyze the embedding of anticommunist discourses and practices in the twentieth century that have advanced the construction of the two Brazilian dictatorships. The significance and relevance of this thesis, unfortunately, was demonstrated by the recent right-wing surge in Brazil, since past anti-communist obsessions have been appropriated by new authoritarian movements; *As universidades e o regime militar: cultura política brasileira e modernização autoritária* (RJ, Zahar, 2014), a book that benefited from a period of research at the US National Archives and Records Administration. In this work, I studied the policies of the military dictatorship toward the universities, which combined violent repression (such as faculty purges and murders of activists) with the modernization of the university system (expansion of research and graduate training). The central hypothesis is that the objectives of the military project was to provide inputs for economic growth while pacifying intellectual opposition. Another significant book is *Jango e o Golpe de 1964 na caricatura* (RJ, Zahar, 2006), a study of the construction of public images, in critical tones and caricatures, of the Brazilian president who was overthrown by the armed forces in 1964. In addition, I have co-authored six books and published more than a hundred other texts (articles and book chapters).

Sá Motta Statement

I have been connected to LASA since 2003 when I attended the XXIV Congress held in Dallas, Texas. From that point on, I have participated in many activities at LASA Congresses as a researcher and panelist. Taking part in LASA activities has been important for building networks and bridges connecting Latin American and North American colleagues, in my case mainly involving the study of political violence, authoritarian regimes, politics of memory and democratic movements in the Southern Cone. By attending LASA Congresses, I have had the opportunity to get in touch with other researchers doing related work and to meet valuable colleagues, and this has led to opening new opportunities to learn and to pursue research.

In recent years I have become more involved with LASA and taken responsibilities at the section level, for instance as Co-Chair of the Historia Reciente y Memoria Section in the period 2015-2016. Since February 2018 I am part of the Sub-committee on Academic Freedom linked to the Executive Council.

To be elected to a position in the Executive Council interests me because I would like to deepen ties with LASA now as a participant in the administrative activities of the institution. If elected to be a member of the Executive Council I would use this position to help strengthen LASA's traditions of respect for pluralism both of ideas and of academic research agendas, and commitment for social, national, ethnic and gender diversity. I also recognize the importance of the inter and trans-disciplinary academic features that are marks of our Association. We should enhance and foster those characteristics that distinguish LASA in the academic world.

As the largest and most important organization of researchers dedicated to Latin America, LASA's activities have a great impact in the region and in other parts of the academic world. Because of that, I believe that LASA can contribute more as a partner and leader for other academic entities based in the region and even for those located in other continents, acting as a kind of federative entity for all researchers focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. On the one hand, such leadership already has significant academic impact, mainly due to the organization of LASA's International Congresses and the circulation of its publications, especially LARR and LASA Forum. But more encouragement

could be given to LASA's Sections to expand activities beyond the major annual Congress; local or regional seminars or other forms of academic encounters would serve to strengthen LASA-connected research networks and intensify the reach of the Association.

However, in the current context of Latin America and the world I think there is another important aspect of the Association's commitment that should be intensified. I am referring to the role that LASA can play in the defense of human rights and basic civil liberties, such as freedom of thought, research, information and expression of ideas, without which there is no possible environment for academic research. For we are witnessing - and in some cases suffering from - the increasing power of conservative and authoritarian groups which are promoting acts of aggression against basic liberties, a situation that is worsening since those groups are winning government control in influential nations in Latin America. Basic freedoms and respect for human rights are being challenged in some countries and unfortunately, there is a risk that such a trend will become stronger and wider. Against this terrible horizon of expectations, I believe that LASA should play a greater role in defending the basic rights and guarantees connected to academic work and democracy, always guided by a commitment to pluralism of ideas and respect for differences of all sort.

Cristian Opazo

Literature; Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Cristian Opazo (Santiago, 1979) is an Associate Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC) since 2012—he has a joint appointment at the Department of Literature and the School of Drama. After completing his Ph.D. in Spanish (UC, 2007), he travelled to London as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at King's College London (2009).

With Theatre and Performance Studies as a starting point, his critical work explores the relationship among urban counter-cultures, marginalized masculinities, and cultural policies in contemporary Chile. He is the author of *Pedagogías letales: ensayo sobre dramaturgias chilenas del nuevo milenio* (2012), and *Clandestine Repertoires: Theater and Underground* (forthcoming). In recent years, he has also published several edited volumes in the fields of Theatre and Performance: two volumes of the Critical Essays Series —Heiremans (2013) and Galemiri (2017)—, and two journal special issues — 'Cuerpos que no caben en la lengua' (Cuadernos de Literatura [2017]) and 'Cono Sur: didascalias para un segundo acto' (Revista Iberoamericana [forthcoming]). In 2018, he started serving as the alternate director of the new Millennium Nucleus in Art, Performativity, and Activism, a long-term research project funded by the Chilean Ministry of Economy and sponsored by Universidad Austral de Chile and the UC.

Parallel to his research activity, at UC, Opazo has served as Director of Research and Chair of Graduate Studies (Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, 2012-2017), Executive Director at the Center for the Study of Chilean Literature (2012-2017), and External Reviews Coordinator (Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, 2010-2011, 2016-2018). He has also taken part in several projects of collaboration between his university and international associations (e.g., The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, and Universitas 21). In accordance with his commitment to the profession, he has also served in several committees related to the development of institutional policies for Arts and Humanities in the Chilean university system: University Committee for the Analysis of the Project of the New Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (2016), Advisory Committee for the Development of Arts in Research Universities (2017-2018), and Public Policies Committee at Humaniora—Chilean network of graduate studies programs in the fields of Arts & Humanities (2015-2018)—, among many others.

As a LASA member, Opazo joined our association in 2007. Since 2008, he has taken part in every single LASA conference (from Montreal to Barcelona). Between 2014 and 2018, he served as Treasurer of Southern Cone Studies Section, and in 2018, as Section Chair. Since 2015, he has organized—among others initiatives—a series of regional symposia of the members of the Southern Cone Section (Santiago 2015, Montevideo 2017 & Buenos Aires 2019). He has also collaborated as a track chair (2017), and Selection Committee Member for the LASA Research Grant Program (2018).

Opazo has been a visiting scholar at Universität Leipzig (Germany), Georgetown University (US), and Universidad de Concepción (Chile); and he has also served as a member of several Ph.D. dissertation committees in universities from Brazil, Chile and United States.

Opazo Statement

It is no overstatement to say that LASA is the main interdisciplinary ecosystem in the Americas. From Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, our association provides a human and intellectual environment which promotes a genuine exchange among scholars from different academic backgrounds, geographical regions, and political trenches. This assertion implies a responsibility: when higher education faces critical challenges and the main purpose of the university system seems to be financial sustainability, LASA could become—above all—a ‘safety zone’: an academic space that welcomes and encourages those discourses that do not fit properly in the corporative mechanics of the ‘teaching machine’—as a graduate student stated in regard to the Southern Cone Studies Section regional meeting in Santiago, Chile, in 2015: ‘at the end of the day, LASA conferences is the place where the text we read isolated in our precarious libraries meets the body that lies behind it.

In this critical context, I assume this nomination as both a privilege and a responsibility. On the one hand, as a scholar based in a university from the Southern Cone, I express my compromise and willingness to become a nexus; that is to say, I would like to contribute to the development of policies that strengthen the exchange between the very different academic cultures, disciplinary languages, and professional demands that converge in our ‘ecosystem.’ On the other hand, as an active participant in the management of LASA Sections, I also accept this challenge as an opportunity to promote the work of our 39 sections—powerful academic communities where it is possible to forge bonds of reciprocal learning, mentoring and solidarity.

Suyapa G. Portillo Villeda

Chicano/Latino/Transnational Studies; Pitzer College, United States

Suyapa G. Portillo Villeda has a PhD in Latin American History from Cornell University and is currently Associate Professor of Chicana/o Latina/o Transnational Studies at Pitzer College. Her research and teaching interests include Central American history, Central American migration to the United States, gender and labor in Central America and Latin America, LGBTTI Latina(o) populations and queer (im) migration in the Americas. Her work focuses on the intersections between labor, gender, ethnicity, race and other marginalized identities in workers’ lives in Central America. Portillo Villeda is interested in documenting working class history, workers’ daily lives and their processes of labor and social movement organizing--challenging century-old narrow stereotypes of banana republics in the Central American region. She is finishing her book on the history of the 1954 strike in the North Coast of Honduras and the formation of a national labor movement, centering the lives of agricultural banana workers through the use of oral history.

After the US-backed coup d'état that destroyed democracy in Honduras in 2009, Portillo Villeda worked doggedly with organizations in Honduras and Latinx organizations in the U.S. to denounce the coup and organize transnational response among the intellectual community, local immigrant organizations and with embattled Hondurans on the ground defending their civil and political rights. She remains actively involved and is committed to scholarly and organizing circles, which persevere in denouncing the coup and the Human Rights violations that have followed, including in the context of the Honduran immigrant refugee exodus at the US Mexico border.

While conducting field research in 2004-2006 she connected with Trans women and Lesbians who were experiencing severe human rights violations and migrating to the US, Mexico and Spain to escape rampant violence in Honduras against LGBTI people. She became involved with Honduran LGBTI organizations as a supporter. Upon her return to the US, she co-founded the May Trans Queer Contingent (2008), in California, with other scholars, local organizers and LGBTQ community leaders to change the narrative on migration as a heteronormative "family only" dynamic and advocate for inclusion of LGBTQ immigrants in immigrant rights platforms. Since then she has worked to build networks to connect LGBTTI groups, Trans-led projects in Honduras to those working on justice for immigrants in the US. In Spring 2017, on a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship in Honduras, she researched migration from the perspective of the sending country for a second book project that hopes to center LGBTTI communities in Honduras post2009 coup d'état. Her perspective on this project is that of participant-observer and a Honduran.

Portillo Villeda publishes in both English and Spanish. Her authored and edited works can be found in the bilingual Journal *Diálogo*, an Interdisciplinary Studies Journal by the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University, *Resentir lo Queer en América Latina: Diálogos Desde/Con el Sur*, edited by Santiago Castellanos, Diego Falconi, María Amelia Viteri (Barcelona, Spain: Egales, 2014.), *Rethinking Latin American Social Movements: Radical Action from Below*, edited by Glen David Kuecker, Harry E. Vanden, Marc Becker, and Richard Stahler-Sholk (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.), and *Revista Envío* published in Honduras by the *Equipo de Reflexión e Investigación y Acción*, as well as *LASA Forum*. She enjoyed collaborating with Pitzer students and community partners on a piece published in *ReVista Harvard Review of Latin America* (2017). She is a frequent media contributor in print, on radio and television, through outlets such as NACLA, Latino Rebels, Huffington Post, Counterpunch, Univision, KPFK and Radio Progreso in Honduras.

Portillo Villeda has been an avid participant at LASA since graduate school, as presenter and session organizer, including serving as chair of CAS-LASA in 2016 in Peru.

Portillo Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the executive committee of LASA. Trained as a historian with a specialization in Latin America and Central America, I now teach in Chicana (o) Latina (o) and Transnational studies because I have found this field to be a wonderful space to be an interdisciplinary thinker and researcher. In my research, writing and teaching, often as a participant observer, I emphasize social responsibility in theory and praxis as an important value. I engage actively with the world beyond the academy as I theorize, write and teach, and I am as committed my efforts in the field, which I see as an important site of creation, as I am to my related intellectual work. I hope to position my work as a form of resistance to the traditional forms of scholarship that have often kept so many working-class queer people of color, and Central American scholars in general, locked out of the academy.

LASA is a vibrant organization with an immense diversity and capacity to engage and thrive by engaging the communities across the Americas.

It is at LASA congresses where I have met and worked with most of my mentors, collaborators, co-authors and fellow concerned citizens who have organized conferences, speaking engagements, and even delegations to address conditions in Central America. LASA is also the intellectual space I go to when I want to make sense of what is happening in Latin America. It is a place where we come to think, confer, dialog and engage.

Working as a member of the executive committee, I would like to foster initiatives that bring our scholarship closer the communities most in danger of displacement, invisibility and destruction in the age of Trump. By looking at the intersections and interdisciplinary efforts across the Americas and connecting them to each other, we can begin to generate a true dialog among Latin American scholars and US scholars of Latin America. I believe we have a great opportunity and responsibility generate these truly and deeply transnational, and transformational, spaces and platforms, both in the LASA congress and throughout the year. I am eager to see our journals and the LASA Forum become the leading site to publish unexpected and under-nurtured voices: Transgender scholars and organizers working on current debates across the Americas, or Central American scholars in the US and Central America to challenge binary, and US-centric scholarship. I would like to see LASA engage throughout the year in supporting smaller events in often ignored regions of Central America on topics of indigenous and Afrodescendant rights. I would like to foster platforms that stimulate our membership to consider grassroots researchers, South-North dialogues, and decentering congresses from US cities.

The Central American Studies cohort of my generation, and the builders of the field of study of Central American studies, are precisely those of us displaced by the heavy hand of US foreign policy on our nations and our families in the 1980s. The Northern triangle remains mired in violence and widespread trauma due to unprocessed historical memory, extreme neoliberal policies, corrupt governments, extractive industries that displace the most marginalized communities--all challenges rooted in the history that Central American Studies has helped to excavate. I am a proud contributor in the emerging field of Central American Studies, and even more proud to have the chance to promote through my scholarship an inclusive and intersectional frame, as well as to occupy an interstitial space straddling both area studies (Latin American History and Studies) and ethnic studies (Chicano/a, Latino/a, Central Americans in the U.S.). I hope to bring this approach and perspective to the table as an executive council member, to encourage LASA to explore uncharted territory in Latin American Studies. I think LASA can lead with new ideas and initiatives, like providing greater mentorship and access to resources for Latin American Doctoral and Master students, particularly those in Central America, by providing opportunities to forge interdisciplinary partnerships among scholars, scholars and organizers, LASA and universities which lack resources in developing nations, we can generate much needed mentorship and opportunities to even out the platform for dialogue.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

416 Bellefield Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
lasa@lasaweb.org
Tel: 412-648-7929
Fax: 412-624-7145

