

Elections 2021: 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, 2021, to May 31, 2022; as president from June 1, 2022, until May 31, 2023; and as past president from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024. The winning candidate for treasurer will serve as incoming treasurer from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2022; and as treasurer from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2024. The three winning candidates for EC membership will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2023.

The Candidates

Nominees for Vice President

Fernando Blanco

Literature; Bucknell University, United States

Fernando A. Blanco is Associate Professor of Spanish and Director of the Latin American Studies Program (LAMS) at Bucknell University. He holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Literatures and Cultures from The Ohio State University. He completed his B.A. at the Universidad de Chile. He specializes in 20th and 21st century Latin American literature and cultures with a focus on Memory and Sexuality Studies. His research examines narratives of memory and violence in the Southern Cone and Central America. His work in Sexuality Studies focuses on textual and cultural representations of sexual minorities and analyzes the struggle for sexual citizenship in the Latin American region. He has published extensively on the intersection of Human Rights, Memory, LGBTQ+ Aesthetics and Politics, Visual Art, and Literature in Latin America.

He has authored several books, among them *Neoliberal Bonds: Undoing memory in Chilean Art and Literature* (The Ohio State University Press: Columbus, 2015). *Desmemoria y pervisión: Privatizar lo público, mediatizar lo íntimo, administrar lo privado* (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio [2010] 2012). In addition, he has edited three books on Pedro Lemebel's work, *La Vida Imitada: Narrativa, performance y visualidad en la obra de Pedro Lemebel* (Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2020) and *Reinas de otro cielo: Modernidad y autoritarismo en la obra de Pedro Lemebel* (Santiago de Chile: LOM, 2004). He has also coedited several books and dossiers, among them: *Desdén al infortunio: Sujeto, comunicación y público en la narrativa de Pedro Lemebel* (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio, 2010) co-edited with Juan Poblete; *Democracias incompletas en el Cono Sur: Actores, demandas, intersecciones*, coedited with Cristián Opazo (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio, 2019); *Políticas del amor: Derechos sexuales y escrituras disidentes en el Cono Sur*, co-edited with Mario Pecheny and Joseph Pierce (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio, 2018); *Dossier Monográfico 10: Chile de Memoria. Nuestra América. Revista de Estudios sobre la Cultura Latinoamericana* co-edited with Andrea Jeftanovic and Bernardita Llanos (Porto, Portugal, 2016); *The Performance of Archives: Re-imagining Memory and History in Latin America*, coedited with Wolfgang Bongers and Michael J. Lazzara (*A Contracorriente. Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2014); *Archivoy memoria: Culturas subversivas de la memoria en arte, medios, literatura y experiencia cotidiana*.

Latinoamérica 1970-2010. Chasqui: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana. 2012. Carlos Monsiváis. Yo, Ambulante de Memoria. Dossier in Revista Taller de Letras: 50. Universidad Católica de Chile, 2012.

His article “La Frida no envejeció, Yo soy la Frida envejecida.” La última performance de Pedro Lemebel, published by Cuadernos de Literatura won the best article prize awarded by the LASA Sexuality Studies Section. His articles have appeared in journals such as Revista Iberoamericana, Chasqui, Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana, and A Contracorriente, among others.

Blanco served as Chair of the Southern Cone Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) from 2015-2018. During his term, the section started organizing biannual symposia in Latin American countries: Chile (2015), Uruguay (2017), and Argentina (2019). The success of these initiatives strengthened the academic and grassroots dialogue between USA based scholars and their Latin American peers. He also created an Advisory Board for the section to maintain continuity among the incoming chair and the work done by previous section chairs.

While serving as Chair of the Southern Cone section, Blanco had two goals: first, to allow Latin American scholars and grassroots activists to engage in a fruitful and reciprocal dialogue with their American peers; and second, to increase the exchange of scholarship and collaboration among them and the other constituents of civil society in their home countries as these encounters revitalize research agendas on both sides, overcoming the colonial legacy. He was successful in meeting these goals and remains committed to fostering and nourish a North-South dialogue in which accessibility and cost does not represent an obstacle for those who cannot afford to attend a LASA conference.

He has been a member of LASA since 2003, serves on several editorial boards, and has been a faculty member at the Universidad de Chile and a Visiting Professor at Universidad Católica de Chile. He has been invited to give talks by several Latin-American, American, and European colleges and universities.

Blanco Statement

I feel honored to be a candidate for vice president and president-elect of LASA. I have been familiar with the association since I was a graduate student in my home country of Chile. At that time, living under a dictatorship as an undergraduate and shortly thereafter as a graduate student in a pseudo-democracy, the word LASA lingered in my mind as a utopian horizon full of scholars and researchers whom I never thought I would be able to reach. I never imagined that I would one day be working as a foreign national working at a prestigious liberal arts institution with a Ph.D. from an American public research university. I believe my profile resonates with a significant number of LASA members who have followed a similar path: scholars deeply engaged with research who are deeply committed to their students and the profession.

The challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the positive results of our last hybrid congress paved the way for a better use of technology as a powerful tool that can help to bridge the distance and material disparities among LASA members. This fact is also valid for thinking about other geographical areas where there are many scholars devoted to the study and dissemination of knowledge about Latin America.

Great improvements have been made during the past presidencies regarding the role played by different social actors and non-academic researchers. I would like to add the voices of even more colleagues to the discussion. Throughout my work as a member of the Red de Literatura y Derechos Humanos (University of Milan), my collaboration with the Latin American Research Center (Granada, Spain), as well as with the Red de Derechos Humanos (Chile), I have had the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues ways to increase collaboration and expand their involvement with LASA. In this

vein, I propose formalizing and implementing a network of collaborations between LASA-USA, LASA-Europe, and LASA-Latin America by creating a consortium of global universities and research centers that will promote academic exchange and mobility for LASA members. My goal would be to create sustained engagement and exchange outside of the traditional annual conference schedule.

Another element connected to this is the need to broaden the impact of LASA conferences when they are hosted abroad. I will advocate for the implementation of a local communication network, including media coverage of the congress' topic, keynotes, and experts, so as to make LASA a relevant actor in the host city.

The role of the different sections is a key element in the cogovernance system of LASA. I would like to propose the inclusion of chairs and other section representatives using criteria that recognizes their diversity in a more equitable way, assuring their participation in different instances (organization of congresses, designation of track chairs, representation on the executive council). I envision a model that allows for an intersectional approach to the selection of representatives. I believe it is crucial to move forward with the ongoing democratization of LASA and increase the transparency of decision-making processes.

I propose the establishment of at least two annual open forums to strengthen the dialogue and synergies among members, sections, the Executive Council, as well as the vice president and president.

Finally, as I have always been a believer in interdisciplinarity—my research over the past decades has dialogued with history, psychoanalysis, literature, and the visual arts—I will expand LASA by inviting dialogue with the arts, grassroots activism, and alternative epistemologies. I will diversify agendas to include pressing issues such as climate change and economic sustainability, while integrating the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic into a new intellectual horizons.

Ana López

Communications and Film; Tulane University, United States

While at Tulane University, I have been intimately involved with several facets of the University as Professor, and current chair, of the Department of Communication, director of the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute of the Stone Center for Latin American Studies and, since 2000, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs. This is not where I imagined I'd be as a cubana raised in Washington Heights in New York City who studied accounting at Queens College of the City University of New York and became a CPA. Although I wrote a dissertation on the New Latin American at the University of Iowa while pursuing a doctorate in film studies, I had little contact with Latin Americanists during my time there (with the notable exception of Charles Hale). I did have the good fortune to land at Tulane University for a first (and only!) tenure track appointment back in 1985. Little did I know that Latin American Studies and the Stone Center at Tulane would become the guiding lights of my career. With the Stone Center I discovered how much more I had to learn to become a "real" Latin Americanist and did so under the aegis of the many brilliant scholars like Richard Greenleaf who took me under their wing.

Since my first LASA conference in 1989, I have continued to regularly engage with LASA through presentations and panel organizing; co-directing a program for the Ford Foundation/LASA Task Force on Scholarly Relations with Cuba (1991-92, with Ambrosio Fornet from Cuba); organizing and participating in pre-conference sessions; and heading up the Culture and Society Section (1999). I have collaborated with the Film Studies Section since 2003 and have participated actively in the yearly congresses. LASA has been and continues to be an important source of scholarly and professional engagement and collaboration.

My research focuses on Latin American/Latino film and media and is transnational in scope extending beyond any one country or period of specialization. My scholarship and academic work have played a crucial role in the development of Latin American film and media as scholarly fields of inquiry. As one of a handful of Latin American film scholars in the late 1980s and early 90s who was actually trained in film studies, I have always inserted the Latin American into the mainstream of the field, engaging with theoretical debates, and challenging many standard interpretations and periodizations, while acknowledging and debating with Spanish and Portuguese-language Latin American film scholarship. I also inserted film and media studies into the field of Latin American studies, especially through my engagement with LASA. After working on the New Latin American Cinema, I moved to explore questions of gender and filmic representation in the classical cinema period (1930s-50s), especially in the melodrama and later, in the telenovela, as well as questions of historicity and historiography. Subsequently, I have explored Latin American/transnational stardom (Dolores del Rio), documentary filmmaking, transnational cinematic practices, exilic and Latinx cinema, and spatiality and musicality in pieces that have appeared in journals and edited collections, including my own. A particular important publication was "Early Cinema and Modernity in Latin America," (Cinema Journal, 2001), the first sustained analysis of early Latin American cinema to be published in English and the first to address early cinema as a continental rather than a national phenomenon in any language. Since 2015 I have been the editor of the journal Studies in Spanish and Latin American Cinemas, the only English-language publication dedicated to Spanish and Latin American Cinemas.

Simultaneously, I also trained a generation of Latin American film scholars who have gone on to become far more accomplished than me. Training and mentoring graduate students and young scholars in the field – in the US, Latin America, Canada and Europe-- is work that is deeply satisfying and that I have been able to continue doing even as an administrator for the past 20 years. Bringing young Cubans to pursue graduate work at Tulane, in Latin American studies and other disciplines, has also been a most gratifying experience.

As Director of the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute and Associate Provost, I have learned a lot about university administration and managing complex and often highly competitive individuals and constituencies. In these capacities, I have organized dozens of successful symposia and conferences, created highly successful collaborations with institutions in Cuba, Brazil, and across Latin America. I have worked collaboratively with staff, deans, and administrative officers to establish processes and practices both through times of profound leadership change and of crisis, including Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. I enjoy occupying a position where I can facilitate communication and help bring people together to establish a broad institutional vision and to ensure the successful implantation of that vision. I hope that I can productively bring these skills to the Vice Presidency and Presidency of LASA.

López Statement

This is a strange time to be seeking appointment as Vice President of LASA, yet it might also be a most opportune time. The 2020 pandemic that has profoundly affected our lives, the institutions we work in, and the world around us, comes alongside significant social and political conflicts and reckonings throughout the world. It is at times like this that perhaps we can best envision what a future might look like and how we can help build the LASA of that future. We have had to put aside many of the certainties of the past – annual conferences in far-flung locations where we congregate and collaborate – and are still scrambling to figure out how to fill the void in order to move forward. I do not claim to have all the answers, but as VP I would like to work on identifying strategies to move forward and develop new initiatives to ensure that LASA emerges stronger.

What role can LASA play to sustain and support our membership and the institutions they belong to in a time of crisis throughout the Americas? I believe that one key strategy is to continue to enhance LASA's engagement and communication efforts, becoming a more constant and valuable resource for the membership through multiple avenues throughout the year. Much of the membership, caught in the madness of the first stages of the pandemic and unsure about the modality, resisted participation in the 2019 conference. With the certainty that blended events (online and in-person) are now part of our lives permanently, we have to work to communicate to our membership that despite what is "lost," there is still much "value" in participating. We can invest in incentivizing research networks that begin meeting well before the conference – using spaces and tools we can provide through the website – and use the conference "time" (which no longer needs to be only 4-5 days) to present the collective work to broader audiences. We can brainstorm to devise innovative ways to reach out to our senior scholars who will shy away from travel for years to come to engage them with new online venues; we cannot afford to lose their knowledge and voices. We should also promote the multiplication of regional/section events throughout the year. Some sections have successfully organized regional events; with blended/online modalities those events can easily thrive, especially if we develop platforms that make them more accessible.

With constant different modalities for engaging our membership we can also be more responsive to our young scholars, graduate students, and new PhD's, who are facing the most uncertain future – personally and professionally—of any other generation. For example, we can incentivize the sections to develop mentorship programs between senior and junior scholars, run summer institutes for young scholars entering the field and actively support of a jobs and grant forum.

We should also not ignore that most of our membership teaches and that, this year in particular, teaching has been extraordinarily challenging. What can we do to support the teaching of Latin American Studies and the teaching of Latin America in the disciplines and in vastly different cultural contexts within the Americas and elsewhere? Could we, for example, gather and curate useful resources, and engage our communities in active discussions about pedagogy? Convene an initiative creatively focused on pedagogy across and within differences? Fund teaching awards for innovation in Latin American Studies pedagogy?

This is a time to expand LASA's outreach, continuing our commitment to being a truly transnational, multidisciplinary and diverse site for academic exchanges transcending all borders, but also expanding the tools and opportunities through which we grow.

Margarita López Maya

Political Science; Universidad Central de Venezuela/CENDES, Venezuela

Margarita López Maya es licenciada en historia y doctora en Ciencias Sociales por la Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV). Profesora titular (jubilada) del Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo (CENDES) de la UCV. Fue directora de la Revista Venezolana de Economía y Ciencias Sociales, miembro del Comité Directivo del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) y presidenta de la Sección de Estudios Venezolanistas de LASA entre 2012 y 2014. Actualmente es miembro del Centro de Estudios Políticos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello en Caracas, perteneciendo a su Mesa de Análisis Coyuntural.

Su campo de investigación y docencia es el proceso socio histórico y sociopolítico contemporáneo de América Latina, particularmente de Venezuela, enfocado en temas como la protesta popular, nuevos partidos, proyectos políticos contrahegemónicos, actores sociales, problemas de la democracia en América Latina y temas de coyuntura de la era chavista.

López Maya ha conocido las dinámicas académicas docentes y de investigación de múltiples instituciones universitarias en América Latina, EEUU y Europa. Ha sido Andrés Bello Fellow del St. Antony's College de la Universidad de Oxford, Edward Larocque Tinker Visiting Professor de la Universidad de Columbia, Visiting Fellow del Programa de Estudios de América Latina (PLAS) de la Universidad de Princeton, también de la Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS), del Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIAPR) de la Universidad de Tulane y de la Facultad de Ciencias Políticas, Gobernanza y Relaciones Internacionales de la Universidad del Rosario de Bogotá, entre otras. En 2020 fue la Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar del Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos de la Universidad de Florida.

A López Maya se le conoce como conferencista en múltiples universidades nacionales e internacionales, columnista de diarios venezolanos (Últimas Noticias, Proavinci), receptora de diversos premios académicos, y ha publicado libros, numerosos capítulos en libros académicos, y más de 60 artículos en revistas académicas.

Entre sus libros publicados destacan: Estados Unidos en Venezuela: 1945-1948 (revelaciones de los archivos estadounidenses) (UCV, 1996), Del Viernes Negro al referendo revocatorio (Caracas, Alfadil, 2005 y 2006), Ideas para debatir el socialismo del siglo XXI (Grupo Alfa, 2007 y 2009), Democracia participativa en Venezuela. Orígenes, leyes, percepciones y desafíos (Centro Gumilla, 2011). En 2013 la Editorial El Nacional publicó El Estado descomunal. Conversaciones con Margarita López Maya del periodista David González. Su libro más reciente: El ocaso del chavismo. Venezuela 2005-2015 (Editorial Alfa, 2016) y próximo por publicar: Democracia para Venezuela: ¿Representativa, participativa o populista? (Editorial Alfa, 2020).

Entre sus artículos académicos en libros y revistas pueden mencionarse: "The Rise in Venezuela of Causa R" en: Douglas Chalmers, Carlos Vilas, Katherine Hite, Scott Martin, Kerianne Piester y Monique Segarra, The New Politics of Inequality in Latin America, New York, Oxford University Press, 1997. "The Venezuelan Caracazo of 1989: Popular Protest and Institutional Weakness", Journal of Latin American Studies, (febrero de 2003); Popular Protest in Venezuela: Novelities and Continuities" (Margarita López Maya y Luis E. Lander), Latin American Perspectives, vol. 32, No. 2, 2005; "Caracas: The State and People's Power in the Barrio" en Jenny Pearce, ed., Participation and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century City. UK, Pallgrave-Macmillan, 2010. "El socialismo rentista de Venezuela ante la caída de los precios petroleros internacionales" (Margarita López Maya y Luis E. Lander) (Berlín, Fundación Rosa Luxemburg, 2009). "El colapso de Venezuela. ¿Qué sigue?" Pensamiento Propio, (No. 47, 2018). "Socialismo y comunas en Venezuela", Nueva Sociedad, (Nº274, marzo-abril, 2018); "Populism, 21st Century Socialism and Corruption in Venezuela", Thesis Eleven, diciembre de 2018. "Venezuela: pandemia y control totalitario" en Salvador Martí y Manuel Alcántara, Política y crisis en América Latina. Reacción e impacto frente a la Covid-19 (Girona, Editorial Marcial Pons, 2020).

Margarita López Maya es una académica reconocida en la comunidad universitaria de América Latina, EEUU y Europa, y también una figura pública de su país, siendo respetada por su pensamiento académico, responsable e independiente. Actualmente está participando en grupos de expertos en Venezuela avocados a encontrar puentes para el diálogo y la negociación entre los actores en conflicto con miras a una solución pacífica y democrática para Venezuela.

López Maya Statement

Ha sido un honor para mí haber sido nominada a esta posición de candidata a vicepresidenta de LASA y próxima presidenta electa. Pertenezco a la institución ininterrumpidamente desde 1992, he asistido a casi todos los Congresos desde entonces y he sido parte de algunas secciones, particularmente la de Estudios Venezolanistas (SVS). He presidido esta sección en años recientes (2012-2014), tratando

de mantener su continuidad en medio de las dificultades confrontadas por la comunidad de investigadores residenciados en Venezuela.

Conozco cómo han evolucionado las temáticas de investigación académica en Ciencias Sociales de América Latina, pero también en EEUU y Europa, pues he viajado incansablemente a distintas universidades, intercambiando con colegas de diversas disciplinas el estado del arte de las problemáticas sociohistóricas, y sociopolíticas contemporáneas. Como historiadora, tengo importantes lazos no sólo con las disciplinas de Sociología y Ciencias Políticas sino también con otros temas afines como psicología social, antropología, geografía, e incluso con las humanidades, en particular con literatura y estudios culturales.

Como mujer y como latinoamericana, como académica formada en una universidad pública de la región, como investigadora procedente de un país fuertemente afectado por los procesos de globalización y por la pandemia en curso, me interesa que LASA pueda seguir enfatizando temas de pobreza, nuevas exclusiones, la problemática en torno a migraciones, el cambio climático, los procesos electorales y la democratización de los medios de comunicación, las estrategias para el empoderamiento ciudadano, nuevas formas de la política, y transformaciones identitarias. Debemos impulsar tópicos que sean capaces de aportar en el fortalecimiento de las tendencias para la paz y la vida en nuestra parte del mundo, que se proyecten y contribuyan en un mundo convulsionado por las transformaciones socioeconómicas, culturales y políticas en curso.

En los años recientes he visto que las grandes plataformas de articulación de la comunidad académica de investigación de América Latina, entre las cuales LASA resulta la más importante, tienen necesidad de mantenerse especialmente atentas y flexibles para responder con rapidez a las necesidades cambiantes y urgentes de nuestra región. Esta flexibilidad es necesaria para que la producción de conocimiento académica de nuestros latinoamericanistas se posicione como imprescindible entre actores y en espacios donde se dan procesos de diseño e implementación de políticas públicas, de organización y movilización ciudadana, y donde ocurren decisiones que afectan la vida de nuestras sociedades.

Pienso que la conexión de las estructuras ejecutivas de LASA con los miembros de la asociación, y particularmente con las Secciones debiera ser más fluida, numerosa y continua. Hace falta incentivar una mayor y cualitativamente mejor comunicación desde abajo y desde arriba, que haga sentir a nuestra membresía que, más allá de los Congresos, también LASA ofrece muchas oportunidades para construir redes de conocimiento, apoyos académicos y solidaridades con colegas afines. Si llego a esta posición tengo interés en revisar, con los colegas del Consejo Ejecutivo, opciones que hicieran esto posible.

Tampoco se me escapa que, en los tiempos actuales, los centros académicos y por ende nuestros miembros están viendo seriamente afectados por los desajustes económicos y demás incertidumbres que la COVID-19 ha traído a las sociedades donde habitamos. A las permanentes debilidades de nuestros países se añaden ahora nuevas fragilidades, que estamos comenzando a identificar. La pandemia está por alterar todos los órdenes de la vida social en el continente en los próximos años. Este asunto deberá ser exhaustivamente revisado por la directiva de LASA pues parece de toda urgencia diseñar estrategias sólidas que permitan a la institución sobrevivir al embate que sin duda va a traer la crisis en sus finanzas, como resultado de las reducciones presupuestarias de las universidades y de los estados nacionales en políticas públicas de educación y producción de conocimientos. Las redes de apoyo deben multiplicarse para asegurar la continuidad de condiciones de investigación para nuestros académicos localizados en los países de mayor precariedad, ofreciendo incentivos al uso generalizado de tecnologías innovadoras que permitan fluidez en nuestros vasos comunicantes. Nuestras pesquisas y análisis son vitales para que Latinoamérica pueda sortear las tormentas que ya se están desplegando sobre el continente.

Nominees for Executive Council

April Mayes

History; Pomona College, United States

Dr. April J. Mayes is an Associate Professor of History and currently serves as chair of the History Department at Pomona College in Claremont, California. For six years, from 2010 until 2016, Dr. Mayes served as co-chair of the Haiti-Dominican Republic Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), along with Dr. Kiran Jayaram. During her time as Section Co-Chair, she and Dr. Jayaram doubled the number of regular section members, created a book prize and an article prize, mentored emerging scholars and highlighted their work on section panels organized around new scholarship in the fields, and collaborated with other sections resulting in making made Haitian and Dominican Studies more visible within the organizational structure of LASA and across multiple disciplines and fields of study.

Dr. Mayes is a historian of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean with an emphasis on the nineteenth-century social and political history of the Dominican Republic. Her first book, *The Mulatto Republic: Class, Race, and Nation in the Dominican Republic*, won the Isis Duarte Prize from the Haiti-Dominican Republic Section of LASA. With Ginetta Candelario and Elizabeth Manley, she co-edited the two-volume collection of primary sources about Dominican feminist history, *Cien años de feminismos dominicanos*, published in the Dominican Republic with the National Archives (Archivo General de la Nación). She is the co-editor, along with Dr. Kiran Jayaram, of the book, *Transnational Hispaniola: New Directions in Haitian and Dominican Studies*. Dr. Mayes is currently working on two projects. One is a transnational history of Dominican Black Studies. Another is a monograph-length book titled, *The Future is Haiti*. She is also the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and editorials focused on Dominican feminism, contemporary migration, gender and governance, and Hispaniola Studies.

At Pomona College, Dr. Mayes teaches courses in Latin American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Africana Studies, and History such as Colonial Latin American History, Afro-Latin America, Women and Politics in Latin America, Slavery and Freedom in the New World, and Race, Sex, and Environment in the Modern Caribbean. She works actively to build Dominican and Haitian Studies through manuscript review work for journals such as *The Americas*, *Latin American Research Review*, and more recently, *Atlantic Studies*, and *Sociologias (Brazil)*. She is also a member of the Black Latinas Know Collective and volunteers for Haitian Bridge Alliance, a social justice organization that advocates for the rights of Black immigrants and provides humanitarian and legal assistance.

Mayes Statement

Dear LASA Membership,

It would be a great honor to serve you as a member of the Executive Council. By professional training, I am a historian. By vocation, I am an educator. My practice as a scholar is grounded in collaboration, connection, and relationships. These values guide everything that I do, shaping my work as a professional academic, a mentor, a volunteer, and an advocate. I will bring these values to my work on the Executive Council.

What happens to professional, scholarly organizations such as LASA in the wake of COVID-19? We are not post-pandemic—that future is years away, if it will ever come. For now, concerns about COVID-19 will continue to drive key decisions that will impact how we plan future congresses and the degree to which we can meet in person and continue building intellectual and creative communities. There

are so many reasons to mourn what we have lost—the demonstrations of affection in conference center hallways as friends greet each other; the poolside, bar-side, café-side informal conversations; the nervous meetings with editors in the book exhibition. The weight of the task that confronted LASA President Mara Viveros-Vigoya and the Executive Council this past spring left little time to grieve all that makes in-person, face-to-face LASA Congresses so special. Rather, the shift to a virtual Congress required creativity, deliberate planning, and strategic collaborations. For the near future, LASA will need an Executive Council comprised of people able to communicate with the membership and work with sections and their members to take the necessary precautions to keep Congresses as safe as possible.

As a member of the Executive Council, I will continue working on three goals outlined by past Executive Councils as LASA priorities: increasing support for sections; continuing to center saberes from Indigenous and African-descended intellectuals, activists, and community members; and, providing mentoring and unique opportunities for graduate students and emerging scholars.

One of my goals will be to work closely with section chairs to support the growth and development of sections during these difficult times. This new era also brings unique problems for sections, especially smaller ones. As a former co-chair of a small section, I am well aware of how the slightest hitch can nearly erase the hard work of building up membership and in keeping section members engaged. If elected to the Executive Council, my plan is to help LASA sections flourish despite the crisis in which we find ourselves. We can do this if we ask, what opportunities have opened up with the turn to the virtual and how might sections benefit from some of the advantages of an online Congress, among them, the possibility of reaching wider audiences? Supporting section growth and development can also come as a result of placing otros saberes at the forefront of our conversations, activities, and creative expressions at LASA. I am committed to working closely with sections to bring a critical mass of Indigenous and African-descended scholars, artists, and creatives to future LASA Congresses.

I will also bring to the Executive Council my years of experience working to make LASA a safe, intellectual and creative space for emerging scholars. As Co-Chairs of the Haiti-Dominican Republic section of LASA, Dr. Kiran Jayaram and I focused on mentoring graduate students and highlighting the work of emerging scholars. Working with emerging scholars can only strengthen LASA as an organization. Moreover, since many emerging scholars come to Latin American Studies trained in other disciplines, their greater involvement in LASA occasions an opportunity for them to add Latin American Studies methodologies and epistemologies to their discipline-specific experience. LASA has been such an important intellectual space for me. I hope to make it that space for the next generation.

Sara Niedzwiecki

Political Science; University of California, Santa Cruz, United States

Sara Niedzwiecki is Assistant Professor of Politics and affiliated faculty in the Latin American and Latino Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received her B.A. from the Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Argentina and her PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico from 2014 to 2017. During the 2020-2021 academic year, she is a fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies, where she is working on a new project on social policy and immigration in Latin America.

Niedzwiecki's research examines the process through which social policies are formed and implemented as well and the territorial structures of government in Latin America. Her book, *Uneven Social Policies: The Politics of Subnational Variation in Latin America* (hardcover 2018, paperback 2020, Cambridge

University Press) explores the political factors that shape the implementation of social policies in decentralized countries. A second, co-authored book, *Measuring Regional Authority: A Postfunctionalist Theory of Governance* (Oxford University Press, 2016), presents the Regional Authority Index for 80 OECD+, Asian, and Latin American countries from 1950 to 2010.

She has authored or co-authored articles on topics that include social policy, unions and social movements, and decentralization. These works have appeared in *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, *Saúde Coletiva*, *Revista de Ciencia Política*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Regional and Federal Studies*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, and *International Political Science Review*.

She co-coordinates a network of academics working on Latin American social policy (PolSoc.org), which is supported by the Universidad de Costa Rica and Chile's Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico (2018-present). She serves as co-editor of the Palgrave Macmillan book series on Latin American Political Economy (2020), and chaired the American Political Science Association's Qualitative and Multi-Method Research section (2020). She is a co-founder and co-organizer of the Southwest Workshop on Mixed-Methods Research (SWMMR), which specifically addresses the underrepresentation of women and minorities in social science research by facilitating the development of networks of scholars across ranks.

She has been attending LASA Congresses since 2009, and co-chaired the Subnational Politics and Society section of LASA from 2016 to 2018.

Niedzwiecki Statement

I am honored to have been nominated to serve on LASA's executive council. LASA has been an integral part of my professional development since my first year in graduate school. It is a space where academics from a broad range of backgrounds and disciplines meet to engage in meaningful debates about current struggles. In a context of pandemics, economic and political crises that particularly affect women and poor, Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ individuals and communities, LASA's inter- and trans-disciplinary dialogues on the main challenges faced in the region are more crucial than ever.

Given the opportunity, as a member of LASA's executive council I would seek to continue the association's seminal role in building bridges between diverse scholars at different stages in their careers. In my opinion, one of the most valuable aspects of LASA is that presentations can be in Spanish, Portuguese, or English, and that it frequently takes place in Latin America. This allows for the inclusion of debates taking place almost exclusively in Latin America. In addition, the hybrid format of the Congress has the potential (with all of the problems that must be considered) to further allow for the inclusion of previously underrepresented scholars and ideas. If we find ways to overcome inequality in access to technology, the lower cost of fees and travel has the potential to encourage the participation of scholars that would not be able to participate otherwise. Further visibilizing academic debates from Latin America and including underrepresented scholars would be one of my priorities as a member of the executive council.

The expansion in the number of participants in LASA's Congresses has come at the cost of more limited substantive discussion in panels. I would like to bring to the executive council more discussions on how to encourage a more substantive engagement in panels. My experience with the organization of a smaller yearly conference (the Southwest Workshop on Mixed-Methods Research) may be helpful for this discussion.

Mario Pecheny

Political Science; Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mario Pecheny has a Ph D in Political Science from the University of Paris III. Currently, he is Full Professor of Political Science and Sociology of Health at the University of Buenos Aires. He is also Principal Researcher at the Institute Gino Germani.

In 2018, he was elected by his colleagues to be the Director of Social Sciences and Humanities at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in Argentina. In 2019, he was appointed as Vice-President on Scientific Affairs of CONICET.

He has been visiting scholar and/or visiting professor at the universities of Columbia (Tinker), Michigan, Mommouth College, Utah, State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Federal of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Sao Paulo (USP), Federal de Goias (UFG), UPCH-Lima, of Cape Town, of Paris III, Libre de Bruxelles, San Martín (UNSAM), Córdoba (UNC), de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco (UNPSJB), FLACSO, as well as at CEDES, CENEP, among others.

He is member of: ICALMA (NGO working on health, Argentina); CELS (human rights organization, Argentina); IPAS (Chapel Hill-based international NGO working on safe abortion; currently vice-Chair of the Board); LIESS (Laboratorio Iberoamericano para el Estudio Sociohistórico de las Sexualidades); CLAM (Latin American Center on Sexuality and Human Rights, based in Rio de Janeiro), among others.

He has been member of LASA since 1995 (as a graduate student, at that time).

He has extensively conducted research and published on health, gender, sexuality, human rights and politics in Latin America and other regions.

He published the following books: *Prevención, promoción y cuidado. Enfoques de vulnerabilidad y derechos humanos* (with José R. Ayres, Vera Paiva, Alejandro Capriati & Ana Amuchástegui Herrera, Teseo, 2018), *Políticas del amor: derechos sexuales y escrituras disidentes en el Cono Sur* (with Fernando A. Blanco & Joseph M. Pierce, Cuarto Propio, 2018), *Travestis, mujeres transexuales y tribunales: Hacer justicia en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires* (with Blas Radi, Jusbaire, 2018), *Esperar y hacer esperar. Escenas y experiencias en salud, dinero y amor* (with Mariana Palumbo, Teseo, 2017), *Abortus Interruptus: política y reforma legal del aborto en Uruguay* (with Sonia Correa, MYSU, 2016), *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America* (edited with Javier Corrales, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010), *Enseñanza universitaria sobre género y sexualidades en Argentina, Chile, China, México y Sudáfrica* (edited with Adriana Ortiz-Ortega, Teseo, 2010); *Discutir Alfonsín* (edited with Roberto Gargarella & María Victoria Murillo, Siglo XXI, 2010), *Todo sexo es político* (edited with Carlos Figari & Daniel Jones, Del Zorzal, 2008), *Estudio nacional sobre la situación social de las personas viviendo con VIH en la Argentina* (with Hernan Manzelli, UBATEC, 2008), *Argentina: Sexualidad y derechos humanos* (with Monica Petracci, CEDES-CLAM, 2007), *La dinámica de la democracia* (edited with Sergio Emiliozzi & Martín Unzue, Prometeo, 2007), *Sexualidad, estigma y derechos humanos. Desafíos para el acceso a la salud en América Latina* (edited with Carlos Cáceres et al., UPCH, 2006), *Ciudadanía sexual en América Latina: Abriendo el debate* (with Carlos Cáceres et al., UPCH, 2004), *SIDA y sexo entre hombres en América Latina y el Caribe: Vulnerabilidades, Fortalezas y Propuestas para la Acción* (with Carlos Cáceres & Veriano Terto, ONUSIDA, 2002), *La construction politique de l'avortement et du sida: le cas de l'Argentine* (Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 2001), *Discriminación: una asignatura pendiente* (with Ana Lía Kornblit & Ana Mendes Diz, Lumen, 2000), *Gays y lesbianas: Formación de la identidad y derechos humanos* (with Jorge Vujosevich & Ana Lía Kornblit, La Colmena, 1998). He served or has served on several editorial boards.

He was awarded in 2013 with the National Prize “Bernardo Houssay” in Social Sciences, by the Ministry of Science and Technology (Argentina). He has also received recognition from the Argentine Senate for his contribution to equal marriage law in 2010, and from community-based organizations in Argentina.

He is fluent in Spanish (mother tongue), Portuguese, English, and French, and has just started learning Yiddish.

Pecheny Statement

In other times, that is, last year, I would have written another statement. Now my statement is determined by the coordinates of our current lives, relative to the COVID 19 pandemic and the measures with which states, societies and academic institutions try to protect the health of its people. Likewise, the current environment is not the best for intellectual activity, particularly research and higher education institutions in the social sciences and humanities are in crisis: due to funding deficits, questions about their legitimacy, generalized uncertainty and the indolence of many governments.

That is why I would like to make a few comments. The first is that we are living in dark times, in which we are confronted almost daily with ethical dilemmas: what to do, what is fair in this context, what is going to bring better consequences - or at least not worse ones. The second is that despite everything, we - who dedicate ourselves to academic life - count with public spaces, like this one, like LASA, in which we can share our experiences, reflections, and in some way protect ourselves. Defending these public spaces, which also transcend national borders, is key. It is key intellectually and academically, but it is also key from the point of view of democratic citizenship and of our own survival as human beings. The third is that institutions today more than ever have the responsibility of either complicating the lives of their members or taking care of them. A policy of care, in the broadest sense that can be assumed, is then the currency that should guide any institutional strategy today. The fourth and last comment is that the COVID 19 pandemic showed once again that the consequences of the crisis impact differentially according to the structural inequalities of each place, country and region. The COVID 19 experience is intersectional. And the answers should be intersectional too.

In this context, of pandemic and post-pandemic, when it arrives, the challenge for LASA is to maintain its institutional life mediated by the difficulties or impossibilities of face-to-face meetings - what makes the difference with this organization: each conference is a meeting of friends, a ritual, a party, a sharing that goes beyond scientific and intellectual exchanges. The challenge is to achieve a congress, and the various congresses and associated or sub-regional events that there are related to LASA, that are both lively (meaningful, sentidos, festive) and efficient. This then implies combining human warmth, technical efficiency and availability of resources: human, technological and economic.

To get through these challenging times, we need to be efficient and use our available resources cost-effectively, we need technological resources, we need time, and we need to take into account the extreme diversity of access to technology and connectivity in order to avoid reproducing already existing gaps within academia. This includes the management of time, that is unbalanced according mainly to gender division of both public/scholar and domestic work.

The challenge for LASA today is to take care of ourselves: across generations, countries & regions, disciplines, languages, institutions, and in diversity. Solidarity makes the difference. Many of us have researched, studied and advocated for the policies of care. As they say in my country, en la cancha se ven los pingos. In other words, the stakes are high because the moment is tough and because there is much to lose, and much to gain. LASA today has to be an association that articulates solidarity, care and intellectual life in these dark times. If elected to LASA's executive board, I am committed to contribute to this mission.

Montserrat Sagot

Sociology; Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Antropóloga y Socióloga. Doctora en Sociología (Ph.D.) con especialidades en sociología política y sociología del género, The American University, Washington, DC, 1992.

Bachillerato en Antropología Social (1982) y Maestría en Sociología (1986) por la Universidad de Costa Rica.

En este momento se desempeña como Profesora Catedrática de la Escuela de Sociología y Directora del Centro de Investigación en Estudios de la Mujer (CIEM) de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

Se ha desempeñado también como Decana del Sistema de Estudios de Posgrado de la Universidad de Costa Rica, Directora del Consejo Universitario y Directora del Programa de Posgrado en Estudios de las Mujeres, Géneros y Sexualidades de la misma institución.

Ha desarrollado la mayor parte de su carrera académica en Centroamérica, como docente e investigadora de la Universidad de Costa Rica, pero también como profesora invitada en otras universidades de la región, tales como la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, la Universidad Pedagógica Nacional "Francisco Morazán" de Honduras, la Universidad de Panamá y la Universidad de El Salvador, entre otras.

Ha sido también profesora o conferencista invitada en las Universidades de Michigan, Ann Arbor (1997), Western Ontario, Canadá (2004 y 2009), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco, México (2010), Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, (2012), Harvard University, (2013), Universidad de la Frontera, Chile (2014), Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil (2017), Universidade Federal de Río Grande do Sul, Brasil (2017, 2018 y 2019), Université d'Angers, Francia (2019), University of British Columbia, Canadá (2019).

Se desempeñó como coordinadora del Grupo de Trabajo "Feminismos, Resistencias y Procesos Emancipatorios en América Latina" del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) y del Grupo de Trabajo "Feminismos y sus Aportes a las Ciencias Sociales" de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología (ALAS).

En diferentes momentos ha sido consultora de varios organismos internacionales, tales como el Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, OIT-IPEC, UNICEF, PAHO-WHO y otras, en temáticas relacionadas con los Derechos Humanos de poblaciones históricamente excluidas, explotación sexual comercial, trabajo infantil y violencia contra las mujeres.

Es autora de numerosas publicaciones, entre las que se incluyen varios libros pioneros en Centroamérica sobre la problemática de la violencia contra las mujeres, incluyendo "La Ruta Crítica de las Mujeres Afectadas por la Violencia Intrafamiliar: Estudio de Casos en 10 Países de América Latina" (PAHO, 2001) Ha publicado también sobre femicidio en América Latina. Algunas de sus publicaciones en esta área son: "El femicidio como necropolítica en Centroamérica", publicado en Labrys: Estudios Feministas, 2013, "¿Un mundo sin femicidios? Las propuestas del feminismo para erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres," CLACSO, 2017 y "Violence Against Women: Contributions from Latin America, The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology in Latin America, 2020.

Ha investigado y publicado también sobre movimientos sociales y movimiento feminista en Centroamérica y sus últimas publicaciones son: "Notas sobre la política sexual en Centroamérica", Polémicas Feministas, 2019 y "La democracia en su laberinto: el neoliberalismo y los límites de la acción política feminista en Centroamérica." CLACSO, 2014.

Montserrat Sagot es acreedora de varios reconocimientos nacionales e internacionales por sus labores de investigación, docencia y acción social, entre los que se encuentran la "Medalla Institucional" de la

Universidad de Costa Rica (2017), el Premio “Lámpara Dorada” por la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres (2000) y el Premio “Irene B Taeuber” de la Asociación de Sociología del Distrito de Columbia, Washington, DC (1992).

Es miembro de LASA desde 1994. Se ha desempeñado como Co-Chair de la Sección de Género y Estudios Feministas en dos ocasiones (1998-2000 y 2010-2012), como Track Chair (2017 y 2020) y como integrante y Co-Chair del Nominations Committee (2018 y 2019).

Sagot Statement

He sido integrante de LASA, prácticamente de forma ininterrumpida, desde 1994. En ese momento tenía dos años de haberme graduado y estaba iniciando mi vida profesional. Desde ese momento, LASA se convirtió en uno de los principales referentes para mi desarrollo académico. No solo por la posibilidad de participar con en sus congresos internacionales, de escuchar la presentación de las últimas investigaciones sobre la región y de tener acceso a las diferentes publicaciones, sino también porque me ofreció una oportunidad insustituible para el establecimiento de redes y para la construcción de relaciones profesionales y personales de largo aliento. Algunas de mis más preciadas amistades fuera de Costa Rica, construidas a la luz de las coincidencias teóricas y políticas, y de las aspiraciones compartidas, se las debo a LASA.

Justamente por las oportunidades que me ha brindado LASA, como Centroamericana trabajando y viviendo en Centroamérica, siento que es necesario fomentar de manera más activa la membresía de personas de la región. Por sus características geopolíticas y por su historia, Centroamérica ha sido objeto de estudio para muchas personas investigadoras de Estados Unidos y Europa. Sin embargo, las difíciles condiciones de la región, ha tenido como resultado que pocas personas que viven y trabajan en Centroamérica, particularmente estudiantes, tengan la posibilidad de participar en esos procesos de construcción del conocimiento y de ser parte de las redes académicas que se fomentan desde organizaciones como LASA. Por eso, si tengo el honor de ser nombrada en el Comité Ejecutivo, uno de mis objetivos será fomentar la membresía en la región.

Me interesa también fomentar y fortalecer las relaciones de LASA con las organizaciones profesionales y de investigación de América Latina, tales como CLACSO, FLACSO, ALAS, CSUCA, ALAHIS, ALAETS y otras, con el fin de construir sinergias que permitan avanzar en la producción de conocimientos Sur-Norte. El fortalecimiento de este tipo de relaciones ayudará a construir nuevos lugares de enunciación para el análisis de las realidades de América Latina y el Caribe.

Por otra parte, las Ciencias Sociales y las Humanidades están bajo ataque en América Latina, al igual que en otras partes del mundo. Las amenazas de cierre de las carreras de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, los recortes de presupuesto a las universidades públicas y la presencia de grupos de presión conservadores y fundamentalistas se han convertido en una amenaza para la producción de pensamiento crítico en la región. En ese sentido, como lo ha hecho a lo largo de su historia, LASA debería continuar y también fortalecer sus capacidades para la defensa de las libertades académicas, para apoyar el desarrollo de la investigación y la docencia bajo condiciones materiales justas, y para fomentar la libre difusión del conocimiento.

Finalmente, aunque soy integrante de LASA desde hace más de dos décadas, y he sido parte de diferentes comités e instancias de la asociación, tengo claro que presentar mi nombre para un puesto en el Comité Ejecutivo en el contexto de una pandemia, representa una serie de retos y responsabilidades adicionales. Pero lo hago porque siento que, más que nunca, necesitamos de espacios de encuentro académico y personal, necesitamos de organizaciones profesionales y académicas que desde una perspectiva de justicia y equidad apoyen a quienes están siendo más afectados por la crisis y por sus consecuencias de mediano y largo plazo. Es el momento de rescatar las mejores tradiciones de apoyo solidario y construcción de redes de apoyo y pienso que LASA puede jugar un papel fundamental en esas tareas.

Rachell Sánchez

Sociology; University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Dr R. Sánchez-Rivera is a non-binary/queer Postdoctoral Fellow funded by the Economic Social and Research Council (ESRC) in the Sociology Department at the University of Cambridge in the UK. They have a Ph.D. in the Centre for Latin American Studies at the University of Cambridge. Sánchez-Rivera holds a B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and an M.A. in Regional Studies—Latin America and the Caribbean from Columbia University in the City of New York.

Their areas of expertise are in historical sociology and the sociology of health and illness with a focus on critical eugenics, reproduction, decolonial theory, gender studies, social inequalities, and scientific racism. Their current work focuses on the legacies of “race” science in Latin America with a special focus on Mexico and Puerto Rico. Sanchez-Rivera has engaged in significant original research that explores the impact of social inequalities in the United States and Latin America. They have published in both Spanish and English in leading journals such as the Bulletin of Latin American Research, Journal of Historical Sociology and De Raíz Diversa (UNAM), amongst others. They are currently editing a book about queer (cuir)-Puerto Rican subjectivities which will be published in 2022 by the Editorial Educación Emergente.

R. Sánchez-Rivera has been a member of LASA since 2014. In 2018, they were a part of a fantastic group of scholars that decided to fund the LASA-Puerto Rico section. They were the Co-Chair of this section for a period of two years which finished in June 2020. They are currently part of the EC council of LASA-Mexico section in which they have collaborated to create one panel and one roundtable, among other things like prizes and events. Additionally, they have participated in different panels sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality section and the Culture, Power and Politics section at LASA.

As a queer/non-binary researcher and a scholar of color from Puerto Rico- a colonized country-they are passionate about contributing to the task of untangling social inequalities, gender disparities, and human rights violations in the United States and Latin America, and have made a significant contribution to the discourse surrounding the intersections of “race”, gender, and social inequalities. They have solid evidence of effective teaching, impactful research, and a wide range of publications. They also have excellent organizational and communication skills evident from many years of collaborative research with international scholars.

Sánchez Statement

I am honored to be a candidate for the Executive Council (EC) member position. I have been a member of LASA since my times as a graduate student at Columbia University in the City of New York. During my time I have collaborated with many LASA sections in different roles, from a sponsored presenter to Co-Chair.

I believe that the Latin American Studies Association holds great value for networking but also to make an impact inside and outside of the academy. As Co-chair of LASA-Puerto Rico we hosted different events for diverse groups of people as a way of encouraging diversity and inclusion tailored for people inside and outside of academia. All throughout my career I have been aware of the importance of engaging with artists, scholars, activists, among others. This is why I have created a podcast to bring together different individuals from diverse backgrounds to talk about their experience with the quest of fighting for reproductive justice in different countries/contexts of Latin America. Similarly, in the edited volume about queer (cuír) subjectivities we are also bringing together people from different backgrounds to achieve a better understanding of identity through an intersectional lens. This is something that, as an EC member, I would bring to the association.

As an early-career academic from Puerto Rico I understand that certain groups find it difficult to attend international conferences. I believe that graduate students, Latin American scholars, and non-tenured faculty play an important role in the composition of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). As an EC member I would ensure that these voices are heard and acknowledged, especially now, in the midst of a global pandemic which exacerbates pre-existing social inequalities.

LASA is a fantastic space for people to congregate in a nurturing and thought-provoking environment. This space also brings opportunities for individuals to engage in the most cutting-edge research regarding Latin American and Latinx studies. My purpose as a queer/non-binary scholar is to continue to be a part of this amazing association and continue contributing to it in any way I can.

Paul Schroeder Rodríguez

Cinema; Theater, Media and Visual Studies, Amherst College, United States

Saludos colegas de LASA, mi nombre es Paul A. Schroeder Rodríguez y estoy postulándome para el comité ejecutivo de nuestra organización. En los siguientes tres párrafos comparto un poco de mi investigación, de mi carrera académica y de mi persona.

Como investigador, mis intereses se han centrado en el cine latinoamericano, sobre todo su evolución histórica, tomando en cuenta la intersección entre estética, tecnología e ideología. He publicado los libros Tomás Gutiérrez Alea: The Dialectics of a Filmmaker (New York: Routledge, 2002) y Latin American Cinema: A Comparative History (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), el segundo recién traducido al español por Juana Suárez: Una historia comparada del cine latinoamericano (Madrid: Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2020). La Modern Language Association (MLA) reconoció la versión en inglés de este libro como un “tour de force that explores the cultural, economic, and artistic evolution of Latin American cinema” y un “timely and excellent contribution to the field, demonstrating breadth and a deep knowledge of the medium’s social and cultural contexts.”¹ Mis más recientes ensayos son “A Borderlands History of Latinx Cinema”, en The Oxford Handbook of Latino Studies (Nueva York: Oxford University Press, 2020) y “Perdonar sin olvidar: el difícil proceso de paz en Colombia a través del documental”, de próxima publicación en el Latin American Research Review.

Como académico, he trabajado en instituciones muy diversas, desde universidades con programas de hasta doctorado, como la Universidad de Hawai’i en Manoa (en Honolulu); Northeastern Illinois University, una Hispanic Serving Institution² en Chicago con programas de hasta maestría; y ahora Amherst College, un liberal arts college en Massachusetts con aproximadamente 2,000 estudiantes a nivel subgraduado. En las últimas dos instituciones también he sido chair de departamento: ocho años en Chicago y tres en Massachusetts. Menciono esto porque como maestro y como administrador, he tenido la oportunidad de trabajar en instituciones muy diferentes entre sí, y a pesar de estas diferencias tan importantes, un hilo conector para mí ha sido ir aprendiendo a escuchar mejor y con más atención a colegas y estudiantes, y de incorporar lo que dicen a mi propia enseñanza y administración. Lo mismo haría en el comité ejecutivo de LASA, con el respeto que requieren todas las relaciones humanas, y con el profesionalismo que requiere una institución tan compleja como la nuestra.

¹ https://spanish-portuguese.uiowa.edu/sites/spanish-portuguese.uiowa.edu/files/spanish-portuguese/MLA_KSK-PressRelease_Dec2017.pdf

² Las Hispanic Serving Institutions son universidades en EEUU con al menos 25% de estudiantes que se identifican como latinx o alguna de sus variantes. La lista de estas instituciones ha crecido exponencialmente en las últimas dos décadas. Ver <https://sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/hispanic-serving-institutions-hsis/>

Como persona, nací y me crié en Puerto Rico, en una familia bilingüe y tricultural. La lengua materna de mi padre era alemán pero en la casa apenas se escuchaba. Más bien hablábamos español casi todo el tiempo, y el inglés cuando él estaba presente. Así que puedo decir que el español ha sido para mí una lengua materna, y el inglés una lengua paterna. Afortunadamente no he tenido que escoger entre ellas, ni entre mis nombres. Me explico: hasta que salió mi libro sobre Tomás Gutiérrez Alea yo no usaba el “Rodríguez”, y en una conferencia alguien pensó que yo era Paul Schrader, el director y teórico de cine norteamericano. La solución era clara: tenía que añadir mi apellido materno para evitar confusiones, y hasta el día de hoy respondo con igual gusto a Schroeder, a Rodríguez y a Schroeder Rodríguez, como igualmente a Paul, Pol y Paulo. Por eso decidí escribir estas líneas en español, porque cuando pienso en LASA, creo que una de sus mejores cualidades es poder comunicarnos oficialmente en inglés, en español y en portugués. Por eso creo también que ha llegado el momento de incluir lenguas indígenas a esta lista de idiomas oficiales de nuestra organización, y como representante, esa sería una de mis metas.

Schroeder Statement

En LASA he tenido el placer de conocer y colaborar con colegas de las secciones de estudios de cine, de estudios visuales, de estudios puertorriqueños y de estudios venezolanos, y en la sección de cine serví de chair entre 2015 y 2017. Un logro importante en esta gestión fue la creación de premios a los mejores ensayos sobre cine en dos categorías, lo que ha ayudado a visibilizar el trabajo tan importante que se está haciendo en este campo. Efectivamente, el rol de LASA es el de gran divulgador y visibilizador del trabajo que ya hacemos como latinoamericanistas. En este momento histórico, además, el rol de LASA es también custodiar un espacio seguro para dialogar en torno a cómo enfrentar varias crisis interconectadas: la de salud pública por Covid-19, la económica-ambiental por nuestra dependencia en combustibles fósiles, y la cívica, visible en la normalización de la violencia y del odio en todo el planeta. No puedo decir que tengo las soluciones, pero sí un enorme deseo de facilitar el diálogo entre nuestras respectivas disciplinas e interdisciplinas, y en consonancia con nuestros mejores deseos de vivir en una comunidad fundamentada en el reconocimiento intersubjetivo, y en simbiosis con nuestro medio ambiente.

El cine, que es la manifestación cultural que me he dedicado a estudiar con más detenimiento, ofrece muchas oportunidades para aprender y reflexionar colectivamente sobre estos y otros temas. Por esta razón también me interesa participar en el comité ejecutivo, para aportar una perspectiva desde las humanidades en un espacio donde prevalecen perspectivas de las ciencias sociales. Dada la gravedad de las crisis, creo que más voces de las artes y de las humanidades ayudarían a ampliar y a afinar nuestras respuestas como latinoamericanistas y como organización.

Por último, quisiera agradecer a quienes me nominaron y decir que para mí sería un honor servir en el consejo ejecutivo y trabajar por el bien común de nuestra organización y por una América verdaderamente nuestra, la de todos.

Angela Vergara

History; California State University, Los Angeles, United States

Angela Vergara is a professor of History at California State University, Los Angeles, where she has been a faculty member since 2006. She obtained her BA in history at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile (1994) and her PhD at the University of California San Diego (2002). Before moving to Los Angeles, she taught at the University of Texas Panamerican in the Rio Grande Valley,

Texas. She teaches courses in history and Latin American studies and has been a visiting scholar at the Universidad Católica de Chile and the Universidad Alberto Hurtado.

A social and labor historian, she is the author of *Copper Workers, International Business and Domestic Politics in Cold War Chile* (Penn State, 2008), co-editor of *Company Towns in the Americas: Industrial Capitalism, Spatial Engineering and Working-class Communities* (Georgia, 2011), along with numerous articles and book chapters. In her forthcoming book, *Fighting Unemployment in Twentieth-Century Chile* (Pittsburgh, 2021), she tells the story of the unemployed and the efforts of the state to define and regulate the labor market in modern Chile. She currently serves on the editorial board of the *American Historical Review*.

Vergara Statement

LASA es el lugar de encuentro más importante para quienes estudiamos América Latina. Todos los años, nos reunimos para conversar, intercambiar ideas, y sobre todo encontrarnos. A diferencia de otras organizaciones y conferencias académicas, LASA se ha destacado por construir relaciones más horizontales y establecer un puente entre la academia tradicional, organizaciones no gubernamentales, y movimientos sociales. Iniciativas tales como los seminarios MELLON-LASA han permitido desarrollar proyectos transnacionales, mientras que Other Americas / Otros Saberes han reconocido la importancia de la producción del conocimiento más allá de la universidad. Por todo esto, es un gran honor esta nominación y un gran desafío pensar como continuar el trabajo de muchas y muchos colegas a quienes admiro.

Mi visión y contribución surgen de mi experiencia como historiadora social, mujer, profesora en una universidad pública, y Latinoamericana radicada en EE.UU. Si bien he tenido el privilegio de poder participar en muchos congresos de LASA, también es cierto que muchas veces no he podido participar por falta de financiamiento, tiempo, o tener que quedarme en casa con los niños. Por eso, es fundamental continuar avanzando en temas de incorporación e inclusión. Para una academia cada vez más precarizada, LASA se ha convertido en un congreso caro, y los costos de viaje, alojamiento, e inscripción se han vuelto una barrera muchas veces infranqueable. Es necesario perfeccionar la otorgación de becas y aranceles diferenciados, pero también buscar lugares y espacios de encuentro menos costosos, más accesibles, más humanos. Garantizar la participación de quienes viven, trabajan, y estudian en el lugar del congreso es también fundamental. Pero la inclusión no es solo un tema económico, también tiene que ver con el respeto, el reconocimiento de las distintas tradiciones, y, sobre todo, el establecimiento de mecanismos de participación.

Estamos en un momento de gran incertidumbre y aún no existe claridad de como se reestablecerán las grandes conferencias. Hasta cierto punto, la crisis actual (pandemia, crisis económica) y las nuevas tecnologías han abierto nuevos medios de comunicación e intercambio. ¿Es sustentable, a largo plazo, una conferencia masiva vía zoom? ¿Es posible combinar diferentes modalidades de participación? ¿Cómo pensamos el rol de LASA en esta “nueva normalidad”? Estoy cada vez más convencida que el trabajo y la participación en LASA tienen que ir más allá de su congreso anual. Las iniciativas, proyectos interdisciplinarios, y publicaciones ofrecen oportunidades de diálogo, trabajo interdisciplinario, y difusión. Como parte del comité ejecutivo de LASA, me gustaría fortalecer actividades más pequeñas ya sea talleres, charlas, o proyectos comunitarios que nos permitan continuar la labor que se realiza en el congreso anual. Este tipo de espacios es también una oportunidad de trabajar en forma más directa y reestablecer esa cercanía que se ha ido perdiendo en congresos cada vez más masivos.

Gisela Zaremborg

Sociology; Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO, Mexico

Gisela Zaremborg is a Full Time Professor at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in México since 2003. She specializes in gender, feminism and intersectionality, and in political sociology. She received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina (1996), a postgraduate degree in Government and Social Policy Planning (UBA, 1998), a M.A. on Social Policy (UBA, 1999), and a PhD in Social Sciences Research with Specialization in Political Science from FLACSO Mexico (2003).

She has been appointed to numerous positions of academic and research management. She served as Head of the Academic Secretariat in FLACSO México (2012-2014), as Director of the Doctoral Program in Social Sciences Research, the Master Program in Comparative Public Policies, as well as Head of the Research Department. She founded and is the coordinator of the Master in Public Policy and Gender. Currently, she also coordinates the Gender, Feminism and Intersectionalities Research Program at FLACSO.

She has served in various Editorial Committees as the International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP), International Public Policy Brazilian Journal, and Perfiles Latinoamericanos. She is a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores. Zaremborg is active in regional collaborative networks, such as Red de Politólogas - #NoSinMujeres and Gender, (in) equalities and Rights CLACSO Working Group.

From 2014 to 2015 she was a Visiting Scholar (on sabbatical leave) in the Political Science Department at University of São Paulo, Brazil and in the Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, United States. In June 2002, as a PhD candidate, she was a visiting researcher in the Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University.

Since 2003, Zaremborg has led and participated in several international research projects. In the area of gender studies, among the most recent, she coordinated the project “Feminisms and Conservatism in Latin America” (financed by IFJP) in 2019, and she has been part of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP), Pilot Trial Project, coordinated by Dr Maxine Molyneux (UCL, UK). In the area of political sociology, she was the joint coordinator, with Valeria Guarneros-Meza (De Montfort University, UK) of the project “Conversing with Goliath? Participation, mobilization and repression around neo-extractionist and environmental conflicts”, funded by the British Academy. She is currently researching on Conservative Anti-Rights Backlash, and on Feminism and Feminist Governances in Latin America, particularly in Mexico and Brazil.

Zaremborg has been attending LASA Congresses since she was a graduate student. As part of the LASA membership, in 2013 she won the FORD LASA, Seven Edition call. She coordinated this FORD LASA project with Philip Oxhorn (then, McGill University) and Ernesto Isunza Vera (CIESAS Golfo). In 2010 she received the Dona Lee Van Cott Award for the “Best Book on Latin American Institutions” given by: Latin American Political Institutions Section –LAPIS–within LASA structure organization. Her other awards and scholarships include the 2017 Newton Fund Program Award for Middle-Career Researcher and the Mention of Honor in the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Award, given by the National Institute for Women in Mexico in 2002.

Zaremborg has published extensively on gender, feminisms and conservative backlash, as well as democratic innovation and participation in Latin America. In her research, she privileges comparative perspectives. In 2017 she coordinated the book *Intermediation and representation in Latin America. Actors and roles beyond elections*, Palgrave MacMillan, with Valeria Guarneros-Meza and Adrián Gurza Lavalle. The edited collection *15 year of gender equality policies in Mexico* with Elizabeth Meier, Silvia

López and, María Luisa Tarrés was published in 2015. In 2012 and 2013 she led the writing of two volumes titled *Networks and Hierarchies: participation, representation and local governance in Latin America* and *Networks and Hierarchies: participation, representation and local conflict in Latin America*, FLACSO. Finally, in 2008 and 2007 she developed two volumes named *Social Policy and Gender: Social and Methodological Issues* and *Social Policy and Gender: Institutionalization*, FLACSO. Her work has appeared in various journals in English and Spanish and Portuguese, as: *Politics & Gender*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*, *RECERCA Revista de Pensament i Anàlisi*, *América Latina Hoy*, *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales*, among others.

In addition to her background in gender studies and political sociology, Zaremborg is an enthusiast of interdisciplinary and collective work. Truthful to this interest, she proposed innovative collective books for teaching applied research methods. This initiative resulted in three books with Fernando Cortés Cáceres, Karina Ansolabehere, Julio Aibar, and Liliana Martínez. Zaremborg has been invited to teach on research methods in Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. Through this courses she has mentored several generations of students in social science research.

Zaremborg Statement

Latin America is facing a scenario of profound transformations. The COVID pandemic is deepening persistent inequalities, while deterioration of democracy undermines human rights paradigms in the region. At the same time, innovative resistances have arisen. Youth movements have placed new issues on agendas; feminists and pro LGBTTTQ+ rights activisms have permeated politics and the streets; new organizations are fighting for changing work conditions; and indigenous people are challenging neo-extractive projects. This complex context clearly requires a well-considered response. In terms of the role of LASA, this implies strengthening a critical and well-informed debate, drawing on both interdisciplinary and collaborative work. This debate has to articulate rigorous knowledge with progressive policy making and innovative social activisms. LASA has a responsibility to enable a plural, critical and constructive dialogue to aid the transfer of knowledge from universities to decision makers, social leaders and communities. The current Latin American socio-political reality is highly polarized. Precisely for this reason, more nuanced intellectual discussions and research are required from academic settings. We urgently need to expand plural spaces to creatively understand and face the challenges that our current contexts demand. My experience, both in classical and innovative disciplinary approaches, can serve as a bridge between the various fields and scholarly traditions present in LASA, generating a greater synergy between them.

Inspired by this vision, I seek to contribute to LASA in the following three ways. First, I am deeply committed to LASA's objective of broadening the diversity of its members in terms of gender, age, race, ethnicity, and class, among others. This entails a concerted effort to better involve sub-national academic institutions, which are often overlooked. It also implies the need to engage with a wider spectrum of international associations focused on Latin American studies. Young student inclusion deserves a special mention. A proactive relationship between the LASA Student Section and the Executive Council has to be boosted. Models of mentoring, already successful within feminist and other academic fields, and innovative schemes of knowledge diffusion should be examined and implemented. We should also explore participative mechanisms to encourage more comprehensive feedback from the LASA membership to the Executive Council. This participation would go beyond virtual surveys to include more membership committees or councils that could advise about key issues. These proposals represent both a challenge and an opportunity. My knowledge on democratic innovation and participative engineering will contribute to achieving more inclusive mechanisms. Well-designed virtual technologies could help to boost these participative schemes.

Second, I am also deeply committed to ensuring that LASA Congress continues to be a space for thoughtful exchange. A plural academic community has to guarantee nurturing exchanges between scholars. In the long term, excessive activities, that may not always fulfil standards of quality, could compromise the inherent richness of academic work. To achieve these standards, I propose working more closely with the Program Track Coordinators, to discuss basic selection criteria parameters and to establish a substantive sense of awareness to achieve an equilibrium between plurality and quality.

Third, due to my research work on conservatisms, I am well aware of the threat posed by the anti-rights backlash to scientific work in Latin American, and around the world. I am committed to building a space that can defend democratic and progressive approaches to academic work. It implies revising internal procedures to guarantee respectful dissent. It also means extending fund-raising to further reward academic and activist trajectories related to progressive and democratic goals in the region.

In sum, Latin America is facing historical upheavals, and LASA needs to continue to be a prestigious space for social debate built upon multiple approaches and perspectives.

Nominees for Treasurer

Juan Poblete

Literature; University of California, Santa Cruz, United States

I am a professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz. I am also a founding member and principal faculty of the Spanish Studies and the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies majors. Along with my research on Latin/o America and my Hispanic Serving Institutions work (see my Personal Statement), these programs represent my life-long commitment to educational equality and social justice in the Americas.

My research is both wide-ranging and focused on several key ideas, organized by two axes. The first axis is the tension between homogeneity and heterogeneity at national and transnational levels. Nations have a history of internal homogenization and unification efforts, along with intra-national struggles that resist such efforts, and external claims of differentiation in an inter-national context defined by its own processes of homogenization, whether imperial, hegemonic or global. I study the cultural fields, cultural objects, and cultural dynamics that result from these tensions, focusing primarily on Chile and the United States in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

A second, complementary research axis is the distinction between formality and informality, relative inclusion and relative exclusion in cultural and political dynamics of consumption, participation, and representation. I have worked on issues such as formal and informal education, ways of reading in and with the nation; full or limited forms of citizenship and labor; the emergence of mass mediated popular culture; and piracy in unequal geopolitical locations.

Methodologically, I work, first, with concepts of national culture and national literature as disciplinary discourses for the formation of national subjects, sets of social practices, and products in the cultural market. Second, reading and the history of reading and, more broadly, cultural production and consumption under national and transnational dynamics. Finally, field defining concepts such as area and ethnic studies, national and transnational cultures, citizenship and belonging, popular culture, cultural studies, Latin American and Latino Studies.

In my career overall, I have three single-author books, each representing one of my thematic areas of specialization: the 19th century and national culture (*Literatura chilena del siglo XIX: entre públicos lectores y figuras autoriales*, 2003); the history of reading in Latin America (*Hacia una historia de la lectura y la pedagogía literaria en América Latina*, 2019); and 20th and 21st century Chilean culture (*La Escritura de Pedro Lemebel como proyecto cultural y político*, 2019). I also have edited two collections on disciplinary field formations: *New Approaches to Latin American Studies: Culture and Power* (Routledge, 2017) and *Critical Latin American and Latino Studies* (University of Minnesota Press, 2003). Finally, I have co-edited seven interdisciplinary volumes: *Piracy and Intellectual Property in Latin America: Rethinking Creativity and the Common Good*, (Routledge, 2020), *Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Non-citizenship* (Rutgers University Press, forthcoming), *Sports and Nationalism in Latin America* (Palgrave, 2015), *Humor in Latin American Cinema* (Palgrave, 2015), *Andrés Bello* (ILLI, 2009), and *Redrawing The Nation: National Identities in Latin/o American Comics* (Palgrave, 2009); and two special issues of professional journals.

My research and my teaching are deeply interdisciplinary and my career at LASA shows it. I have been a member of LASA for at least 23 years. I think I have gone to and presented at every congress except the last one (my daughter was graduating from college at that time). I have been a member of the LASA section Culture, Power, and Politics for a long time. I have been its Chair twice (2013-2017) and I am currently its Treasurer. I co-organized for the section three panels on new approaches in Latin American Studies that resulted in an edited book: *New Approaches to Latin American Studies: Culture and Power*, edited by Juan Poblete, Routledge, 2017. I am currently, and have been for a number of years, a member of the LASA sections on Nineteenth Century Studies, Films Studies, Cono Sur, and Latino Studies. I have been twice LASA Congress Track Co-Chair: once for the Culture, Power, and Political Subjectivities Track for the LASA Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico (2015), and another for the Colonial and Nineteenth Century Literature Track for the LASA Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2009).

I organized a Presidential Thematic Plenary on Transnational Dialogues on Globalization and the Intersections of Latina/o-Chicana/o-Latin American(s) Studies," at the XXVI Congress of LASA, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15-18, 2005 at the request of LASA president Sonia Alvarez, and then edited and published a dossier in *LASA Forum*, XXXVII, 1, Winter 2006. In 2017, I was a member of the Jury for the first Premio Siglo XIX, for the best book on the Latin American Nineteenth Century, organized by the Nineteenth Century Studies section. I have been the organizer and chair of, and a discussant and panelist, in many LASA panels. I have published in *LARR* and done a number of blind article reviews for the journal.

Poblete Statement

I am a Chilean-American who has lived for more than thirty years in the United States, while doing research in and on Latin/o America. I write in both English and Spanish for journals across the world. My intellectual efforts as a Latin Americanist have always attempted to think national and transnational cultural and political formation processes from a critical non-nationalistic and non-globalistic viewpoint. My work participates in an effort to rethink Latin/o American Studies in a global framework. That is to say, capable of encompassing Latin America and the USA from interdisciplinary angles, which can do justice to the new complex cultural, social and political developments of a globalized Latin/o America. I use a transnational orientation as a lens to de-nationalize the nation as a natural container of the social and interrogate its homogenizing premises and dynamics, while I see the nation and its politics as a reminder of the real-life thickness and value (constraints, possibilities, and frameworks) defining, structurally, our lives. That is the intellectual and epistemological basis of my interest in being LASA Treasurer and joining the organization's Executive Council. I hope I can help, in a critical post-Covid moment, with the task of thinking the best organizational and professional

practices to connect those two dimensions of the Latin/o American world, promoting de-racialized epistemologies and social justice. I am far from being a financial analyst but I can learn and contribute on the job. Before leaving Chile, I was a bookstore owner for five years. I have been co-provost and then provost of one of the colleges my institution is divided into, for a total of nine years with full academic, staff, administration, and financial responsibilities; and, also, Co-PI in significant, multi-year grants from the Ford and the Mellon Foundations. Since 2013, I have been, first, a member and, then co-chair and co-principal investigator of the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Task Force, which has worked successfully to strengthen underrepresented undergraduate students' performance, graduation, and retention at UCSC. UCSC, now a federally recognized HSI, has three current five-year HSI Department of Education-funded grants totaling more than nine million dollars. Two additional, 3 million-five year each, grants have just been awarded to our team and campus: the GANAS Career Pathways grant and the GANAS Graduate education grant, both starting in 2021. This 15 million dollars and complex organizational effort—to support the education of underrepresented groups in California and contribute to an equity-minded University of California system—has been both a labor of love and a truly demanding challenge. Each one of the grants has hired an Administrative Director as well as a number of other positions. We meet in different committees at least once every week on average, all year long (through the summer and through sabbaticals as well). In addition to being co-chair, for the last five years I have been the lead for WORD (a summer, reading for writing seminar taught for five years across California to hundreds of students). Overall, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career, a combined service and research activity that is the basis for my co-authored chapter "Becoming a Racially Just Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI): A Case Study of the University of California, Santa Cruz". I mention all of this simply to say: I have the commitment, the energy, and the experience to serve LASA as its Treasurer and as a member of its Executive Council, in its pursuit of effective and empowered professional opportunities for all its members and social justice in the broader worlds we not only inhabit but belong to.

Jennifer Pribble

Political Science; University of Richmond, United States

Jenny Pribble is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of the Global Studies program at the University of Richmond. She received her PhD in 2008 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she specialized in the Comparative Politics of Latin America. Prior to pursuing a PhD, Jenny worked as a journalist in Santiago, Chile, reporting on politics, public health, and environmental issues.

Jenny's research focuses the politics of social policy expansion in Latin America with an emphasis on the southern cone. In her book, *Welfare and Party Politics in Latin America*, (Cambridge, 2013) Jenny analyzes social policy reforms carried out during Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Venezuela's 'left turn.' The book was published in Spanish by Miño y Dávila in 2017. Jenny's new project analyzes subnational healthcare inequality in Chile. She is also the author of multiple articles published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as book chapters. In recent years, Jenny has sought to engage in public debate about Latin American politics, authoring pieces for the Washington Post and the Financial Times, among others.

Jenny's research draws on extensive fieldwork in Latin America and she has been fortunate to live approximately three years of her life in Chile. She has also spent long research stays in Colombia and Uruguay. Since completing her PhD, Jenny has sought to maintain close ties with colleagues based in Latin America. As part of that effort, she participates in the Red de Políticas Sociales and sits on several PhD committees at Universities in the region.

Jenny has been active in the LASA community since 2002, organizing panels and pre-conferences, as well as serving on the political institutions book award committee. In 2012 she co-edited an issue of the LASA Forum on education policy and student protests in Chile.

At the University of Richmond, Jenny has served in several leadership roles that have given her practice in budget oversight, including her current position as Coordinator of Global Studies, as well as her past role as Co-director of the Faculty Learning Community on Latin American and Latino Studies.

Pribble Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Treasurer and I am excited at the prospect of serving on LASA's Executive Committee. I have been an active member of LASA since 2002 and I see the organization as my primary professional community. Involvement in LASA has allowed me to expand my intellectual community and, perhaps more importantly, it has provided me with deep and lasting friendships. As someone who works at a liberal arts college with only a small community of scholars who work on Latin America, I know how important LASA can be for linking scholars into a broader professional network and for fostering collaboration and intellectual exchange. My work as treasurer would be guided by a desire to protect and strengthen the organization, encouraging investments that build on LASA's tradition of expanding access, lifting up young scholars, and promoting multi-disciplinary programming that advances a critical understanding of Latin America.

LASA has done a wonderful job of expanding its travel funding to allow scholars who might not otherwise be able to attend the Congress to share their work and build professional relationships outside of their home country and institution. As Treasurer, I would seek to build upon that success, working with LASA's outstanding administrative team to seek out new sources of funding to further expand travel grants.

The LASA endowment is managed by a professional team that has done an excellent job of improving the organization's financial strength and stability. I believe the work of a good Treasurer is to communicate the organization's goals to the management team and to provide strong oversight, ensuring that LASA's priorities guide investment and expenditure decisions. To that end, I would work to ensure that LASA invests in programs that further strengthen its reputation and expand the reach of the organization. I would also encourage fund managers to continue to invest in a socially-responsible manner, living up to LASA's goals of advancing social and environmental justice in Latin America and beyond.

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