

# CALL FOR PAPERS



LATIN  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION

## LASA2021: Crisis global, desigualdades y centralidad de la vida

May 26 – 29, 2021 • Vancouver, Canada • Hybrid Congress (on-site and virtual)

The global crisis highlighted by the expansion of COVID-19 over the entire planet has had dramatic consequences in Latin America, testing states' capacity to protect their citizens. The effects of the disease have laid bare the structural shortcomings of the countries in the region and the persistence of inequality, exclusion, and authoritarianism.

The consequences for the economy have been devastating too, in a region that was already experiencing problems with growth and the concentration of wealth. The pandemic has also included profound effects on the social reproduction of many people in the continent. At the same time, this crisis has also ignited deep reflections about the centrality of life and of care in economic and social development, the urgency of confronting social inequalities, the imperative to act against environmental devastation, and the powerful need to guarantee democratic process.

Additionally, COVID-19 is developing at the historical moment of greatest global connectivity. In this context, paradoxically, all countries have implemented measures restricting movement and confining the national space; the latter have led to policies of control over people and their bodies. Undoubtedly, these processes will have long-term effects in public and private life.

The purpose of the 2021 LASA congress in Vancouver is to convene people who study the societies and cultures of Latin American and the Caribbean to reflect on globalization and its impacts on the lives of its inhabitants, the institutional architecture of its states, and the cultural dynamics on the continent.

The management of the crisis, and the consequences for the most vulnerable, demonstrate the need to reflect on the causes of that vulnerability in both historical and contemporary terms.

The current crisis exacerbates various tendencies that were already present in the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the region. We have experienced dramatic phenomena of human mobility that are illustrated in the exodus and mass intraregional migration and also South-North migration flows. Certain authoritarian political dynamics have also been reinforced in emergency contexts. The slow growth of economies, as well as the worsening of structural inequalities, reveal dynamics of the labor market characterized by informality and insecurity. Finally, the persistent exclusion of indigenous peoples and people of African descent, and other forms of human right violations, all show that the need to deliberate on democracy is as valid as ever in the region.

In the last year, Latin America and the Caribbean went through widespread situations of social protest in various countries. Mass movements were triggered not only around problems like poverty and social injustice but also demands related to the fight against gender violence and femicide, the legalization of abortion, enforced disappearances, the defense of natural resources and territories, movements for peace and against selective murders, and, of course, democracy. Social protest becomes a strategic site for understanding resistance and the limits of our political systems at different scales: local, national, and global.

The current crisis has created a series of ruptures that have revived the memory of various authoritarian expressions and practices in Latin America. The events of the last year invite us to rethink the current situation without forgetting the past and its legacy, and to exercise collective memory to identify the multiple cultural and societal responses that have been formulated in other critical periods. It is necessary, in this sense, to reflect on the different ways power has manifested and on how societies have responded throughout history to express their malaise and proposals for change.

New challenges put pressure on states and societies in Latin America and the Caribbean. This call for LASA2021 congress is also a call to contribute from our disciplines and fields of knowledge to the debate around access to justice, basic rights, and the construction and consolidation of democratic regimes.

Lastly, having the global nature of COVID-19 as the axis of discussion also offers the opportunity to link debates between the social sciences, the humanities, and other sciences such as biology and the health sciences. We hope that this congress will also make these bridges possible.

This call plans for a hybrid congress that enables both face-to-face participation in the city of Vancouver, if the evolution of the global health situation allows it, and virtual participation.

LASA PRESIDENT

**Gioconda Herrera**  
FLACSO, Ecuador

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

**Liliana Rivera**  
Professor of the Centro de Estudios Sociológicos de El Colegio de México and CONACYT researcher, level 3

**Ulla Berg**

Director of the Center for Latin American Studies and professor of Anthropology and Latin Studies of the Universidad de Rutgers/NJ

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IS  
**SEPTEMBER 7, 2020, 5 P.M., EDT**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

You are invited to submit a paper or panel proposal addressing either the congress theme or any topic related to the program tracks. LASA also invites requests for travel grants from paper presenters who qualify. Visit the LASA website for eligibility criteria. All proposals for papers, panels, and travel grants must be submitted to the LASA Secretariat via the online proposal system by September 7, 2020, 5 p.m. EDT.

## The deadline to submit proposals is September 7, 2020, 5 P.M., EDT

Proposal forms and instructions will be available on the LASA website: <https://lasaweb.org/>

No submissions by regular mail will be accepted. A confirmation email will be immediately sent once the proposal is submitted successfully. Otherwise, contact the LASA Secretariat before the deadline for confirmation to [lasa@lasaweb.org](mailto:lasa@lasaweb.org).

## Permanent Program Tracks

The 2018-2019 Executive Council decided to work to ensure each congress maintains a set of permanent program tracks. Therefore, a thorough analysis was conducted of the program tracks existing since 1991 (221 in total) and the number of proposals received. The criterion was to consolidate, standardize and expand those tracks to offer a permanent space that represents the thematic diversity represented throughout the membership.

The 221 program tracks found were discussed in various phases by the full Executive Board and by a subcommittee appointed by the Executive Board. Initially, the 221 tracks were reduced to 43, then to 31, and finally 29 remained.

As of the 2021 Congress, these 29 program tracks will be permanently available. The Executive Board or a subcommittee appointed by the Executive Board will periodically evaluate new tracks proposed by the program committee to determine their permanence on the list of "core tracks".

## Program Syllabus

Select the most appropriate subject for your proposal from the following list and enter it in the space provided in the submission system. Send your correspondence ONLY to the Secretary of LASA.

### PERMANENT PROGRAM TRACKS

Agrarian and Food Studies  
Art, Music and Performance Studies  
Childhood and Youth Studies  
Civil Societies and Social Movements  
Culture, Power and  
Political Subjectivities  
Democratization and Political Process  
Economics and Political Economy  
Education  
Environment, Nature and Climate Change  
Film Studies  
Feminism and Gender Studies Health Policies  
History and Archaeology  
Human Rights and Memory  
International Relations/  
Global Studies  
Labor Studies  
Language and Linguistics  
Latinx Studies  
Law and Justice  
Literature Studies  
Media Studies  
Migration and refugees  
Political Institutions  
Public and Social Policies  
Race and Ethnicities  
Religion, Politics and Society  
Scholarly Resources  
Urban Studies  
Security and Violence

## New program tracks for each congress

The Program Committee will have the possibility of proposing specific program tracks it deems relevant in the framework of its programming. For the 2021 Congress, the committee believes a space is needed to debate the impacts of COVID-19 in our societies and states from multi-dimensional perspectives that include reviewing the experiences of past pandemics and also present challenges. It also seeks to preserve and deepen the debates about epistemology and the knowledge of indigenous peoples and African descendants on the continent and to offer a specific track for discussions about sexuality. Finally, this context invites a deep reflection about the reconfiguration of global processes and Latin American relationships with other regions. For this, the committee proposes the Asia and the Americas track.

### NEW FOR LASA2021

Indigenous Peoples,  
Afrodescendants and Other  
Epistemologies and Co-production  
of Knowledge  
Asia and the Americas  
Fighting COVID-19  
Sexualities and LGBTI Studies



LATIN  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION