

LASA announces Anti-Harassment Task Force

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LASA stands up against all types of abuse of power and impunity, both in the political and academic spheres, and throughout the Americas. LASA is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all participants, free from harassment based on age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, disability, health conditions, socioeconomic status, marital status, domestic status, or parental status (hereafter, simply harassment).

To stand by this commitment, the LASA Executive Committee announces our AntiHarassment Task Force. This is accompanied by an effort to review existing Sexual Harassment Policy and Ethics Policy within LASA.

Spurred on by recent events involving serious and numerous sexual harassment complaints against a former LASA president, we take this opportunity to create a task force to investigate multiple forms of harassment and hostile climate connected with and part of the larger context for sexual harassment. In the process of setting up the Task Force, we quickly recognized that sexual harassment is part and parcel of broader structures, cultures and practices of domination and inequality. Accordingly, our review should include study of and response to harassment based on race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, citizenship, and able-bodiedness as well as gender.

Towards this end, LASA is appointing an Anti-Harassment Task Force with the following charge:

1. To collect information from the LASA membership on:
 - a. Harassment experienced in the process of being educated and working as a professional.
 - b. Harassment experienced within LASA events and organizational spaces (annual conference, section conferences, committees, Executive Committee and other leadership positions).
 - c. Solutions to eliminating harassment and creating a safe and inclusive climate. Best practices.
2. Report back on findings.
3. To recommend best practices and specific policies that should be adopted by LASA as an organization. This process will include consultation with professional experts and organizations who have expertise in harassment and climate issues.

The LASA Anti-Harassment Task Force will act between now and May 24, 2019 when it will deliver its findings and recommendations at the LASA annual Congress in Boston. This process will be accompanied by a series of discussions, workshops, and forums at LASA's annual conferences.

About LASA

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. With over 12,000 members, over 65% of whom reside outside the United States, LASA is the one association that brings together experts on Latin America from all disciplines and diverse occupational endeavors, across the globe. LASA's mission is to foster intellectual discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas, promote the interests of its diverse membership, and encourage civic engagement through network building and public debate.

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or lasa@lasaweb.org.

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