

## Elections 2022: Nominating Committee Slate

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The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for Vice President, student representative, and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for Vice President will serve in that capacity from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023, as President from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, and then as Past-President for an additional year.

The two Executive Council members receiving the most votes will serve a three-year term from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2025, while the other will serve for two years only. The student representative will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

### The Candidates

#### Nominees for Vice President

**Jo-Marie Burt**

*Political Science, George Mason University, United States*

Jo-Marie Burt is associate professor of political science and Latin American Studies at George Mason University. At Mason, she has served as director of Latin American Studies, codirector of the Center for Global Studies, and associate chair for undergraduate studies at the Department of Public and International Affairs. Dr. Burt has sought to combine her academic research with meaningful engagement in public policy debates and has been a steadfast advocate for human rights in the region. As a Senior Fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), she engages in research-based advocacy on human rights and transitional justice. In 2016 she founded and co-directs *Verdad y Justicia en Guatemala*, which monitors and reports on human rights trials in Guatemala.

Dr. Burt has been a member of LASA since 1991. She was twice elected as co-chair of the Peru Section (2014-5, 2015-6), was elected to the Executive Council (2016-2018) and served as co-chair of the Academic Freedom and Human Rights Committee, and was Program Co-Chair of the LASA Congress in 2020. She's served on the Bryce Book Award and the Martin Diskin Dissertation Award committees. She was an *Otros Saberes* recipient in 2010, leading a collaborative investigation into access to justice for victims of conflict-era human rights violations with Peru's *Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos*.

Dr. Burt's early research focused on state and insurgent violence in Peru. Her 2007 book *Silencing Civil Society: Political Violence and the Authoritarian State in Peru* (Palgrave Macmillan) received an Honorable Mention for the WOLA-Duke Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America. Grupo Planeta is publishing later this year a revised version of the Spanish translation of the book, *Violencia y autoritarismo en el Perú: Bajo la sombra de Sendero y la dictadura de Fujimori*, previously published by the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in 2009 and 2011. She's coeditor of *Politics in the Andes: Identity, Conflict, Reform* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004).

Currently, Dr. Burt's research focuses on human rights, transitional justice, and historical memory. Her work explores the efforts of victims of grave human rights violations to access justice. She has been an international observer to the trials of former heads of state Alberto Fujimori in Peru and Efraín Ríos Montt in Guatemala, and organized several international delegations to monitor these proceedings. She has written extensively in scholarly and journalistic outlets about these and other human rights trials and their local and global significance, including *Transitional Justice in the Aftermath of Civil Conflict: Lessons from Peru, Guatemala and El Salvador (2018)*. She is completing a manuscript entitled, *We Only Want to be Human: Victims in Pursuit of Justice in Postwar Guatemala*.

Dr. Burt has received grants and fellowships from Open Society Foundations, the Ford Foundation, the United States Institute of Peace, the Aspen Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, the Tinker Foundation, the Institute for the Study of World Politics, and the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. In 1988–1989, she was an International Human Rights Fellow of the Institute for International Education/ Ford Foundation and worked at Servicio Paz y Justicia in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she collaborated with and documented the campaign to overturn the 1986 amnesty law. Between 1995 and 2000, Dr. Burt was associate editor and then editor of *NACLA Report on the Americas*. In 2002 and 2003, she was a researcher for the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She has been a visiting professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru twice, in 2006 as a Fulbright and in 2010 as the “Alberto Flores Galindo Visiting Professor.” She has been an expert witness in human rights trials before the Peruvian courts as well as in cases involving Peru and Guatemala at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. In 2011, the Government of Peru recognized Dr. Burt with a Merit Award for Distinguished Service in Defense of Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in Peru, in the Rank of High Official.

Dr. Burt has commented frequently on Latin American politics for various national and international news media, including *BBC World, CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, Newsweek, Bloomberg, The Boston Globe, Forbes, The Guardian, Christian Science Monitor, Al Jazeera, El Nuevo Herald, Vice, McClatchy Report, Democracy Now, El País and Proceso*, among others. She has appeared as a guest commentator on *CNN, All Things Considered-NPR, Morning Edition-NPR, The World-PRI, The Takeaway-PRI, Al Jazeera, Democracy Now, NTN24 (Colombia), Canal N (Peru), WBAI Radio and WKPF Radio*. She has authored articles and op-eds in *The Nation, Americas Quarterly, NPR, Progressive Magazine, Huffington Post, and NACLA Report on the Americas*, among others. She currently writes a bimonthly column for the Peruvian daily *La República*.

Dr. Burt holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

### **Burt Statement**

*LASA has been formative to my personal and professional growth. I joined LASA as a graduate student in 1991 and have attended nearly every congress since. I've been an active member of several sections, including the Peru, Central America, Memoria y Historia Reciente and Otros Saberes sections; co-chaired the Peru section; and participated in several committees, including the Bryce Book Award and the Martin Diskin Dissertation Award. In 2016 I was elected to the Executive Council and was a Program Cochair to LASA 2020—the first virtual LASA, imposed by circumstance rather than choice due to the pandemic. LASA has enriched my academic life, created space for meaningful collaboration, and given me a lifetime of friendships. It is a huge honor to be nominated as a candidate for LASA Vice President.*

*LASA's promotion and support for interdisciplinary, collaborative and engaged research has been critical for scholars like me who cross boundaries, disciplinary and otherwise, to investigate challenging issues such as political violence, transnational human rights activism, and wartime sexual violence. Even as the Association has experienced remarkable changes—LASA now has over 14,000 members from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and beyond—it continues to offer critical spaces for connection, collaboration, and promoting socially significant research. LASA is more diverse, inclusive, interdisciplinary, and global than ever.*

*Still, accessibility remains a central concern. The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the inequalities that make membership difficult for many potential constituents, including Latin American students and scholars and practitioners from historically excluded communities, such as indigenous, Afro-descended, and LGBTQ communities. Less than 30% of our members enjoys institutional support to travel to LASA. LASA's expansion of travel scholarships has helped address this, yet the core problem remains. Beyond hybrid or virtual meetings, how can LASA rethink ways to connect and support members virtually?*

*The pandemic obliges us to envision new ways of being an academic association with a core identity like LASA's, with our commitment to social justice, inclusion, and diversity. We must imagine new ways to encourage participation in LASA by groups with limited access, ensuring that LASA offers resources and programs that benefit them. The creation of sections several years ago was a major innovation that restructured and enriched the way LASA is organized. What new innovations can we imagine to make LASA more inclusive, participatory, and meaningful to these members?*

*LASA could develop research networks to incentivize and encourage collaboration. LASA sections, which are a site of energy and activism, could be a natural starting point for this. LASA could institute virtual programs of value to students, such as pedagogy workshops, teaching symposia, courses in innovative methodologies, mentoring services, and professional development programs. Pursuing new partnerships, for example with small Latin American publishers and book fairs, which are invisible at the large book exhibits held at Congresses, is another avenue for innovation. As someone who has challenged the boundaries between scholarship and activism by regularly publishing for broader audiences, using my research as an advocacy tool, and through collaborative research with civil society groups, I'd also work to strengthen LASA programs that foster dialogue and collaboration among practitioners, policymakers, and scholars.*

*The pandemic, the structural inequalities it has made so painfully visible, as well as growing authoritarian practices in the region conspire to undermine access to LASA and call on us to rethink the traditional ways we've conceptualized our work. I welcome the opportunity to work to enhance LASA's commitment to accessibility, diversity, and inclusion; to explore ways to enhance the role of the sections; and to envision new programs, beyond the annual congress, that LASA offers to its members.*

**María Rosa Olivera-Williams**

*Literature; University of Notre Dame, United States*

I am a professor of Latin American literature and cultural studies in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Notre Dame. My entire career has been developed at Notre Dame. I emphasize this particularity because it shows how the institutions are, the individuals

who compose them, their projects and interests, the capacity for contact with other colleagues from other departments and fields of knowledge, and above all the new generations, the students. I came to Notre Dame after obtaining my doctorate (presidential award) at Ohio State University in 1983. I also had the pleasure of teaching as a visiting scholar at the University of the Republic (Udelar, Montevideo, Uruguay), the University of Montevideo (Uruguay), the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago, Chile), and the Middlebury College Summer Language Schools (Middlebury, Vermont).

I am the author of *Humanidades al límite: posiciones desde/contra la universidad global*, co-edition with Cristián Opazo (Cuarto Propio, 2021 e-book; paper copy, March 2022); *El arte de crear lo femenino: ficción, género e historia del Cono Sur* (Cuarto Propio, 2012; 2013); *El salto de Minerva: intelectuales, género, Estado en América Latina*, co-edition with Mabel Moraña (Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2005); and *La poesía gauchesca de Hidalgo a Hernández: respuesta estética y condicionamiento social* (Universidad Veracruzana, 1986). I have published a large corpus of articles in numerous journals and publishing houses in Latin America, the United States and Europe, such as *Oxford University Press*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Universidad de Sevilla*, *Universidad de Lisboa*, *MLA*, *Romance Quarterly*, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, *Revista Hispánica Moderna*, *Revista Iberoamericana*, *INTI*, *Revista de Literatura Hispánica*, *Sic*, *Revista de la Academia Nacional de Letras*, *deSignis*, *La Torre*, *Revista Chilena de Humanidades*, *Revista Chilena de Literatura*, *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*, *Literatura Mexicana*, *Nuevo Texto Crítico*, among others. I have received the support of the Luksburg Foundation, Ministry of Education and Culture (Uruguay), Fulbright, Kellogg, American Philosophical Society, Nevada Humanities Scholar program, among others.

At present, I am completing the book *Tango: Imagining National Roots in the Maelstrom of Modernization and Modernity in Argentina and Uruguay, 1880-1940* (under contract with the University of Florida Press). This book explores how tango, the popular phenomenon that originated in the Río de la Plata countries of Latin America, Argentina and Uruguay, intersected with modernization and channeled the desires and anxieties of Argentines and Uruguayans who longed to hold onto a stable personal and societal past that might give meaning to an uncertain present and future. Tango destabilized the cemented iconicity of the gaucho and instead proposed a new, fluid image for national identity that was at once collective and urban: a couple dancing tango. The book foregrounds tango as a key site for reading the anxieties generated by modernity and globalization. I am also co-editing with Rodrigo Caresani, *Escenas de traducción en las literaturas de América Latina*; this volume understands translation as a phenomenon of asymmetric negotiation of languages and identities that seek to give visibility or explain the “invisibility” of Latin American cultural plurality. Finally, I am leading the “Rubén Darío: Critical Editions Project,” which brings together a group of U.S.- and international-based scholars to produce four volumes of critical and annotated scholarly editions in Spanish of journalistic works by the Hispanic world preeminent modern poet and intellectual, Nicaraguan writer Rubén Darío (1867-1916). Unlike his poetry, his journalistic work has often been overlooked and incompletely edited. Reconsidering Darío’s texts today will allow us to better understand how the spirit of Latin Americanism provided a cohesive force for Spanish-language literary publishing across the U.S., underwriting Latino/a identity. Furthermore, it will result in a more complete understanding of the transformation of the balance of geopolitical power in the Western hemisphere at the turn of the twentieth century from the perspective of the most important post-independence intellectual in Latin America, who acted as an interpreter of those changes for the entire Spanish speaking world.

I serve on the LASA Awards Deliberation Committee (2021-23); the Academic Council of the María Díaz de Guerra Institute (2021-); the Editorial Board of LARC (2021-); as a Luksic Scholar (2019-); the executive committee of *The Art-Kiné International Group* (Argentina, 2017-); as Literature and Cultural Studies Review Editor of *A contracorriente* (2014-); the board of *Decimonónica* (2005-); the board of *Revista de estudios de género y sexualidades* (2005-); as a Fellow of the Kellogg Institute; and Fellow of the Nanovic Institute. I served with Cristián Opazo as chair of the Southern Cone Studies Section (2018-21); organized with Javier Uriarte the LASA/Southern Cone international congress (Montevideo, 2015-17); member of the Southern Cone Fulbright Review Committee (2013-15); member of the executive committee of the 20th Century Latin American Literature division, MLA (2003-07) and representative to the MLA Assembly of Delegates (2009-12); and program chair of the LASA congress (2002-03), among others.

### **Olivera-Williams Statement**

*I am a scholar who approaches literature from a plurality of perspectives: history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, political theory, and gender theory inform my writing. I also create veritable networks of scholars, from established academics to mid-career scholars with vibrant projects, to a cohort of brilliant graduate students, both from Latin America and from the United States and Europe. Therefore, I was delighted to discover LASA as a very young graduate student because it showed me from the beginning the great potential of networking and opening a true North/South interdisciplinary dialogue in which the voices of academics, activists, artists, politicians, etc. were all on the same level. The dynamics of LASA's international conferences became my model. Together with other colleagues I worked very hard to create the exciting PhD program in Spanish we offer at Notre Dame, which attracts some of the most distinguished students from Latin America, especially Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Mexico, as well as from Europe and from the best Spanish degree programs in the United States. The dialogue is intensified by directing many of these doctoral theses and collaborating with these young scholars on academic publications and conferences. An excellent example of the fruit of this dialogue is my latest book *Humanidades al límite: posiciones desde/contra la Universidad global* (2021), co-edited with Cristián Opazo, which studies from different perspectives and geographies the roles of Catholic universities to face the crisis of the Humanities amid the challenges and opportunities offered by globalization. The volume brings together the work of prominent historians, philosophers and colleagues in literary and cultural studies at different stages of their careers.*

*In the first month of 2022, we are still suffering from the persistence of the COVID pandemic, a pandemic that exposed many of the evils that attack our world: racism, misogyny, hatred of the other, poverty, hunger, migration, ecological crisis, etc. The pandemic and what it uncovered shocked universities and immovable institutions such as the Vatican. From the Vatican, the first Argentine Pope, Francis called for an ethical change in the way we live to really change the environmental crisis. Universities like mine responded by creating the Race and Resilience Initiative, a center with global reach and a critical comparative and interdisciplinary approach, which promotes multiracial collaboration and inclusive pedagogy to challenge systemic racism and promote racial equity. It also created several avenues to challenge the environmental crisis, such as the Center for Environmental Humanities; I am affiliated with both centers. However, the financial crisis, a consequence of the pandemic, is hindering the rich North/South dialogue I referred to earlier with the arrival of Latin American students*

to our programs due to the limitations imposed by study abroad visas. It is increasingly difficult for a Latin American student to accept a postdoc because of these limitations. It is here where the terrible situation of migration becomes a close reality. I think that LASA is the prime site to accompany these students—the new generation of Latin Americanists—to navigate the uncertainty of their situation and advise them.

The economic crisis also makes it difficult for many Latin American colleagues to attend conferences in the United States and/or Europe. Therefore, small congresses in Latin America such as the ones that the Southern Cone Studies Section held in Montevideo, Uruguay (2017), which I organized with Javier Uriarte, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2019), organized by Daniel Link, open wonderful spaces for colleagues and opportunities to build new bridges and networks. I strongly believe that LASA should adopt this model to complement its annual Congress.

*Crises create opportunities to reinvent ourselves.*

## Nominees for Executive Council

### **Gloria Chacón**

*Latin American Studies; University of California, San Diego, United States*

Chacón, Gloria E. is Associate Professor in the Literature Department at UCSD with affiliations to Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies, and Latin American Studies. She received her Ph.D. from the Literature Department at UCSC in 2006. Between 2006- 2008, she held the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Native American Studies at UC Davis. She also held a Council on Library and Information Resources Fellowship at UCLA's Charles Young Research Library between 2008-2010. In 2011, she taught the first Central American Literatures class in the then César Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at UCLA. Her research and teaching focus primarily on Indigenous literatures, autonomy, and philosophy in Latin America/Abiayala. She teaches mainly late twentieth and twenty-first century Latinx/Chicanx, Latin American, and Indigenous Literatures. She is the author of *Indigenous Cosmolectics: Kab'awil and the Making of Maya and Zapotec Literatures* (2018). Chacón is currently working on a few research projects focused on Indigeneity and Diasporas as well as Intellectual Property Law, Rights, and Indigenous cultural productions, respectively. She is co-editor of *Indigenous Interfaces: Spaces, Technology, and Social Networks in Mexico and Central America* by Arizona Press (2019). She is also co-editor of the forthcoming anthology *Teaching Central American Literature in a Global Context* for MLA's Teaching Options Series. Her current co-edited project is tentatively titled *Bridging Hispanic and Indigenous Studies*. In 2016, she co-edited a special issue on indigenous literature for DePaul's University academic journal, *Diálogo*. Chacón's work has appeared in anthologies and journals in Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, and the USA.

Chacón is an active board member of MEAP (Modern Endangered Archives Program) that funds community archives from different parts of the world. She is on the board of the NAIS journal. She has collaborated with museums and community organizations. She co-chaired the inauguration of the Indigenous Literatures Track at LASA.

### **Chacón Statement**

I am honored to be nominated to be part of LASA's executive committee. As an interdisciplinary scholar, LASA has been critical to my academic formation since my graduate school days. I would dedicate myself to furthering LASA's mission as I have always seen the organization as my primary academic home.

As someone whose personal story straddles various borderlands of Central America's northern triangle (or what we call El triffinio which is constituted by Esquipulas, La palma, and Ocotepeque), citizenships, nationalities, and languages, LASA's engagement with Otros Saberes/Other Knowledges, migration, neoliberalism, and development has allowed me to stay connected to Latin American critical thought despite growing up for most of my life in Los Angeles.

I would like to see LASA engage more Chicanx/Latinx and Indigenous students in the study of Latin America. I see their training in the field as a major part in the future of LASA. I would be interested in figuring out best approaches to encourage more participation from first generation college students and students from community colleges that can see LASA as a space where they, too, can feel at home. As part of the executive committee, I would like to focus on other issues for the organization. The first one would bring my passion and desire to be more conscientious about our environment and our yearly footprint. I think this is a very important issue for us as the largest academic organization focused on Latin America. We must move beyond recognizing our own contribution to the deterioration of the environment and provide practical solutions to things like waste, optimizing resources, and taking a stance about our place in the world. In this sense, I would also like us to consider elders and other indigenous environmental defenders as critical to our academic dialogues and growth. Secondly, I would like us to have a more open policy to the communities whose lands we come to for our academic meetings. I know that this has been addressed, and I would like to further this conversation. This would mean inviting people from the nearby communities to our conferences and building better relationships with representatives from the local communities. I realize this requires funding for practitioners who are not affiliated with the academy, but I think we can strategize to ensure these important voices have a space in our organization. Having seen LASA's constant engagement with the most pressing issues of our times, my hope is to make a difference in how the organization moves forward post the most challenging pandemic of this century. Linking the pandemic to the environment and the lessons we can take from this experience as it intersects with unequal distribution of medicine, racism, patents, capitalism, and interspecies relations can be important themes that we can address. I also hope to bring to the executive committee my enthusiasm for collaborating with community archives, libraries, and museums.

### **Laura Gutiérrez**

*Cultural Studies; University of Texas at Austin, United States*

I have a PhD in Spanish, with a minor in Portuguese from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2000), where I also earned my MA (1994). And my BA (1991) is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am a scholar of Latinx and Latin American visual culture and performance studies and am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where I also serve as Associate Chair. I teach classes in my research areas of interest from a queer and feminist vantage point and across the curriculum. Before my arrival to UT Austin in 2013, I was a faculty member at the University of Arizona, a position I held for eight years, and prior to that, I was at the University of Iowa.

My research has consistently explored questions of gender, sexuality, race, corporeal movement and discourse as it grapples with the porous nature of cultural borders across nations and regions, particularly in what is now known as Mexico and the United States. In thinking through movement, both bodily and the circuits of art production, I aim to theorize culture produced by women and queer artists who themselves are most always diasporic subjects. My methods are mixed, but often derived from performances studies, visual culture studies, close readings, thick description, and co-presence or participant-observation.

I am the author of *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage* (U Texas P, 2010, winner of an MLA book prize in 2011), which examines feminist performance, performative interventions, political cabaret, and visual art by Mexican and Chicanx women. I have also published essays and book chapters on Latinx performance, border art, Mexican video art, and Mexican political cabaret. A recent book chapter on cine de rumberas was published in the book *Decentering the Nation* (winner of the 2021 Ellen Koskoff Edited Volume Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology) and a survey on border performance and visual art appears in *The Cambridge History of Latina/o Literature*.

Currently, I am finishing a monograph tentatively entitled *Binding Intimacies in Contemporary Queer Latinx Performance and Visual Art* that opens up the possibility to think about the notion of intimacy to conceptualize collaborations and conversations related to artistic work, including the life the artists live and strive to make more livable, often under great duress. I also argue that “binding intimacy” is a queer mode of critical writing that pushes our understanding of the ways we engage with contemporary queer Latinx performance and visual art. Concurrently, I am also at work on a book entitled *Rumberas in Motion (Pictures): Transnational Movements in the Archive of Mexican ‘Classic’ Cinema*. It is the first is a book in English on the primary figures of rumbera cinema and it examines dance and other corporeal movements to think through the ways in which embodied performances in popular cultural forms are producing ideas about gender, sexuality, and blackness in the middle of the twentieth century in Mexico (and beyond), and creating or participating in panics and anxieties around race and sexuality.

I also have extensive administrative and committee experience related to Latin American Studies at UT Austin and beyond, including in the Latin American Studies Association. In addition to being an Associate Faculty in the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and having worked with graduate students enrolled in the MA and PhD programs as a member of their committees or main advisor, I have served on the unit’s Executive Committee three times, a two-year elected position; am currently serving for the third time. One of the star public programs for LLILAS is the Lozano Long Conference that happens once a year and I was able to organize and chair the organizing committee for the 2015 iteration, “Nuevas Disidencias: Youth Culture, Transnational Flows, and the Remaking of Politics in the Americas.”

Soon after I joined LASA, I was nominated and elected to co-chair the Sexualities Section (previously named Lesbian and Gay Studies) from 2001-2003. I have also served on the Programming Committee as co-chair for the Latinx Studies Track, 2018-19, and as co-chair for the Sexualities and LGBTI Studies Track, 2021-22.

Because of my deep commitment to contemporary art and culture-makers that exist on the margins, I am on the board of and part of the curating team of OUTsider Fest, an Austin-based queer transmedia nonprofit, and, on occasion, I collaborate with artists. And, lastly, I am also on the board of the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, which meets in Mexico once a year for a week-long seminar that’s structured around the sharing and discussion of ideas and works in progress.

## **Gutiérrez Statement**

*In 2001 I attended my first Latin American Studies Association conference, and it had a tremendous and immediate impact on me and my interdisciplinary thinking, which are rather nascent at that point. Since then, LASA meetings have played a pivotal part in my honing in on my own critical and analytical skills related to Latin American and Latinx culture at the same time that my consistent attendance and participation has broaden my knowledge and has kept me abreast of the most important debates in the field, and from different regional locations and disciplinary perspectives. I have longed appreciated LASA's role in not only speaking out against injustices in the different platforms, the Forum, the International Congress, etc, and have learned from the organization's commitment to well-being in the region, at the same time that LASA has fostered intellectual spaces for discussion, purpose, and growth.*

*Because of this, I am honored to have been nominated to serve on LASA's Executive Council. I am committed to working to continue to blur disciplinary lines and national boundaries, to think across regions and find critical, theoretical, policy-driven, and creative ways to address the challenges that most trouble the hemisphere. My scholarly work has always been about troubling normative structures of thought, of movement, of behavior, which are more often the ones that also oppress the most marginalized populations. As a researcher that always puts at the front the work about and by racialized, queer, and gender non-conforming cultural workers, I am always attentive to not reproducing societal hierarchies when we do academic labor. This is one aspect of my work that I hope to bring to the Executive Council, a commitment to not just writing about said type of cultural work, but by also working to continue to open us LASA as a space where these subjects have a platform for their work. We need to continue to ask ourselves to about knowledge production and so that we continue to grow the field by opening up more wedges for minoritized thought.*

*Besides the Mexico Section, the two sections that I have been a member of consistently in my years in LASA, are the Latino Studies Section and the Sexualities Studies one. While the latter has remained a consistent part of LASA, the Latino Studies Section has had a different fate within the organization. To be more specific, the corresponding track, Latinx Studies, only recently restored, was removed for some time, which caused more of a chasm between Latinx Studies scholars and the organization. While I am grateful to recent LASA presidents that restored and continued their commitment to thinking about Latin American Studies alongside Latinx Studies, there is still more (reparative?) work to be done. As someone whose work exist in and because of the intersection of Latin American Studies and Latinx Studies, and knowing that I am not alone, I am happily in great company, I believe it would benefit LASA—and make this another aspect of my work in the EC—to continue to nurture this relationship in constructive ways to continue to open up the fields that do the work of thinking across regional and national boundaries, as we all labor to dismantle imperialistic and colonial oppressions, our common goal.*

## **April Mayes**

*History; Pomona College in Claremont, California, United States*

Dr. April J. Mayes is an Associate Professor of History 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 nineteenth-century, focusing on the 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 feminismo 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 an article about the 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, a member of Sigma Lambda Upsilon, Señoritas Latinas Unidas, and serves as a board member for Haitian Bridge Alliance, a social justice organization that advocates for the rights of Black immigrants and provides humanitarian and legal assistance.

### **Mayes Statement**

*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.*

*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. As a former department chair and currently treasurer of the board of Haitian Bridge Alliance, an organization that advocates on behalf of Haitian and Black migrants at the Mexican-U.S. border, I have experience working closely and on good terms with staff and senior leadership, with building both the infrastructure and the relationships to help people. With Haitian Bridge Alliance, I created financial infrastructure and laid the foundation of our fiscal strategy as the organization's operation budget grew. I interviewed and hired staff, organized and ran board meetings and staff retreats, worked on our organization's strategic plan, assisted the development of our employee handbook, conducted research and wrote reports.*

*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. 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 an 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.*

**Aníbal Pérez-Liñán**

*Political Science; University of Notre Dame, United States*

Aníbal Pérez Liñán es profesor de ciencia política y asuntos globales, e investigador del Instituto Kellogg de Estudios Internacionales en la Universidad de Notre Dame. Fue editor de Latin American Research Review, la revista académica de LASA, entre 2016 y 2021. Bajo su dirección LARR completó la transición al modelo de publicación abierta, amplió su perfil interdisciplinario, y triplicó su factor de impacto.

En su trabajo, Aníbal explora cuestiones de democratización, derechos humanos, y estado de derecho. Es autor de los libros *Juicio político al presidente y nueva inestabilidad política en América Latina* (Fondo de Cultura Económica 2009 y Cambridge University Press 2007) y *Democracias y dictaduras en América Latina* (con Scott Mainwaring, Fondo de Cultura Económica 2020 y Cambridge University Press 2013), así como de más de sesenta artículos publicados en revistas académicas y libros especializados. El libro *Democracias y dictaduras en América Latina* fue premiado por LAPIS, la sección para el estudio de instituciones políticas de LASA, y por la sección de estudios de democratización de la American Political Science Association. Actualmente, Aníbal es codirector del proyecto para el diseño y cumplimiento de medidas de reparación en derechos humanos en la Universidad de Notre Dame.

Aníbal es miembro vitalicio de LASA desde 2006, y ha colaborado activamente con LASA en el diseño e implementación de su política antiacoso, en la selección de los premios Kalman Silvert, en las actividades del comité de desarrollo, en las comisiones de publicaciones y de comunicaciones, como presidente de la sección LAPIS (2007-2009), como coordinador del track de Democratización en 2012 y 2016, y como parte del comité para la selección de los proyectos FORD-LASA en 2008.

Nacido en Argentina, Aníbal colabora regularmente con colegas en América Latina. Su trabajo ha recibido apoyo de, la Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación de Uruguay (ANII), el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de Paraguay (Conacyt), y la National Science Foundation (EE.UU.), entre otras instituciones. Ha dado clases en Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Costa Rica, México, Uruguay, España, Italia, Portugal, y los Estados Unidos.

### ***Pérez-Liñán Statement***

*LASA es un espacio extraordinario, en donde las y los colegas de América Latina se encuentran con los de Estados Unidos, Europa y Asia; en donde las humanidades encuentran a las ciencias sociales; y en donde la vida académica encuentra al activismo. El Consejo Ejecutivo de LASA tiene un papel central en la promoción, diversificación y descolonización de estos espacios de encuentro.*

*Como miembro del Consejo Ejecutivo (EC), me comprometo a defender tres principios rectores: pluralidad, libertad académica, y transparencia.*

*1. La riqueza de LASA radica en su enorme diversidad. Esto genera, a veces, desacuerdos entre diferentes grupos y tradiciones intelectuales, pero el respeto por la pluralidad nos garantiza una Asociación dinámica y resiliente. Durante mi periodo como editor de LARR me comprometí a reflejar la riqueza de LASA en la revista, conformando un equipo editorial con paridad de género e integrado por colegas de América Latina y Estados Unidos; impulsado una agenda de publicación igualmente abierta a las ciencias sociales y a las humanidades. El resultado fue una revista más compleja y atractiva para un público más amplio. La principal tarea del Consejo Ejecutivo es gestionar y promover nuestra diversidad en un marco de respeto a la diferencia.*

*2. Nuestras y nuestros colegas—profesores y estudiantes—están sufriendo restricciones a su libertad académica en un amplio rango de contextos. Varios gobiernos de la región, tanto de izquierda como de derecha, emplean el acoso, los recortes presupuestarios, el hostigamiento a grupos estudiantiles y sindicatos universitarios, y otras acciones discriminatorias para restringir el pensamiento crítico. La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) ha reconocido este problema en una reciente*

[Declaración de Principios Interamericanos sobre Libertad Académica y Autonomía Universitaria.](#)  
LASA debe tener una voz potente, unificada y coherente en este tema, y colaborar con la CIDH para defender la libertad académica como un derecho humano en toda la región.

3. La gestión de LASA requiere una mayor transparencia y participación. A menudo las decisiones del Consejo Ejecutivo (EC) son adoptadas sin suficiente deliberación, pobremente comunicadas, y olvidadas rápidamente cuando un nuevo grupo es elegido para conformar el EC. Con excepción de la directora ejecutiva, las y los funcionarios de LASA tienen poca participación en el Consejo y rara vez ofrecen sus valiosas opiniones. La representación de las Secciones a veces refleja agendas personales más que intereses compartidos. Es importante activar espacios participativos de encuentro para definir la agenda de LASA más allá del comité de Ways and Means. Las decisiones del EC y la información financiera de LASA deben ser fácilmente accesibles a toda la membresía.

### **Shannon Speed**

*Anthropology and Archaeology; University of California, Los Angeles, United States*

Shannon Speed is a tribal citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is Director of the American Indian Studies Center (AISC) and Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology at UCLA. Dr. Speed has worked for the last two decades in Mexico and in the United States on issues of indigenous autonomy, sovereignty, gender, neoliberalism, violence, migration, social justice, and activist research. She has published more than forty journal articles and book chapters in English and Spanish, and has published six books and edited volumes, including her the award-winning, *Incarcerated Stories: Indigenous Women Migrants and Violence in the Settler Capitalist State* (University of North Carolina Press Critical Indigeneities Series 2020) and the co-edited volume with Dr. Lynn Stephen, *Heightened States of Injustice: Activist Research on Indigenous Women and Violence* (University of Arizona Press 2021). She received the Chickasaw Dynamic Woman of the Year award from the Chickasaw Nation in 2014 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas Indian Law Section in 2016. In 2021 she received the President's Award from the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in recognition of her collaborative research with Indigenous women. Dr. Speed recently served as the President of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA 2018-2021).

### **Speed Statement**

*Chokma! Greetings! Saludos! I am honored and excited to put forward my name for the LASA Executive Council (EC). I have been an active member of LASA for 25 years and I have presented at 13 meetings. I have served as chair of the section on Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP 2010-2011) and founding inaugural chair of the Otros Saberes section (2015- 2016). I also bring substantial professional association leadership experience as a former Council member (2015-2018) and President (2018-2021) of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA).*

*As a Native scholar from a US-based Native nation whose research is in Latin America and in the US with Indigenous migrants from Latin America, I am a strong advocate for hemispheric dialogue and bridging the literatures on Indigenous peoples north and south of the settler-imposed US–Mexico border. LASA, of course, has always been a premier cite for hemispheric dialogues. However, those*

*dialogues aren't always as inclusive as they could be. In all my years attending LASA, I have rarely seen more than a handful of Indigenous scholars there. This is also true for Afrodescendant scholars, who remain underrepresented at LASA. As a member of the EC, I would advocate for greater inclusion of Indigenous and Afrodescendant members, and for the creation of explicit measures to address implicit bias and promote equity within the association. Finally, I would advocate for measures to promote an understanding of the value of collaborative, community engaged scholarship on a par with other forms of knowledge production. Our association can and should be a leader in academia on diversity, inclusion, and community engagement. That's how the richest dialogues are had.*

### **Thais Tartalha Lombardi**

*Anthropology and Archaeology; Universidade Federal do ABC, Brazil*

Dr. Thais Tartalha Lombardi is an Associate Professor of the Territorial Planning Department at Federal University of ABC (UFABC) and collaborator at the Social Science Pos-Graduation Program (Social Processes, Identities and Rural World Representation Research stream) at Campinas State University (UNICAMP) both in Brazil. A Social Scientist with a PhD in Demography and a Master in Social Anthropology, all from Campinas State University (UNICAMP). Joined LASA in 2009 and since 2010 is part of Food, Agriculture and Rural Studies Section (FARS) serving as council member, secretary and for the 2021-2022 period its chair. Besides LASA, she is part of the Brazilian Population Studies Association (ABEP) and is currently serving as chair for its Population, Space and Place Workgroup. She has also been a visiting research student at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), joining the research group Challenges of Conducting Socio-Environmental Research (CLOSER) in 2015. Those engagements led to research partnerships with colleagues both from universities around Brazil, Latin America, US, UK and Australia involving from undergrad students to senior researchers. Thus, most of those projects also were developed in partnership with social movements and local association and/or dialogued within local population once was crucial that knowledge produce within those researchers could reach the community who produce it. Moreover, she was editor of *Ruris*, a scientific journal focusing on food, agrarian and rural studies from Unicamp from 2009 to 2019, currently contributes as a reviewer for this and other scientific journal within the field and for São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP). Research interests focus on rural and agrarian studies from an interdisciplinary perspective dialoguing with environmental studies and having as its main area of study is the Brazilian Amazon. Since 2005 has studied rural-urban dynamics nearby the Transamazon Highway and on the surrounding of Santarém both areas in the state of Pará-Brazil with some studies regarding the soy expansion area around BR163 (Cuiabá-Santarém) converging the states of Mato Gross and Pará in Brazil. For both of these study areas looked for families sustainable livelihoods and strategies. Current research inquires how large scale projects have impacted these population livelihoods pushing them for less (or more) sustainable livelihoods and also helping change land use and cover. More recently, during the postdoctoral research focus extended from agrarian studies to food studies searching to understand how the collection of ethnic data within the demographic census in Latin America during the 20th century related with tradicional population struggle for the recognition of their rights, including their territory and food security, and sovereignty.

### **Tartalha Lombardi Statement**

*I'm from Brazil and all my career I have developed as a student and researcher there. Nonetheless I found at LASA a place to broaden my knowledge and contact to Latin America, leading me to meet and learn from distinguish researchers, students and traditional population leaderships from all Latin American countries and it changed my own understand and relation to the region I live. I have joined LASA in 2009 and for all those years I've seen the growing participation of researchers from all Latin American countries and from other part of the world. I've seen the will of students to be at LASA either to start their networks with senior and junior fellows or to have the opportunity to engage with different approaches that focus on their areas of study or to broaden their knowledge within their field. Thus, it would be one of my core activities to continue to make LASA this broader open space securing the participation of those already part of the association and reaching out those who aren't part yet, including helping LASA to become a more diverse association in terms not only of regional participation but also racially, ethnically and gender diverse. In addition, I'd like to help on this goal of made it a space not only for academics, but also for social movements and representatives of indigenous and traditional groups that are our colleagues on building knowledge and tools for a better Latin America and to better understand it. Thus, it would include a continuous improvement on the ability of the association to listen to their members of all levels and origins and arrange its guidance, codes and structure to be able to take action whenever this hearing brings a solid need or demand. Likewise, initiatives as the newly harassment committee and the change of the executive council to bring section representatives into it are examples of good practices and goals I'd like to help improve and expand. Nonetheless, the COVID-19 pandemics put a heavier load on all of us as researchers, citizens and as individuals, of course impacting LASA once it is made of those same individuals. It prevented many of conducting researchers, teaching and studying activities or change it in a way never imagine before, together with a financial burden of funding shortages and financial problems within each country. It leads to a growth of inequalities, hunger and prejudice at different levels and aspects in the whole region and sure it had impacts on the capacity to be a LASA member or to participate of it events as much as individuals livelihoods and research goals. However it also changed the way we connect through LASA leading to a virtual and hybrid form of share and dialogue that brought some positive aspects on possibilities to sustain the dialogues or broaden it. Therefore, as a Latin American citizen I would engage on debating and measuring the impact of the pandemics and the positive and negative effects of the changes made by LASA during this period and create proposals of continuing the virtual engagement tools that had positive impacts at the same time that find ways of maintain the in person conferences and events where many networks and acknowledgments where made. In doing so I hope to help LASA to be this open space of dialogue in a time of so much austerity and intolerance.*

### **Clifford Andrew Welch**

*History; Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil*

Born in San Francisco, CA, in 1956, Cliff traveled to Mexico with his parents for the first time in the late 1960s. In the 1970s, the family supported United Farm Workers of America boycotts of non-union products and dockworker solidarity strikes. Later, Welch participated in union solidarity actions aimed at cutting off military shipments to the Chilean dictatorship. In the 1980s, as an editor of the weekly *City Paper* in Baltimore and Washington, DC, he reported on and participated in actions to end U.S. government support for counter-revolutionary groups in Nicaragua and El Salvador. These experiences helped shape his decision to earn a MA in Latin American history at the University of Maryland in 1987 and PhD from Duke University in 1990.

One of his first articles stemmed from his master's thesis, "Labor Internationalism: The Origins of United States Involvement in Brazilian Unions, 1945-1965," published in 1995 in LASA's Latin American Research Review. That same year, the *Journal of Latin American Studies* published a chapter from his dissertation, "Rivalry and Unification. Mobilizing Rural Workers in São Paulo on the Eve of the Golpe of 1964." These pieces signaled major themes in the author's career as a historian, mixing transnational relations with contemporary agrarian and labor history, especially in the United States and Brazil.

A 1979 bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of California – Santa Cruz (UCSC), as well as diverse work experiences – as a dockworker, ranch hand, journalist and carpenter – contributed to broadening approaches to historical analysis. While at Duke, Welch joined LASA. Contact with its diverse scholars and activists influenced his articles, books and films. Journalism, anthropology, agronomy and politics merged in his first book (1992), a memoir of a Brazilian Communist rural labor organizer. His second book, *The Seed was Planted* (1999, 2010) required intermingling multiple disciplines. The award-winning documentary, "Grass War!" (2001) added aesthetics to the mix. One of his most recent publications, "Direitos: a luta pela lei trabalhista no campo nos estados de São Paulo e Califórnia" (2020), grew from these seeds.

Welch pursued an otherwise conventional career as a tenured professor of history at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) until 2003, when he took leave, moved to Brazil and worked for two years as a visiting professor in social sciences graduate programs at São Paulo's Catholic University (PUC) and state university (UNESP). This rewarding experience, as well as closer relationships with his research subjects, especially landless families and activists, made attractive the idea of permanently working in Brazil. After ranking first place in a 2009 civil service exam to become professor of contemporary Brazilian history at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), he retired from GVSU. He now orients students in three graduate programs, including the Doctorado en Estudios Agrarios of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina and one he helped create in collaboration with the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST). Welch also coordinates UNIFESP's undergraduate history major.

Being embraced as a Latin American colleague among dozens of researchers in the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) working group on critical rural development studies has been reaffirming. With this group, Welch has studied and contributed to peasant movement development in countries from Guatemala to Argentina. These intense experiences enriched his life and work through close contact with scholars like Armando Bartra, Bernardo Mançano Fernandes and the immortal Norma Giarracca, Miguel Teubal and Teodor Shanin.

From 2012 to 2014, Welch joined other rural studies scholars and researchers to activate the Comissão Camponesa. It assisted Brazil's National Truth Commission and similar state commissions in identifying and documenting violations of the human rights of rural workers by state actors. Welch has collaborated with the MST on diverse projects, such as competing successfully for a Modern Endangered Archive Program grant from the University of California – Los Angeles in 2021.

A contributing editor to various publications, Welch served on the National Editorial Council of a multivolume social history of the Brazilian peasantry that was financed by the Ministry of Agrarian Development. Cliff has contributed to books like *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Social Movements* (forthcoming), *Trabalho & Labor: histórias compartilhadas (Brasil e Estados Unidos,*

século XX) (Salvador, 2021), *Fifty Years of Peasant Wars in Latin America* (New York, 2020), *História oral e conflitos rurais: memórias de lutas* (São Paulo, 2020), *Land Justice: Re-imagining land, food and the commons in the United States* (Oakland, 2017), *Land Governance in Brazil: A Geo-historical Survey* (Rome, 2012), and *Camponeses brasileiros* (São Paulo, 2009).

Welch has authored articles and reviews in journals like *American Historical Review*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Radical History Review*, *Labor and Working Class History*, *Labor History*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *Peasant Studies*, *Agrarian Change*, *Human Geography*, *Projeto História*, *Revista Brasileira de História*, *Campo e Território*, *Revista NERA*, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, and *Social Justice*.

### **Welch Statement**

*It is an honor to be nominated as a candidate to LASA's Executive Council. If elected, I will faithfully and responsibly carry out the tasks assigned to me in collaboration with fellow EC members and officers, and in accord with the wishes of the membership. Thank you for your participation in the democratic processes of this essential association.*

*My contributions to LASA began in the 1980s when I joined a group of scholars who formed the labor and class relations section. I also participated in founding the Brasil and the Historia reciente y memoria sections. For the past 20 years or so, I've participated most actively in the rural studies section, which I chaired for two terms, including a period of its transformation into the Food, Agriculture and Rural Studies section. I have had the privilege of serving twice as a track co-chair and I've joined others in composing and campaigning for LASA resolutions. At a more minute level, I've organized many panels and field trips over more than three decades of dedication to LASA.*

*My vision for LASA is one that seeks to strengthen the association at the grassroots. I applaud ongoing initiatives to make dues and conference fees reflect more closely the diverse levels of income of actual and potential members. By moving my career to Brazil in 2003, my income fell by two-thirds and support for attending conferences vanished. LASA has increasingly sought to attract Latin American researchers, a drive I fully support, along with efforts establish more flexible dues and fees to accommodate vastly different capacities to pay and attend congresses, which are too often held at hotels so glamorous they offend the values of the organization. To the extent possible, LASA should seek partnerships with public institutions and facilitate open attendance by students and activists wherever the congresses are held. Congresses held in Rio de Janeiro and Lima partially modelled these ideas.*

*The theme of the 2022 congress is exemplary in emphasizing the critical need to study the current crisis of Latin America's fateful journey back to dependency on agro-extractivist models of primary sector exploitation. My vision for LASA is that such hard, materialist themes, examined from diverse ideological, class, gender and culturally alert perspectives, continue to be considered and developed for future congresses and research investments. In this vein, I support the closer relationship being formed between LASA and the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLASCO), to which I have belonged for over 15 years.*

*Finally, as a member of the Executive Council, I would seek to enhance the integration of historical perspectives. In diverse collaborations with the social scientists who predominate in LASA and CLACSO, the historical depths of the region's problems are often included superficially, with little knowledge or appreciation for past struggles or humility in the face of past efforts at problem-solving gone horribly wrong. Through the encouragement of more participation by historians, collaboration with their regional organizations and the formation of new sections, we can deepen the project initiated by the Recent History and Memory section.*

## Nominees for Graduate Student

### **Oscar Aponte**

*Cultural Studies; The University of Texas at Austin, United States*

Oscar Aponte is a doctoral candidate in Latin American and Caribbean history at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, Oscar graduated from Universidad Nacional de Colombia with a B.A. in sociology and holds an M.A. in history from Universidad de los Andes (Colombia). He also holds an M.A. and an M.Phil. in history from The Graduate Center, CUNY. His primary research interest is the process of state formation and the penetration of capitalism into one of the last indigenous frontiers of modern Latin America—the Amazon rainforest. In particular, his doctoral dissertation, entitled “The Roads to Rural Colonization: A Regional History of Putumayo, Colombia, 1896-1977,” examines the interconnection between roadbuilding projects and colonization cycles in the present-day Putumayo Department—located in the northwestern corner of the Colombian portion of the Amazon rainforest—between the arrival of the Capuchin missionaries in the area in 1896 and the departure of U.S. based Texas Petroleum Company (Texaco) from Putumayo in 1977. Oscar has conducted preliminary archival research and fieldwork in Putumayo and Bogotá with the financial support of the PhD program in history, the Provost's Office, and the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Research for his dissertation has been funded by the Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship program and the ZEIT-Stiftung Foundation's Beyond Borders program. Oscar has been a LASA member since 2018, and since 2020 is the chair of the student section of the association.

### **Aponte Statement**

*It would be an honor to serve as the student representative before the Executive Council of LASA and have the opportunity to voice students' opinions and proposals towards the construction of an inclusive and democratic association of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx studies. If elected, my work as student representative before the Executive Council will focus on three main issues: first, providing undergraduate and graduate students with tools to strengthen their professional and academic development as scholars of the region; second, promoting open and democratic spaces for the participation of students in the decision-making process of the association and its main events; and third, working to make LASA an accessible space for students to present their research—particularly students from Latin America and the Caribbean—through the promotion of travel grants and financial support. During my term as chair of the student section of the association, I have started*

*to work in that direction—I organized and prepared roundtables for the 2021 and 2022 congresses that focus on the professional development of the student members of the association and set up a best-paper award for members of the student section that will start functioning in time for the 2022 congress. I consider that my experience as student representative at universities in Colombia and the United States (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, directive council; and The Graduate Center, CUNY, executive committee of the PhD program in history), as well as my expertise as academic coordinator of research and activism groups (I am the co-chair of the Colombian Studies Group, an interdisciplinary group of PhD students and activists in the U.S. working on Colombia and the Colombian diaspora) have provided me with the necessary knowledge to participate actively in representative bodies such as the Executive Council of LASA. In addition, my experience as chair of the student section has provided me with a thorough knowledge of how LASA works and the needs of the student body in the association. Finally, I will work to improve LASA's role as a center for academic debate and production that can provide a better understanding of the current problems of the region and their possible solutions.*

**Jennifer Cárcamo**

*Anthropology and Archaeology; The Graduate Center - City University of New York (CUNY), United States*

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