

Bio

I am honored to accept the nominations to serve on the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association. My name is María Rosa Olivera-Williams. I was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, and I am a U.S. citizen. I have had the opportunity to benefit from both the Uruguayan and U.S. educational systems since high school. I completed the first two years of my law degree at the Universidad de la República in Uruguay. At age 16, I returned to the United States, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree, followed by a doctorate with presidential honors from Ohio State University. From a young age, I experienced the advantages and challenges of both systems, which made me aware of the problems facing higher education in the Americas.

Like many of us, I became a member of LASA during my first year of graduate studies, and since then, I have always contributed to our association in a constructive and dialogical manner, embracing the diversity of our workspaces. I have worked diligently in administration, mentoring, service, and, above all, in promoting LASA's mission in the different territories of the Southern Cone and the United States.

Specifically, from the Southern Cone Studies Section, where I have served as co-chair (2018-2021), I led the organization of one of its most successful regional symposia, which took place in Montevideo from July 19 to 22, 2017, and attracted an unprecedented number of people from the worlds of academia and the arts. I was also an active promoter of the previous symposium in Santiago in 2015 and the next one, held in Buenos Aires in 2019. These initiatives showcased my executive abilities and, above all, my commitment to uniting academics, creators, public and private institutions, universities, and governmental and non-governmental organizations from across the Americas. They contributed significantly to raising awareness of LASA and its sections throughout the Americas.

I have held various positions at LASA. In 2003, I had the honor of serving as program chair for the LASA Congress in Dallas, Texas, during the presidency of Arturo Arias. At that congress, two prominent Latin American figures were recognized: Rigoberta Menchú and Guillermo O'Donnell. The work of the Guatemalan K'iche' human rights and feminist activist and the Argentine political scientist remain highly relevant today. I have been member of the Latin American Research Commons editorial committee, member of the nominations committee 2023-24, member of the 2021-23 honors deliberation committee, member of the Bryce Wood Award for Best Book 2023 committee, chair of the Premio Iberoamericano Book Award 2024 committee, co-chair of the Luciano Tomassini Award for Best Book on Latin American International Relations committee for 2026, which will be presented at the Paris conference, and in 2025, member of the LASA press editorial board. The work of my colleagues and me at LASA press has been essential to its reorganization. Since joining LASA, I have organized and participated in over fifty roundtables, panels, and workshops presented at our association's conferences.

I am a full professor of Latin American Literature at the University of Notre Dame, where I teach and conduct research on modern and contemporary Latin American literature and cultural studies. My research and publications have been recognized with fellowships, grants, and awards, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions and Translations (2023-2026) for the project *Rubén Darío: Critical Editions*, the J. William Fubright U.S. Scholar Program for my work on tango and modernization, the Luksburg Foundation Collaboration Grant, which allowed me to design a hybrid (virtual and face-to-face) international graduate seminar with my colleague Cristián Opazo, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, on the crisis in the humanities, and the American Philosophical Society Research Fellowship on history and literature in Latin America, among many others. In 2019, I have been named Luksic Scholar and, in 2006, Nevada Humanities Scholar. Some of my books are: *Diamela Eltit: Essays on Chilean Literature, Politics, and Culture*, co-edited with Michael Lazzara and Mónica Barrientos (2023), *Escenas de traducción en las literaturas de América Latina*, co-edited with Rodrigo Caresani (2023), *Humanidades al límite: posiciones en/contra la universidad global*, co-edited with Cristián Opazo (2022), *El arte de crear lo femenino: ficción, género e historia del Cono Sur* (2012; 2013), *El salto de Minerva: intelectuales, género, Estado en América Latina*, co-edited with Mabel Moraña (2005), and *La poesía gauchesca de Hidalgo a Hernández: respuesta estética y condicionamiento social* (1986). I am currently finishing the monograph “Tango: Imagining National Roots in the Maelstrom of Modernization in Argentina and Uruguay,” which will be published by the University of Florida Press, as well as the annotated edition of *España contemporánea* by Darío. My academic articles have appeared in literary journals and university presses in the Americas and Europe such as *Revista Iberoamericana*, *Hispanamérica*, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, the *MLA*, *Chuy*, *Revista de estudios literarios latinoamericanos*, *Boletín de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua*, *Revista de la Academia Nacional de Letras*, *deSignis* (Publication of the Latin American Federation of Semiotics), *Área*, *Revista Hispanoamericana de Poesía*, *Sic* (Revista del Instituto Cervantes), *A contracorriente*, *Romance Quarterly*, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, *La Torre*, *Revista de la Universidad de Puerto Rico*, *Hispanic Poetry Review*, *Revista Universidad de Antioquia*, *Revista Chilena de Humanidades*, *Revista Chilena de Literatura*, *Literatura Mexicana*, and *Revista Hispánica Moderna*, to name a few.

I have served the university with distinction in numerous administrative positions. I am currently head of the Spanish section, but I want to talk about my teaching work, for which I have received several awards. I believe that one of my greatest contributions to LASA lies in the fundamentals of my teaching: listening to and promoting the interests of younger generations and showcasing the richness of interdisciplinarity.

My interdisciplinary work as a fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and as an affiliate professor in the Gender Studies Program and the Initiative on Race and Resilience exemplifies my efforts to build networks. These networks are essential for personal and institutional growth. I have been a visiting professor at several universities, including the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Universidad de la República and the Universidad de Montevideo in Uruguay, the internationally renowned Middlebury College Language School, and the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland.

I have also held various positions and continue to be actively involved in the Modern Languages Association, the Fulbright Foundation, the María Guerra de Díaz Institute in Uruguay, and the Art-Kiné International Group in Argentina. Since 2014, I have been editor of *A Contracorriente* and a member of the editorial board of the *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades*, and I have recently joined the Advisory Board of the *Obras Completas* de Darío.