

Elections 2020: Nominating Committee Slate

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, 2020, to May 31, 2021; as president from June 1, 2021, until May 31, 2022; and as past president from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023. The graduate student and the three winning candidates for the EC membership will serve a two-year term from June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2022.

The Candidates

Nominees for Vice President

John French

History; Duke University, United States

John D. French is a professor of History and African and African-American Studies at Duke University in Durham North Carolina. After a 1975 Amherst College B.A., he completed an M.A. in the nineteenth century Mexican history at the University of Pittsburgh before defending his 1985 Yale doctorate under Brazilian historian Emília Viotti da Costa. In the fall of 2020, the University of North Carolina Press will publish his fourth book, *Lula: The Politics of Cunning*, which offers the first scholarly biography of ex-president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva from his birth in Pernambuco to his 2018 imprisonment. His earlier books include *The Brazilian Workers ABC* (1992/1995 in Brazil), *Drowning in Laws: Labor Law and Brazilian Political Culture* (2004; 2002 in Brazil), and a coedited volume *The Gendered Worlds of Latin American Women Workers* (1997) in addition to 42 refereed articles and book chapters.

His articles include "Passos em falso da razão anti-imperialista: Pierre Bourdieu, Loïc Wacquant, e o Orfeu e Poder de Michael Hanchard," *Estudos Afro-Ásiáticos* (2002); "Another World History Is Possible: Reflections on the Translocal, Transnational, and Global," in *Workers, Across the Americas: The Transnational Turn in Labor History* (2011); "Understanding the Politics of Latin America's Plural Lefts (Chávez/Lula): Social Democracy, Populism, and Convergence on the Path to a Post-Neoliberal World," *Third World Quarterly* (2009); and "Social History and the Study of 'Great Men'? The *Hispanic American Historical Review*, William Spence Robertson (1872-1956), and the Disciplinary Debate about Biography," *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura* (2013). In 2012, he co-authored "Neoliberalism in Latin America," a 15,000-word annotated and peer-reviewed contribution to *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

From 2003 to 2005, he was Treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association as well as serving as director of the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Carolina-Duke Title VI Consortium from 2001 to 2004. He ended a five-year term as co-editor of the century-old *Hispanic American Historical Review* in June 2017. His awards, fellowships, and visiting professorships include the SSRC, IAF, Fulbright-Hayes, NEH, ACLS, the National Humanities Center, the University of Richmond, the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Over the past six years, he has founded and co-directed the Duke Brazil Initiative, the Global Brazil Humanities Lab of the Franklin Humanities Institute (2014-17), and a collaborative Brazilian/US project on the expansion of higher education access, entitled “The Cost of Opportunity: Social Mobility and Higher Education in Rio's Baixada Fluminense” (https://sites.duke.edu/project_duke_baixada_project/), which produced a documentary film of the same title that has been shown to thousands of local high school students (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_60ClxvLHY). As a graduate advisor, he has overseen younger scholars working on Bolivia, Brazil (4), Chile, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Venezuela, southeastern Pacific marine environmental history, and the intellectual history of early modern Spain.

French Statement

My candidacy occurs at a challenging moment for scholars whose values, work, and institutions are under attack, whether located in the U.S., Latin America, or the Caribbean. Across the board, we have faced budget and hiring freezes, irregular appointments, and attempts to restrict our freedom to teach and research freely. Thus, the members of LASA share a mission to expand, defend, and democratize higher education while making our voices heard in public debates and working to make sure policy reflects our values. As Latin Americans or Latin Americanists, we have a responsibility to both respond to current threats to social, civil, and political rights and to defend the environment, national self-determination, and the fullest possible democratization of governance.

Where you stand, an old adage suggests, depends on where you sit, and it behooves LASA to deepen its mission as an international organization that guarantees full and effective participation in its affairs and governance. Remaining attuned to the differentiated responsibilities of those in the Global North, LASA must remain united and vigilant in its embrace of disciplinary, gender, ethnic/racial, and national and sub-national representation. While conscious of resource constraints, LASA has a vital role to play--in collaboration with other institutions and associations--in advancing knowledge, defending our pragmatic needs as democratically minded educators, and assisting our members as they fulfill their responsibilities as citizens of their countries and the world at a time when powerful forces threaten political and social retrogression.

“Do not forget that the difference between water and a river is that the latter has a memory, a past, a history,” wrote Heinrich Heine in the 19th century. LASA was founded in 1966 as Latin America began to slip under military rule and the organization and its members were crucial public actors in the fight to restore and deepen democracy. Our proud history of research, teaching, and activism, which found expression through LASA, reminds us of our private and public commitments to the construction of a better and more egalitarian future for all.

Gerardo Otero

Sociology; Simon Fraser University, Canada

Gerardo Otero is Professor of International and Sociology in the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, Canada. He is an associate member of the Labour Studies Program at SFU. He received his B.A. in Business Administration at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM, 1975), an M.A. in Latin American Studies, with a major in economics and minor in political science, at the University of Texas at Austin (1977), and a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1986).

Otero joined SFU to teach political economy of Latin American development in 1990. His first LASA congress, while a graduate student, was in 1979 in Pittsburgh. Since then, LASA has been his main professional-association reference group. He has enjoyed and benefited from LASA's interdisciplinary and plural character. Gerardo was program track chair for the Agrarian and Rural Affairs Section (LASA Rural) for the 1997 Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, and again for the 2019 LASA Congress in Boston. He chaired the LASA Rural Section in 2004-2005 and, since its foundation in 2003, Otero has administered its email list (lasa-rural@sfu.ca) at SFU's server, now with 475 members. This list has served as a vehicle for communication and debate about major rural and political affairs in Latin America and to organize multiple LASA panels in its 16 years of existence.

Gerardo was born and raised in Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico. He taught economics at ITESM and sociology at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León in 1977, social anthropology at the Autonomous University of Puebla from 1980 to 1983, and sociology at the University of Guadalajara from 1987 to 1990. He was a postdoctoral visiting fellow at the Center for U.S. – Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego in 1986-1987, a visiting faculty in Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin in 1989-1990, and an associate professor of sociology at Tulane University in 2001. In Mexico, he taught in the Doctorate in Development Studies at Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas in 2003-2004 and 2007-2012.

Otero held a visiting fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Studies at the University of Nottingham in 2012 in the United Kingdom. In Fall of 2014, Otero was the Tinker Visiting Professor at his doctoral Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In Vancouver, Otero is a founding member of the British Columbia Employment Standards Coalition since 2011, defending migrant and immigrant farmworkers' rights; and a Research Associate at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a progressive think tank. He is often interviewed about NAFTA, globalization and food by Canadian and international media.

Otero has published more than 100 scholarly articles, chapters and books (see Selected Articles) on Latin American development, peasantry and political-cultural class formation, Mexico's politics and society, the socioeconomic impact of agricultural biotechnology, the neoliberal food regime and its diet, and farmworkers in British Columbia. His books include: *Farewell to the Peasantry? Political Class Formation in Rural Mexico* (Westview Press, 1999; reissued by Routledge in 2018); *Neoliberalism Revisited: Economic Restructuring and Mexico's Political Futures* (Westview Press, 1996); and *Food for the Few: Neoliberal Globalism and Biotechnology in Latin America* (University of Texas Press, 2008, 2010). Miguel Ángel Porrúa, a major academic publishing house in Mexico, published three of Otero's books in Spanish: *¿Adiós al campesinado? Democracia y formación política en el México rural* (2004); *México en transición: Globalismo neoliberal, Estado y sociedad civil* (2006); and *La dieta neoliberal: Globalización y biotecnología agrícola en las Américas* (2014). Outstanding contributors to his edited collections came from anthropology, economics, geography, political science and sociology.

In *Farewell to the Peasantry?* Otero compares agrarian struggles in Mexican southern, central and north-western regions. He emphasizes process rather than structure to accentuate how the economic location of rural producers does not determine political class formation. Instead, political outcomes are mediated by the state, regional culture, and leadership type. Its reissue 19 years after original publication manifests continued influence in the field. Otero's latest monograph is *The Neoliberal Diet: Healthy Profits, Unhealthy People* (University of Texas Press, 2018). "[A] 'must read' for agriculture, food, and nutrition science and policy professionals" said Ellen Messer in *Human Ecology*. NYU's Marion Nestle describes it in *The Lancet* as "a closely argued sociological treatise." Gerardo has edited or co-edited four special sections or issues of scholarly journals on Latin America: on Brazil, in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* (CJDS), co-edited with Noela Invernizi; on agricultural biotechnology and multinational corporations in Latin America (CJDS 2012); a co-edited section with Pablo Lapegna on transgenics and neoliberalism in Latin America in the *Journal of Agrarian Change* in 2016, also

published as a special issue of *Estudios Críticos del Desarrollo* (2016). Otero's website contains many of his articles, books and book chapters at: <http://www.sfu.ca/people/otero.html>. E-mail: otero@sfu.ca.

Otero Statement

La Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LASA) ha tenido una presencia central en mi desarrollo como académico desde mi primer congreso, Pittsburgh 1979. Ahí me tocó conocer por primera vez, entre otros, a tres académicos mexicanos cuya obra había leído y admirado: Enrique Dussel, a quien conocí en un elevador; Roger Bartra y Gustavo Esteva, quienes representaban posturas contrastantes en el debate sobre el campesinado en México. Una de mis dos metas centrales en LASA sería multiplicar las oportunidades para que los académicos jóvenes puedan conocer e intercambiar ideas con los no tan jóvenes. He presenciado con mucha satisfacción cómo ha evolucionado LASA como organización, desde un intento para reorganizar las secciones en torno a temas analíticos, hasta que volvieron a proliferar las secciones enfocadas en países individuales o en temas especializados. En esta diversidad, LASA también ha transitado desde ser una asociación estrictamente académica hacia una que intenta fomentar nuestra vinculación con las comunidades que estudiamos con esfuerzos como el proyecto y Sección de Otros Saberes, los pre-congresos y otras propuestas colaborativas. Por lo menos modestamente, LASA se ha convertido en un vehículo para promover la fusión de la teoría y la práctica para el enriquecimiento de ambas. Mi segunda meta es, entonces, reforzar esto promoviendo la participación de los jóvenes, quienes más pueden contribuir en la formación de saberes y el cambio de realidades. Para mi primer meta hay retomar la práctica de fomentar que las propuestas de paneles tengan un balance mínimo entre colegas en diferentes etapas de sus carreras, desde estudiantes hasta académicos reconocidos; combinando gente de varias instituciones y países. Habrá que redoblar esfuerzos para el apoyo financiero para jóvenes que participen en los congresos. También hay que buscar la ubicación del congreso logrando un mejor balance entre costos accesibles y la mejor infraestructura para una organización en continuo crecimiento. Para promover la praxis, es decir, la fusión de la teoría y la práctica para mejorar las realidades es necesario aumentar el diálogo entre dos de las tres principales estrategias de transformación que se han observado en Latinoamérica y otras partes del mundo. Desde los años sesenta, la región ha pasado por varias transiciones políticas: desde los regímenes autoritarios hasta democracias variopintas y el resurgimiento de tendencias autoritarias en 2018. La estrategia armada, ruptural, de enfrentamiento frontal con el Estado ha sido derrotada o domesticada en varios acuerdos de paz en los noventa. Surgió así la estrategia de transformación "simbiótica", en la que dominados y dominantes pudiesen ambos ganar a través del proceso electoral en un juego de suma positiva, y no en uno de suma-cero. En algunos de esos países sus pueblos vieron cierta mejoría a través de programas sociales; pero sin modificar el extractivismo exportador ni una democratización de la sociedad civil significativa. En 1994 surgió el Ejército Zapatista para la Liberación Nacional (EZLN) en México, cuyo enfrentamiento armado duró apenas doce días. Pronto se convirtió en promotor de la democratización intentando organizar la sociedad civil para contrarrestar al Estado. Pero el zapatismo sigue en la oposición autonómica, aunque aislado en el estado de Chiapas. El trío de estrategias de transformación histórico progresista son pues: ruptural, simbiótica o social-democrática, y autonómica o intersticial. En LASA, creo están representadas entre nuestros miembros predominantemente las últimas dos opciones. Uno de nuestros desafíos en LASA es, entonces: ¿cómo promover el diálogo entre esas posturas? Me gustaría impulsar una discusión que rompa los sectarismos teóricos y políticos, pues éstos representan fuertes barreras para el desarrollo del saber y la cooperación social para el desarrollo de Latinoamérica. Esto se puede promover con paneles expresamente plurales.

Nominees for Executive Council

Leonardo Avritzer

Political Science; Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil

Leonardo Avritzer is a full professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. He has a Ph.D. in political sociology from the New School for Social Research, where his dissertation received the Albert Salomon Dissertation Award. Avritzer has been teaching political theory, democratic theory with focus on participatory and deliberative democracy, and institutional innovations. He was a visiting scholar in several universities: Department of Political Science at MIT (1998 and 2003); University of São Paulo (2004); Tulane University, where he occupied the Greenleaf Chair (2008); and University of Coimbra, where he teaches regularly since 2009. Since 2016, he coordinates the INCT – Institute of Democracy, a consortium that investigates democracy and democratic habits in Brazil and in Argentina focusing on the media, public opinion and legislative power. The Project aggregates four main universities (UFMG, UERJ, Unicamp and UnB) and includes researchers from other institutions.

His research interests include democratic theory and participatory institutions and recently have moved to the crisis of democracy. This is the theme of his recent books *O pêndulo da democracia no Brasil/ The pendulum of democracy in Brazil*, published in 2019, and *Os impasses da democracia no Brasil/ Deadlocks of Brazilian democracy*, 2016. Avritzer is also the author of *Democracy and the Public Space in Latin America*, published by Princeton University Press, and *The Two Faces of Institutional Innovation: Promises and Limits of Democratic Participation in Latin America*, published in 2017, and *Los desafíos de la participación en América Latina*, 2014.

Leonardo Avritzer has also been engaged in academic administration and representation. Between 1996 and 1998 he was the director of the Brazilian Association of Postgraduate Programs and Research in Social Sciences (ANPOCS). He was president of the Brazilian Association of Political Science (ABCP) from 2012 to 2016. His administrative duties included representation of the area Political Science and International Relations at the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes), the agency in charge of the evaluation and ranking of graduate programs in Brazil.

Leonardo Avritzer has a long-term practical concern with the deepening of democracy in Latin America. He has engaged in initiatives for expanding participatory democracy in Brazil including local participatory budget since the 1990s and conferences on public policies at national and state levels in the 2000s. He has helped in the implementation of participatory budgeting in many cities and has also been consultant for the evaluation of the implementation of councils at the national level. He has written extensively about these experiences and their connections to both the role of civil society in democracy-building and democratic theory. In this area, he also engaged in collective and comparative research efforts that led to works such as the Ford Foundation project on civil society in Latin America, the IDS project on experiences of citizenship participation in developing countries and World Bank projects on participatory budgeting.

Avritzer Statement

I attended my first LASA conference in Los Angeles in 1992, where I presented my first academic paper. After I and a few colleagues graduated from the New School for Social Research during the early '90s, LASA allowed our group to meet on a regular basis and to re-organize its academic agenda. LASA has

also been the venue for the organization of new research projects over the years, as democratization in Latin America evolved and new research themes emerged. Like me and my peers, LASA has engaged and connected several generations of Latin American and North American scholars. I believe it should continue to do so.

Since its foundation, LASA has had to deal with dynamic and often challenging political processes in Latin America. Over the last decades, we have witnessed growth in regionally based research in many countries in Latin America along with more inclusive research agendas and an increasing diversity of researchers who now come from more diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. This important trend still has a long way to go in order to include young scholars from less connected areas of their countries and from countries with fewer resources. I would support the extension and strengthening of the association's role in supporting young and diverse scholars from Latin America.

Current political and economic trends pose challenges to our countries that will affect the dynamics of our professional association in the near future. We are once again facing social and political turmoil in the region. Recent events in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela, among others, have shown we may be entering into new critical times. Though Latin America has faced such moments in the past, the new challenges are different because they affect the academic and professional lives of scholars and their academic institutions. Today, in Brazil, Nicaragua and Venezuela, universities and scholars are under attack. It is not unreasonable to expect that this trend will soon be extended to other countries. Economic crisis and the reversion of trends toward stability and sustainable development also have impacts on higher education, tending to result in widespread budget cuts. Perhaps more intriguing is combination of the political persecution of scholars with the questioning of scientific knowledge itself, especially the humanities.

The Executive Council and LASA's membership will need to deal extensively with these issues in the coming years. The LASA community must lay out an agenda for supporting Latin American research in this new scenario. This agenda needs to include active monitoring of new governments and their education policies. It must also support research on and analysis of political change in the region. The association needs to invest in existing networks for the protection of scholars and endangered research areas and help build emerging ones.

While the last few decades have seen an expansion of nationally-based research on Latin America and the inclusion of a much more diverse group of scholars and themes, contemporary attacks on science and on the humanities threaten most those who have most recently gained access to international academic associations such as LASA. The association must, therefore, pay particular attention to how new educational policies in Latin America will affect the diversity of graduate research in the region and of the researchers who engage in it.

Dara Goldman

Literature; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States

Dara E. Goldman is Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her main areas of specialization are Caribbean and Latin American literatures and cultures, gender and sexualities studies, and cultural studies. She is the author of *Out of Bounds: Islands and the Demarcation of Identity in the Hispanic Caribbean* (2008), which examines how discourses of identity evolved as the relationship between island and nation shifted over the course of the 20th century. Her current book project examines how 21st-century Cuban literatures and cultures rework classic tropes of Cuban national identity and, in doing so, grapple with a period of significant change and uncertainty.

The research for this book has evolved through numerous trips to Cuba and extensive collaborations with colleagues and institutions in Havana. She is also the author of numerous articles about Caribbean self-representation in literature, films, music, and in cyberspace that have been published in journals such as *Revista iberoamericana*, *Hispanic Review*, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, *Latino Studies*, *Revista Hispánica Moderna* and *SAQ*. Her teaching encompasses a broad range of courses on Latin American and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and she has directed or co-directed numerous dissertations on Latinx, Latin American, and Caribbean literatures and cultures.

Her work with LASA started when she first began attending the conferences (then held every 18 months) in graduate school. Professor Goldman has regularly attended and presented at LASA conferences ever since and has been a member of several of the sections (Cuba, Gender and Feminist Studies, Puerto Rico, Latino Studies, Sexualities Studies, and Venezuelan Studies). She has been particularly active in the Sexualities Studies section—serving as secretary-treasurer, co-chair, pre-conference chair, and on the Carlos Monsiváis and Sylvia Molloy prize committees. Dr. Goldman also served on the selection committee for the best book in Latinx Studies last year, which she describes as a challenging and rewarding opportunity to collaborate with some new colleagues and discover some exciting new work by scholars in the field.

Goldman has also taken on administrative and leadership roles in Latin American Studies, both with and outside of LASA. She became a life member of LASA a number of years ago and was on the organizing committee for the 50th anniversary celebration in New York City. She served as director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Illinois for 5 years and has performed advocacy work for Title VI, FLAS, and Fulbright Hays funding in Washington, D.C. She brokered several new and renewed institutional partnerships with Latin American universities and was part of the team that forged the partnerships which—in turn—led to the creation of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies.

Professor Goldman is also very involved in other major professional associations in her field. In the case of the Modern Language Association in particular, she has supported engagement with Latin America and Latin American Studies, through her involvement in the Puerto Rican Discussion Section, the Cuban and Cuban American Diasporic Forum, and the MLA Delegate Assembly. In the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, she advocated for the organization to actively support scholars affected by the storms and to leverage the resources of the association to promote recovery efforts and maintain commitments to academic institutions whose longevity was threatened by the conditions of the aftermath.

At the University of Illinois, Professor Goldman is affiliate faculty in several departments (Comparative and World Literature, Gender and Women's Studies, Global Studies, Jewish Culture & Society, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Latina/o Studies, Unit for Criticism and Interpretative Theory, Women and Gender in a Global Perspective) in addition to her main appointment in Spanish and Portuguese. She currently directs the Program in Jewish Culture and Society, as well as having directed the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and has led several shorter-term research initiatives and task forces.

Goldman Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on LASA's Executive Committee. LASA has played a significant role in my academic career. Indeed, one of my first conference presentations was at the LASA conference in Guadalajara in 1997. Since then, I have regularly presented at LASA meetings, been a member of several sections, and served on prize committees and in leadership positions in the Sexualities Section. I have witnessed the evolution of LASA over the years as it has grappled with changes in the profession and faced challenges, including reductions in funding and job market crises.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I would welcome the opportunity to work with colleagues and the LASA Secretariat to ensure that the organization continues to forge new paths of scholarly inquiry and collaboration. I am particularly committed to supporting young scholars and those in non-tenure track positions. I also would like to see LASA continue to mobilize its resources to support our common interests, as it has done previously (i.e., lobbying for the inclusion of Cuban scholars, including moving the conference outside of the U.S. in order to facilitate their participation), without losing the core focus and mission of the organization. In the past, I have had the opportunity to work with community partners and cultural producers in the locations where the conferences have been held, and I would welcome the opportunity to support and even expand such collaborations. In all of these cases, the resources of the association can be leveraged to advance the work of conventional, established scholars while also fostering new opportunities for engagement with scholars, teachers, and cultural producers who do not regularly have the same level of access to academia.

Given my expertise and areas of interests, I am particularly interested in how LASA can provide support to Cuban and Puerto Rican scholars. It is imperative that scholars and students throughout Latin America and the Caribbean remain connected to transnational networks, to disseminate their work along with having access to a broader array of resources, and for specialists to be able to conduct field work and maintain dynamic collaborations with colleagues irrespective of political shifts and in spite of the devastation of natural disasters. At the same time, I am concerned about the role of Spanish departments and language instruction in Latin American Studies, as financial pressures lead to reductions in less commonly taught language instruction and place increased pressure on students to structure programs of study around perceived efficiency and marketability. Not only do basic language courses constitute a foundation of area studies, but reductions in language learning have effects that ripple through multiple aspects of our research and teaching.

Finally, in the current political climate, Latin Americanists are strongly positioned to offer singular insight and perspective. In both academia and in the public sector, there is persistent hand-wringing and angst about increasingly deep divisions and recent political trends, in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East in particular. Latin Americanists thus find ourselves regularly drawing on our expertise to analyze how particular issues such as populism, authoritarianism, corruption, popular movements—among others—have played out in the Latin American context. I look forward to working with colleagues to explore how to showcase this perspective and highlight how knowledge from and about Latin America can inform our understanding of current global shifts and tendencies.

Antonio Sérgio Alfredo Guimarães

Sociology; University of São Paulo, Brazil

Antonio Sérgio Alfredo Guimarães, Senior Professor, Department of Sociology, University of São Paulo. Master in Social Sciences, Federal University of Bahia, 1982; PhD in Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1988; Livre Docente in Political Sociology from the University of São Paulo, 1997. He was Tinker Professor at the University of Chicago in the Spring 2019; the Simon Bolivar Professor at the University of Cambridge (2016-2017) and Professor at SciencesPo Bordeaux (Chaire Sergio Buarque de Holanda, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, France, 2010-2014). He does research on racial, national and class identities, Black social movements, affirmative actions, and Black intellectuals. He was also associate professor at the Federal University of Bahia between 1980 and 1996, and Visiting Professor at Princeton University between 2007 and 2008, and visiting researcher at several foreign universities, including Oxford University (Centre for Brazilian Studies), Brown University (Program of

Afro-American Studies), University of California at Los Angeles (Department of Sociology), Institut de Recherche et Développement; École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Centre de Recherche sur le Brésil Contemporain and Centre d'Études Africaines) and at the Freie Universität Berlin. He chaired the Brazilian Society of Sociology from 1996 to 1998 and directed the Center for Human Resources UFBA between 1990 and 1992. His major books: *Imagens e identidades do trabalho* (São Paulo, Hucitec, 1995); *Um sonho de classe - trabalhadores e formação de classe na Bahia dos anos 80* (São Paulo, Hucitec/Pós-Graduação de Sociologia da USP, 1998); *Preconceito e discriminação - queixas de ofensas e tratamento desigual dos negros no Brasil* (Salvador, Novos Toques, 1998); *Racismo e anti-racismo no Brasil* (São Paulo, Editora 34, 1999 [2nd edition 2005]); *Tirando a Máscara. Ensaio sobre o racismo no Brasil* (São Paulo, Paz e Terra, 2000); *Beyond Racism: Race and Inequality in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States* (Boulder and London, 2001), p. 157-186; *Classes, raças e democracia*, (São Paulo, Editora 34, 2002 [second edition 2012]).

Guimarães Statement

I joined LASA many years ago. In fact, I have always privileged LASA as my space for international dialogue because of its characteristics: multidisciplinary, diversity of viewpoints and theoretical approaches, academic alignment and concentration on Latin American studies. Over the years we have created a well-known academic community bringing together the social sciences and the humanities. I have served as editor for the LASA Forum for a short time and I remain willing to assist the Association administratively, now as a member of its Executive Committee. My view of LASA is not far from those who came before me: to strive for the academic excellence of Latin American research, but at the same time to open up to new forms of knowledge, new theoretical perspectives and to incorporate new colleagues from sub-represented strata in the academic institutions of our countries, coming from indigenous peoples, racialized populations, popular classes and workers. To maintain LASA as a mentor of a solid and rigorous academic community in the production of knowledge, but also open, socially and politically, and without epistemological prejudice or dogma, which brings together men and women from the social and human sciences around the world interested in studying Latin America. LASA must also continue to ensure the participation of younger researchers, while continuing to attract established scholars. We shall continue to make our Association one of the entry points for each of our countries, a multilingual space, a place where we build lasting relationships based on respect and scientific knowledge.

Cristián Opazo

Literature; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Cristián Opazo (Santiago, 1979) is an Associate Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC) since 2012—he has a joint appointment at the Department of Literature and the School of Drama. After completing his Ph.D. in Spanish (UC, 2007), he travelled to London as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at King's College London (2009).

With Theatre and Performance Studies as a starting point, his critical work explores the relationship among urban counter-cultures, marginalized masculinities, and cultural policies in contemporary Chile. He is the author of *Pedagogías letales: ensayo sobre dramaturgias chilenas del nuevo milenio* (2012), and *Clandestine Repertoires: Theatre and Underground* (forthcoming). In recent years, he has also published several edited volumes in the fields of Theatre and Performance: two volumes of the Critical Essays Series —*Heiremans* (2013) and *Galemiri* (2017)—, and two journal special issues —'Cuerpos que

no caben en la lengua' (*Cuadernos de Literatura* [2017]) and 'Cono Sur: didascalias para un segundo acto' (*Revista Iberoamericana* [forthcoming]). In 2018, he started serving as the alternate director of the new Millennium Nucleus in Art, Performativity, and Activism, a long-term research project funded by the Chilean Ministry of Economy and sponsored by Universidad Austral de Chile and the UC.

Parallel to his research activity, at UC, Opazo has served as Director of Research and Chair of Graduate Studies (Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, 2012-2017), Executive Director at the Center for the Study of Chilean Literature (2012-2017), and External Reviews Coordinator (Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, 2010-2011, 2016-2018). He has also taken part in several projects of collaboration between his university and international associations (e.g., The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, and Universitas 21). In accordance with his commitment to the profession, he has also served in several committees related to the development of institutional policies for Arts and Humanities in the Chilean university system: University Committee for the Analysis of the Project of the New Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (2016), Advisory Committee for the Development of Arts in Research Universities (2017-2018), and Public Policies Committee at Humaniora—Chilean network of graduate studies programs in the fields of Arts & Humanities (2015-2018)—among many others.

As a LASA member, Opazo joined our association in 2007. Since 2008, he has taken part in every single LASA conference (from Montreal to Barcelona). Between 2014 and 2018, he served as Treasurer of Southern Cone Studies Section, and in 2018, as Section Chair. Since 2015, he has organized—among others initiatives—a series of regional symposia of the members of the Southern Cone Section (Santiago 2015, Montevideo 2017 & Buenos Aires 2019). He has also collaborated as a track chair (2017), and Selection Committee Member for the LASA Research Grant Program (2018).

Opazo has been a visiting scholar at Universität Leipzig (Germany), Georgetown University (US), and Universidad de Concepción (Chile); and he has also served as a member of several Ph.D. dissertation committees in universities from Brazil, Chile and the United States.

Opazo Statement

It is no overstatement to say that LASA is the main interdisciplinary ecosystem in the Americas. From Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, our association provides a human and intellectual environment that promotes a genuine exchange among scholars from different academic backgrounds, geographical regions, and political trenches. This assertion implies a responsibility: when higher education faces critical challenges and the main purpose of the university system seems to be financial sustainability, LASA could become—above all—a 'safety zone': an academic space that welcomes and encourages those discourses that do not fit properly in the corporative mechanics of the 'teaching machine'—as a graduate student stated in regard to the Southern Cone Studies Section regional meeting in Santiago, Chile, in 2015: 'at the end of the day, LASA conferences is the place where the text we read isolated in our precarious libraries meets the body that lies behind it.'

In this critical context, I assume this nomination as both a privilege and a responsibility. On the one hand, as a scholar based in a university from the Southern Cone, I express my compromise and willingness to become a nexus; that is to say, I would like to contribute to the development of policies that strengthen the exchange between the very different academic cultures, disciplinary languages, and professional demands that converge in our 'ecosystem.' On the other hand, as an active participant in the management of LASA Sections, I also accept this challenge as an opportunity to promote the work of our 39 sections—powerful academic communities where it is possible to forge bonds of reciprocal learning, mentoring and solidarity.

Last but not least, in these days, when neo-fascism and xenophobia are re-emerging, I would like to contribute to spread and increase across the Americas the public role of LASA—its civic engagement to democracy, inclusion and social justice.

Kenneth M. Roberts

Political Science; Cornell University, United States

Kenneth Roberts is the Richard J. Schwartz Professor of Government and the Binenkorb Director of Latin American Studies at Cornell University. He obtained his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1992, and taught at the University of New Mexico before joining the Cornell faculty in 2005. At Cornell, he has served as Director of the Institute for the Social Sciences and as Senior Associate Dean for the Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. His research and teaching interests are in Latin American politics, with a special emphasis on the political economy and political sociology of inequality. His published research has focused on the study of party systems, populism, labor, and social movements from a comparative perspective. He is the author of *Changing Course in Latin America: Party Systems in the Neoliberal Era* (Cambridge University Press) and *Deepening Democracy? The Modern Left and Social Movements in Chile and Peru* (Stanford University Press). He is also the co-editor of *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left* (Johns Hopkins University Press), *The Diffusion of Social Movements* (Cambridge University Press), and *Beyond Neoliberalism? Patterns, Responses, and New Directions in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Palgrave-Macmillan). Other writings have appeared in a wide range of edited volumes and scholarly journals, including *Latin American Research Review*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *American Political Science Review*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, and *Polity*. Roberts has been a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Chile and the Universidad Carlos III-Instituto Juan March in Spain. He has also been a Visiting Research Fellow of the Centre on Social Movement Studies at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, Italy, and a Greenleaf Distinguished Visiting Chair at the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University. He served as the Program Co-Chair for LASA's 2013 Annual Conference in San Francisco, and before that as a section chair for LASA's Democratization section. He has been a recipient of grants from the Mellon and MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. His current research explores global challenges to democracy and the political impact of financial crises in Latin America and Southern Europe.

Roberts Statement

I joined LASA as a graduate student at Stanford, and I have been active in the Association ever since. I am deeply committed to LASA's vision of a multidisciplinary meeting place for students and scholars who share a special interest in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and it is an honor for me to be nominated for membership on the Executive Council. I had an opportunity to attend several meetings of the Executive Council while serving as the Program Co-Chair for LASA's 2013 Annual Conference, and I developed a healthy respect for the challenges and opportunities that arise in leading such a diverse, transnational professional association. Like most members of LASA, I have long sought to balance the demands and expectations of my academic discipline with the novel insights and learning opportunities afforded by a multidisciplinary area studies program, and I remain firmly convinced that disciplinary expertise can be greatly enriched by area-based knowledge of the history, culture, and languages of different countries and regions. For that reason, that I have always been heavily

involved in the Latin American area studies programs at my home universities, and I currently serve as the director of Latin American Studies at Cornell. In that capacity, I have encouraged the development of new linkages between research and teaching activities across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences in Latin America, building bridges to campus and community initiatives that previously had little or no contact with the area studies program. I believe LASA draws its greatest strength from its intellectual diversity, and the Association should celebrate and nurture this diversity through its conferences, its publications, its student programs, and its outreach activities. LASA should encourage academic exchanges and new forms of dialogue between scholars across diverse humanities, science, and social science disciplines, and it must reach out to graduate students across different fields to renew its professional vitality. LASA should also consolidate and expand its reputation as an inclusive meeting ground for scholars anywhere in the world who study Latin America, whether they be located in Latin America, the United States, Europe, the Asia Pacific, or other world regions. LASA's growth as a professional association must continue to be inclusive and firmly grounded in our traditions of respect for academic freedom and critical engagement with contemporary public and international affairs.

Veronica Schild

Political Science; University of Western Ontario, Canada

Verónica Schild, born and raised in Chile, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario, and Adjunct Professor, Centre for Global Studies at Huron College. She has a BA in Philosophy and English Literature from George Mason University (1978), and an MA in Educational Theory, with a focus on Critical Theory, from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (1982). She obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto (1991), with a specialization in Comparative Political Economy of the Southern Cone of Latin America, and engaged in post-doctoral studies at the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, CERLAC, at York University (1991-1993). At Western, she taught courses in critical political theory, feminism, and political economy. She has also taught in the graduate program of the Lateinamerika Institut at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Programa de Estudios Graduados en Procesos Sociales y Desarrollo, Universidad de Concepción, Concepción, Chile. From 2006 to 2011 she was Director of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at Western and, early in her career, she was actively involved in the successful effort to embed Women's Studies as an institutionally recognized graduate program there. She has held Visiting Professorships in Europe and Latin America and has been a member of advisory boards for academic programs. Most recently, she was a Research Fellow of the Berlin-based project DesiguALdades.net (2010-2015), and of the Grupo de Trabajo Feminismos, resistencias y procesos emancipatorios of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales, CLACSO (2016-2019). She is a member of the Advisory Board, Margherita-von-Brentano-Zentrum (Centre for Transnational and Interdisciplinary Gender Studies), Freie Universität Berlin. From 2006 to 2011, she was a member of the Academic Council, Centro de Estudios sobre Democratización y Derechos Humanos (Centre for Studies of Democracy and Human Rights), Graduate School, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her links with Chile are long-standing: she was first an Associate Researcher of the "Chile Project" at York University in Toronto, Canada (1985-1986); then a Visiting Researcher at CENECA, Santiago, Chile (1986-1988) and an Affiliated Researcher at FLACSO Chile (1987-1988); and subsequently Visiting Professor at FLACSO Chile (1992). She is presently Visiting Professor under the modality of Científica de Exelencia del Extranjero, Proyecto Conicyt-MEC Desarrollo y Fortalecimiento de Redes de Conocimiento e Investigación en Psicología con Perspectiva de Género: Articulando Prácticas Éticas a Nivel de Pre y Postgrado at the Escuela de Psicología, Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile. (September-December 2019; August-November 2020).

She has dedicated her scholarship to the study of gendered processes of cultural and political transformations in Latin America, most particularly in Chile, with a focus on neoliberalism. In light of stunning levels of environmental destruction, dispossession, and violence linked with neoliberal extractivist capitalism in Latin America, her present research is engaging with key debates and concerns in critical theory as resources for a broad-based anti-capitalist feminism. She has published extensively on feminism and the women's movement in Chile, on feminism and neoliberalism in Latin America, and more recently on the gendered neoliberalization of the state. Among her most recent publications are: "Feminisms, the Environment and Capitalism: On the Necessary Ecological Dimension of a Critical Latin American Feminism," Special Issue: Women's Movements and the Shape of Theory and Praxis in Latin America, *Journal of International Women's Studies* (2019); "Social Inclusion, Gender and Desire: 25 years of Social Protection with a Gendered Face in Chile," In *América Latina: Corpos, Transitos e Resistências*, Vol. 2, ed. Márcia Esteves de Calazans, Mary Garcia Castro, and Emilia Piñeiro (Porto Alegre, RS: Editora Fi, 2018), pp. 527-545; "Neoliberalere Regierungsweisen und die Rekonfiguration der Geschlechterordnung. Zur Rolle des Staates," in *Geschlecht im flexibilisierten Kapitalismus? Neue Ungleichheiten*, eds. Ilse Lenz, Sabine Evertz, and Saida Ressel (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017), pp.131-157; "Feminismo y neoliberalismo en América Latina," *Revista Nueva Sociedad* 265 (September-October 2016) – translation of "Feminism and Neoliberalism in Latin America," *New Left Review* 96 (November/December 2015); "Rethinking Emancipation Beyond Neoliberal Regulation," *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, Special Issue: Emancipation, 30, no. 3 (Summer 2015); and "Geschlecht und Staat in Lateinamerika -- die Zwei Gesichter Neoliberaler Regulation," In *Staat in globaler Perspektive – neue und alte Entwicklungsstaaten*, eds. Hans-Jürgen Burchardt and Stefan Peters (Frankfurt/New York: Campus-Verlag, 2015).

Schild Statement

LASA has been my intellectual and scholarly home since I first presented a paper as a newly minted PhD at the XVI International Congress in Washington, D.C. in 1991. Over the course of my career, I have lived through the remarkable transformation of what was once a predominantly U.S.-based multi-disciplinary coming together of scholars of Latin America to a genuinely international community where new generations of scholars from Latin America have a very strong presence, and where Latin Americanists from Europe, East Asia, South Asia, and Africa are increasingly active.

While the disciplines no doubt still have a strong presence in our Association, over the past decades the juxtaposition of voices from the humanities and social sciences has been invaluable. One significant shift has been the rise to prominence of the humanities in the study of Latin America, one which has brought about a cross-fertilization of epistemological and methodological approaches to tackle old and new questions. I strongly believe that this transformation of interests, topics, and approaches, without a doubt disconcerting to some, is not only inevitable but also signals the capacity of our Association to renew itself and maintain its relevance as a space for thinking collaboratively about the region.

In my own time as a LASA member, I have lived through this ongoing transformation as part of what was called "women's studies" in the early 1990s. We now take for granted that "gender studies" is a legitimate and rich area of study, one capable of offering important insights into political, social, economic, and cultural phenomena. But this was a hard-won recognition. I was lucky to know that first generation of formidable feminists, many of whom are no longer with us, who plowed the field for us and who succeeded in convincing LASA that this was a scholarly initiative worth recognizing and supporting. I was a minor figure in their efforts to steer that early group, the Women's Task Force, into the duly recognized and funded, interdisciplinary Gender and Feminist Studies Section of today.

Initially, I was an Ad Hoc Member of the Executive Council of the Women's Task Force, and I then went on to serve in various capacities as a Member of the Section, including as its Co-Chair in 2012-2013. I have also contributed to the selection of papers and panels on gender and sexuality topics, first as Track Chair and then as Co-Track Chair of Gender Studies for two LASA Congresses. These experiences have allowed me to learn from, and to value, the subsequent opening-up of Gender Studies into the diverse and multi-vocal areas the Section represents today. They have also convinced me that our Association has the capacity to continue to encourage our scholarship and exchanges, supporting, protecting, and funding both existing and unfolding spaces of encuentro and dialogue.

Today, Latin America is facing unprecedented political, socio-economic, ecological and cultural challenges for which many of our theories and categories, devised to explain conditions honed in other realities and historical moments, may no longer be adequate or sufficient. Questions arise about the exhaustion of the promise of market-based modernity, the crisis of neoliberal democracy, the steep environmental costs of dominant models of growth, and the mobilization of civil societies to abuse, inequality, and exclusion. Equally urgently, questions arise about who we must think and dialogue with as part of our efforts to elaborate the right tools to understand new and emergent conditions. The answers will require, I am convinced, renewed attention to the specific experiences of interlocutors from a wide spectrum of civil society organizations and movements. Should I be elected to the Executive Council of LASA, my responsibility would be to ensure continuing support for our Association's commitment to opening up spaces for encuentro and dialogue. In particular, I would like to promote ongoing efforts to reach beyond our conventional scholarly spaces of knowledge production in order to facilitate collaborations between knowledge producers situated in the academy and in civil society. Now, more than ever, we need to promote and support these dialogues and exchanges as fundamental components for enriching our ways of making our scholarship relevant to the needs of the present.

Nominees for Graduate Student

Wilfredo José Burgos Matos

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

I am a singer, writer, performance artist, musicologist and doctoral student with training in literature, ethnography, performance, music, and cultural and media studies. I started my academic career at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. As an undergraduate, I read various novels of the post-dictatorship in the Dominican Republic using the framework of the twelve senses of Rudolf Steiner and theorized new forms of reading internal migration (countryside to the city) from a sensorial perspective from which sound was a central element.

I also hold an MA in Communications from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, for which I did research on Dominican radio stations in Puerto Rico. For this research, I studied the Dominican music scene in Puerto Rico and began doing fieldwork in popular dance venues around which the Dominican music scene had coalesced. The resulting ethnographic study was presented in Puerto Rico, the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

In 2015, I started my doctoral studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. With a focus on Dominican music and sound and gender studies, I worked on a project entitled *The Queerness of Bachata: Mapping Dominican Masculinities through Rhythm*, for which I was awarded the National

Supermarket Association Dominican Studies Fellowship granted by the Dominican Studies Institute of the City College of New York. With this award, I further developed my work with presentations on the topic in New York City and LASA Barcelona, and organized a myriad of events at the Graduate Center where numerous academics held important conversations on music, resistance, Blackness, gender and Dominican sounds. A year later, I was awarded a grant to become one of the research writers of the National Endowment for the Humanities digital project “A History of Dominican Music in the U.S.” That year, I also won an award to establish the teaching and performance project “Culture, *Latinidad*, and Academia: Reimagining Teaching Methodologies through the Poetics of Performance Art” at the CUNY Graduate Center's Teaching and Learning Center.

Prior to continuing my doctoral studies at UT Austin, I served as a Graduate Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY, where I taught courses on performance and *Latinidad*, Latino cultural studies, and Dominican heritage. I have been interested in voicing students since my early years in academia, the reason for which I now serve as the President of the Graduate Student Organization of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and have implemented several initiatives for the professionalization of my peers and have strengthened the relationships between the administration and the students for better studying conditions within our department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the broader UT community. At UT Austin, I also founded the Dominican Studies Reading Group, which has served as a forum for students interested in knowing more about the intellectual state of the field.

My academic and artistic work has been published or presented in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Spain, and the United States. I have presented my performance art and have sung at important venues such as the Harlem's Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling, the Grand Opera House of Delaware, the headquarters of Verso Books, among many other spaces. As a literary writer, I founded an independent editorial project called La Societé Book Project, where I published my first book of short stories, *This Ability* (2018). My short stories have appeared in international publications such as the collection *San Juan Noir* (Akashic Books, 2016), edited by Mayra Santos Febres.

My academic publications have dealt with Puerto Rican poet Julia de Burgos and her significance in the Dominican Republic: “El viaje inconcluso” in the collection *Hablan sobre Julia de Burgos* (Ediciones Gaviota/Casa Paoli, 2014). My other academic works have been published in *Revista Intersecciones*, “Un ebbo diaspórico: Entre Ada Monzón, San Miguely una almohada en el Bronx” (2018); and *Revista Conjunto* of Casa de las Américas, “Academia espiritual: Performance y sanación en el aula neoyorquina” (2017). For the latter article, I have been invited to present on topics of performance, queerness, spirituality and disability in various institutions in the United States. I have also published in *sx salon*, “Offerings to Eternity, Longing of Remembrance” (2018), on the most recent poetry collection by poet Edward Brathwaite. Forthcoming publications will appear in *CENTRO Journal* of the Center of Puerto Rican Studies in 2020.

I am also a proud *espiritista* from the Mesa Blanca tradition of Puerto Rico. Since I was seven years old, I have been offering my spiritual services which are now housed in my online shop Sweet Wisdom. I also serve as the co-producer of *Hablemos Escritoras* Podcast, a project that portrays the works of over 200 Mexican and Latin American women writers.

Burgos Statement

I have been a member of LASA since 2015, when I attended my first conference in Puerto Rico. At the time, as a very young scholar in training, I was not a presenter but did attend to grasp a better sense of how intellectually engaging my life in academia would be. Since that very first moment, I got together with a diverse group of graduate students and junior scholars from all over the world who instilled in me a drive for being passionate about my topics of study.

In light of how historical and central is the ongoing presence of students, graduate or undergraduate, in the formation and sustainability of LASA, I envision working hand in hand with the Executive Council to make sure that the democratization of Latin American knowledges are always appreciated when they come from students whose backgrounds, such as mine, have been shaped by multiple experiences of displacement, homophobia, transphobia, racism, colorism, ableism, colonization, and so on.

I seek to create spaces where a sense of commonality is shaped via strong mentorships for topics that have been consistently overlooked in the most traditional academic sense of Latin American Studies. To do so, I have already started paving the way for us from a leadership position within the organization as the Student Representative of the LASA Latinx Studies Section during 2019-2020. This year, I organized the first workshop solely for graduate students of the field of Latinx Studies, "The State of Mentorship in Latinx Studies: A Workshop for Graduate Students," that will take place in Guadalajara and that will be mentored by two senior scholars in the multiple disciplines that comprise the field (Carlos U. Decena and Nicole Guidotti-Hernández). A rich group of advanced graduate students, the majority of color, will take up space to delve deeper into the constant negotiations that they have endured to navigate their respective institutions with topics that cover spirituality, black Garifuna women and migration, raciolinguistics, and sci-fi literature. While doing so, they will workshop parts of their dissertation projects and will engage in fruitful conversations that will definitely expand their approaches to newer horizons.

As a member of the EC I will make sure that our work as graduate students is appreciated in the strengthening of the broad scope of Latin American Studies. To materialize this, I will gracefully serve as a bridge between the EC and the thousands of graduate and undergraduate students that are members of the association. While making sure that our voices are heard consistently, I will foster the creation of the community I have found within LASA via more workshops and efforts that could materialize in the form of roundtables to put our efforts at the center stage in the making of a stronger LASA. While developing these encounters, I would also like to blur in a conscious way the hierarchies that most of the times have been put between us and the higher ranks of the organization to make sure that collegiality is at the epicenter of knowledge production. We are as much scholars in training as we are the colleagues of a magnificent number of accomplished academics that have served as mentors throughout the years and with whom we have a chance to meet and engage in conversations with every year during our annual conferences. Therefore, my role in the EC, as a queer person of color, will portray that not only as a voice of my student colleagues but also as a presence that breaks the patriarchal, white and heteronormative ways of leadership that we so wishfully deserve to overcome.

Joseph A. Torres-González

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

Joseph A. Torres-González is a doctoral student in Cultural Anthropology at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). Originally from Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Joseph graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus with a B.A. in Social Sciences and Anthropology. Joseph also holds a Graduate Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies from the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he also did graduate studies in Anthropology. His research interests are located in the intersections of cultural and economic anthropology, globalization, commodities and consumption. Joseph's current research project is based in Puerto Rico, and it focuses on coffee consumption, *barismo*, and coffee shops in the island. Joseph has conducted preliminary archival research and fieldwork in Puerto Rico (Spring 2015, Summer 2016 and

Summer 2019), and in New York City (Fall 2018). His last research trip was sponsored (Research Travel Fellowship) by the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies from the CUNY, Graduate Center. He has worked as a Research Assistant at Florida International University for the project “Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the San Juan National Historic Site” (2013); as a Survey Assistant (2015) for the Center for Landscape Conservation in Puerto Rico, and as a Student Fellow of the Tallahassee Ethnographic Methods Field School at the University of Florida (2016). He is currently pursuing pedagogical engagements across the disciplinary boundaries, focusing on environmental anthropology and the economy, which have been funded by the Teaching and Learning Center of the CUNY, Graduate Center (“Focus Inquiry Group”). He is also the recipient of the CUNY Graduate Center Provost’s Digital Innovation Grant. Joseph has been a LASA Member since 2013, in addition to other academic organizations. He is currently a Program Representative at the Doctoral Student Council of the CUNY Graduate Center, a MAGNET Fellow with the CUNY Pipeline Program, and an Adjunct Lecturer at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at Brooklyn College, CUNY.

Torres-González Statement

Para mí sería un privilegio servir como representante estudiantil del Consejo Ejecutivo de la Asociación de Estudios Latinoamericanos (LASA), y trabajar para hacer la organización más democrática, transparente, accesible y relevante para la membresía de nuestra asociación. Mi enfoque como representante estudiantil al Consejo Ejecutivo estaría centrado en tres aspectos importantes: primero, fomentar una cultura abierta y de auditoría; segundo, continuar participando de la creación de oportunidades de apoyo económico y de mentoría para estudiantes posgraduados que provienen de instituciones académicas de escasos recursos (tanto en América Latina y el Caribe, como en América del Norte); y tercero, crear mayores espacios democráticos para estudiantes de posgrado que son parte de nuestra organización. Mi experiencia como representante estudiantil en diferentes consejos estudiantiles institucionales (UPR, SUNY Albany y CUNY Graduate Center) me ha dotado de experiencia en foros de gobernanza estudiantil. Como parte de una cultura abierta y de transparencia, fomentaré la creación de un foro en el que se pueda exponer y detallar las partidas presupuestarias de nuestra organización, particularmente enfocada en los recursos utilizados para subvencionar la investigación posgraduada de nuestra membresía. Adicional, creo firmemente en la creación de mayores oportunidades de apertura e intercambio entre colegas que provienen de instituciones académicas de escasos recursos, promoviendo la creación de fondos de becas para viajar a los congresos de LASA y apoyando sus investigaciones y proyectos. Finalmente, ya que nuestra organización es parte de un continuo diálogo teórico, desearía promover la creación de espacios fuera del Congreso Anual, para que jóvenes investigadores puedan exponer su trabajo en un ambiente de colaboración, apoyo mutuo y centrado en la apertura.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

416 Bellefield Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
lasa@lasaweb.org
Tel: 412-648-7929
Fax: 412-624-7145

