

Elections 2023: Nominating Committee Slate

The LASA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for Vice President, treasurer, and members of the Executive Council (EC). The winning candidate for Vice President will serve in that capacity from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, as President from June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025, 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, 2023, to May 31, 2026. The winning candidate for treasurer will serve as incoming treasurer from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024; and as treasurer from June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2026.

The Candidates

Nominees for Vice President / President-Elect

Javier Guerrero

Latin American Studies, Princeton University, United States

Javier Guerrero is associate professor of Latin American Studies at Princeton University. His research focuses on the intersection between visual culture and sexuality in twentieth- and twenty-first century Latin America. His scholarship centers the body, extensively exploring the unexpected ways in which it participates in its own material processes, at times transforming itself, as it deploys novel technologies that destabilize the symbolic sphere of sex. He also traces the multiple metamorphoses that the body has undergone in contemporary art, cinema, and literature, but also and most notably at the intersections of these media. In recent years, Guerrero has paid special attention to new conditions and matters such as darkness, synthetic bodies, and the archive, prompting reevaluations of knowledges traditionally defined by binary oppositions.

Guerrero is the author of *Escribir después de morir. El archivo y el más allá* (Metales Pesados, 2022); *Tecnologías del cuerpo. Exhibicionismo y visualidad en América Latina* (Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2014); a book on the filmmaker Mauricio Walerstein (FCN, 2002), and the novel *Balnearios de Etiopía* (Eterna Cadencia, 2010). He has edited *Relatos enfermos* (Conaculta/Literal Publishing, 2015), and co-edited *A máquina Pinochet e outros ensaios* (Peixeelétrico, 2016); as well as *Excesos de Cuerpo. Relatos de contagio y enfermedad en América Latina* (Eterna Cadencia 2009, 2012). He has also guest-edited dossiers and special volumes in peer-reviewed journals such as *País Portátil: Venezuelan Contemporary Literature and Arts* (Review, 2021); *Correspondencias del malestar* (Perífrasis, 2021); *Biopolíticas de la visualidad en la necrópolis contemporánea* (Cuadernos de Literatura, 2019) and the two-volume dossier *Cuerpos enfermos/Contagios culturales* (Estudios; 2010, 2011). A book on Chilean writer Diamela Eltit, *El hueso literario*, is forthcoming.

His most recent monograph, *Escribir después de morir. El archivo y el más allá*, argues that writers' and visual artists' archives transcend the funereal condition traditionally associated with the archive, giving rise to new permutations that challenge the sharp division between living and dying, between an author's material end and the end of artistic production. The book examines a variety of media and artifacts found in the archive—photographs, sketches, personal possessions, and even cadavers—and considers how each offers a way of understanding life and the body that challenges the notion of death as the final instance of authorship. This work looks beyond death to examine that which comes to life in the afterlife, developing and surviving independently from the author's living hand. The critic and/or the loving communities that allow the author to survive therefore play a large part in detaching death from the end of artistic production. As we touch the archive, we awaken the forms suspended in its documentation, documentation that now serves as a preview of their future lives. The archive lies beyond the closed circuit of life, beyond post-mortem inspection; in other words, the archive is simply conceived beyond.

At Princeton, Guerrero has been Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, acting director for the Program in Latin American Studies, and has been on the executive committees for the Program in Gender & Sexuality, Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities, and the Program in Latin American Studies. His scholarship has also been shaped by symposia, panels, and special projects such as: *Visual Archives: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Visualities, Visibilities, and the Politics of Looking* (2013); *Poisonous Flowers; Radical Women in Latin America* (2017); *The Digital Turn: Dialogues for Latin American Cinema* (2017); *Drag Kings: An Archeology of Spectacular Masculinities in Latinx America* (2019); and the *Rita Segato Seminar* (2022), among many others. In 2023, he will teach a second iteration of the global seminar *Images in Transition: Arts and Politics in Chile's Transition to Democracy*, based in Santiago de Chile.

Beyond Princeton, Guerrero has served as juror for literary and film awards such as the Premio Fil de Literatura en Lenguas Romances (2022). He has been deeply involved in professional associations like the Latin American Studies Association. He was an elected chair of the Section on Venezuelan Studies at LASA and track co-chair for Literary Studies (2020) and Film Studies (2023). He also received the Latin American Studies Association's Sylvia Molloy Award for the best peer-reviewed article in the Humanities published in 2016.

Before coming to the United States in 2005, Guerrero served as President of the Venezuelan Cinemateca Nacional, where he curated more than twenty-five international film series and festivals and oversaw radical transformations that revamped processes of film distribution, preservation, and documentation. He was also a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF).

He is currently working on three new books: *Synthetic Skin: On Dolls and Miniature Cultures*; *La impugnación de la luz: soberanías oscuras en América Latina*; and *The Cinema of Cruelty*. Javier Guerrero holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies from New York University and a *Licenciatura* in Film Studies from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Guerrero Statement

Fundamentally transdisciplinary and transnational, my work has forged connections between diverse disciplines, regions, bodies of knowledge, and institutions while centering the complex intersections of Latin American studies, materiality, gender, the body, and the archive. Along the way, I have questioned paradigms and deconstructed binaries, reimagining my approach to institutional aims to unlock possibilities for radical politics.

Throughout my academic career, I have understood the work we do as dynamic and collective, positioning myself not just as a researcher or professor at Princeton University, but as an instigator of dialogues between hemispheres and disciplines, between varied bodies of knowledge and unconventional epistemological perspectives, reimagining in the process the future topographies of the fields I move within. I have organized numerous symposia, conferences, lecture series, panels, and film festivals that, stemming from a collaborative horizontality, have generated lively debate and direct interventions in various fields.

As an association, LASA has opened channels of communication between North and South, promoting Latin American studies the world over. Our annual conference is an undeniable reference for those who think critically about Latin America and has generated ongoing dialogue about one of the most complex regions on the planet. I have accepted my candidacy in the hopes of contributing to what I consider among the most worthwhile goals of our association: mitigating the disparities of access to research that plague our field and our regions. Hence, I propose the following policies to strengthen LASA's existing pillars while reimagining certain aspects of the association given the difficult times we currently live in.

1. In addition to offering an annual space for Latin American dialogue, LASA must develop innovative research tools to ameliorate the immense inequities that mar the territories it represents. I aim to reinforce recent measures taken by the association, making LASA an institution that offers permanent accessibility to resources for inter-hemispheric exchange. Given the increasing precarity of many of our countries and institutions– and the ensuing inaccessibility of databases and archives– LASA must commit to providing resource accessibility via its professional networks.

2. LASA must establish permanent research channels that connect institutions and initiatives with complementary goals and provide tools for their collaboration. With an emphasis on North-South dialogues and transdisciplinary endeavors, this will target the debilitating atomization of knowledge that affects both our regions and our field.

3. As part of my efforts to bolster LASA's ever-important annual conferences and events, a central part of my vice-presidential and presidential tasks will be procuring resources to bolster participation of Latin American researchers, students, and professors, as well as pushing to organize in Latin America or other historically relevant regions. As COVID-19 has underscored the advantages and drawbacks of both virtual and in-person modalities, I propose a serious reconsideration of our approach to our Latin American dialogues.

4. The participation of postgraduates and professors at institutions with limited resources both in Latin America and elsewhere constitutes one of the association's fundamental goals. Allocating resources to facilitate the presence of these communities is of vital importance.

5. The association must address disparities of race, gender, and sexual orientation. In addition to important quota work, I propose a sincere discussion about the diversification of our professional association. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I will prioritize the participation of underrepresented collectives in decision-making processes within LASA.

6. LASA must continue to be a pluralistic association of free expression and critical thinking where myriad global and regional positions converge, as our pluralism is what guarantees our continued longevity. As such, I will encourage democratic debates that respect the legitimate right of dissention and generate both critique and consensus.

Amy Lind

Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies, University of Cincinnati, United States

Amy Lind is Mary Ellen Heintz Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati (UC), where she is also a faculty affiliate of the Latin American, Caribbean, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x Studies Program, School of Public and International Affairs, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and College of Design, Art, Architecture, and Planning. She served as WGSS Department Head in 2015-18 and Provost Fellow in 2017-18. Since January 2019, she is Director of UC's Taft Research Center, a center that provides research support and programming in the humanities and social sciences at the university, in Cincinnati, and beyond.

Within LASA, Dr. Lind has held several leadership positions. She was elected to serve as Co-Chair of the Gender and Feminist Studies section and as Treasurer of the Sexualities section, in addition to participating in other sections including the Ecuador and Bolivia sections; Culture, Power, and Politics; *Otros Saberes*; Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples; and the Expert Witness section. She served on the organizing committees of two LASA Gender and Feminist Studies section pre-conferences, one in Rio de Janeiro, one in Washington, D.C. She also served on the Academic Freedom and Human Rights committee and on the Bryce Wood Book Award and LASA-Ford Special Projects review committees. Twice she served as Track Chair for LASA conferences: Once as the sole Chair of the Gender and Sexuality Studies track, another year as Co-Chair of the Feminist Studies track.

Dr. Lind's research is guided by three general themes: Gender, development and feminisms in the Americas; sexual/queer politics and global governance; and indigeneity, intersectionality, and sovereignty. She examines the relationship between postcolonial development and governance as they affect women's, LGBTQ+, and indigenous people's rights, identities, and notions of justice. Her research draws from cultural studies and political economy, and generally employs an intersectional and transnational feminist approach to studies of identity and social change.

Dr. Lind's first book, *Gendered Paradoxes: Women's Movements, State Restructuring, and Global Development in Ecuador* (Penn State University Press, 2005), is a multi-sited ethnography of women's organized responses to state and economic restructuring in Ecuador during the 1980-2005 neoliberal period. In it, she examines the contradictions of "development" as it is imagined and understood in the postcolonial Andes, particularly through women's organizing and resistance.

In four edited volumes, Dr. Lind has sought to engage questions that include how marginalized groups of people in the Global South resist and negotiate "development," how states and global institutions construct norms and govern identities, and what it means to "queer/cuir" analyses of development, immigration, international political economy, and political subjectivities.

Dr. Lind's current research focuses on struggles for autonomy and plurinationalism in the Andes, specifically in Ecuador, with secondary case studies in Bolivia and Chile. She has published on concepts of nation and plurinationalism, indigeneity and transnational studies, redefining the family in neoliberal and "postneoliberal" governance frameworks, and on thinking toward a more just, decolonial future.

Dr. Lind is a four-time Fulbright scholar. Through grants, fellowships, and other invitations, she has held visiting research and faculty positions at universities and graduate institutes including FLACSO-Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador), Posgrado en Ciencias del Desarrollo - Universidad Mayor San Andrés (CIDES-UMSA, La Paz, Bolivia), Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios - Universidad Mayor San Simón (CESUUMSS, Cochabamba, Bolivia), and Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement/Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. In this capacity, she has taught six graduate-level courses in Gender Studies, Politics, Andean Studies, and Development Studies MA and PhD programs. She has also consulted for United Nations agencies and she routinely serves as an expert witness for asylum cases in the United States, including cases focused on persecution on the basis of gender-based violence, ethnic/racial violence, political violence, and perceived sexual identity, gender identity, and/or HIV/AIDS status.

Dr. Lind is Co-Editor-in-Chief and a member of the editorial collective of *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. As Taft Research Center Director, she is also an elected board member of the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. She holds a BA from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a PhD from Cornell University.

Lind Statement

I am honored and delighted to be nominated for the position as Vice-President of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). LASA has been my primary intellectual home since the early 1990s, when I first became a member. I attended my first conference in Washington, D.C. in 1991 and have attended almost every conference since then. I have also served in several leadership roles over the years, including co-chairing the Gender and Feminist Studies section and co-chairing two of the section's pre-conferences, serving as Treasurer and actively participating in the Sexualities section, and serving on the Academic Freedom and Human Rights committee and the Bryce Wood Book Award and LASA-Ford Special Projects review committees. These experiences, coupled with the rich dialogue, exchanges, and personal connections I have made through attending LASA conferences, provide a strong basis from which I am prepared and excited to work with LASA's Executive Council if I am elected to this position.

Between my introduction to LASA in 1991 and 2023, it's clear that LASA has significantly transformed over the years. LASA now has more than 40 sections, representing a wide range of areas of interest. LASA's membership is truly global now, with over 60% of LASA members residing outside North America, a testament both to demand in Latin America for participation in LASA and to LASA's hard work to make fee structures and participation more accessible to scholars across the hemisphere.

Of course, there have been obstacles along the way. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and related crises, and ongoing inequalities across the hemisphere and in the world at large, continue to challenge us to ask difficult questions and seek more equitable solutions. Within LASA, the Executive Council has worked hard to democratize membership and conference fees, although we know that the current fee structure may not be sustainable. We will need to continue revisiting that policy to strike a balance between maintaining and growing a sustainable association budget, on one hand, and working toward further diversifying LASA membership through inclusive, accessible policies. And, now that in-person and virtual conferences have become the norm, LASA will need to further consider this transition as well. Despite these challenges, I believe there is great potential for LASA's future.

Accessibility is a key issue we need to continue addressing within LASA. One silver lining of the pandemic has been LASA's transition to holding both in-person and virtual conferences, which significantly opened up opportunities for a broader public to attend conferences. In addition, LASA's new fee structure, while not necessarily a long-term financial solution, is one important step toward establishing a permanent, sustainable fee structure for individuals and institutions based in Latin America and for under-resourced people in general. As we witness the rise of contingent faculty and the cutting back of university funds for conference travel, and economic conditions in Latin America that make it difficult if not impossible for people to travel to conferences, it is crucial that we continue focusing on accessibility.

In addition to economic accessibility, we need to work more toward further diversifying LASA programming and leadership. LASA could create research networks that further incentivize interdisciplinary collaborations; LASA's vibrant sections could play an important role in this, and in governance more generally. It would be fantastic to offer virtual workshops and other mentorship opportunities for graduate students and early career faculty. LASA could collaborate more with smaller publishers not always well-represented at large academic conferences and with local organizations and communities in conference host cities. Fundraising and grant-writing are also key in building LASA's endowment and securing support for these initiatives.

The pandemic, ongoing structural inequalities, and growing authoritarian practices in the region call on us to rethink the traditional ways we've conceptualized our work. I welcome the opportunity to enhance LASA's commitment to accessibility, diversity, and inclusion; to explore ways to enhance the role of sections; and to envision new programs and initiatives, beyond the annual conference, that LASA offers to its members.

Nominees for Executive Council

Xóchitl Bada

Sociology; University of Illinois/Chicago, United States

Xóchitl Bada is an Associate Professor in the Latin American and Latino Studies Program of the University of Illinois, Chicago. She has a Ph.D. in Sociology by the University of Notre Dame, and masters degrees in Social Sciences and Political Science from the University of Chicago and the New School for Social Research in New York City. She grew up in Veracruz, Mexico and has a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City. She has been living in the United States for 25 years.

Her areas of specialization include migrant access to political and social rights, collective remittances, migration and development, Black-Latinx relations, migrant organizing strategies, violence and displacement, rural migration, social accountability, and transnational labor advocacy mobilization in Mexico and the United States. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Forced Migration Review*, *Population, Space, and Place*, *Latino Studies*, *Journal of Migration and Ethnic Studies*, *The Latinamericanist*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, and *Labor Studies Journal*.

She is the author of *Mexican Hometown Associations in Chicagoacán: From Local to Transnational Civic Engagement* (Rutgers University Press, 2014) and coauthor with Shannon Gleeson of *Scaling Migrant Worker Rights, How Advocates Collaborate and Contest State Power* (University of California Press, 2023). She is co-editor of the books *New Migration Patterns in the Americas, Challenges for the 21st Century* (with Andreas Feldmann and Stephanie Schütze, Palgrave, 2018), *Accountability across Borders: Migrant Rights in North America* (with Shannon Gleeson, The University of Texas Press, 2019), *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Latin America* (with Liliana Rivera Sánchez, 2020), *The Routledge History of Modern Latin American Migration* (with Andreas Feldmann, Stephanie Schütze, and Jorge Durand 2022), and *The Routledge Handbook of Transnational Studies* (2023 with Margit Fauser). In 2019, she was a fellow at the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study (WIKO). She has been a fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame and a visiting professor at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. She is active in her faculty union and currently serves as the co-chair of the bargaining committee of UIC United Faculty, local 6456 in Chicago, Illinois.

She has attended LASA Congresses regularly since 2001 and has served as Associate Editor and Prize Committee member for the *Latin American Research Review*. She has also served as Track Chair for the Latinx Studies section and as committee member for the Bryce Wood Book Award. She is a member of the International Migration, Labor Studies, and Mexico sections. Her nonacademic work experience includes serving as executive assistant to the director of Mexico's Archivo General de la Nación and also worked for the Mexican Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Mexico City.

Bada Statement

I am deeply honored to be a candidate for the Executive Council at the Latin American Studies Association. I have actively participated in LASA since I was a graduate student and this is my favorite professional association. Over the past two decades, my research has been anchored in interdisciplinary inquiries, including legal studies, sociology, political science, international relations, public affairs, and history. I have been involved in collaborations with academic scholars in Spain, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. I am also involved in participatory action research projects including collaborations with numerous immigrant rights organizations in Mexico and the United States. I regularly receive doctoral students from Brazil and Mexico interested in conducting fieldwork on migrant-led civil society in the United States. I frequently participate in dissertation committees in Mexican universities and have served as a reviewer for academic journals and publishers in Mexico, Peru, Chile, the United States, and Europe.

LASA is very well positioned to encourage action research collaborations that include teams of practitioners, journalists, academic and nonacademic researchers, as well as and Non-governmental organization advocates. LASA should be the most important professional association in the region, one that constantly promotes candid conversations about the ways in which the association can contribute to decolonize knowledge. LASA has 13,000 members and over 60 percent reside outside of the United States. It has been a long journey for LASA to achieve this level of engagement and geographical diversity among its members. I am committed to find innovative ways of disseminating knowledge produced by all LASA members in multiple formats and platforms. I am interested in improving LASA presence on social media, the communication platforms for LASA sections, and the promotion of engaged collaborative research projects and knowledge dissemination efforts with civil society actors in the region.

I am also interested in fostering interdisciplinary North-South dialogues while upholding LASA's missions of nurturing intellectual discussion, research and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, its people and Diasporas throughout the Americas. I would like to enhance civic engagement through network building and public debate. I believe the diversity of the multiple LASA sections has great potential to increase the crosspollination of North-South dialogues. I am interested in supporting LASA's Executive Council to offer a better infrastructure for interdisciplinary working groups that can produce research collaboration and multilingual publications across the Americas. LASA should be a leader in advocating the increase of multilingual academic book production by encouraging publishers in the region to engage in translations.

Jurgen Buchenau

History; University of North Carolina/Charlotte, United States

Jürgen Buchenau is Professor of History and Latin American Studies at UNC Charlotte. He completed his Ph.D. at UNC Chapel Hill in 1993. His research focuses on Mexico since the late 19th century, and especially the Mexican Revolution, political violence, U.S.-Mexican relations, business and economic history, immigration, national identity, and political culture. Buchenau is the author and/or editor of twelve books, including one in press. In addition, he has authored or co-authored 37 book chapters and articles in English, Spanish, and German.

Buchenau's research is interdisciplinary and multilingual and transcends the boundaries of political, economic, social, and cultural history. One of its primary concerns has been the global history of Mexico as a version of James Scott's "weapons of the weak"—an effort to forestall the overweening influence of the United States. Another has been to study Mexico as a target rather than source of immigrants; and a third probes the persistence of political violence long after the military phase of the revolution had ended. Buchenau is currently working on a book on U.S.-Mexican relations.

Buchenau's first monograph, *In the Shadow of the Giant: The Making of Mexico's Central America Policy, 1876-1930* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1996) combines international history with political culture. Written during a time of revolution and U.S. intervention in Central America, the book examines Mexican efforts to mitigate such intervention. The Mexican government has reconciled nationalism with the strictures of its geopolitical environment. Foreign policy has served an important domestic purpose, legitimizing an oligarchy in league with foreign investors. But it also made that oligarchy a leader in global discourses that sought to forestall imperialist military intervention and also advocated for an international capitalist system that distributed resources more fairly.

Tools of Progress: A German Merchant Clan in Mexico City, 1865-Present (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004) studied the cultural and social history of an international family business. This work is a transnational history of a German merchant clan in Mexico City. Contextualized in the larger trends of migration, the history of capitalism, and Mexican nationalism, the book explains why Mexico, unlike Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, never saw largescale immigration. It also offers a rare analysis of a mid-sized department store that once stood at the vanguard of modernization, only to be overshadowed by multinational corporations and shopping malls.

Buchenau's recent focus on the Mexican Revolution has resulted in three monographs and a coauthored synthesis. This work reappraises the Revolution by means of studying its winners, the "Sonoran Dynasty." The prize-winning *Plutarco Elías Calles and the Mexican Revolution* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007) revealed how the Sonorans distilled the revolutionary process into a party that governed without interruption from 1929 to 2000. The book analyzed populist leadership in Latin America and also a group of entrepreneurial military leaders who sought to remake Mexico in the image of the desert north. *The Last Caudillo: Alvaro Obregón and the Mexican Revolution* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011) studied a revolutionary general who rose from humble beginnings to become Mexico's preeminent politician. The book evaluates Obregón's personality cult as the primary macho hero of the revolution. The larger insights from these two books also informed a work of synthesis published by Duke University Press in 2013, a History Book Club selection co-authored with Gilbert M. Joseph. The capstone of this series is *The Sonoran Dynasty in Mexico: Revolution, Reform, and Repression* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, in press). This book studies the Sonoran group as a whole, including its lesser-known members. The work is the only comprehensive study of a dysfunctional and fractious group that has often been taken for granted as the bedrock of the revolutionary regime that emerged from the bloodshed of the 1910s.

Buchenau is an accomplished grant writer and fundraiser, both for his own work and the organizations that he has served. He has contributed to almost USD 2,000,000 in federal grants at UNC Charlotte, including two prestigious fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and several grants for the Latin American Studies program that he founded in the 2000s. In addition, he helped raise close to USD 3,800,000 in private donations. As the outgoing co-Executive Director of the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH), Buchenau helped attract more than \$40,000 for the general work of the organization and three new prizes, including one in progress.

Buchenau serves Latin Americanist organizations with verve and enthusiasm. Aside from the CLAH, which he has served for the past eleven years, he has also been president of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, and the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association. He is also editor of *The Latin Americanist* and two book series. He has served LASA on both the Nominations Committee and the Development Committee.

Buchenau Statement

It has never been more important to serve academic societies than now, when neoliberalism, precarity, and austerity threaten the survival of academic and intellectual inquiry. LASA stands at the forefront of the fight of the humanities and social sciences to stay relevant, at a time when the insights gleaned by the practitioners of these disciplines are more important than ever. LASA is the premier organization in the entire world representing Latin American Studies.

I would be most delighted to serve LASA as an Executive Council member for the next two years. It is a true honor to have been nominated as a candidate for a major role in an organization of more than 13,000 members, most of whom reside outside the United States. The LASA mission statement endeavors "to foster academic discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America and its people throughout the Americas, promote the interests of its diverse membership, and to encourage civic engagement through network building and public debate." I am more than up to the task of helping LASA continue to implement this mission, having served both this organization and three other Latin Americanist academic societies since the award of my doctorate thirty years ago, and having spearheaded graduate and undergraduate curricula in Latin American Studies at UNC Charlotte, my place of employment since 1999.

I have been a participant in LASA congresses since 1994, when I presented my first major conference paper of any kind at the Congress in Atlanta. It was a life-changing experience for someone teaching world history at a small private college outside Charlotte, NC, straight out of graduate school. Since then, I have considered the LASA Congress the heart and soul of the organization: the place where Latin Americanist scholarship, teaching, and solidarity is on display and at its very best.

The issue of access to the Congress and LASA in general would be my primary focus if I am lucky enough to be elected to the Executive Council. Through its online and hybrid Congresses since COVID, LASA has done much to facilitate participation in its signature event. Much more needs to be done, especially as academia face a post-professorial future in which contingent rather than permanent faculty teach the majority of our students. At any given time, contingent faculty face termination of their employment, either for not teaching enough students or for speaking out against university or public policy priorities. LASA membership and Congress participation is a great value proposition but carries a relatively high price. I would like to find ways to lower it.

To grow the LASA membership at a time when faculty numbers are shrinking, I am also interested in continuing to broaden our reach to primary and secondary school educators, independent scholars, and members of our various publics, representing the diversity of our constituents. As a department chair and program director, I worked hard to increase diversity in all forms in the units under my care: I would pursue the same objectives as an Executive Council member.

Emilio Crenzel

Sociology; Universidad de Buenos Aires/CONICET, Argentina

Soy sociólogo y Doctor en Ciencias Sociales por la Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina). Actualmente, me desempeño como Investigador Principal del Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), como Profesor de la Carrera de Sociología de la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de Buenos Aires y de cursos de posgrado. Mi sede de investigación es el Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani, donde dirijo el *Grupo de Estudios sobre Historia Reciente y Memoria Social* que reúne a tesis doctorales e investigadores posdoctorales que estudian la historia y los legados de las violaciones a los derechos humanos en la Argentina en conexión con procesos regionales y globales de verdad, justicia, memoria y reparación.

Soy autor de varios libros sobre estos temas: *La historia política del Nunca Más: La memoria de las desapariciones en Argentina* (Siglo XXI, 2008 y reeditado en 2014), traducido al inglés (Routledge, 2011 y 2017), al francés (L´Harmattan, 2016), al italiano (ed.it, 2016) y al portugués (Letra e voz, 2020); *Memorias enfrentadas: el voto a Bussi en Tucumán* (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, 2001); *El Tucumanazo* (Centro Editor de América Latina, 1991, reeditado por la Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, 2001 y 2014).

También, edité los libros *Los desaparecidos en la Argentina: Memorias, representaciones e ideas* (1983-2008) (Biblos, 2010), *Las luchas por la memoria en América latina: historia reciente y violencia política* –junto a Eugenia Allier– (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México y Bonilla Editores, 2015 e Iberoamericana, 2016) traducido al inglés (Palgrave, 2015) e *Historia y Memoria de la represión contra los trabajadores en Argentina. Consentimiento, oposición y vida cotidiana (1974- 1983)* –junto a Camillo Robertini– (Peter Lang, 2022).

He publicado artículos sobre historia reciente, memoria y derechos humanos en revistas internacionales como *Memory Studies*, *Journal of Social History*, *The International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *Global Society*, *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais*, *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*, *Política y Sociedad*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *Bulletin of Latin American Research* y capítulos en editoriales prestigiosas: Fondo de Cultura Económica, Gedisa, Biblos, Palgrave, Paidós, Lom, Cambridge University Press, Universitaires de Paris Nanterre, entre otras.

Desde 2000, he dirigido proyectos de investigación en la Universidad de Buenos Aires y he sido director, codirector o investigador de proyectos financiados por la British Academy, la UNAM, México, la Fundación Leverhulme Trust 2009; el Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico de Brasil; Arts and Humanities Research Council del Reino Unido, LABEX PasP de Francia o el V Programa Marco de Cooperación de la Unión Europea.

He dirigido 8 tesis doctorales aprobadas y 5 tesis de maestría y actualmente dirijo 7 tesistas doctorales. Fui jurado de 18 tesis doctorales, 15 de maestría y evaluador de programas de posgrado, de proyectos de investigación en Argentina y otros países de América Latina pero, también, del European Research Council, European Science Foundation y del Standard Research Grants Program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canadá.

He dictado conferencias en universidades y centros de investigación prestigiosos como el Latin American Centre de la Universidad de Oxford, el Goldsmith Institute y el Birkbeck College de la Universidad de Londres, en el Institute for Advanced Studies de la Universidad de Minnesota, en la University of Technology de Melbourne, en la Universidad de Roma Tré, en McGill University, Montreal, en Michigan Central University, en el Centre d'Estudis sobre les Èpoques Franquista i Democràtica de Barcelona, en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, en la Universidad Federal y en la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Río de Janeiro, en la Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, en la Universidad de la República (Uruguay) y en la Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil. He dictado cursos de posgrado en la Universidad Hebrea de Jerusalem, en la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, en la Universidad Diego Portales y en la Universidad de Valparaíso (Chile). Soy miembro de la "Red de Literatura y Derechos Humanos", coordinada por Emilia Perassi y Laura Scarabelli de la Universidad degli Studi de Milán; integro el Colectivo de Historia Reciente (Argentina), el "Centro de estudios sociales y culturales de la memoria" (CESYCME), de la Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá y soy Investigador Asociado del Goldsmith Institute, Universidad de Londres. Finalmente, entre 2016 y 2018 co presidí, elegido por el voto de sus miembros, la sección "Historia Reciente y memoria" de LASA y en 2018 el Track *Human Rights and Memory* de LASA.

Recientemente, junto a Eugenia Allier, obtuve el premio LASA-Ford, que financiará un proyecto que analizará la trayectoria que asumieron durante cuarenta años las comisiones de la verdad en América Latina y su relación con las memorias y voces de las víctimas de los pasados de violaciones a los derechos humanos en el continente.

Crenzel Statement

Comparto con ustedes mi postulación para integrar el Comité Ejecutivo de LASA. Pueden consultar mi trayectoria académica en mi Bio. Aquí les presento con más detalle mi participación en diversas instancias de LASA y, sintéticamente, las ideas que impulsaré en el marco del Comité en caso de que fuese elegido para integrarlo.

Mi primera participación en LASA fue como expositor en el congreso realizado en Río de Janeiro en 2009. Pude asistir porque conté con el apoyo de un proyecto financiado por una universidad sueca. Mi siguiente participación se demoró por falta de fondos y sólo la pude concretar cuando conté con un subsidio de viaje otorgado por LASA para asistir al congreso desarrollado en San Francisco en mayo de 2012. Desde entonces, supe de la importancia de las ayudas que LASA brinda a estudiantes y a investigadores para asistir a sus congresos. Años después conté con un subsidio similar para asistir al congreso de LASA en Nueva York. LASA cumplía entonces 50 años. El aniversario puso en evidencia su crecimiento y transformación experimentada en medio siglo. De reunir un par de centenares de miembros, en su mayoría investigadores sobre América latina radicados en los Estados Unidos, LASA superaba los diez mil miembros y en un 65% radicados, principalmente, en América latina.

En el congreso de Nueva York fui electo por mis pares como Co-Presidente de la sección de “Historia reciente y Memoria”, luego en 2018 como Co-Presidente del Track: “Human Rights and Memory”, entre 2018-2020 como miembro del Human Rights Subcommittee of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Human Rights de la Latin American Studies Association y entre 2021-2023 representante suplente de la Sección Historia y Memoria ante el Consejo Ejecutivo de LASA. Desde estos puestos impulsé discusiones interdisciplinarias sobre tópicos claves del campo de estudios de la historia reciente y la memoria y, a la vez, iniciativas comprometidas con la defensa de los derechos humanos, la búsqueda de verdad y justicia ante las violaciones a los derechos humanos en las américas.

Simultáneamente, profundicé mis vínculos con colegas de los diversos países que participan en diferentes secciones de LASA, identificando los desafíos que enfrenta la Asociación en función de experimentar un crecimiento exponencial y un cambio substantivo en su membresía.

Estos retos se han agudizado en el marco de la pandemia del Covid-19, la guerra en Europa, la lucha por la hegemonía global, la expansión de representaciones políticas de extrema derecha, la crisis medioambiental y el crecimiento de la desigualdad al interior de las sociedades y entre países.

En ese marco, mi intención es impulsar desde el Comité Ejecutivo un firme compromiso de LASA con la defensa de la democracia, la justicia social, el resguardo de los derechos de las minorías y la preservación del medio ambiente.

El escenario global ha tenido indudable impacto en la membresía latinoamericana de LASA. Nos es cada vez más difícil financiar viajes, estadías y gastos en los congresos de la Asociación e, incluso, renovar la membresía. Esta situación exige buscar fórmulas creativas para evitar una suerte de elitización que conspire contra la diversidad de LASA. En este sentido, mi compromiso se extiende a impulsar iniciativas que vigoricen la participación de minorías marginadas, incluso, en el mundo académico.

Por último, impulsaré formas de intercambio y debate en y entre las secciones que trasciendan los congresos, buscando profundizar la discusión intelectual. En síntesis, colaboraré en la construcción de una LASA diversa y comprometida con los valores que la constituyeron y la hacen la asociación académica líder a escala internacional en el campo de las humanidades y las ciencias sociales.

April Mayes

History; Pomona College, 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 feminismos 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.

Jocelyn Olcott

History; Duke University, United States

Jocelyn Olcott is Professor of History; International Comparative Studies; and Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies at Duke University and has recently completed a term as director of GSFS. Her research and teaching center on interdisciplinary questions related to gender and feminism, particularly with a focus on efforts to obtain recognition for their social, cultural, and ecological care labors. Jocelyn received her PhD from Yale University, where she studied with Gilbert M. Joseph and Emilia Viotti da Costa. After starting as an Assistant Professor at California State University, Fullerton, she has spent most of her career at Duke, where she has served on the steering committee for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the editorial advisory board of Duke University Press, an important English-language publisher in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She also served for five years (2012-2017) as a senior editor of *Hispanic American Historical Review*. Since joining LASA in 1998, she has attended nearly all the congresses has served on two program committees and two book prize committees.

Jocelyn's earlier work took up a question that preoccupied historians of twentieth-century Mexico: Was Mexico's 1910-17 revolution truly "revolutionary"? Adopting a comparative approach among five regions within Mexico and centering women and gender in its analysis, *Revolutionary Women in Postrevolutionary Mexico* (Duke UP, 2005) demonstrates that women, who lacked formal citizenship rights, played a central role in shaping a gendered concept of revolutionary citizenship. *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics, and Power in Modern Mexico* (Duke University Press, 2006; Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2009), co-edited with Gabriela Cano and Mary Kay Vaughan, brought together a collection of essays exploring the ways the revolution opened space to challenge gendered constraints in politics, society, and culture — and then quickly closed it back down.

Jocelyn's second monograph, *International Women's Year: The Greatest Consciousness-Raising Event in History* (Oxford University Press, 2017), tells the story of the iconic 1975 United Nations International Women's Year conference in Mexico City. The book received an honorable mention for LASA's Bryce Wood Book Award and was a co-winner of the Ida BlomKaren Offen Prize in Transnational Women's and Gender History, awarded by the International Federation for Research in Women's History.

Jocelyn also edited a special issue of *Hispanic American Historical Review* (2011) focused on the history of paid and unpaid domestic labor in Latin America. With Lori Flores, she edited the fourth edition of *The Academic's Handbook* (Duke University Press, 2020).

Jocelyn has been a regular attendee of LASA regular (and member) since 1998 and has served on program and prize committees for LASA as well as for the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH).

Olcott Statement

LASA has played a critical role in my intellectual development since I was a graduate student. The LASA congress was among the very first academic conferences that I attended, and I was hooked right away by the energy, the interdisciplinarity, and — as my fellow Latin Americanist Elisabeth Jay Friedman put it — the opportunity to dance with my bibliography at the gran baile. Since then, I have served twice on the program committee and twice on book prize committees, each time enjoying the opportunity to work with a new set of colleagues I might otherwise never have met. In part because of LASA's influence, my own work has become increasingly interdisciplinary over the course of my career, as I've moved more into the realm of gender and feminist studies and, more recently, care studies.

Throughout my career, I've benefitted immensely from the opportunity to work with colleagues from Latin America. In 2001, the year after I completed my PhD, a group of us convened to discuss why the history of women and gender in Mexico had not generated the kind of robust and coherent historiography that had developed in the Southern Cone. That conference produced two edited volumes and launched an international network that has alternated meeting in the US and Mexico every few years ever since. I had the honor of delivering a keynote address at the last convening — in March 2020! — and remain blown away by the exciting new research being done by young scholars in this field both within and outside Mexico.

In 2018, I launched what has become Revaluing Care in the Global Economy, an international, interdisciplinary network of scholars centered on the political economy of care. The network includes a strong representation of Latin American scholars, and we've particularly benefitted from the work of the Red de Investigación de Trabajo del Hogar en América Latina (RITHAL), which is also quite active in LASA. The field of Care Studies is deeply interdisciplinary, drawing from other disciplines

such as Black, indigenous, and Latinx studies as well as from disciplinary subfields such as feminist ethics and feminist economics. Generations of feminist intellectuals have investigated the question of how to ascribe value to the vast amounts of time, labor, attention, and expertise required to sustain societies, cultures, and ecologies. Particularly in contexts with strong liberal traditions, solutions have centered on policy- and market-based approaches — often leavened by magical thinking about the promise of technology to alleviate these burdens — but rarely address the underlying factors that enforce this labor system, including its pronounced maldistribution toward poor women from racially and ethnically marginalized communities. Given the robust scholarship at the intersection of Latin American Studies and Care Studies, I would be eager to search for ways to strengthen similar intellectual connections. The Association's future likely depends upon identifying and strengthening extra-regional connections and networks.

Julieta Suarez-Cao

Political Science; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Julieta Suarez-Cao is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Political Science of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University, USA, and a B.A. from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina). She is currently the vice-chair of the Institute of Political Science and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition to Chile, Julieta has taught at Northwestern University, Sciences Po (Poitiers), and the University of Buenos Aires.

Her areas of expertise are subnational politics, political parties, women's representation, and electoral systems. Julieta has published extensively in specialized journals (*Politics & Gender, Comparative Politics, Hague Journal on the Rule of Law, Regional & Federal Studies, Bulletin of Latin American Research, Revista de Ciencia Política, Colombia Internacional, and Revista SAAP*, among others) and co-edited two books: one on women and politics in Latin America *La política siempre ha sido cosa de mujeres* (FLACSO, 2018), and *Territorio y poder: nuevos actores y competencia política* (Ediciones de la Universidad de Salamanca, 2014).

Julieta is part of the Editorial Board of several scientific journals published in English and Spanish: *PS: Political Science and Politics; European Journal of Politics and Gender; Governance; Politics; Revista de Ciencia Política; and Revista SAAP*. She is one of the coordinators of *Red de Politólogas #NoSinMujeres* (Network of Women Political Scientists) composed of over 800 women political scientists from all over the world. *Red de Politólogas* seeks to promote the research and visibility of female political scientists in Latin America. She is also a member of the Advisory Council to the *Observatorio de Reformas Políticas en América Latina*, and of GIPSAL (Research Group of Parties and Party Systems in Latin America) at the Latin American Political Science Association (ALACIP). She is currently the Treasurer of the Research Committee #18 Political Sociology of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Julieta has a long history at LASA. Being an active member since 2001, Julieta has participated in the LAPIS section as a council member and treasurer. In this capacity, she participated in committees that decided on awards and travel grants. She has also headed the Democratization track for LASA2021 and participated in the LASA-FORD grants committee.

In addition to her scholarly activities, Julieta has had an impact on real politics as well. In 2016, she collaborated with the design of the electoral rules for the election of regional governors in Chile, a milestone of political decentralization. After the 2019 social upheaval, she designed the electoral system reform with gender parity for the elections of delegates to the Constitutional Assembly in 2021 and

participated in the constitutional discussion. Currently, she is designing the electoral rules to elect the new delegates in 2023, again securing that the Constitutional Council is equally composed of men and women. In 2022, Julieta won the WGPRS Public Engagement Award from the American Political Science Association (APSA) in recognition of her contribution to the public realm.

Suarez-Cao Statement

My vision for LASA includes goals that underpin its mission. I am convinced that LASA does a great job promoting “intellectual debate, research, and teaching about Latin America, the Caribbean, and its inhabitants; promote the interests of its diverse membership and encourage civic engagement through networking and public debate.” But there is room to do things even better.

- *Solidify gender-mainstreaming in the governance of LASA and the organization of the International Congress, by consolidating presence and safe spaces for women and gender-sex diversities.*
- *Support the International Congress by strengthening scholarships for members from Latin America to ensure the diversity and representation of the voices of the LASA community.*
- *Evaluate the organization of Conferences outside of North America with a view to changing the perception that LASA is a Latin American studies association for Americans.*
- *Articulate LASA publications with the theme of the Congress: generating dissemination of the discussions that take place in the meetings and putting new topics on the research agenda.*
- *Strengthen interdisciplinary work: promoting special tables and a special section in the LASA forum for thematic collaborations between the different tracks of the Congress. This is important to compensate for the irrelevance given to area studies in some university cultures.*
- *Generate networks between members of LASA beyond the Congresses, supporting the sections that organize instances of virtual and/or face-to-face meetings.*
- *Consolidate LASA's presence in social networks.*

Nominees for Treasurer

Mónica Espinosa Arango

Anthropology and Archaeology; Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Mónica Espinosa Arango is Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia (Uniandes). She received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 2004 under the direction of Arturo Escobar. Prior to this, she earned a BA in Anthropology from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (1992), and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Florida, Gainesville (1996). She obtained a Fulbright Scholarship from 1996 to 1998. Since 2007, she has been teaching at the Department of Anthropology at the Universidad de Los Andes and is currently the Director of the Graduate School at the College of Social Sciences. Before arriving at Uniandes, she taught in the Department of Social Sciences at the Universidad de Puerto Rico-Arecibo, from 2004 to 2007. Espinosa's research and teaching integrate the sub-fields of political and environmental anthropology. She has done extensive ethnographic and ethnohistorical research on

indigenous authority systems, state formation and nation building in the Colombian Amazonia (Middle Caquetá River and Amazon River) and the southwest Andes (Cauca and south of Tolima) with Andoque, Cocama, and Pijao indigenous peoples. She is the author one of the most detailed studies on the indigenous leader Manuel Quintín Lame (1883-1967), who led a renowned indigenous mobilization in southwest Andes during the first half of the twentieth century. Her book *La civilización montés: la visión india y el trasegar de Manuel Quintín Lame en Colombia* (2009) received a third-place recognition in LASA's Monserrat Ordoñez Award (2010) and the "Mención de honor" in Social Sciences from the Fundación Alejandro Ángel Escobar (2010). Espinosa has been a LASA member since she was a graduate student at UMass and served as Associate Editor of Anthropology of the Latin American Research Review (LARR) from 2016 to 2020.

Espinosa has studied the forging of indigenous political subjectivities in the Amazon and the Andes, as well the transformation of indigeneity after the 1991 constitutional change and the multicultural turn, paying special attention to the relationship between the State, the long-term pattern of political violence, and the pluralism and political experimentalism of indigenous pueblos. Her approach has privileged the perspective of indigenous intellectuals, sages, artists, and women leaders, and has focused on the spatial and temporal dimensions of social memory, systems of authority, cultural politics, and the role of indigenous mobilizing and organizations in the twenty-century regional history of democratization in the southwest Andes. Currently, Espinosa works on the experimental field of anthropology of life. She combines a political ecology of life with landscape biography, weather-world phenomenology, and multispecies ethnography. She has extensively collaborated with Colombian archeobotanist Sonia Archila, on her research about first human populations in the Checua River Valley on the eastern Andes cordillera, combining registers on lifeworlds, biota and mineral resources (9500 cal BP- 1500 AD). She is also a senior member of the transdisciplinary research group *Ecological History and Social Memory* (EHMS), whose work focuses on the Volcanic Complex Doña Juana Cascabel and the buffer areas in the Colombian Andes massif. EHMS received the prestigious award "Dejar huella-2022" as one of the three best collaborative research programs at Uniandes with largest impact among local communities. Espinosa's research at EHMS is oriented to analyzing multi-scalar sociopolitical and environmental tensions surrounding State intervention and environmental and territorial policies in the National Natural Park Doña Juana - Cascabel. She works on a critical perspective of disaster risk reduction in tropical volcanic environments based on an ecopolitics of care. The recognition of local knowledges—particularly regarding resource management, agricultural adaptations and socioecosystemic resilience—is of special relevance as well as the analysis of rural economies and cultures in northeast Nariño with and after the boom of illegal poppy cultivation. She also keeps ongoing research on Manuel Quintín Lame's utopia and universality from below.

Recently, she has joined Misak intellectual and traditional medicine apprentice Julio Cesar Tunubalá in his research on traditional midwifery, reproductive health, and territorial harmony in the southwest Andes, following his own interpretation of cosmopolitics. She also works with Yenny Gómez, an intellectual and women leader from Nariño, about the rural families' lifeways transformations during the last three decades and the empowerment of women amidst the slow violence, toxicity and socioenvironmental conflicts brought by the poppy boom and the state's disregard of campesino populations.

Espinosa is the author of *Convivencia y poder político entre los Andoques del Amazonas*. Editorial Universidad Nacional, 1995; *La civilización montés: la visión india y el trasegar de Manuel Quintín Lame en Colombia*, Ediciones Uniandes, 2009; and *El poder en plural. Entre la antropología y la teoría política*. Ediciones Uniandes, 2014, co-edited with Alex Betancourt, professor of Political Science at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. She is finishing a trilogy on Lame consisting of the essays: *Missing the political: a southern critique of political ontology*. *Anthropological Theory*, 2021; *Democracy against the grain: indigenous politics in Colombia's southwest Andes*, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, 2022; and the upcoming "Emancipation heterodoxies: between Walter Benjamin's Thesis on the Philosophy of History and Manuel Quintín Lame's Wild Civilization". She has authored and coauthored articles and book chapters on the volcano-páramo Doña Juana and the interconnected human lifeworlds, the symbolism of water in Lame's mobilizing in the Saldaña River Basin, and the new experimental wave of more-than-human and multispecies ethnographies based on the volcano-páramo Doña Juana case study. Espinosa strongly advocates horizontal dialogues between scientific and local knowledges, and transdisciplinary and collaborative research that engages with indigenous and rural peoples' dilemmas and perspectives in the context of Colombia's turbulent modern and contemporary history.

Arango Statement

I am deeply honored to be nominated as treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association. My first experience with LASA began in 2002 as a graduate student. Since then, I have enjoyed sharing with a diverse and growing community of peers, colleagues, scholarship, and debates. Serving as a member of the Executive Committee is the opportunity to reciprocate such a rich experience. My current position as Director of Graduate Studies at the College of Social Sciences in the Universidad de Los Andes has allowed me to delve deeply into academic and financial matters and predicaments concerning higher education in Colombia and Latin America. This experience has taught me a lot about strategic planning, budgetary issues, new income venues and alternative learning and teaching environments in higher education. Dilemmas and thought decisions are very common amidst challenging economic, social, demographic, and educational contexts not only at national and regional levels but also globally. Along the years, as a member of LASA, I have seen the exponential constituency growth and the diversity that it brings, especially with the participation of Latin American based scholars and graduate students. I have also noticed the importance placed on communications and the strengthening of networks beyond LASA congress, although this is always an ongoing effort. As a scholar based in Latin America, I find important LASA's decisions regarding new income venues, especially with Latin American Cultural Center located in Pittsburgh and the project of Maestromeetings. I also highly regard the current quality and standing of the Latin American Research Review and the Latin American Research Commons initiative. Finally, I commend LASA's commitment to keeping travel grants and the special projects funding. I believe this is a key means to preserve inclusion and opportunities within unequal global academic networks; however, I do know this is expensive. If chosen, I will commit myself to keeping inclusiveness and transparency regarding planning and financial matters as a way to widen LASA's core mission. My aim is to contribute to keeping a vibrant, rich, and complex community that weights equally Latin American based scholars, students, activists, and independent researchers. This is vital in a world in which social and cultural criticism, education, professional networks, public debate, new languages and committed social sciences, camaraderie and wider collaborations are urgent.

David Smilde

Sociology; Tulane University, United States

I am the Charles A and Leo M Favrot Professor of Human Relations at Tulane University, Senior Fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America, and member of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Venezuela Working Group. I served as editor-in-chief of the journal *Qualitative Sociology* from 2011-2018 and was a member of the International Panel on Social Progress from 2015-2018. I also have worked with the Open Society, Ford, and Luminare Foundations.

I received my Ph.D in sociology from the University of Chicago in 2000. Before coming to Tulane, I was assistant and associate professor of sociology at the University of Georgia. I also have been a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame, the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, and the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

My original line of research is on religion and I am the author of *Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism* (California 2007). This project was based on three years of ethnographic fieldwork in the popular barrios of Caracas. However, the main interest of all of my research has been participation. In 1999 I carried-out a research project and wrote a book with Margarita López Maya and Keta Stephany called *Protesta y Cultura en Venezuela: Los Marcos de Acción Colectiva*. (FACES-UCV 2002) in which we sought to understand the protests of the first year of the government of Hugo Chávez. These same interests led me to work on a second book on participation. In 2006 I organized a panel on Venezuela at the Latin American Studies Association congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, that sought to broaden concepts of participation and civil society to include not just social movements and nongovernmental organizations, but religion, media and poetry. That panel led to an edited volume that was published as *Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution: Participation, Politics and Culture under Chávez* (Duke 2011).

From 2006 to 2016 I lived most of the calendar year in Caracas. Being so close to the ground in a time of conflict I became interested in doing more publicly engaged work. In 2008 I explained the appeal of Chavismo in "The Social Structure of Hugo Chávez." In 2011 I became a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and founded the blog Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights. With Chávez's death in 2013, Venezuela's crisis grew deeper every year and this blog became central to my professional activity. In its first seven years we averaged over one hundred posts per year, two thirds of which I authored or co-authored, all of which I curated. In the past ten years, I have published op eds in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *El Pais*. I have also written policy pieces for *World Politics Review* and *Current History* and *Foreign Policy*. In all of my public advocacy I have worked for a negotiated solution to the Venezuelan crisis. My methodology has been to use social science to undermine the broad brushstroke portraits that Venezuelan and international political actors use to mis portray each other and the crisis. Undermining false and stereotypical information helps oblige these actors to actually engage in politics.

During this focus on advocacy, I have never set aside my disciplinary scholarship. In 2013 I published with three colleagues an edited volume called *Religion on the Edge: Decentering and Re-centering the Sociology of Religion* which sought to expand the empirical domain of the sociology of religion beyond its traditional focus on Christianity, and the U.S. and Europe. In 2014 I published a special issue of *Latin*

American Research Review on “Religion and Citizenship” with two colleagues. And in 2021 I published a co-edited volume in Venezuela called *Postsecularismo y la religion vivida: aportes desde la sociología cualitativa norteamericana* (UCAB 2021).

In 2015 I started a collaboration with Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson which led to a coedited volume *The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela*, which will be published in spring 2023 by the University of Pittsburgh Press. It uses recent understandings of violence to breakthrough what has been a politicized debate. We worked hard for this to not simply be a book *about* Venezuela but also *from* Venezuela. Of the fourteen contributors of chapters to this book, nine are Venezuelan.

I am currently working on three projects. I am finishing a co-authored paper comparing the Venezuelan and Colombian Catholic Church’s engagement in peacemaking. I am working on another co-authored paper reviewing and contributing to the various debates regarding transitional justice in Venezuela. And with a Venezuelan colleague, I am writing a book on students and socialism in Venezuela.

Smilde Statement

I am honored to be nominated as treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association. I have been attending LASA Congresses for over twenty-five years and have served as a council member for both the Culture, Power and Politics and the Venezuelan Studies Sections, serving as chair of the latter from 2010-2012. From June 2021 to the present I have worked as program co-chair, alongside Margarita López Maya and Yanina Welp, organizing LASA 2023 in Vancouver. It is based on these rewarding experiences that I accepted the nomination to run for LASA Treasurer.

I am a strong believer in the de-colonization of scholarly production and debate and have worked on this during my entire career. In my work on religion in Latin America I have used ethnography to portray the logic of religious and political practices that scholars in the global North misconceive as instrumental, emotional or unprincipled.

In my work with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) I have sought to portray the logic of Chavismo to international audiences swayed by orientalist portraits provided by established opinion-makers. I have likewise sought to portray the logic of the Venezuelan opposition to the governments of Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro, which is often mischaracterized by the international left as the work of global empire. At WOLA we seek to work with Latin American partner organizations, not leading them, not following them, but engaging them as equals in portraying situations and creating strategic lines of action to promote the fulfillment of human rights and social justice.

But de-colonization depends, of course, not just on a perspective but on institutional practices and resources.

LASA is currently at an exciting conjuncture. The majority of its members are now Latin American and LASA has become the leading scholarly association in the region. Furthermore, LASA has also become a space in which open discussions of racial, ethnic, gender and sex-based discriminations are occurring, as well as efforts to address them.

Every opportunity, of course, comes with challenges. Latin America-based scholars often do not have the institutional resources for the membership and conference fees that LASA depends on. As well, the cost of travel to congresses in the U.S., Canada and Europe can be prohibitive. LASA needs to develop a financial model in which everyone can participate, regardless of their resource base.

I have worked to address such challenges in the past. In 2012, as chair of the Section on Venezuelan Studies, I obtained money from OSF that provided ten travel grants for Venezuela-based scholars in addition to those provided by LASA. In 2021, with the Ford Foundation, I obtained \$20,000 for travel grants administered by WOLA that, because of the pandemic, were eventually used to organize a LASA-SVS satellite conference in Venezuela in June 2021. Beyond LASA, from 2018-2020, I worked with the Ford Foundation to develop a program that provided Venezuela-based scholars, journalists and activists with monthly salary supplements so they could continue to work in the country, despite the crisis. I aim to bring this same vocation to LASA to address the needs of scholars across the region.

LASA has made considerable progress in sliding membership and registration fees; but more needs to be done. As Treasurer I will accelerate change. LASA needs to prioritize member-cost in deciding where to hold congresses. And it needs to make clear to the foundations it works with that the Latinamericanization of LASA provides an exciting opportunity to de-colonize and democratize Latin America scholarship.

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