

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.