

LASA2019 Congress Report

Nuestra América: Justice and Inclusion

The LASA2019 Congress was held in Boston, United States, from May 24 to 27, 2019. The event was a great opportunity for thousands of academics, scholars, and students to get together and share their knowledge about Latin American studies.

We were honored to welcome 5,621 registered participants, 4,772 presenters with some role during the Congress (84.9%), and 849 people who attended without any role. Out of the 5,621 registered participants, 28.1% were students and 2,988 (71.9%) were nonstudents.

Regardless of all the enthusiasm around the Congress we want to make sure that our most important constituents—our members—agree on the success of the congresses, and thus our yearly online survey was sent to collect demographic information, respondents' feedback, and to measure the overall experience during our time in Boston. We thank the 929 attendees who participated in this year's survey, who represent 16.5% of all of the LASA2019 registered participants. We encourage all future attendees to complete our survey to give us a better sense how to improve.

LASA2019 Facts

Total Participants	5,621
Total Presenters	4,156
Total Sessions and Events	1,414
Films and Documentaries	35
Book Exhibitors	54
LASA Travel Grantees	397
Book Presentations	31
Sponsors, Contributors, and Institutional Partners	68

Demographics

Forty-seven percent of the respondents to this year's survey were United States residents, 44% were residents from Latin America, 8% were from Europe, and 1% from Asia. Similar to previous years, the majority of respondents work primarily on research activities (54%), while 33% focus on education. More than one-third of respondents were attending a LASA Congress for the first-time (31%), while 29% of respondents were seasoned attendees, having participated in five or more LASA Congresses.

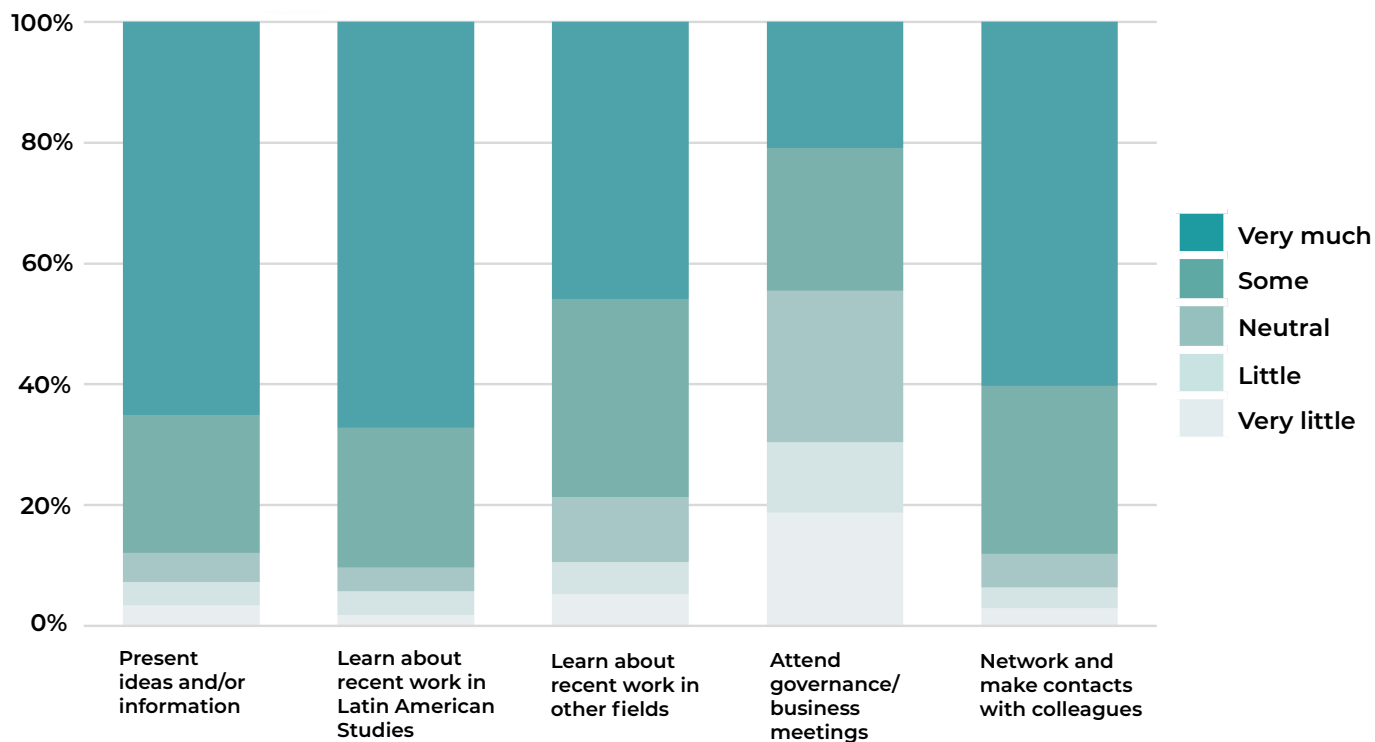
Both groups are important to us: new attendees as they evaluate the Congress with new lenses, and previous attendees for their experience. Forty-nine percent of respondents attended between four and seven sessions during the Congress.

Satisfaction Rates

Overall, 82% of the survey respondents were satisfied with the LASA2019 Congress, an increase of 6 percentage points from last year, and 10% were dissatisfied. Our goal is that all participants have a great experience. Boston 2019 offered 1,414 sessions, and given the size of the event it is inevitable that sessions with similar topics overlap. Due to the high number of sessions accepted in order to honor LASA’s spirit of inclusiveness, multidisciplinary, and diversity, this overlap is bound to happen. We hope that the multiple simultaneous sessions permit a wide range of session options in which you can participate and grow. This overall satisfaction approval is reflected in four aspects:

- 62% of respondents learned a lot about recent work in Latin American studies;
- 46% of respondents learned a lot about current work in other fields;
- 56% of respondents considered the LASA Congress a good opportunity to network and make contact with colleagues;
- 61% of respondents considered that the Congress is a good place to present ideas and information;
- 45% of respondents were satisfied with governance and business meetings.

Figure 1. LASA2019 provided an opportunity to:



Technology

Regarding the use of technology, 78% of respondents downloaded the program app and 97% of them used it.

LASA2020

Finally, around 46% of the survey respondents are planning to attend LASA2020. We are looking forward seeing you in Guadalajara, Mexico, May 13–16, 2020, for our Congress with the theme *“América Ladina. Vinculando mundos y saberes, tejiendo esperanzas.”*

We thank all those who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback helps us improve by acknowledging situations that we may have not been aware of, and thus allows us to focus on our members and their needs. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or further suggestions.

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