

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

2014-2015



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The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Brown University promotes knowledge, teaching, and research on all aspects of Latin America and the Caribbean. As this Annual Report vividly shows, CLACS has an exciting and diverse program of undergraduate courses, lectures, seminars, conferences, films, concerts, and other events that aim to foster greater engagement by faculty, students, and the broader community with Latin America and the Caribbean.

<https://www.facebook.com/CLACSBrown>

<https://twitter.com/CLACSBrownU>

<http://www.brown.edu/clacs>

**Katherine Goldman**, Center Manager

**Seth Stulen**, Outreach Coordinator

Annual Report Designed by **Karishma Bhatia '15**

Additional Technical Assistance Provided by **Katherine Chavez '19**

# A letter from the DIRECTOR

Greetings! We are pleased to present the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Brown University. Based at the Watson Institute, CLACS aligns much of its activity with the Institute's mission to promote a peaceful and just world through research, teaching, and public engagement about development, security, and governance. For example, in April 2015, CLACS organized a major international conference, *Declining Inequality in Latin America: Are the Good Times Over?* This event convened key policymakers and scholars to explore the sustainability of the recent reduction in the region's historically high levels of income inequality. It featured a panel of renowned journalists, including Jon Lee Anderson (*The New Yorker*), Juan Carlos López (*CNN*), and Eduardo Porter (*The New York Times*) who were "embedded" in the conference to offer important insights about how academics can better communicate their research on inequality to the public. In addition to the audience that attended the two-day conference at the Watson Institute, hundreds of viewers followed the live Webcast and participated in a fruitful international discussion through social media. The Center will soon publish a paper about the conference that will serve as a further resource on the important topic of inequality in Latin America.

To showcase the expertise of its more than 100 faculty affiliates, CLACS offered a Faculty Lecture Series during the Spring 2015 semester. Faculty from across the University gave talks about their research on topics ranging from mechanized agriculture in Brazil (Leah VanWey, Sociology), to Andean music in highland Peru (Joshua Tucker, Music), to land loss among black citizens in the Americas (Keisha-Khan Perry, Africana Studies). In response to the dramatic recent changes in US-Cuban relations, the Center launched a new lecture series, *Counterpoints: Cuba in Transition*, which featured talks by Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archive and the dissident activist, Rosa María Payá. CLACS also sponsored a Cuba film series organized by two new faculty members, Jennifer Lambe and Daniel Rodriguez, both of the History Department.

CLACS continued its ongoing practice of offering artistic and cultural programming designed to engage both the campus community and the general public, especially the large Latino/a community in Providence and beyond. Highlights from 2014-2015 include well-



attended musical performances by Cuban vocalist and composer Descemer Bueno — who won three Latin Grammy Awards in 2014, including "Song of the Year" — and an evening of tango featuring CAMBATango from Buenos Aires.

In addition to this busy schedule of programming, CLACS hosted visiting professors and scholars from Argentina, Peru, and Venezuela, offered undergraduate courses on Latin American politics and society, and celebrated the graduation of a cohort of 10 concentrators in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

I want to thank the faculty and administration, the staff, and the students who all helped make last year a great success for CLACS, especially Matthew Gutmann, who served as Interim Director of the Center during the Spring 2015 semester, and our new Outreach Coordinator, Seth Stulen.

Our activities during the current academic year are equally exciting. Please join us in making 2015-2016 another lively year of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Brown!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Snyder".

**Richard Snyder, Director**

# FACULTY



## Our Faculty

Comprising more than 140 Brown faculty members in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences who work on Latin America and the Caribbean, the CLACS faculty community is broad and diverse. Faculty and students at Brown carry out an impressive range of activities on critical issues in the Americas, including globalization, democracy, urban violence, entrepreneurship, climate change and the environment, inequality and development, health, indigenous peoples and knowledge, and migration and diasporas. Faculty-student collaboration is a hallmark of the Center's initiatives.

140+

AFFILIATED  
FACULTY

FROM

30

DEPARTMENTS



## **RICHARD SNYDER**

**Director**

Richard Snyder is a Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. His research focuses on the comparative politics of development, comparative political economy, and Latin American politics.

Matthew Gutmann is a Professor of Anthropology, Faculty Fellow at the Watson Institute, and Director of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI). His research focuses on studies of men and masculinities, public health, politics, and the military.



## **MATTHEW GUTMANN**

**Interim Director (Spring 2015)**

## **JEREMY MUMFORD**

**Latin American Studies  
Concentration Advisor**

Jeremy Mumford is a Lecturer in the Department of History and Director of the Andean Project at Brown University, and has served as the LAS Concentration Advisor since 2014. He is a historian of the colonial Andes.



# Faculty Affiliates

**Almeida, Onesimo** Portuguese and Brazilian Studies  
**Alvarado, Leticia** American Studies  
**Amor y Vázquez, José** Emeritus, Hispanic Studies  
**AnderBois, Scott** Linguistics  
**Andreas, Peter** Political Science / Watson Institute  
**Augusto, Geri** Africana Studies  
**Bass, Laura** Hispanic Studies  
**Bauer, Beth** Hispanic Studies  
**Becker, Adeline** Portuguese and Brazilian Studies  
**Bensmaïa, Réda** French Studies  
**Bertness, Mark** Ecology and Evol Biology (EEB)  
**Bianchi, Cesario** Medical School  
**Bliss, Joseph** Medical School  
**Bogues, Anthony B.** Africana Studies  
**Borkan, Jeffrey** Medical School  
**Bushnell, Amy** Research Associate, History  
**Clayton, Michelle** Hispanic Studies  
**Cope, R. Douglas** History  
**Coulombe, Dominique** University Library  
**Dal Bo, Pedro** Economics  
**Delessio, Dorothy** Medical School  
**Diaz, Joseph** Medical School  
**Dzidzienyo, Anani** Africana Studies  
**Edwards, Erika** Ecology and Evol Biology (EEB)  
**Egilman, David** Community Health / Biology & Medicine  
**Elliott, Claudia** International Relations  
**Empkie, Timothy** Medical School  
**Fagan, Mark** Medical School  
**Faudree, Paja** Anthropology  
**Ferreira, Roquinaldo** History and Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  
**Fiering, Norman** Emeritus, John Carter Brown Library  
**Figueroa, Patricia** University Library  
**Fischer, Karen** Geological Sciences  
**Flanigan, Timothy** Medical School  
**Foster, Andrew** Economics / PSTC  
**Gallagher, Janice** Watson Institute  
**Gander, Forrest** English / Literary Arts  
**Goldman, Roberta** Medical School  
**Granai, Skip** Medical School  
**Green, James N.** History  
**Gutmann, Matthew** Anthropology  
**Harrison, Emily** Medical School  
**Hastings, Justine** Economics  
**Heath, Dwight** Emeritus, Anthropology  
**Henderson, John V.** Emeritus, Economics  
**Henry, Paget** Sociology  
**Houston, Stephen** Anthropology  
**Hu-DeHart, Evelyn** History  
**Itzigsohn, José** Sociology  
**Jaquette, Jane** Watson Institute  
**King, Dawn** Center for Environmental Studies  
**Kriz, K. Dian** History of Art and Architecture  
**Lagos, Ricardo** Professor-at-Large, Watson Institute/CLACS  
**Lambe, Jennifer** History

**Leinaweaver, Jessaca** Anthropology  
**Leslie, Heather** Environment Sciences and Biology  
**Lewis, Thomas** Religious Studies  
**Lindstrom, David** Sociology  
**Locke, Richard** Watson Institute  
**Lowenthal, Abraham** Watson Institute  
**MacCarthy, Sarah** Division of Biology and Medicine  
**Martínez-Pinzón, Felipe** Hispanic Studies  
**Mazzucchelli, Aldo** Hispanic Studies  
**McGarvey, Stephen** Medical School  
**Merrim, Stephanie** Hispanic Studies / Comparative Literature  
**Miller, Kiri** Music  
**Mumford, Jeremy** History  
**Mustard, Jack** Geological Sciences  
**Nagavarapu, Sriniketh** Economics  
**Neil, Christopher** Marine Biology Laboratory  
**Nunn, Amy** Medical School  
**Ortega, Julio** Hispanic Studies  
**Pacheco, Maria** Portuguese & Brazilian Studies / Education Alliance  
**Perry, Keisha-Khan** Africana Studies / Anthropology  
**Porder, Stephen** Ecology and Evol Biology (EEB)  
**Remensnyder, Amy** History  
**Rich, Jeremy** Ecology and Evol Biology (EEB)  
**Rivas-Drake, Deborah** Education  
**Roberts, Timmons** Sociology  
**Rodriguez, Besenia** Associate Dean of the College  
**Rodriguez, Daniel** History  
**Rodríguez, Pablo** Medical School  
**Rodríguez, Ralph** American Civilization  
**Safer, Neil** John Carter Brown Library  
**Saint-Amand, Pierre** French Studies  
**Scherer, Andrew** Anthropology  
**Schrank, Andrew** Sociology / Watson Institute  
**Schuhmacher, Nidia** Hispanic Studies  
**Simas-Almeida, Leonor** Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  
**Simon, Peter** Medical School  
**Smith, Marcia** Medical School  
**Smith, Victoria** Hispanic Studies  
**Snyder, Holly** University Librarian  
**Snyder, Richard** Political Science, Director of CLACS  
**Sobral, Patricia** Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  
**Sobral, Silvia** Hispanic Studies  
**Stallings, Barbara** Watson Institute  
**Stonestreet, Barbara** Medical School  
**Taub, Joshua** International Advancement  
**Thomas, Sarah** Hispanic Studies  
**Tucker, C. Joshua** Department of Music  
**Valente, Luiz** Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  
**VanWey, Leah** Sociology  
**Vieira, Nelson** Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  
**Vivier, Patrick** Warren Alpert Medical School  
**Ward, Kenneth** John Carter Brown Library  
**Warren, Kay** Anthropology / Watson Institute  
**Weitz-Shapiro, Rebecca** Political Science and Public Policy  
**Whitfield, Esther** Comparative Literature  
**Witman, Jon** Ecology and Evol Biology (EEB)  
**Ybarra, Patricia** Theatre, Speech & Dance  
**Zerner, Catherine** Emerita, Art & Architecture

# Visiting Scholars



JOSÉ CARLOS  
ORIHUELA

Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor

José Carlos Orihuela is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the Catholic University of Peru specializing in the political economy of natural resources and the environment. He has been a fellow at the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University, the Watson Institute at Brown, and the Social Science Research Council Drugs, Security, and Democracy Program.



MARITZA PAREDES

Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor

Maritza Paredes is an Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of Peru in the Department of Social Sciences. Her research focuses on the intersection of the management of natural resources and the dynamics of political organizations and institutions and the relationship between dependency on extractive industries, the formation of the State, ethnic politics, collective action, and contentious politics. She has been a fellow at the Centre for Research on Inequality, Security, and Ethnicity at Oxford University (2006-2010) and previously at CLACS (2010-2012).



VERÓNICA ZUBILLAGA

Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor

Verónica Zubillaga is an Associate Professor in the Social Sciences Department at the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela. Her research interests include urban violence and drug trafficking in Latin America and the intersections of structural violence and social subjectivities. In recent years, Zubillaga has combined research with public engagement concerning social violence, specifically promoting an arms control and disarmament public policy in Venezuela.

RICARDO LAGOS  
ESCOBAR

Former President of Chile  
Professor-at-Large

Widely regarded as one of Latin America's most important political leaders, Lagos served as President of Chile from 2000 to 2006. During his term, Lagos was known for aggressively pursuing free trade agreements, improving health care and education legislation, and addressing the crimes of Augusto Pinochet's military regime. Since leaving office, Lagos founded the Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo (Foundation for Democracy and Development) in 2006 and currently serves as its President. He is also Vice Chair of the Inter-American Dialogue and was UN Special Envoy for Climate Change from 2007 to 2010.





## SHORT-TERM VISITING SCHOLARS



VERÓNICA PÉREZ

Sarmiento Research Fellow

Verónica Pérez is a sociologist at the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and a National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) postdoctoral fellow based at the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín. She is also a teacher and researcher at UBA's School of Social Sciences and the Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego. Her research focuses on how linkages between private companies and the state in the provision of public services affect social conflict.

***Established through the generous support of Alfredo C. Cassiet, M.D. and Maria-Elena Cassiet, the Sarmiento Fellowship enables scholars from South America to visit Brown and collaborate closely with Brown scholars from a wide array of disciplines.***



LUCAS GONZÁLEZ

Fulbright Scholar

Lucas González is a researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and professor at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina. His current research interests are federalism, redistribution, and the political economy of redistributive transfers. He has coauthored two books and published articles in *The Journal of Politics*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, *América Latina Hoy* (Spain), *Revista de Ciencia Política* (Chile), and *Desarrollo Económico* (Argentina).



ÁLVARO FERNÁNDEZ BRAVO

Bridging the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Americas Fellow

Álvaro Fernández Bravo is a researcher at National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and teaches at Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina. He writes on cultural patrimonies, literary theory, Latin American literature, and contemporary film. His publications include *El valor de la cultura: arte, literatura y mercado en América Latina* (2007, with Luis Cárcamo-Huechante and Alejandra Laera) and *Literatura y frontera: procesos de territorialización en la cultura argentina y chilena del siglo XIX* (1999).

# STUDENTS

# CLASS OF 2015



**Shane Grannum**

"I hope to fight for social justice for marginalized groups."



**Monica Perez**

"I will be attending Georgetown University in the fall for a Master's Degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies."



**Jordan Beard**

"My favorite thing about CLACS is the freedom that it gives me to forge my own connections—tying together my seemingly disparate interests with a single thread."



**Ana Ramirez**

"Upon graduation, I plan to travel to Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico to put my education in practice and learn about indigeneity, identity, education, and languages."



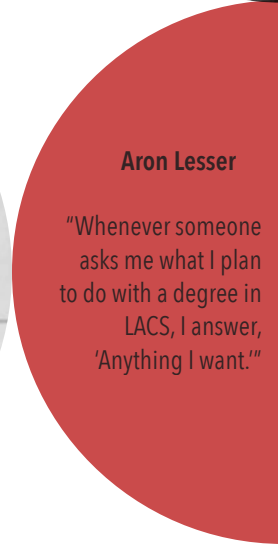
**Ben Vila**

"Es complicado"  
- Cuban saying



**Aron Lesser**

"Whenever someone asks me what I plan to do with a degree in LACS, I answer, 'Anything I want.'"





**Camisia Glasgow**

"I'm grateful for the freedom I've had to stretch my mind beyond and between disciplines and for all which I've encountered in these liminal spaces as a concentrator in Latin American and Caribbean Studies."



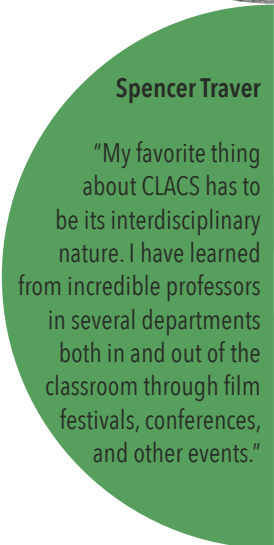
**Tom Sullivan**

"I hope to become involved in immigration reform at the intersection of law, literature, and journalism."



**Austin Cole**

"With my degree, I hope to work on economic and social development of underserved areas in the United States and Latin America."



**Spencer Traver**

"My favorite thing about CLACS has to be its interdisciplinary nature. I have learned from incredible professors in several departments both in and out of the classroom through film festivals, conferences, and other events."



Each year, CLACS hosts undergraduate concentrators with a diverse array of interests. The concentration in Latin American Studies is designed to help students develop a deep interdisciplinary understanding of culture, history, and contemporary issues in Latin America. Students explore how social, political, economic, literary, and cultural factors combine to explain the Latin American and Caribbean societies of today. The concentration in Latin American Studies offers students the opportunity to use the methods of various disciplines and integrate different ways of knowing.

CLACS congratulates the Class of 2015, especially our concentrators!



# CLACS Graduate Programs

CLACS contributes to graduate education and training at Brown by supporting students through courses and events, providing funding for summer fieldwork in Latin America and the Caribbean, and offering dissertation writing fellowships. The Center also sponsors interdisciplinary graduate colloquia where students are given an opportunity to present and receive feedback on their research from peers and faculty members.

*Graduate students in 9 departments are affiliated with CLACS.*

## Cogut Dissertation Fellows

CLACS offers dissertation fellowships for graduate students at Brown who are in the writing stage of their dissertation. The fellowships are open to students in any department whose research is directly relevant to Latin America and/or the Caribbean.

Carlos Yushimito



Carlos Yushimito is a Ph.D. student from Lima, Peru. He holds a B.A. in Latin American Literature from the Universidad de San Marcos and an M.A. in Hispanic Studies from Villanova University. His interests include Latin American modern cultural history, globalization and cosmopolitan discourses, and Japanese diaspora in South America.

## Cogut Fellows '14-'15

Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Paula Dias is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology. She is currently writing her dissertation on oil regulation, environmental education, and *quilombola* politics and belonging in southeast Brazil. Paula's research interests include energy, development, governance, grassroots politics, and ethnic/racial identity, with a focus on Brazil.



Paula Dias



## Botín@Brown

Each year since 2010, the Botín Foundation of Santander, Spain has offered talented university students from throughout Latin America the opportunity to take part in the Program on Leadership, Liberal Arts, and Public Service. The intense two-month program starts with a week of lectures, talks, and cultural events at Brown University. This year's guest lecturers included former President of Chile and Brown University Professor at Large Ricardo Lagos; Argentina's Ambassador to Italy, Torcuato DiTella; and Chile's Cultural Attaché to the United States, Javiera Parada. The program also included a visit to the Rhode Island State House, performances by Latin Grammy Award-winning musician Descemer Bueno and the Grammy-nominated Afro-Cuban funk band PALO!, and talks by Brown faculty.



September



CAMBATango performance

October



All-Star Evening of Latin Pop. Performance by Leslie Cartaya and Descemer Bueno.

November



Catching Up to the Future?  
Advances and Challenges in the Politics,  
Society, and Social Policies of Contemporary  
Brazil. Conference organized in collaboration  
with the Brazil Initiative and the Office of Global  
Engagement.



November



*Acclaimed Cuban novelist Leonardo Padura offered public lectures on writing in Cuba in the 21st century and film adaptations of fiction.*

# CLACS AFFILIATED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

## SPRING 2015

Monday, March 16: **Leah VanWey** (Sociology)  
"Drivers and Consequences of the Expansion of  
"Mechanized Agriculture in Mato Grosso, Brazil"  
McKinney Conference Room, noon  
Watson Institute for International Studies, 111 Thayer St.

Thursday, March 19: **Esther Whitfield** (Comparative Literature)  
and **Patricia Ybarra** (Theater Arts and Performance Studies)  
"Bordering on the Americas"  
Joukowsky Forum, noon  
Watson Institute for International Studies, 111 Thayer St.

Friday, April 3: **Anthony Bogues** (Africana Studies)  
"Radical Caribbean Thought, Decolonization  
and the Struggle for the Human"  
McKinney Conference Room, noon  
Watson Institute for International Studies, 111 Thayer St.

Thursday, April 9: **Joshua Tucker** (Music)  
"Making Andean Music: Indigenous Craftsmanship  
and Sound Ecology in Highland Peru"  
McKinney Conference Room, noon  
Watson Institute for International Studies, 111 Thayer St.

Tuesday, April 14: **Keisha-Khan Perry** (Africana Studies)  
"Black Land Loss and the Paradox of  
Citizenship in the Americas"  
McKinney Conference Room, noon  
Watson Institute for International Studies, 111 Thayer St.



March



*Argentina at a Crossroads?  
Perspectives on Argentine  
Politics. CLACS Conference.*



*Cuban Film Festival. Organized by Jennifer Lambe and Daniel Rodriguez, CLACS Faculty Affiliates from the History Department.*

# INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL

MARCH 9,  
2015  
4:00PM

# BOLIVIA

JOUKOWSKY FORUM  
WATSON INSTITUTE  
111 THAYER STREET

ANDEAN LECTURE SERIES

The 2014-2015 Andean Project Lecture Series presented talks on a wide range of topics across the Andean countries. Co-sponsored by a Pembroke Center Seed Grant, the Brown Humanities Initiative, and the Dean of the College.

## April

*Declining Inequality in Latin America: Are the Good Times Over? International conference featuring policymakers, scholars, and journalists from The New York Times, CNN, and The New Yorker.*



## May

Gabriel and Aron Lesser '15 discussed the process of writing and publishing *Piecing Together São Paulo: An Insider's Guide to Food, History, and Culture in a Bustling Metropolis*.



## Our events are viewed from all over the world...

CLACS events are attended by students, faculty, and other members of the Brown University and Providence communities. The Center has increased the reach of its talks, conferences, and other events through Webcasts which are broadcast live and then posted on our Website and YouTube channel.

Hundreds and even thousands of people have viewed CLACS events, and many join the conversation through social media such as Twitter. For example, in April 2015, a talk by Cuban activist Rosa María Payá was viewed by over 700 people and 1,500 people viewed the conference *Declining Inequality in Latin America: Are the Good Times Over?*



**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS  

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**BROWN UNIVERSITY**