CLACS
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
2014-2015
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.
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!

Richard Snyder, Director
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.
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.

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 Vázques, 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
Bensmaï, 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
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
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
Flanagan, 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, Srinketh 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
Rodriguez, Pablo Medical School
Rodriguez, Ralph American Civilization
Safier, Neil John Carter Brown Library
Saint-Amand, Pierre French Studies
Schiller, Andrew Anthropology
Scherer, Andrew Anthropology
Schrank, Andrew Sociology / Watson Institute
Schuhmacher, Nidia Hispanic Studies
Simas-Almeida, Leonor Portuguese & Brazilian Studies
Simons, 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
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.

josé carlos orihuela

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

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

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
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.

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).

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).

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.
STUDENTS
Ben Vila
"Es complicado"
- Cuban saying

Shane Grannum
“I hope to fight for social justice for marginalized groups.”

Aron Lesser
“Whenever someone asks me what I plan to do with a degree in LACS, I answer, ‘Anything I want.’”

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

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Tom Sullivan  
“I hope to become involved in immigration reform at the intersection of law, literature, and journalism.”

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.”

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.”

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

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 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.

Paula Dias

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.
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.
EVENTS
September

CAMBATango performance

October

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

November

November

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

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.
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


May

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?*