BROWN UNIVERSITY’S
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear CLACS community,

I wish to thank you for your support over the past academic year. Even as the presence of the pandemic, most of our activities were held virtually, although we moved increasingly to hybrid events. This allowed us to continue to reach audiences and participate in person events.

Our activities centered primarily around the Mellon Foundation-supported Sawyer Seminar “Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America,” and the “Archives of Silence/Archivos del silencio” lectureship supported by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty through the Herbert H. Goldberger Lectureships Fund.

The Sawyer Seminar, which represents a collaborative effort with the center for the Study of Money and Finance (CSJ) and Africana Studies Department, Brown and Brown Theater, held ten conferences. The first was held in November 2021 and was titled “Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America” and the second in March 2022 under the theme “Dynamic Interplay of Migration and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.” These brought together more than 60 participants representing a range of academic institutions and disciplines. The seminars continued the tradition of the Maurice Manierre Workshop held at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico’s Institute of Hispanic Affairs, U. H. Díaz Maguiny. The Sawyer Seminar also featured an exhibit “Mending Ribs. Immigration Art from Detention Center” organized by the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, and support from Watson.

We also offered several talks over the course of the spring 2022 semester under the “Archives of Silence/Archivos del silencio” lecture program. The series addressed several critical issues related to the constitution and provision of archives, including ownership, anonymity, access, and the availability or incompleteness of the archive itself. The lectures featured academics Wagner Kenny (City University of New York), Marisa Menéndez-Contreras (University of Washington), and Guadalupe Sosa Alemán of the University of New Mexico, and Susana Oviedo of the University of Texas-Pan American. The series was organized by Kristen Kolenz, the Mellon Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow, with support from Art at Watson.

This year we hosted one Cogut Visiting Professor, Lucila Nejamkis of Argentina. Lucila taught two LACA courses, organized panel discussions on her research topic, one in collaboration with the Center for Middle East Studies, and participated in academic events at CLACS and elsewhere on campus. Next year we will welcome Laura Martínez Minero (Instituto Nacional de Medicina Forense de Puerto Rico) and César M. González-Rosario (University of Puerto Rico), respectively. We also welcomed Wair Muchu (University of Zimbabwe) as our interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow. We taught a course titled “Mending Ribs: Immigrant Art in Detention Centers” and co-organized our Sawyer Reading Group with Debra Eveskic, and we are happy to share that she completed her degree this spring. Next year’s Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow will be Elisa Elías Ovalle, also from University of Zimbabwe.

Our team grew this year as well. In addition to the Sawyer Seminar team, we welcomed our new Communications Coordinator, Emily Reckles, and three new undergraduate student assistants, Michelle H pellets, Sebastian Alvarez, and Aline Ordonez (all of whom contributed to the success of our events and especially to the creation of this Annual Report).

This year we graduated eight Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) concentrators, including luis Sanchez, and Commencement Orator Alexandra Ali Martinez and Phi Beta Kappa member Maxwell Harris. Our Communications Coordinator, Emily Reckles, and three new undergraduate student assistants, Michelle Holz, Sebastian Alvarez, and Aline Ordonez (all of whom contributed to the success of our events and especially to the creation of this Annual Report).

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students were also very involved in our academic programming, participating in both of our Sawyer seminar conferences. Under the direction of the director, they also presented their research at the 2021 conference of the New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS).

Despite no longer receiving research funding from the TikTok Foundations which supported pre-dissertation research, we are grateful to maintain our support with the Watson Institute. To provide yield Keltner grants to our affiliated graduate students to support travel to Latin America and the Caribbean, including Brazil. We also wish to recognize the students who completed final research this year: Luiz Pinho-Ferreira (History), Adriana Semple (anthropology), and Alejandro Carlos Paez (sociology). This year, we benefited from the tremendous support of students, faculty, and staff at CLACS from throughout the Watson community and beyond. We are particularly fortunate to have the support of Matthew Brown, Newell Ford, and Ralph Rodriguez who served on the graduate dissertation prize committee and Parker Van Valkenburg, Kareen Rozen, Jennifer Lambe, and Maiyah Gamble-Rivers, Kate Goldman, Pablo Rodriguez, Lisa Biggs, and Leila Lehnen.

We acknowledge the generous support we have enjoyed from Ed Steinfeld, Director of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs; other Centers at Watson, in particular the Center for Middle East Studies and the Climate Solutions Lab and Watson's communications team; the Dean of the Faculty; other affiliated faculty; and the Charles P. Sisson II Memorial Lectureship in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is sponsored by the Charles P. Sisson II Memorial Lectureship Fund.

In particular, we acknowledge the work of Claudia Elliott, Veronica Ingham and Felipe Martinez-Pinzon in the time to mentor and supervise our concentrators and to serve on our dissertation prize committees.

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**Erica Durante**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Visiting Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Erica Durante is a Visiting Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Brown University. Prior to coming to Brown, she was Professor of Regional Integration and Brazil Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. Her work explores the development challenges of small Caribbean states, with a particular focus on regional integration, globalization, trade, agriculture, migration and environmental and political crises.

Erica Durante has published in several leading journals and influential edited volumes. Her most recent book, “Air Travel Fiction and Film: Cloud People” was published in 2020 by Palgrave MacMillan. She has been appointed to the editorial boards of several international journals (“Genesis,” “Les Lettres romanes,” and “Manuscrita”) and has actively contributed to international research networks. She has also undertaken new projects and expertise in contemporary literature, exploring the anthropological and cultural paradigms that define the global imaginary of contemporary literature.

She is the founding editor of “Recto/Verso,” a journal published by the French CNRS Institute of Modern Texts and Manuscripts at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. She has been appointed to the editorial boards of several international journals (“Genesis,” “Les Lettres romanes,” and “Manuscrita”) and has actively contributed to international research networks. She has also undertaken new projects and expertise in contemporary literature, exploring the anthropological and cultural paradigms that define the global imaginary of contemporary literature.

Her doctoral studies at the Sorbonne. In particular, she has authored four books, edited two volumes, and published a large number of articles in leading journals and influential edited volumes. Her most recent book, “Air Travel Fiction and Film: Cloud People,” was published in 2020 by Palgrave MacMillan. She has been appointed to the editorial boards of several international journals (“Genesis,” “Les Lettres romanes,” and “Manuscrita”) and has actively contributed to international research networks. She has also undertaken new projects and expertise in contemporary literature, exploring the anthropological and cultural paradigms that define the global imaginary of contemporary literature. Her current book project, tentatively entitled “El horror femenino y feminista: una perspectiva literaria latinoamericana contemporánea,” focuses on exploring the recent resurgence of the horror genre in present-day Latin American fiction.
Sebastian Adriano ’25
Student Assistant

Sebastian Adriano ’25 is a freshman interested in Behavioral Decision Science, Economics, and International and Public Affairs. He is particularly passionate about policy-making around poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. Sebastian is Puerto Rican and his family is Mexican. He has studied Latin American history and engaged with immigrant rights organizations such as Make the Road NJ. Sebastian is a strong supporter of recognizing multi-racial heritage in the Latin American identity. He also believes firmly in the power of the youth to accomplish social change, as he has observed through such iconic events as the protests from youth that led to the resignation of governor Ricardo Rosello in Puerto Rico. In his free time, Sebastian enjoys listening to music (reggaeton and Spanish pop at the top), writing poetry, and meditating.

Gilberto Castro-Bernal ’23
Student Assistant

Gilberto Castro-Bernal ’23 is a junior from Salt Lake City, UT concentrating in International and Public Affairs (Development). Prior to matriculating at Brown, he served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for two years in Arizona, teaching individuals in English and Spanish in the Phoenix metropolitan area and the White Mountains. In his free time, Gilberto enjoys biking along the East Bay Bike Path, playing intramural soccer, and watching movies with his friends.

Mack Ford ’25
Student Assistant

Mack Ford ’25 is a freshman pursuing a B.A. in Comparative Literature in English, French, and Spanish. She is passionate about literature, and particularly about inspiring that same love of literature in others. In pursuing this goal, Mack has worked directly with various organizations to combat education inequalities that many Spanish-speaking students face in California, her home state. She has worked for the past three years with the bilingual academic enrichment programs at Peninsula Bridge Education Program and Siena Youth Community Center. At Brown, she works as a narrative staff writer for the Brown Daily Herald, as well as copy editor for the College Hill Independent Newspaper. She is also part of an acapella group on campus!
Lucila Nejamkis holds a PhD in Social Sciences at Universidad de Buenos Aires. Her PhD thesis analyzed immigration policies in Argentina and Mercosur. She also holds a M.A. in Political Action and Citizen Participation (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos y Colegio de Abogados de Madrid, Madrid-Spain), a BA in sociology (U.B.A). Ex-PhD fellow of Conicet, and Ex-MA fellow of Community of Madrid. Current Researcher of the Technological and Scientific Research National Council (CONICET), Associate Researcher at UBACyT (National University of San Martin, UNSAM) where she co-directs a migration studies center. She is also an Associate Professor at Arturo Jauretche National University. She has published numerous academic papers and chapters in books and has participated in several migration research projects, dealing with a variety of subjects such as public policies, arts, nationality, citizenship, and human rights in Argentina and MERCOSUR.

Kristen Kolenz earned her M.A and PhD in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at The Ohio State University and her BA in philosophy at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her research focuses on resistance to state violence, Central American social movements, migration, and the transformative potential of everyday practices through the lens of decolonial and transnational feminisms. She is currently working on her book manuscript, an analysis of the transnational movements and community-building practices of Central Americans subjected to forced migration, dangerous crossing conditions, and confinement. In the study, Dr. Kolenz takes an interdisciplinary methodological approach that combines ethnographic methods, her own activist practice, and performative studies. The project bridges the fields of Latin American and Latin Studies, bringing together research conducted in Guatemala, the Sonoran Desert, and immigrant justice movements in the US.

Mai Hunt earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Romance Languages and Literature from Harvard University in 2014. Upon graduation, she spent two years as an English Teaching Assistant with the Fulbright Program in Madrid, Spain. Mai completed her Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies at Brown in 2022. Her interests include family narratives of trauma, memory and inheritance in contemporary Colombian literature and film. She has published articles on “A Contracorriente: una revista de estudios latinoamericanos,” “Studies in Spanish and Latin American Cinemas” and the “Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos.” Brown offers interdisciplinary opportunities to support advanced graduate students in the humanities and social sciences. These opportunities provide an enhanced context for advanced doctoral students, allowing them to engage in the activities of interdisciplinary Centers and Institutes at Brown. They are designed to embed students in a community of scholars, with professional development and research opportunities, in order to support students as they complete their degrees and launch their careers. The Graduate School anticipates supporting approximately 16 fellows through this initiative each year, with most Centers and Institutes hosting one fellow. For more information, visit https://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/...
OUR CONCENTRATORS: CLASS OF 2022

Alexandra Ali Martínez
International & Public Affairs (Honors) and Latin American & Caribbean Studies (Honors)

Nell Salzman
Comparative Literature and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Maxwell Harris
Political Science and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Ciara Carlyle
Environmental Studies (Environment and Inequality) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Teresa Conchas
International and Public Affairs (Development) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Honors)

Felipe Félix-Méndez
International and Public Affairs (Development) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Honors)

Lenika Rivas Sánchez
Environmental Science and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Caiya Sanchez-Strauss
Africana Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Clara Carlyle
Environmental Studies (Environment and Inequality) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies
migrations. Of gender, race, ethnics/nationality, generation and social class relations when it comes to singular intersectionality will be fundamental to the course, as it enables us to engage in a deeper discussion movement of people. Students will be introduced to transnational perspectives and scholarly literature Latin American region and will engage in an effort to dismantle the dominant myths regarding the focus on the Latin American context. They will explore the different migratory systems from the central themes such as ethnicity, color, class, politics, as well as more specific, targeted areas including it captures the cultural and linguistic complexity of the region through the exploration of a range of representation of sun, sea and sand. This course challenges that through a broad introduction to the Latin America in Motion: Migration and Crisis in the Post-globalization Era

LACA 1503V

Two developing countries, Dominican Republic and Haiti, have widely differing health outcomes despite centuries of shared experience on the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola. This course will examine the historical, political, economic, and cultural factors that have shaped the health landscape in these countries and the health system of the region through the exploration of a range of sub-disciplines, including epidemiology and health services, to demonstrate that multiple factors, both recent and longstanding, determine the present health of these populations.

LACA 1503Y

This workshop was designed for juniors and seniors in any concentration who were researching and writing about Latin America and the Caribbean. It helped students to enhance their research and organization skills, while they develop or complete a Capstone Project (e.g., honors thesis, honors project, substantial research paper).

Erica Durante

This course serves as an introduction to the literatures and the culture of the Latin American diaspora, and uses the practices of the literary critic and the literary scholar. This course will involve a prose analysis of the literature in English, as many students are native speakers with a background in Latin American studies. The topics that we will address include public policies on immigration and the role of international and regional organizations in the management of migration. The course will also include the analysis of South-South migration in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Brazil.

This course is designed for students who are interested in the role of international and regional organizations in the management of migration. The course will also include the analysis of South-South migration in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Brazil.

The Sarmiento Fellowships support Brown University faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students who engage in research on Latin American and Caribbean Studies, which was established through the generous support of Alfredo C. Cassiet, M.D. and Maria-Elena Cassiet.

2022 Excellence in Research Mentoring Award

The intent of the award is to recognize and reward Brown faculty who have shown exceptional commitment in mentoring undergraduate researchers, as well as for their promotion, encouragement, and training of diverse students in undergraduate research.

Erica Durante, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The nominations that Professor Durante received all praised her commitment to developing research infrastructure in the Center for American and Caribbean Studies.

The intent of the award is to recognize and reward Brown faculty who have shown exceptional commitment in mentoring undergraduate researchers, as well as for their promotion, encouragement, and training of diverse students in undergraduate research.

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Erica Durante, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

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CLACS AWARDS: DISSERTATION PRIZE

Lauren Deal
Senior Experience Design Researcher, VP at Bank of America
Lauren E. Deal is a linguistic and cultural anthropologist and former fellow for the Mellon-Sawyer Seminar on Race and Indigeneity in the Americas at CLACS. Her dissertation explores the ways in which everyday actors in Buenos Aires seek to disrupt official constructions of Argentine national identity as exceptionally white and European through the appropriation, or “recuperation,” of Andean Indigenous language and music. Her analysis considers the intersections of racialization, colonialism, and decolonization as she explores how this reimagining of Argentine identity is framed, performed and experienced by her interlocutors. She reveals how this reimagining is understood as shifting away from aspirational “Eurocentric” and toward an embrace of “Latin Americaness,” and traces how the categories of whiteness, indigeneity, mestizo, and Latin American are made and remade in the process. Her work also holds in tension frameworks of interculturalism and cultural appropriation as she examines the politics of cultural circulation at stake in appropriating Andean Indigenous cultural forms in the name of decolonial work thereby also illuminating meanings of colonialism and decolonization for her interlocutors. Finally, her dissertation advocates for an approach that considers both the harms and the transformative potentialities of this type of work, which, while ethically and politically fraught, is also a site of profound joy and creativity vital to the work of imagining an otherwise.

Melanie White
Distinguished Faculty Fellow at Georgetown University
Melanie White earned her B.A. in Cultural Anthropology with a minor in Africana Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was a Posse Scholar and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. Prior to pursuing a PhD in African Studies at Brown University, she obtained her M.A. in African and African Diaspora Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, a Brown Global Mobility Research Fellowship, a Steinhaus/Zisson Pembroke Center Research Grant, a Joukowsky Summer Research Award, a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies. Most recently, she was awarded a Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award and a Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize. Her dissertation, “What Dem Do We No Have Name: Intimate Colonial Violence, Autonomy, and Black Women’s Art in Caribbean Nicaragua,” charts a history of intimate colonial violence in the Nicaraguan Mosquitia, or Caribbean Coast. Through careful examination of enslavers’ wills, colonial correspondence, Euro-American travel narratives, US survey photography, Moravian missionary photography, and Nicaraguan cultural production, her dissertation traces the racialized, gendered, and sexual violence Afro-Mosquitian women and girls have experienced at the hands of key colonial actors in their history. These intimate colonial violences are then juxtaposed with the counter-visualities of Black women artists from the region who engage Black women and girls’ histories of gender-based violence and the critical yet taken-for-granted importance of bodily autonomy in their work. In the fall, Melanie will begin a tenure-track position as a Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Fellow in the Department of African American Studies and the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies at Georgetown University.

EVENTS

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ARCHIVES OF SILENCE LECTURESHIP

This lectureship intended to facilitate cross-disciplinary conversations about the present and future archives of recent and contemporary Latin American and Caribbean history, CLACS has put together a lecture series to address several critical issues related to the constitution and preservation of archives, including censorship, anonymity, sensitivity, and the materiality or immateriality of the archive itself will focus on the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in historical context, as well as concurrent phenomena that emerge in or around silence, such as the erasure of indigenous communities, domestic violence during the pandemic, and the repression of political protest throughout the Americas during this period of exception.

Professor Ricourt used her research experience on Dominican peasantry, domestic violence in the Dominican community of Washington Heights, New York City, and Dominican undocumented immigration to Puerto Rico to educate us on extricating the Latinx community from a modern-day slavery.

Mónica G. Moreno Figueroa and Peter Wade explored antiracism and academic activism, feminist theory and the interconnections between beauty, emotions and racism, as well as organizing for social change in Latin America as part of their talk on Grammars of Anti-Racism in Latin America.

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J. M. Echavarría spoke on the intersection between violence and art in Latin America in this lecture, which focused on a documentary called "Réquiem NN" about the town of Puerto Berrio in Colombia.

Professor Guerrero utilized his experience as a professor of Spanish American literature and culture, as well as as Latin American editor for Gallimard press to talk about agents, markets and books in the modern publishing industry.

Argentine writer Mariana Enríquez gave a public interview on her books and creative process.
SAWYER SEMINAR: RETHINKING THE DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF MIGRATION, RACE, AND ETHNICITY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center of the Study of Slavery and Justice, as well as the Africana Studies Department Rites and Reason Theatre at Brown University were awarded a $225,000 grant in 2020 from the Mellon Sawyer Foundation. The focus on the seminar is “Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America.”

Due to the pandemic, the seminar has been extended and will run through June 2023. Highlights from the first year of the seminar include: two conferences “Presence Work,” and “Exploring Themes in Intra-Regional Migration” held in November 2021 and March 2022; an art exhibit launched in March 2022; and two music events highlighting music from the region held in November 2021 and May 2022.

This year’s events will include an October 28 performance by Guatemalan ‘artivist’ Rebeca Lane and a one-day symposium on detention camps in the 21st century organized by Professor Esther Whitfield on December 5.

https://watson.brown.edu/clacs/sawyer-seminar-series

SAWYER SEMINAR EVENTS

Mellon Sawyer Seminar Post-Doctoral Fellow Kristen Kolenz spoke on activism in music, combining ethnographic methods, and her own activist practice.

CLACS Visiting Professors discussed topics related to intra-regional migration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CLACS hosted a panel discussion on recent developments in Haitian migration that featured advocates and experts.
SAWYER SEMINAR EVENTS

This two-day conference featured scholars and activists who explored the dynamics of race and ethnicity in migration in the Americas.

CLACS hosted a virtual dance party that included three live performances by emerging Latin American artists to round out the first day of our conference on race and migration in the Americas.

Cogut Visiting Professor Lucila Nejamkis spoke on the experience of women migrant workers in Buenos Aires.

SAWYER SEMINAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CLACS is grateful to the members of the Sawyer Seminar Steering Committee for all of their hard work and contributions to these two years of activities.

Geri Augusto, Gerald Visiting Associate Professor of International & Public Affairs (IAPA) and Africana Studies
Lisa L Biggs, John Atwater and Diana Nelson Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
Anthony Bogues, Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory and Professor of Africana Studies
Kevin Escudero, Assistant Professor of American Studies
Andrea Flores, Assistant Professor of Education
Patricia Figueroa, Curator of Iberian and Latin American Collections

Kate Goldman, Center Manager, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Leila Lehmen, Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Chair of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Patsy Lewis, Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs
Brian Meeks, Professor of Africana Studies, Chair of Africana Studies
Mayyah Gamble-Rivers, Manager of Programs & Outreach, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
Pablo Rodriguez, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Warren Alpert Medical School
Sebastian Adriano ’25 (SA): Could you please give us a brief overview of who you are, your academic background, and the focus of your work?

Lucila Nejamkis (LN): I am a sociologist with a degree from Universidad de Buenos Aires. I completed a research visit at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. I started out studying migration and development in Argentina. I also completed a research visit at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. I started out studying migration and development in Argentina. I also completed a research visit at UNAM (the National Autonomous University of Mexico) and CONICET (the National Council on Scientific and Technical Research) in Argentina. I also completed a research visit at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. I started out studying migration and development in Argentina.

SA: You have talked a lot about immigration in Latin America. Is there a few of the most recurrent problems.

LN: Yes. The truth is that immigration is the very essence of human beings. Immigration is the rule, not the exception. In that sense, the history of Argentina, like the history of most countries in the world, including Latin America, is shaped by migrants from different parts of the world who have left their countries or regions of origin for various reasons at certain points in time.

SA: It is clear that your work has to do with the connection between environmental issues and migration. Could you let us a little more about that?

LN: I believe that there was always a connection between the environment and migration. Over the past 30 years, international agencies have focused on two scenarios: the scenarios, the social sciences, and the humanities began to think about climate change as a fundamental issue for the sustainability of human life. In that sense, immigration is a kind of discourse that is generated by human beings in an anthropogenic issue, that destroys ecosystems, diminishes biodiversity, and generates deterioration of urban territories, which have already been polluted by industries, waste, etc.

SA: From your research site, you find particularly interesting to look at urban activists in Guatemala, specifically because I used to live there, and that's where a lot of my professional connections are.

LN: I'm currently working on my book manuscript. I have two central elements of state violence that originate in my research. The first is a really horrific tragedy that took place in a juvenile detention center and a group foster home. They died in a classroom that they were forced to do punishment while they were in the custody of the state. They started a fire in the room and the air was not allowed out. Forty-one girls died, and I survived with little air. It was also about those who study violence in the US, I don't see that because you have to really dig into the research, and I generally find it easy to digest for people because it seems like bad things happen specifically to women and people with uteruses. But I also stop and think about who is doing this kind of research? MF: I have so many questions! Could you tell me a little bit about some of the activists that you're working with? I'm particularly interested in you if you found particularly interesting to look at?

LN: Of course! One central part of the project is to tap activists named Bárbara Lina. She's a unique artist because before and after my work, she talks about what inspired the stories or social relations to the stories. Sometimes she speaks from her personal experience, and others it was after she was named after her aunt who was disappeared during the war in Guatemala. So, she talks about those stories in such a way that it's generally easily digestible for people because it seems like bad things happen for us. She also talks a lot about her experience of motherhood as well as things like remembering the violence of the war and understanding common social dynamics on state violence. She inspires me because she works, she has her music, she has her art, and she has her agenda about talking about violence against women and things that happen specifically to people with uteruses. She also talks and Latin about other things going on in the world. She helps people understand the ways of violence and interconnections, and then we all get close together.

MF: Have you come across opposition to your research, or challenges that have to do with this kind of research?

LN: I think one thing about studying violence in Latin American women from the US is that it's generally easily digestible for people because it seems like bad things happen for us. So, the kind of opposition that people encounter who study violence in the US, is that I don't see that because you have to really dig into my work to understand that the violence implicates us in the US. It's about all of us.