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. Read our Annual Report to learn more about CLACS’s diverse program of undergraduate courses, academic lectures, and cultural events that connect the Brown and Providence communities with Latin America and the Caribbean.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2019-2020 report of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, located at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.

This has been an unusual year for CLACS, to say the least, as in response to the novel coronavirus we have had to make the transition to online teaching, suspend our activities after mid-March and rethink our programming for the remainder of the Spring Semester. Despite this, CLACS has had a vibrant year. We collaborated with our affiliates, students and various departments and institutions at Brown and beyond, to host or co-host 33 of our 45 planned events. These covered a wide range of issues, from the Mexican Revolution and the Colombian conflict to newer sites of unrest across the region such as occurred in Chile and Ecuador, to the challenges of Venezuelan migration. This year, CLACS has benefited tremendously from the lectureship series, Storytelling in the Americas: Journalism, Gender, Fiction, and Borders, conceptualized by Center Manager Kate Goldman and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Erica Durante, and supported by the Dean of Faculty and the Charles K. Colver Lectureship and Publications Fund. This initiative brought to campus outstanding journalists, academics and activists. Notable presentations included Somali refugee Mohamed Maim’s talk, “Changing the Refugee Narrative through Fashion”; ACLU’s Staff Reporter, Ashoka Mukpo’s talk on “The Role of Video and Photography to Mobilize Action Against Abuses at the Border”; and Columbia Journalism School’s Nina Alvarez’s talk, “The Perfect Immigrant and Other Myths”.

Our graduate affiliates also made important contributions to our programming. They presented their research in a symposium that brought together graduate students across different departments, disciplinary fields and stages of the research process; and a poster session that displayed research funded by the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the Graduate School, and the Sarmiento Fund.

Although we were forced to suspend our programs for most of the Spring semester we managed to introduce virtual events that spoke directly to the ways in which Covid-19 has affected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean exploring its disproportionate effects on the Latinx community in Rhode Islands. Our programming in this period took two forms: online events such as webinars and podcasts, and short pieces written specifically for CLACS’s website that explore these issues. These include the podcast “The Fight Against Covid-19 in RI’s Latinx Communities”, in collaboration with the Watson Institute; and the webinars “Covid-19 and the Caribbean: A discussion with ACS SG Ambassador Dr. June Soomer”; and “I.C.E. Detention Center in the Age of Covid-19”, which featured Brown graduates and current students.

CLACS also benefited from the presence of three Cogut Visiting Professors in the Fall term, who also made their mark on our teaching and intellectual life. Each year the Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professorship allows CLACS to host prominent academics from Latin America and the Caribbean in residence at Brown who enrich our programming by teaching, sharing their research and inviting other academics to Brown to share their work. This year, we were delighted to have Professors Iria Puyosa from Venezuela, Estevão Fernandes from Brazil, and María Cabrera Arus from Cuba, whose teaching and research centered, respectively, on social movements, the Amazon, and fashion and revolution. Our Center also benefited from the presence of two graduate students, who taught classes and presented on their research. With the support of the Graduate School, we were able to host Daniel McDonald from the History Department as this year’s Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow. Nicolás Campisi, a graduate student in Hispanic Studies, was this year’s Sarmiento Fellow.

CLACS’s achievements rest on the work of its talented and hard-working staff and faculty, anchored by Center Manager Kate Goldman. Kate was an active participant in CLACS’s programming, co-anchoring the series, “Storytelling in the Americas: Journalism, Gender, Fiction and Borders”, with Erica Durante, and organizing symposia that reflect on current issues such as a teach-in on the protests in Chile and a discussion of the controversial novel, American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins. Under the leadership of Director of Undergraduate Studies, Erica Durante, CLACS’s undergraduate concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACA) has grown from strength to strength. This academic year, LACA had an
undergraduate cohort of 27 students, 11 of whom graduated in May. Erica has been central to managing the smooth transition to online teaching. She has played an exemplary role in instructing the senior honors class and in supervising many student theses and capstone projects, the quality of which was on display in the thesis seminars which were conducted online this year. CLACS’s work was also ably assisted by three undergraduate student workers: Ally Zhu (Computer Science), Andrea Vega (Environmental Studies) and Adriana Rodriguez (Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Political Science).

CLACS also welcomed a new staff member, Ailton Barbosa, as Outreach Coordinator. Ailton, who is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English, provides an invaluable link with the wider Providence and Rhode Island Latinx and Caribbean diaspora communities, strengthening our engagement with issues of importance to them as well as their participation in our programming. Examples of this work include the symposium on the Colombia Peace Process with representatives of the Colombia Truth Commission, The Colombia Association of Victims of Conflict and the Director of Equity, Empowerment and Excellence for Multilingual Learners, Central Falls School District; and a teach in on the Bahamas and hurricane Dorian which included the Executive Director of New Bridges for Haitian Success, an organization that addresses the needs of the Haitian diaspora in Providence. Ailton has also been instrumental in coordinating CLACS’s collaboration with Watson’s Trending Globally podcasts. CLACS has also been privileged to collaborate with Dr. Pablo Rodriguez, a key community leader and a Clinical Associate Professor at the Warren Alpert Medical School as host of these podcasts. Four podcasts have resulted from this collaboration with Watson and CLACS, including, “The Fight Against Covid-19 in RI’s Latinx Communities”.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of CLACS’s Advisory Committee: Daniel Rodriguez (History), Alex Nading (Watson Institute), Esther Whitfield (Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies), James Green (History, and Director of the Brazil Initiative), Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro (Political Science), and Andrés Fernández (Associate Dean of Student Support); and to express my gratitude for their support of the Center this past academic year.

We are excited to welcome new additions to CLACS in the Fall! These include two Cogut Visiting Professors María Inclán and Kamala Kempadoo. Professor Inclán is based at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas in Mexico City. Her work focuses on the study of comparative social movements and democratization processes. Prof. Kamala Kempadoo, Sociologist and Professor in the Department of Social Science at York University, Canada, comes from Guyana and spends her time between Barbados and Canada. Her work focuses on the Caribbean sex trade and global anti-trafficking discourses. We also look forward to having in residence Luis Achondo, Ph.D. Candidate in Musicology and Ethnomusicology in the Department of Music, as our new Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow, whose research focuses on the intersection of violence and fandom in sports. We also welcome Felipe Félix Méndez (International and Public Affairs) who joins Adriana and Ally as one of our undergraduate student workers and to thank Andrea Vega Troncoso for her hard work with the Center and to wish her all the best as she moves on to life beyond Brown.

This last semester has been particularly challenging for our undergraduates and graduating PhD’s. It should have been the crowning semester of your years at Brown, celebrated with a Spring concert, Spring Break, many small gatherings of friends and colleagues to acknowledge your hard work, not to mention a formal celebration of your achievements in the presence of faculty, administrators, family and friends and your second opportunity to walk through Brown’s Van Winkle gates. Instead, you found yourselves prematurely separated from the Brown campus, peers and friends, concluding the semester via innumerable zoom classes and meetings. For many of you, post-graduation plans have been thrown into disarray, illustrative of the uncertainty we all now confront as a result of the Coronavirus. We cannot know how each of you have been affected by these events, but are confident that your training at Brown, which built on your passion, creativity, compassion, and ingenuity, will be useful tools as you face the challenges ahead and make your own mark in helping to address these. We look forward to your continued engagement with Brown and the CLACS community.

I cannot end this report without acknowledging the tumultuous events of the past few weeks expressed in widespread peaceful protests across the United States and in many countries around the world deploring racism and the excessive use of violence against Black people and other people of color. Our statement deploring anti-Black racism and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and anti-Black protests in the US and globally, acknowledges that problems of racism and the excessive use of force by the state are not unique to the United States. Much of our programming and the research of CLACS affiliated faculty and affiliated graduate students explore racism, inequality, authoritarianism and state violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the moment requires a more explicit focus on these important issues and a deeper and more ethical engagement with our Latinx and Caribbean diaspora communities in Rhode Island and beyond.

It has been my privilege to act as Interim Director of CLACS this past academic year. I am particularly grateful to the CLACS community—my colleagues at CLACS; our faculty affiliates; affiliated graduate students; our undergraduate community; the Watson Institute, in particular its Communications team; our departmental collaborators; the wider Providence Community; and all of you who have contributed to making CLACS a dynamic space for inter-disciplinary learning.

Patsy Lewis, Interim Director
Patsy Lewis
Interim Director
Visiting Professor of International and Public Affairs

Patsy Lewis is Visiting Professor and Faculty Fellow of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. She is a graduate of Cambridge University (MPhil, PhD.) and the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (BA). Before coming to Brown she was Professor of Regional Integration and Small States Development 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
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. She has held the position of tenured associate professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Louvain (Belgium). Her research has focused on European and Latin American literature, on literature and globalization, and on francophone writers of Africa and the Caribbean. Funded by the Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, she has compiled the edition of Borges’ personal library in the precious Borges’ archive in Buenos Aires. She is the author of the books “Air Travel Fiction and Film: Cloud People” (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), “Questions de poétique et d’écriture: Dante au miroir de Valéry et de Borges” (Paris: Honoré Champion, 2008), and “Mallarmé et moi” (Pisa: ETS, 1999). She has edited “Los Meridianos de la Globalización” (Presses Universitaires de Louvain, 2015) and “Le Double: littérature, arts, cinéma. Nouvelles approaches” (with A. Dehoux) (Paris: Honoré Champion, 2018), and has published numerous articles in the fields of Comparative Literature and Global Studies.
Kate Goldman holds a B.A. in Political Science and Modern Languages from Union College and an M.A. in Spanish American Literature from Rutgers University. Prior to joining CLACS, she worked as a translator, editor, and teacher in the United States and Chile. Kate recently earned a Certificate in Mediation at Brown through the Brown University Ombudsperson’s Office (Spring 2017). In addition, she served on the Watson Institute Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee in 2016 and 2017 and and is Head of University and Academic Partnerships at Respond Crisis Translation, a network of volunteer translators providing interpretation and translation services for migrants and refugees.

Ailton Barbosa holds a B.A. in Political Science from Rhode Island College (RIC) and an M.A. in International Relations and Chinese Politics from Fudan University, Shanghai, China. Prior to joining CLACS, Ailton had long international career as an educator, teaching in China, Cape Verde Island and finally the US. He is an active member of his community and is a member of the Cape Verdean-American Community Development and a board member of the Institute for Portuguese Lusophone Studies at RIC.

Andrea Vega Troncoso ’20
Student Assistant
Andrea is a senior concentrating in Latin American & Caribbean Studies and Environmental Studies. She grew up in Santo Domingo, República Dominicana and has been involved in political and environmental work back home. At Brown, she serves as senior advisor for Dominican Students at Brown, where she helps organize cultural events, performance series, and workshops. She is currently working on her honors thesis, “¿Paradise for whom? The political ecology of tourism and environmental injustice in coastal communities of the Eastern Dominican Republic,” for which she conducted ethnographic fieldwork as a Voss Fellow at the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES). She is interested in the questions: what is at stake in producing paradise, and for whom is paradise constructed? She is also part of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of Michigan, a fellowship for students of color that focuses on diversity and justice within the environmental field. In her free time, Andrea enjoys cooking vegan versions of Dominican food and having really long WhatsApp calls with her family.
Ally Zhu ’22
Student Assistant

Ally Zhu is a second year undergraduate student at Brown, where she is studying Computer Science and Visual Arts. While she currently lives in Hong Kong, Ally grew up in Shanghai, where she spent a lot of time critiquing cafes and pondering contemporary issues on her blog, Allywaytalk. She is the author of the book “All I ever wanted was the World: A Coloring Book and Curation of Showerthoughts” (KDP, 2020) and recently illustrated and copy-edited Professor Oded Galor’s newest book on the history of human development coming out soon. As an artist from a young age who has created hundreds of pieces from acrylic paintings and wire sculptures to clay bathtubs and charcoal drawing time lapses, building things has become a habit of life. Among many things, she loves having conversations about design-thinking, reimagining capitalism, and the future. Outside of work, her interests include fencing, basketballing, attending Hackathons, and playing the piano and clarinet.

Adriana Rodriguez ’21
Student Assistant

Adriana Rodriguez is a junior concentrating in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACA) and Political Science from Teaneck, New Jersey. Her decision to concentrate in LACA arose from her interest in studying her own Puerto Rican and Dominican heritage - specifically the history of U.S. intervention and imperialism on the two islands-, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean more broadly. In the coming academic year (2020-2021), Adriana will begin work on her thesis, which explores the relationship between political activism and the practice of cultural traditions between diaspora Puerto Ricans in the United States and those on the island. She would like to understand how diaspora and islander Puerto Ricans take ownership of their “Puerto-ricanness,” whether diaspora Puerto Ricans have a responsibility to participate in political action related to the island, if they partake in cultural traditions and if diaspora organizing is effective/desired/needed. Adriana is active at Brown with the Center for Students of Color as co-President of Dominican Students @ Brown. She also participated in the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad program in Havana, Cuba during the fall semester of 2019 and loves (can’t stop) talking about her experiences there!
faculty
Iria Puyosa
Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor
Iria Puyosa is the Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor of Latin American Studies at Brown University and a Visiting Professor at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. She is a researcher in political communication and civil society. Her current research interests include: Networked social movements, information disorders, and civil resistance under authoritarian regimes. She holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Public Policy from the University of Michigan, and has graduate training in survey-based research and strategic communication. She uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods. She has taught postgraduate courses in ICTs & Political Processes, Public Opinion & Social Media, Media & Politics, Research Methods in Digital Spaces, Political Communication, Radical Communication, and Social Networks Analysis in universities in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia. Currently, she is serving as chair in the Section on Venezuelan Studies of the Latin American Studies Association.

María A. Cabrera Arús
Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor
María A. Cabrera Arús (Ph.D. Sociology, New School for Social Research) studies the impact of fashion and domestic material culture on regime stability and legitimation with a geographic focus on the Caribbean region during the Cold War. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including Theory & Society, Contexts, and Cuban Studies, and book anthologies, including The Revolution from Within and the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Communist Visual Cultures. Cabrera Arús created Cuba Material, an archive of Cuban material culture from the Cold War era that won the New Challenge Award for Social Innovation and co-curated the exhibitions Pioneros: Building Cuba’s Socialist Childhood in the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at the Parsons School of Design (September 17 – October 1, 2015) and Cuban Finotype and Its Materiality for Cabinet magazine (October 21, 2015).

Estevão Rafael Fernandes
Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professor
Estevão Rafael Fernandes is an anthropologist and coordinates the Amazonian Research Laboratory on Latin America. He is a professor in the master’s degree program in Human Rights at the Federal University of Rondônia and in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of Mato Grosso, both in the Brazilian Amazon. He specializes in topics such as indigenous peoples, post-colonialism, coloniality and queer studies. He holds a PhD in Comparative Studies on the Americas from the University of Brasília and was a visiting researcher at the Center for Global Studies and the Humanities at Duke University under the supervision of Walter Mignolo.

He has been working with indigenous peoples in Brazil since 1999, having developed his research on the cosmology of contact and interethnic relations among the Xavante people. He worked at the Fundação Nacional do Índio, developed actions in health education with indigenous peoples and was an Advisor to the National Rapporteurship on Human Rights to Health in a United Nations Project in Brazil. He is the author of dozens of articles published in academic journals in Brazil, Colombia, Poland, United States, Venezuela, and Portugal. He currently works on the effects of colonization on indigenous sexualities in Brazil and Latin America.
Daniel McDonald
Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow

Daniel McDonald is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department. He has a B.A. in History and Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as an A.M. in Latin American History from Brown University. His research interests are in modern Latin American history, which focuses on twentieth-century Brazil, urban history, social movements, consumption, and democratization in South America. His MA thesis examined the intersections of race and space in the construction of the planned city of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais during Brazil’s Old Republic (1889-1930). His dissertation project examines the ways in which everyday citizens and civil society contested the political economy of the Brazilian state during Brazil’s military dictatorship (1964-1985) and in the first decade of democracy. In December 2019, Daniel gave a CLACS lunch talk, entitled: “Democratic Biocitizenship: Health Rights from Dictatorship to Democracy in Brazil,” featuring his dissertation research. During the Spring 2020 semester, Daniel also taught the seminar “Urban Latin America,” which explored major themes in the past 200 years of Latin American urban life, with a particular focus on the perspectives of overlooked and subaltern actors.

Nicolás Campisi
Sarmiento Fellow

Nicolás Campisi is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic Studies from Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina. He holds a B.A. in Art History and Hispanic Studies from Washington College. His current interests include 20th and 21st Century Southern Cone narratives, avant-garde poetics, travel literature, trauma and memory studies, Judaic Studies, and world literature. He is also interested in Latin American soccer fiction, and he has co-edited an anthology of soccer short stories (Por amor a la pelota: Once cracks de la ficción futbolera) published by Editorial Cuarto Propio in Chile.
ALMEIDA, Onesimo Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Alvarado, Leticia American Studies
AnderBois, Scott Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences
Andreas, Peter Political Science / Watson Institute
Arnold, Lynnette Anthropology
Augusto, Geri Africana Studies
Barnes, Nicholas Watson Institute
Bass, Laura Africana Studies
Becker, Bruce Warren Alpert Medical School
Bertness, Mark Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)
Bisaccio, Daniel Education
Blackadar, Andrew Watson Institute
Blair, Robert Political Science / Watson Institute
Bliss, Joseph Warren Alpert Medical School
Bloomfield, Steven Watson Institute
Bogues, Anthony B. Africana Studies
Borkan, Jeffrey Warren Alpert Medical School
Chanmer, Colin Literary Arts
Cherry, John Archaeology and the Ancient World / Classics
Clayton, Michelle Hispanic Studies
Colgan, Jeff Political Science / Watson Institute
Cope, R. Douglas History
Dal Bo, Pedro Economics
De Carteret, Alyce Anthropology
De la Monte, Suzanne Warren Alpert Medical School
Diaz, Joseph Warren Alpert Medical School
Dzidzienyo, Anani Africana Studies
Edwards, Erika Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)
Egilman, David Warren Alpert Medical School
Elliott, Claudia Watson Institute
Empkie, Timothy Public Health
Escudero, Kevin American Studies
Estrada-Orozco, Luis Miguel Hispanic Studies
Evans, Peter Watson Institute
Fagan, Mark Warren Alpert Medical School
Faudree, Paja Anthropology
Fernández Álvez, Andrés Associate Dean of Students
Ferreira, Roqueinhaldo History / Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Figueroa, Patricia John Hay Library
Fischer, Karen Geological Sciences
Fisher, Linford History
Flanigan, Timothy Warren Alpert Medical School
Flores, Andrea Education
Foggle, John Warren Alpert Medical School
Foster, Andrew Economics / Population Studies and Training Center
Galarraza, Omar Public Health
Gander, Forrest English / Literary Arts
Goldman, Roberta Warren Alpert Medical School
Gómez García, Eva Hispanic Studies
Granai, Cornelius Warren Alpert Medical School
Green, James N. History
Greenburg, Jennifer Watson Institute
Gutman, Matthew Anthropology
Harrison, Emily Warren Alpert Medical School
Hastings, Justine Economics
Heller, Patrick Sociology / Watson Institute
Henry, Paget Sociology / Africana Studies
Hooker, Juliet Political Science
Houston, Stephen Anthropology
Huambachano, Mariaelena A. Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, American Studies
Hu-DeHart, Evelyn History
Itzigsohn, José Sociology
Jackson, Fred Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)
Kantor, Rami Warren Alpert Medical School
King, Dawn Environmental Studies
Kinzer, Stephen Watson Institute
Kuhnheim, Jill Hispanic Studies
Laird, Andrew Classics
Lambe, Jennifer History
Leinaweaver, Jessaca Anthropology
Lepore, Michael Warren Alpert Medical School
Lester, Barry Warren Alpert Medical School
Lewis, Patsy Development Studies
Lewis, Thomas Religious Studies
Lindstrom, David Sociology
Liu, Simin Warren Alpert Medical School
Locke, Richard Political Science
Logan, John Sociology
Lopez-Sanders, Laura Sociology
Mann-Hamilton, Ryan Africana Studies
Martinez, Monica M. American Studies
Martinez-Pinzón, Felipe Hispanic Studies
McCarrell, Matthew Music
McCarvey, Stephen Warren Alpert Medical School
Meeks, Brian Africana Studies
Merrim, Stephanie Hispanic Studies / Comparative Literature
Mimiaga, Matthew Public Health
Miranda, Almita Watson Institute
Montero, Iris Cogit Institute for the Humanities
Mumford, Jeremy History
Nading, Alex Watson Institute
Nei, Christopher Marine Biology Laboratory
Nunn, Amy Warren Alpert Medical School
Ortega, Julio Hispanic Studies
Osailywese, Ithan History of Art and Architecture
Pacheco, María Portuguese and Brazilian Studies / Education Alliance
Perry, Keisha-Khan Africana Studies / Anthropology
Porder, Stephen Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)
Rangel, David Education
Reilly, Matthew Archaeology and the Ancient World, Joukowsky Institute
Remensnyder, Amy History
Roberts, Timmons Sociology / Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES)
Rodriguez, Besenia Associate Dean of the College
Rodriguez, Daniel History
Rodriguez, Pablo Warren Alpert Medical School
Rodriguez, Ralph American Studies
Saal, Alberto Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences
Safer, Neil John Carter Brown Library
Salinas-Moniz, Felicia Sarah Doyle Women’s Center
Scherer, Andrew Anthropology
Schrank, Andrew Sociology / Watson Institute
Schuhmacher, Nidia Hispanic Studies
Simas-Almeida, Leonor Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Smith, Victoria Hispanic Studies
Snyder, Holly John Hay Library
Snyder, Richard Political Science
Sobral, Patricia Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Sobral, Silvia Hispanic Studies
Stallings, Barbara Watson Institute
Stonestreet, Barbara Warren Alpert Medical School
Taub, Joshua International Advancement
Thomas, Sarah Hispanic Studies
Tucker, Joshua Music
Valente, Luiz Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
VanWey, Leah Sociology / Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES)
Van Valkenburgh, Park Anthropology
Vaquero, Mercedes Hispanic Studies / Medieval Studies
Vivier, Patrick Warren Alpert Medical School
Ward, Kenneth John Carter Brown Library
Weitz-Shapiro, Rebecca Political Science
Whitfield, Esther Comparative Literature
Ybarra, Patricia Theatre and Performance Studies
students
OUR CONCENTRATORS: CLASS OF 2020

- Ella Satish: LACA
- Andrea Vega Troncoso: LACA and Environmental Studies
- Jackson Sales: LACA
- Aidan Garrett: LACA and History
- Christopher Parks: LACA and History
- Elisabeth Schirrin: LACA and Modern Culture and Media
- Laura Muñoz: LACA and History
- Dylan Majsik: LACA and English
- Dana Rubenstein: LACA and Public Health
- Daniel Jason: LACA and History
FALL 2019

LACA 1503P
Consuming the Cold War in the Caribbean
María Cabrera Arús
How was the Cold War experienced in the Caribbean? How did refrigerators, automobiles, washing machines, stereos, and blue jeans become proxies of the world superpowers and mechanisms of impersonal rule in the hands of local regimes? How were Caribbean populations transformed by modernizing and developmentalist policies, and how did they resist the marketed allure of empires? Consuming the Cold War in the Caribbean answers these questions, exploring the politics of modern material and visual regimes in Cuba and the region during the post WW II era, addressing such regimes as mechanisms of soft power, impersonal rule, political critique, and resistance.

LACA 1503Q
Politics of Indigeneity in Brazil
Estevão Fernandes
This course examines the politics of indigeneity in Brazil. First, it examines the relationship between native peoples and settlers, especially the Jesuits, Portuguese colonists, and the Portuguese Crown. Our purpose is to understand images of savagery and innocence as part of colonial imaginary in Brazilian’s imaginary about natives. Next, we will explore how indigenous peoples were understood by scientists and naturalists, and how these discussions are important in understanding notions about race in Brazil. Finally, we examine the relationships between native peoples and the State during the Republic, with a focus on contemporary issues, such as development, the environment, and social movements.

LACA 1503O
Networked Movements: Mobilizations for change in Latin America in the 21st century
Iria Puyosa
Networked Movements examines the characteristics of social movements emerging in Latin America since 2007. These movements combine the non-violent occupation of public spaces and the intensive use of digital technologies for autonomous political communication. The course starts with foundations of networked social movement theories. Topics will include: the social appropriation of technological innovations; the construction of collective identity and the movement’s aesthetics; collective action for the occupation of public space; counter-public or counter-hegemonic political action; dynamics of social capital combining strong and weak ties; small-world structure of the movement networks; and mobilizing ideas by information cascades and network contagion.

LACA 1900
Honors and Capstone Project on Latin American and Caribbean Topics
Erica Durante
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, refine their research or creative projects, and develop or complete a Capstone Project (e.g. honors thesis, honors project, substantial research paper).

SPRING 2020

LACA 0500
Around Latin America in 80 Days: An Historical and Cultural Journey
Erica Durante
This course will be constructed as a journey throughout the complex and diverse region of Latin America. By exploring the main geographical, historical, cultural and ethnic characteristics of this area of the globe, students will discover some critical junctures, and personalities that in the past centuries have defined Latin America as a unique, transnational and multilingual subcontinent. The course will be structured around three axes (foundational and modern myths, nation-building and cultural identities, and icons of popular culture) that will be explored from an interdisciplinary perspective, combining insights from the fields of archaeology, anthropology, arts, history, literature, and political science. The languages of instruction will be Spanish and English. Students will be expected to be able to conduct their readings in Spanish, when English translations of the reading material are not available, although during class discussion and assignments they will be permitted to use the language of their choice.

LACA 1504G
Latin American Environmental Humanities
Nicolás Campisi
Latin America is one of the regions where the worldwide environmental crisis has manifested itself most forcefully over the past decades—with high levels of environmental toxicity, endangered species, and habitat loss. This course will introduce students to how artists, filmmakers, and writers are representing and raising awareness about key environmental issues in the region. The course is structured around five case studies: the desert, agriculture, oil extraction, water pollution, and waste management. The languages of instruction will be Spanish and English. When the reading material is not available in translation, students are expected to be able to read in Spanish.

LACA 1510I
Urban Latin America
Daniel McDonald
This course provides an introduction to the study of cities and urban life in modern Latin America. We will explore major themes in the past 200 years of Latin American urban life, with a particular focus on the perspectives of overlooked and subaltern actors. Some of the topics we will examine are urban slavery, informality, populism, migration and immigration, urban environments and ecology, queer/LGBTQ+ urban studies, urban planning and modernism, and social movements. By exploring cities during this broader historical period, we will trace the debates and shifting politics that have influenced urban research across multiple disciplines.

LACA 1630
Engaged Humanities: Storytelling in the Americas
Erica Durante
This course explores the role of storytelling in the transmission of cultural narratives across societies in Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinx diaspora. We will examine a wide variety of stories as well as mediums (e.g., podcasts, photos, art works, textiles, and music) that are exemplary of this cultural transmission, and we will be exposed to practitioners from the local and international community who will share their insights with us. Students will be engaged in the art of storytelling through collaborative workshops, and will create their original narratives inspired by social and cultural issues of Latin American and Caribbean countries.
CLACS AFFILIATED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Aimée Bourassa Political Science
Alejandra Irene Cueto Piazza Sociology
Alejandra Roche Recinos Anthropology
Alexandria Miller Africana Studies
Alexandro Menez Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Amy Teller Sociology
Apollonya Porcelli Sociology
Benjamin Bradlow Sociology
Benjamin Chilson-Parks Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences
Ben Salinas Anthropology
Bill Skinner History of Art and Architecture
Brendan Lambert Comparative Literature
Bryan Moorefield Anthropology
Catalina Ravizza Economics
Cyril Bennouna Political Science
Daina Rivas-Tello Anthropology
Daniel McDonald History
Diego Gentile Passaro Economics
Diego Luis History
Emilia Brito Economics
Ethel Barja Hispanic Studies
Felipe Brugués Economics
Hannah Baron Political Science
Harper Dine Anthropology
Jamie Corbett Music
Javier Fernandez Galeano History
Jonathon Acosta Sociology
Jon Nelson Sociology
Jordan Jones Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Jorge Eduardo Pérez Economics
Joshua T. Schnell Anthropology
Juan Pedro Ronconi Economics
Katie Duarte Sociology
Kristen McNeill Sociology
Lauren E. Deal Anthropology
Lorenzo Aldeco Leo Economics
Luis Achondo Music
Mallory Matsumoto Anthropology
María Florencia Chiaramonte Hispanic Studies
María José Rodríguez Pliego Comparative Literature
Marlon Jiménez Oviedo Theatre Arts and Performance Studies
María López-Portillo Sociology
Mateo Díaz Choza Hispanic Studies
Melaine Ferdinand-King Africana Studies
Miriam Rothenberg Archeology and the Ancient World
Morgan Clark Anthropology
Nasir Marumo Africana Studies
Nicolás Campisi Hispanic Studies
Omar Andrés Alcover Firpi Anthropology
Pedro Almeida Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Regina Pieck Hispanic Studies
Ricarda Hammer Sociology
Samuele Giambra Economics
Santiago Hermo Economics
Silvia Cabral Teresa Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Thamyris Almeida History
Violet Cavicchi Music
Watufani Poe Africana Studies
Wilton Schereka Africana Studies
### 2020 Sarmiento Fellowship Recipient

The Sarmiento Fellowships support Brown University faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students who engage in social science or humanities research on non-Caribbean Latin America south of Panama, focusing on the period after 1830. All recipients must be natives or residents of a Spanish-speaking country south of Panama. The Sarmiento Fellowship is funded by the Sarmiento Flexible Fund for Latin American Studies, which was established through the generous support of Alfredo C. Cassiet, M.D. and Maria-Elena Cassiet.

**Nicolás Campisi (Graduate student, Hispanic Studies)**  
Nicolás’ research examines the question of “the contemporary” in recent Latin American fiction. He understands the contemporary to be a period of intense awareness of the historical present, when the very idea of “the world” has come to be disputed – no longer concerned about debates over center vis-à-vis periphery, writers today are conjuring the world in all of its contemporaneous difference. Focusing on a corpus of literary fictions of the post-1989 era, his dissertation traces a cartography of how Latin American writers are accounting for the changing temporal regimes of our globalized present.

### Pre-dissertation Research Grants

- **Cyril Bennouna** (Comparative Politics and International Relations)
- **Lauren George** (Global Health)
- **Maria Lopez Portillo** (Sociology)
- **Meghna Nandi** (Primary Care - Population Medicine)
- **Tess Renker** (Hispanic Studies)
- **Daiana Rivas Tello** (Department of Anthropology)
- **Edwin Rodriguez** (American Studies)

### LACA Honors Thesis Prize Recipients

- **Black Isn’t the Risk Factor, Racism Is: The Cuban Maternal Health System as a Model for Improving Care of Black Mothers in the United States**  
  By Ella Satish ’20 (LACA)

- **“Proof of Life”: Creative Thesis Project Reflection**  
  By Elisabeth Schifrin ’20 (LACA and Modern Culture and Media)

### CLACS Undergraduate Essay Prize

- **“Si te dicen que nos silencianos, no les creas’: Los medios alternativos bajo la dictadura chilena”**  
  Christopher Packs ’20 (History and LACA)

- **“The Politics of Labor Market Protectionism in Panama”**  
  Felipe Félix Méndez ’22 (International and Public Affairs)

### CLACS Undergraduate Research Awards 2020

The CLACS Undergraduate Research Awards support Brown University undergraduate students who engage in research or attend conferences in the United States or a country in Latin America or the Caribbean.

- **Brianna Kendall ’20** (International Relations)
- **Ella Satish ’20** (LACA)
- **Dylan Majskiak ’20** (LACA)
- **Diego Rodríguez Langevin ’22** (Visual Arts)

### Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow

**Daniel McDonald** (Ph.D. candidate, History Department)
For access needs, please contact Brian.Greenwald@gallaudet.edu before February 15, 2020

Alex Laferriere & Harold Bracy Jr. are Coda filmmakers for Tinker Foundation.

events
CURRENT EVENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CLACS hosted various teach-ins this year focused on calling attention to important developments in Latin America and the Caribbean. Click on the posters to visit the full event description online.
Presentations by Cogut Visiting Professors

Cogut Visiting Professor Estevão Fernandes presented his research on indigenous peoples, post-colonialism, coloniality and queer studies.

Cogut Visiting Professor Iria Puyosa presented her research on democracy and social networks.

Cogut Visiting Professor María A. Cabrera Arús studies the impact of fashion and domestic material culture on regime stability and legitimation, especially in the Caribbean during the Cold War years.
CLACS was proud to host this virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase celebrating our concentrators’ impressive work.

CLACS Interim Director Patsy Lewis hosted this discussion with Ambassador June Soomer as part of our virtual events series.

The Center invited Brown-affiliated advocates to share their reflections on ICE detention in the age of COVID-19 in our first virtual event.
LECTURE SERIES

STORYTELLING IN THE AMERICAS: JOURNALISM, GENDER, FICTION, AND BORDERS

CLACS Director of Undergraduate Studies and Visiting Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies Erica Durante and Center Manager Kate Goldman organized the lectureship “Storytelling in the Americas: Journalism, Gender, Fiction, and Borders.” The series began during the fall 2019 semester with talks by New York Times journalist Boris Muñoz, filmmaker Nina Álvarez of New York University, and ACLU journalist Ashoka Mukpo. The series enjoyed the support of the Charles K. Colver Lectureships and Publications.

In the spring semester, the lectureship featured a talk by Mohamed Malim, the founder of Epimonia, who spoke about “Changing the Refugee Narrative through Fashion.” Together with Hispanic Studies, the Center also organized a visit to campus by Colombian artist and filmmaker Juan Manuel Echevarría; unfortunately, his talk and film screening was cancelled due to COVID-19. CLACS also would have welcomed Gustavo Guerrero (Professor of Latin American Cultural History and Literature, Cergy-Pontoise/Paris-Seine University), who would have spoken about Venezuelan diasporic literature.

The series addressed several important contemporary issues related to storytelling in the Americas today, including the role of journalists in writing about and on borders (geographic, literary, etc.), the relationship between journalism and fiction, and the role of women in contemporary journalism in the Americas.
CLACS welcomed NY Times en Español Editor Boris Muñoz to campus to discuss polarization and the role of the press.

ACLU staff reporter Ashoka Mukpo presented his documentary about separated families and discussed his work.

Columbia Journalism School’s Nina Álvarez discussed her impressive work as a filmmaker exploring myths around ‘the perfect immigrant.’

CLACS welcomed Epimonia founder Mohamed Malim to campus to talk about his company, which creates fashion items like bracelets from life jackets used by refugees.
OTHER FEATURED CLACS EVENTS

ARCHITECTURES OF CAPTIVITY

GUATEMALAN DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS AND THEIR STRATEGY OF CAPTIVITY

Kevin Legac O’Neill, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019 | 7:30PM
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM
111 THAYER STREET

HEALTHCARE IN POST-CONFLICT COLUMBIA

AND THE CURRENT EFFECTS OF THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS

Leonar Aguirre Martínez, attending emergency physician and Director of the Simulation Center at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Colombia

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 | 12 PM
JOUKOWSKY FORUM
111 THAYER STREET

Note: This talk will be given in Spanish. Translation will be provided.

DOCUMENTING THE COLD WAR IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 | 5:30PM
JOUKOWSKY FORUM
111 THAYER STREET

FEATURING:
RENE CORDEIRO (PHD STUDENT AND COORDINATOR OF THE DOMINICAN SECTION OF THE OPENING THE ARCHIVES PROJECT)
LAUREN DERR (UCSB)
RAMONA HERNÁNDEZ (CU NY AND THE CITY COLLEGE)
THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE GRACIE DÍAZ
FORMER DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF THE STATE SENATE
JUAN PÉREZ

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES (CLACS) PRESENTS
Mella

STYLE AND REVOLUTION
PART OF THE REVOLUTIONS IN HISTORY PANEL SERIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 | 7:00 PM
TRUE NORTH ROOM
201 GIBBES STREET

FEATURING
SIMONETTA FALASCA-NAMPO, UC SANTA BARBARA
REGINA KUJT, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY
HARÍA CARRERA ARCE, COGUT VISITING PROFESSOR, BROWN UNIVERSITY

DISCUSSIONS
LEO MALFY LÉCIA (PFL) AND RICHARD STYNDLER (BRUNSWICK UNIVERSITY)

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES (CLACS) PRESENTS

DEMOCRATIC BIOCITIZENSHIP: HEALTH RIGHTS FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY IN BRAZIL

DANIEL MCDONALD, CLACS INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITY FELLOW
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 | NOON
JOUKOWSKY FORUM
111 THAYER STREET

ADELA PINEDA FRANCO

BOOK PRESENTATION:
THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION ON THE WORLD STAGE: INTELLECTUALS AND FILM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (2019)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020
NEON
JOUKOWSKY FORUM
111 THAYER STREET