



WATSON INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BROWN UNIVERSITY



Center for Latin American
and Caribbean Studies

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Front cover image shows art
by Jasmine Thomas-Girvan,
photograph by Rythum Vinoben.

Director’s Note

Dear CLACS community,

As my term as CLACS Director comes to an end, I would like to extend my gratitude to the CLACS community for your support over the past four years. My term at CLACS has been a rich and rewarding experience. It presented new challenges as we moved fully into online programming in the second semester of my term in response to the Covid pandemic, but opened us up to audiences across the US and further afield, who would not otherwise have been able to access our programming. After two years of hosting only online events, we were thrilled to be back to in-person events this year, while continuing to engage with our global online community which sustained us over the pandemic.

This year’s 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,” which is drawing to a close this semester. The Sawyer Seminar, which represents a collaborative effort with the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ) and Africana Studies Department, Rites and Reason Theatre, brought a wide variety of programming to Brown that ranged from musical and theatrical performances to literary readings and academic talks. We are thrilled to have hosted Guatemalan hip hop artist and activist Rebeca Lane, renowned performance artist Jose Torres-Tama, and award-winning writers from throughout the region. These efforts culminated in the exhibit “Window on Memory,” a collaboration with the Brown Arts Institute, which featured the work of sculptor Jasmine Thomas-Girvan. For more details, see the Sawyer Seminar section of this report.

We also organized a lectureship titled “Climate Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean,” which was funded in part by the Dean of the Faculty’s Office through the Charles P. Sisson II Memorial Lectureship fund. This effort featured a conversation with filmmaker Esther Figueroa on her documentary, Fly Me



PHOTOGRAPH BY RYTHUM VINO BEN

to the Moon, and presentations by academics from throughout the region on extractivism and climate justice. Recordings of this content are available on our website, and highlights are presented later in this report.

We continued to work on our research project, “In the Wake of George Floyd: Responses to Anti-Black Racism in Rhode Island,” which was supported under the Provost’s “Addressing Systemic Racism” Fund. This project (originally titled “Addressing Systemic Racism in Rhode Island”), explores the protests across Rhode Island in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd. We hosted the soft launch of the website with the Brown University Library Center for Digital Scholarship in the fall of 2022 and have continued to add new content produced by local news organizations and members of the public. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the Center for Digital Scholarship, in particular, its Director Ashley Champagne and Patrick Rashley as well as students and alumni Shereece Rankine, Karthik Saravanan, and Sebastian Adriano.

This year we hosted three Cogut Visiting Professors: Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista of Peru, who was with us for the entire year, José Miguel Nieto Olívar of Brazil, and Haroldo Dilla Alfonso of Chile. Each of them taught one Latin American and Caribbean Studies

course per semester and participated in CLACS events. We also co-hosted Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre, an American Council of Learned Societies Post-doctoral Fellow from Mexico, with the Brown University Libraries, and Catherine Whittaker, an anthropologist from Germany who studies violence and relationships in Mexico, with the Anthropology Department. All five of them presented an overview of their work at our [visiting scholars event](#) this semester. In addition, professor Valdiviezo organized a [virtual discussion](#) on Quechua and Aymara voices in response to Peru's current political crisis. We are most grateful to the energy and focus that all of our visiting scholars brought to the Center this year.

We also welcomed Mateo Díaz Choza (Hispanic Studies) as our Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow. Mateo taught a course titled "In-Transit Identities: Migration in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Popular Culture" and co-organized our CLACS [Reading Group](#) on Andean Literature with Cogut Visiting Professor Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista and our Sawyer Seminar film event with Professors Leila Lehnen and Geri Augusto. We are very grateful to Mateo for all that he contributed to the Center's work this year.

The Center's work would not be possible without the hard work of key individuals, whose support has made my job much easier. They include our staff members, Kate Goldman (Center Manager) and Emily Ruebelman (Event and Outreach Coordinator), our

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Erica Durante, and our student assistants, Mackenzie Ford, Gilberto Castro-Bernal and Sebastian Adriano. We are also grateful to the Watson Institute staff members who do so much to support CLACS, especially Alexander LaFerriere, Ellen White, and April Huth, and to Watson Director, Professor Ed Steinfeld, for his constant support.

This year we graduated seven Latin American and Caribbean (LACA) concentrators and welcomed new concentrators to the fold. Our students were also very involved in our academic programming, participating in events such as our Sawyer Seminar conference on [Camps in the 21st Century](#), which was organized by Esther Whitfield (Comparative Literature) and featured a panel on undergraduate work on the US-Mexico border, and organizing CLACS DUG events including the second annual [Día de los Muertos celebration](#) (co-sponsored with the Watson Institute). We extend heartiest congratulations to our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Erica Durante, as she moves into a new role in the Department of Hispanic Studies, and thank her for the dedication and enthusiasm she brought to her role as Director of Undergraduate Studies. We are delighted that she has agreed to continue in this role for another year.

After two years of hosting only online events, we were thrilled to be back to in-person events this year, while continuing to engage with our global online community which sustained us over the pandemic.

In the spring we held our annual [graduate student seminar](#), with five students from four Brown departments presenting their research across a range of disciplines—Anthropology, Hispanic Studies, History, and Africana Studies. Each of them presented new perspectives on their topics and engaged with [affiliated faculty](#) and students in spirited discussions of some of the most important developments in the region in recent years.

This year, we owe a debt of gratitude to affiliated faculty who played a significant role in our programming either as members of our CLACS Advisory Committee or as the Sawyer Seminar Committee. We take this opportunity to thank our Advisory Committee members: Ralph Rodriguez (American Studies), Paja Faudree (Anthropology), José Itzigsohn (Sociology), and Leila Lehnen (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies). We are also most grateful to our Sawyer Seminar Committee members: Brian Meeks, Tony Bogues, Geri Augusto, Patricia Figueroa, Kate Goldman, Pablo Rodriguez, Lisa Biggs, Leila Lehnen, Maiyah Gamble-Rivers, Richard Snyder, Andrea Flores and Kevin Escudero.

We also congratulate the following students who have received support from us to conduct pre-dissertation research in the 2022/2023 academic year: Augusta da Silveira, Department of History; Débora Duque, Department of Political Science; Jay Loomis, Department of Music; and Alexandria Miller, Department of Africana Studies. We also congratulate the recipients of this year's [Sarmiento awards](#): Juan

Pedro Ronconi and Santiago Hermo, both from the Department of Economics.

It is always difficult to put the work of an entire academic year into a few short paragraphs, so I invite you to explore this year's annual report to learn more about our faculty lectures, book launches and collaborations with units, including the [Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies](#), [Center for Middle East Studies](#), and the [Department of Literary Arts](#). We addressed a range of important topics including the crises facing Haiti, the current climate around publishing in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the most recent elections in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.

As I step down from my role as Director, it is my pleasure to welcome incoming Director, Neil Saffier, Associate Professor of History, and to wish him heartiest congratulations! Again, I would like to thank everyone who has been part of CLACS over the past four years for their support and hard work. These have been very difficult times, and there is no question that the Center has benefited from the generosity and commitment of our faculty, staff, and students as we strive to fulfill our mission of the study of this dynamic region from a multidisciplinary perspective. I look forward to continuing to support the Center's work as an affiliated faculty member and wish you all continued success.

Patsy Lewis



People

CLACS Director, Faculty, and Staff

Patsy Lewis



Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Patsy Lewis is a Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. She is a graduate of Cambridge University, Trinity College (Mphil, PhD.) and the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (BA). Before coming to Brown she was a 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. Her most recent publications include: *Regional Integration in the Caribbean: A Critical Development Approach* (London and New York: Routledge 2022); *Caribbean Integration: Uncertainty in a Time of Global Fragmentation*. (University of the West Indies Press, 2022). (Co-edited with Patsy Lewis, Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Jessica Byron; *Pan Caribbean Integration: Beyond CARICOM* (London and New York: Routledge 2018). (Co-edited with Patsy Lewis, Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Jessica Byron).

Erica Durante



Director of Undergraduate Studies for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Visiting Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies

Erica Durante is a Visiting Associate Professor of Hispanic 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 approches* (with A. Dehoux) (Paris: Honoré Champion, 2018), and has published numerous articles in the fields of Comparative Literature and Global Studies.

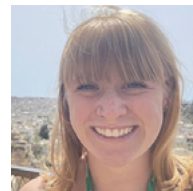
Katherine Goldman



Center Manager

Katherine 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. In addition to her work at CLACS, Kate is on the leadership team of Respond Crisis Translation, serving as Head of University and Academic Partnerships, and is one of the leaders of Engaged East Greenwich, a non-partisan organization focused on increasing political engagement at the local level. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at CY Cergy Paris University. Her research focuses on violence and memory in literature produced in postdictatorial Chile.

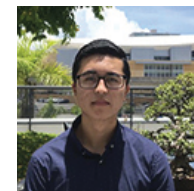
Emily Ruebelman



Emily holds a B.A. in Communication Management with minors in Human Rights, and Race and Social Justice from the University of Dayton. Prior to beginning her position at Brown, Emily worked in higher education study abroad programming to help provide equitable access to study abroad opportunities for students across the U.S. Her passion for the intersections of education and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) can be understood in her volunteer work with an international non-profit and study abroad experience through Semester at Sea. In her free time, Emily can be found coaching group and individual boxing/kickboxing classes, listening to podcasts, and playing games with friends.

CLACS Student Assistants

Sebastian Adriano



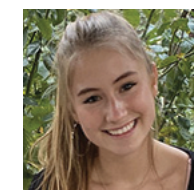
Sebastian Adriano '25 is a sophomore interested in Behavioral Decision Science, Economics, and International and Public Affairs. He is particularly passionate about policy-making around poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. Sebastian is Puerto Rican and his family is Mexican. He has studied Latin 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



Gilberto Castro-Bernal '23 is a senior 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

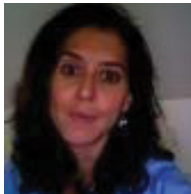


Mack Ford '25 is a sophomore pursuing a B.A. in Comparative Literature in English, French, and Spanish. She is passionate about literature, and particularly about inspiring that same love of literature in others. In pursuing this goal, Mack has worked directly with various organizations to combat education inequities 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!

CLACS Advisory Committee (2022–2024)

The CLACS Advisory Committee assists our Center Director through advising on CLACS programming and other aspects of the center’s work. The Committee adjudicates thesis prize committees and participates in the process of selecting the Cogut Visiting Professor. These individuals are integral to the success of CLACS.

Paja Faudree



Associate Professor of Anthropology. Specializations: Indigenous social movements, language, and politics, ethnicity and nationalism, Mexico, Ecuador.

Jose Itzigsohn



Professor of Sociology. Specializations: Sociology of development, labor markets in the Caribbean, social movements in Argentina.

Leila Lehen



Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Chair of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies. Specializations: contemporary Brazilian and Latin American literature, the intersection between social justice and cultural production.

Ralph Rodriguez



Professor of American Studies, Ethnic Studies, and English. Chair, Department of American Studies. Specializations: Latinx literature and culture, graphic novels and comic books, queer theory, race and ethnicity.

Visiting Faculty

Each year, CLACS welcomes visiting faculty to Brown, co-hosting short term visitors and post-doctoral fellows with other departments. This year’s visiting faculty include Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre, Postdoctoral Fellow for Native American Collections, and Catherine Whittaker, Assistant Professor of Socio-Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University Frankfurt.

Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre



Postdoctoral Fellow for Native American Collections, ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowships program

Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on the political ecology of forest conservation, historical geography, post-statist geographies, the epistemology of geography, and participatory cartography. He has worked with Indigenous Chatino people and campesino communities in Oaxaca, México, regarding local knowledge and understanding of their landscape through their language. Also, he worked with communities on the effects of forest conservation and management programs on land commons, forest commodification, and social differences among these communities. At Brown, he is working on 1) a collaborative feature documentary on carbon offsetting projects in the Chatino region and community members’ links to the forest, 2) co-writing with community members a paper exploring the consequences of environmental conservation over land and forest commons in the community, and 3) working with the Hay Special Collections Library to implement the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials.

Catherine Whittaker



Visiting Scholar in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Catherine Whittaker is an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Frankfurt, Germany. Previously, she was a postdoc at UCSD, the LMU Munich in Germany, and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. At Brown, she is working on two projects: 1) a grant proposal focusing on militarized masculinities among marginalized Latinos in Southern California; 2) a book on the paradoxical interconnectedness of love and violence, expanding the arguments from her 2022 article, “Beyond the Dead Zone: The Meanings of Loving Violence in Highland Mexico” (*American Anthropologist*). Her research is driven by the desire to humanize misunderstood populations, such as survivors and perpetrators of violence, by uncovering the narratives and structures that shape their circumstances.

Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professors of Latin American Studies

The Craig M. Cogut Visiting Professorship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies brings leading scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean to teach and conduct research at Brown University. Visiting Professors are based at CLACS and teach one undergraduate course on Latin America and the Caribbean per semester, advise undergraduate and graduate student theses, and give presentations in the Center or affiliated departmental colloquia.

This year's Cogut Visiting Professors taught the following courses:

Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista: Andean-Caribbean Dialogues of Negritude and Different But Equal: Debates in Schooling of Indigenous and Afro-Descendants in South America

José Miguel Nieto: Writing the Amazon and the End of the World: Gender, Care, and Cosmopolitics

Haroldo Dilla Alfonso: Neoliberalism and cross-border regions in Latin America and the Caribbean

Haroldo Dilla Alfonso



Haroldo Dilla Alfonso is a historian and sociologist, Doctor in Science from the Federal Polytechnic Institute of Lausanne, Switzerland. At present, he is a tenured professor and director of the Institute of International Studies (INTE) of the Arturo Prat University, Chile. He has been a researcher / visiting professor at Rutgers, Harvard, Puerto Rico, Hannover and FLACSO-Mexico universities. Between 2015 and 2018 he directed the research on the Tacna-Arica cross-border region on the Chilean / Peruvian border (Fondecyt 1150812) and currently directs the Fondecyt 1190133 on urban port intermediation in Arica. His most recent books are *La frontera dominico-haitiana* (*The Dominican- Haitian border*) (Editorial Manatí,

My stay at Brown has been an opportunity to get in touch with high-quality research resources, but also with a team of passionate researchers who offer interesting interdisciplinary approaches to relevant topics in the social sciences. In particular, I must acknowledge my diligent and consistent students, who have forced me to think more creatively about some issues.

—Haroldo Dilla Alfonso

Santo Domingo, 2010), *La migración haitiana en el Caribe* (*Haitian migration in the Caribbean*) (Centro Bonó, Santo Domingo, 2013), *Ciudades en el Caribe: un estudio comparado de La Habana, San Juan y Santo Domingo* (*Cities in the Caribbean: a comparative study of Havana, San Juan and Santo Domingo*) (FLACSO, Mexico, 2014), *La vuelta de todo eso: economía y sociedad en el complejo urbano transfronterizo Tacna/Arica* (*The return of all that: economy and society in the Tacna / Arica cross-border urban complex*) (RIL, Santiago de Chile, 2019) and *Donde el pedernal choca con el acero: Hacia una teoría de las fronteras latinoamericanas* (*Where flint collides with steel: Towards a theory of Latin American borders*) (RIL, Santiago de Chile).

José Miguel Nieto Olívar



José Miguel Nieto Olívar is an assistant professor at the School of Public Health of the University of São Paulo (Brazil). He is responsible for courses on Anthropology of Health, Body, and Society, Social Studies of Science, and Research Methodology. Dr. Nieto Olivar was born in Bogotá, Colombia, where he studied Social Communication and obtained his MA in Latin-American Literature. In his home country, he worked with and around human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and gender in the context of the internal armed conflict. In 2010, he obtained his PhD in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil. His doctoral dissertation was an ethnography on the political creation and enacting of Brazilian sex workers seen from the perspective of their affective, sexual, marital, and labor trajectories. In 2013, it was published as the book *Devir Puta* (*The Whore Becoming*).

Between 2010 and 2017, Dr. Nieto Olivar was a researcher at the Center for Gender Studies PAGU, at the State University of Campinas (Brazil), conducting anthropological research with intersectional perspectives about gender, sexuality, money, violence, mobilities, the borderland, and the State. Fieldwork took place in the cities of Tabatinga and São Gabriel da Cachoeira, both situated in the northwestern Brazilian Amazon, in the transborder complex with Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. Based on the relationships established with the Brazilian movement of sex workers and also with Amazonian border cities, he is currently developing a long-term research project on experimentations of struggle and care in critical contexts, in dialogue with black poetics and feminisms,

transfeminisms, putafeminisms, decolonial feminisms, indigenous knowledge, and the discussions on “cosmopolitics” and the “end-of-the-world.” This project takes a pluri-epistemological approach that seeks to nurture a creative dialogue in the intersecting spaces between anthropology, public health, and the arts, and serves as a framework for the work that he developed at CLACS/Brown University in 2023.

My time at CLACS allowed me to access new knowledge produced from and about Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly Amazonía, through the privileged time that I was able to dedicate to my research and meetings with colleagues from diverse backgrounds with different interest. My experience was further enriched by the teaching/learning process with Latin American students who are interested in rethinking their paths, their countries, and their region.

—José Miguel Nieto Olívar

Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista



Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista earned his Bachelor in Humanities and License in Philosophy at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. He holds an EdD in Social Justice Education and an MEd in International Education from UMass-Amherst. Using intercultural, decolonial, and critical education approaches, Valdiviezo's research focuses on ethnicity, gender, social class, and formal education in Perú and Latin American societies.

Curently, Valdiviezo is a professor of Philosophy of Education, Ethics & Anthropology of Education, and Ethics in the Humanities, all at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP). He is also a researcher of the International Network of Intercultural Studies-PUCP (RIDEI-PUCP). In 2020-2021, he was the Custer Visiting Scholar of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) at Harvard University.

Valdiviezo has worked as a consultant for the Peruvian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture on topics including intercultural education, cultural policies, and Afro-Peruvian studies. His most recent book is titled *Educación, Negritud e Interculturalidad: Ensayos en tiempos de neoliberalismo, pandemia y bicentenario en el Perú* (2021). Valdiviezo has also published book chapters and articles in academic journals in Latin America and Europe on the educational situation of Afro Descendants and Indigenous Peruvians. He has written three novels and numerous short stories, some of which have obtained recognition in national and international contests. He comes from a Peruvian family with Afro-descendant, Amazonian, Andean and Hispanic roots.

My stay at Brown University has allowed me to meet colleagues who research Latin America from different perspectives and to meet motivated students who are passionate about the history, arts, education, and politics of the region. This experience has strengthened my commitment to making universities spaces for mutual learning and transformation in the sciences, technology, arts, and humanities through dialogues between people of different cultures, languages, and nationalities.

-Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista

CLACS IS EXCITED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING COGUT VISITING PROFESSORS FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR:

Full Academic Year:



Dr. Agustín Díez Fischer received his Ph.D. in Art History and Theory in 2017 from the Department of Philosophy and Literature at the University of Buenos Aires, where he teaches Latin American Art.

He has curated various exhibitions, among them *The Words of Others: León Ferrari and Rhetoric in Times of War* along with Ruth Estévez and Miguel López for the Getty Foundation's PacificStandard Time LA/LA. He is director of the Centro de Estudios Espigas (Espigas Research Center) in Buenos Aires, an archive focused on Argentinean art that is part of the Escuela de Arte y Patrimonio at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) and affiliated with the Espigas Foundation. Díez Fischer has received many grants and fellowships, including the Terra Foundation Travel Grant, the Program in Latin American Studies Visiting Research Scholar, and Visiting Assistant Professor at Princeton University.

Spring 2024:



Guilherme Casarões is an Assistant Professor at Fundação Getulio Vargas's São Paulo School of Business. His research interests are Brazilian Foreign Policy, Populism and the Global Far-Right, Latin American Politics, and Brazil-Middle East relations. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Universidade de São Paulo, where he also completed his Master's degree. He also holds an M.A. in International Relations from Universidade Estadual de Campinas, a post-graduate diploma in History and Political Cultures from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and a B.A. in International Relations from Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais. He is the co-author of a book *A Organização das Nações Unidas* (Ed. Del Rey, 2006) and the author of several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, including a broad survey of Brazilian foreign policy studies for the Routledge Handbook of Brazilian Politics (2018).

Fall 2023:



Kamala Kempadoo, of Guyana/ Barbados, is a sociologist and Professor Emerita of Social Science at York University, Canada. Her expertise includes Caribbean, Black and transnational feminisms, Black

Radical Thought, and sex worker and critical anti-trafficking studies. She has published extensively on the Caribbean sex trade and global anti-trafficking discourses. Most recently she is the co-editor, with Hali-mah A. F. DeShong, of the collection *Methodologies in Caribbean Research on Gender and Sexuality* and with Brown professor Elena Shih vv *White Supremacy, Racism and the Coloniality of Anti-Trafficking*. She was the Cogut Visiting Professor at CLACS for Spring 2021 and is again visiting in Fall 2023 semester.



CLACS Research

In the Wake of George Floyd: Mapping Social Movements Related to Systemic Racism in Rhode Island

In July 2020, CLACS received seed funding from the Provost's Office as part of the initiative "Addressing Systemic Racism: Advancing Knowledge through Research and Programming." Since then, our team has worked with the Center for Digital Scholarship and faculty and students at Brown to create an interactive website with a timeline of events that occurred following the murder of George Floyd in Rhode Island. The project has expanded to include original research, events, and resources available to and drawn from the community. Our goal has been to understand how Rhode Island communities' experiences of police violence and structural racism resonated with a broader national (and global) racial justice movement. These efforts are ongoing, and we look forward to hosting a formal launch of the website during the Fall 2023 semester.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

The main outcome of this project is a website that was originally unveiled in November 2022 during a hybrid (in-person and Zoom) event held at the Rockefeller Library. This "soft launch" allowed the team to elicit suggestions and comments that have continued to shape the project.

The website features the following publications:

"A Year in the Racial Justice Movement in Rhode Island" by former Cogut Visiting Professor and Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE, Mexico) professor María Inclán Oseguera and CLACS Director Patsy Lewis.

"Racism and Policing in Rhode Island" by Karthik Saravanan (MPA '21)

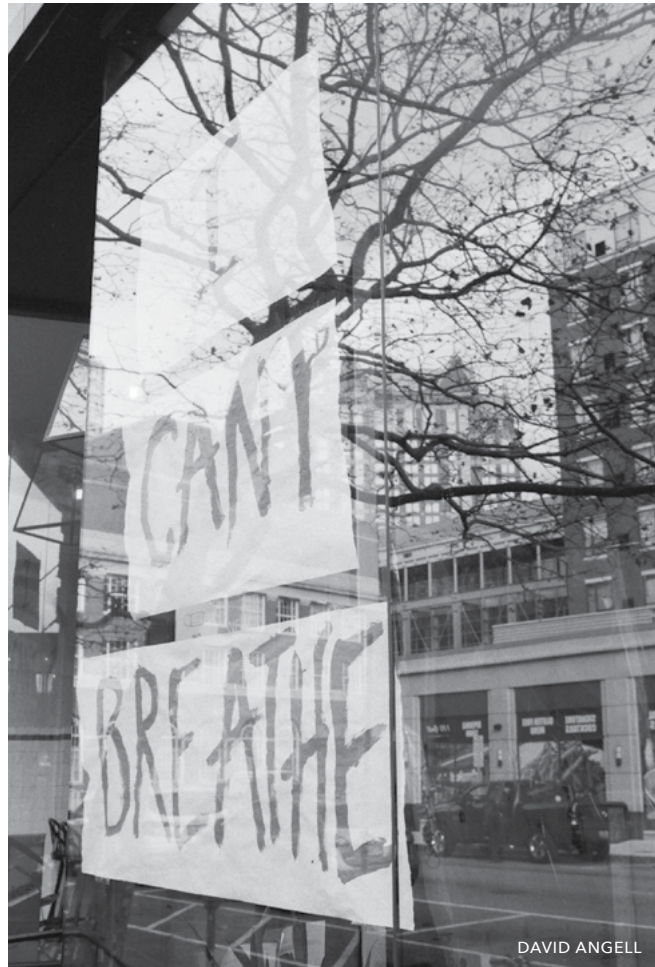
A piece on Brown University's responses to the moment authored by Isabella Garo '24.

In addition, Shereece Rankine (MPA '21) and Sophia Ellis '22, a master's degree student in Public Humanities, conducted interviews for the project with local activists and leaders.

Finally, the website features a timeline of events, a photo album featuring images by community member David Angell, and a "Community Voices" section that includes contributions from members of the public.

“We are a community that does not condone acts of racism, discrimination or violence. This cannot be accepted as “normal.” We must continue to demand equity and justice for all people, inclusive of all identities. And we must continue to care for and support each other...”

Excerpt from *“Letter from Brown’s senior leaders: Confronting racial injustice”*



“As a decentralized social movement, local BLM related groups are defining their own agendas and mobilizing for their own local causes. Local demands and forms of mobilization are responding to events highlighting the different ways in which racial discrimination is embedded in the community, not just police brutality against black and brown sectors of the population, but also most vicious expressions of structural racism in housing, urban development, education, and health care. As the movement’s demands have grown, it is building alliances with local groups and actors and a solidarity network of organizations is emerging as a progressive coalition around the country.”

Excerpt from *“A year in the racial justice movement in Rhode Island”*



“...the evidence suggests that there is unequivocal empirical support for the perspective that motorists of color are more likely to be detained, searched, and pulled over for pretextual stops across the police departments discussed above. Further, the dispositions of these stops suggest that non-white motorists were more likely to face more severe consequences such as arrest. It also suggests that Black motorists faced even higher levels of racial discrimination than Hispanic motorists.”

Excerpt from *“Racism and Policing in Rhode Island”*

This project benefited from the contributions of numerous members of the Brown and Providence communities. CLACS Director Patsy Lewis would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their contributions:

CONTRIBUTORS:

Patsy Lewis, CLACS
María Inclán Oseguera, CIDE, Mexico
Karthik Saravanan, MPA '21
Shereece Rankine, MPA '21

Center for Digital Scholarship staff members Ashley Champagne, Patrick Rashleigh, and Corey Carvel.

CLACS staff members Katherine Goldman, Emily Ruebelman, and Ailton Barbosa.

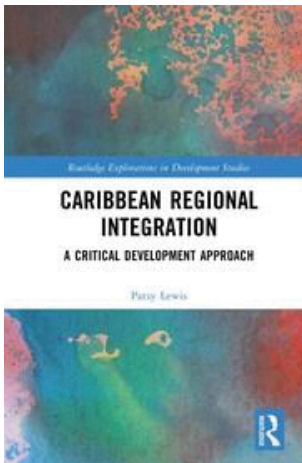
Brown University students Ayanna Tafe, Mathilde Barland, Madison Hough, Liliana Mack, Sebastian Adriano, Sophia Ellis, Isabella Garo, Alexis Gordon, Starrchild Jackson, and Niyoshi Parekh.

This project also benefited from the support of and contributions from local activists and organizations, including the publication *Uprise*, which has allowed us to use numerous photographs on the website, and David Angell, who shared many photographs with us.

Book Launches

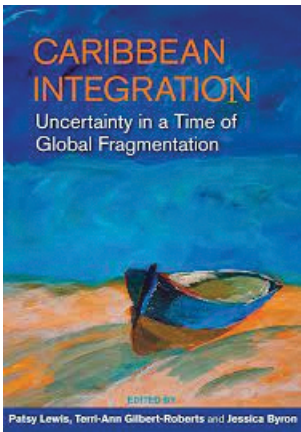
As part of its ongoing efforts to engage our Affiliated Faculty members, CLACS invited several professors to launch their latest books. This year CLACS hosted four such events, featuring contributions from CLACS Director Patsy Lewis, Africana Studies Professor Brian Meeks, and Erica Durante of CLACS and Hispanic Studies.

We hosted launches for the following titles:



Caribbean Regional Integration: A Critical Development Approach

Patsy Lewis



Caribbean Integration: Uncertainty in a Time of Global Fragmentation

Patsy Lewis, Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, and Jessica Byron



Air Travel Fiction and Film: Cloud People

Erica Durante

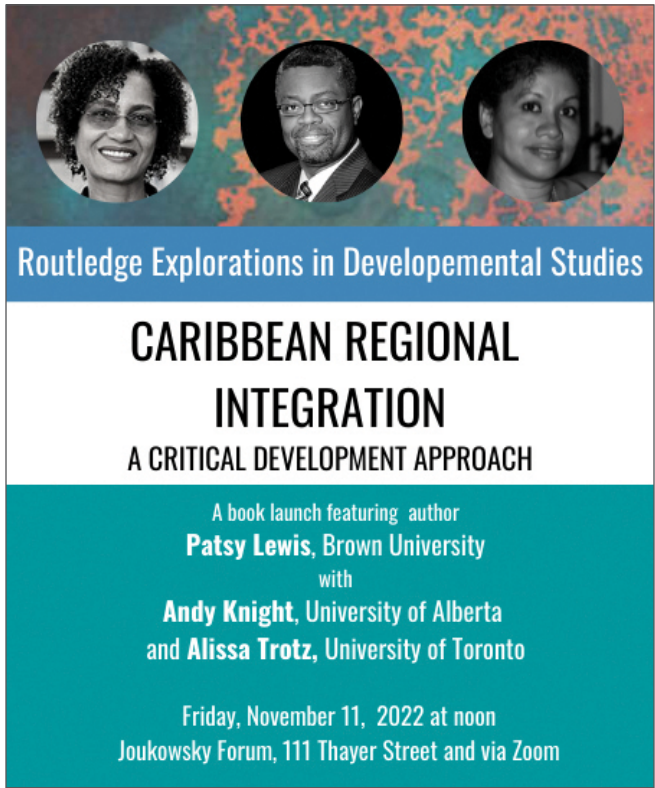


After the Postcolonial Caribbean: Memory, Imagination, Hope

Brian Meeks

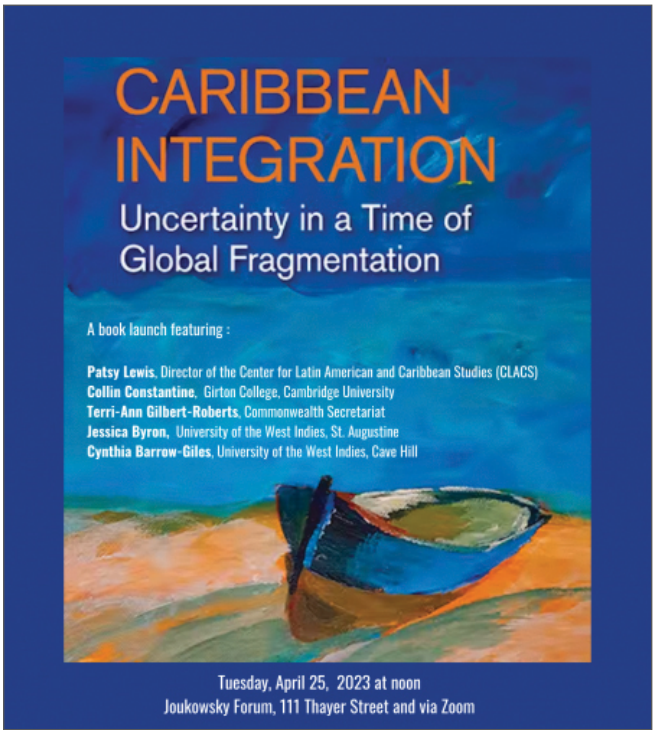
On November 11, 2022, CLACS Director Patsy Lewis presented the publication *Caribbean Regional Integration: A Critical Development Approach*, an in-depth analysis of the role of regional integration in the contemporary Caribbean, challenging the value of the neoliberal ideology that permeates regionalism discourse. She explores how the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) can confront new challenges and perform a more developmental function, centring economic transformation and a more democratic process.

The event featured reflections by Professors Andy Knight (University of Alberta) and Alissa Trotz (University of Toronto).



CLACS Director Patsy Lewis launched a second book this year titled *Caribbean Integration: Uncertainty in a Time of Global Fragmentation*. The event, which took place on April 25 via zoom, featured a review by Collin Constantine, Girton College, Cambridge University and a discussion with her co-editors, Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Commonwealth Secretariat Jessica Byron, formerly Director of the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus.

This collection offers diverse perspectives on the political, social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of regional integration. The contributors consider the role and influence of youth, language, reparatory justice, election reform, gender-based violence, migration, trade and climate change on the deepening and longevity of CARICOM institutions. Their analyses signal new prospects for emerging from a crisis of regionalism and moving towards sustainability.



Professor of Africana Studies Brian Meeks also presented his book *After the Postcolonial Caribbean: Memory, Imagination, Hope*, which was followed by an open conversation titled “Thinking About Caribbean Futures.” The discussion held on March 23 at the Watson Institute featured scholars from Brown University, the University of Toronto, Amsterdam University, the University of the West Indies and Smith College.

After the Postcolonial Caribbean is structured in two parts, “Remembering”, and “Imagining.” Author Brian Meeks employs a sometimes biographical form, drawing on his own memories and experiences of the radical politics and culture of the Caribbean in the decades following the end of colonialism. And he takes inspiration from the likes of Edna Manley, George Lamming, and Stuart Hall in reaching towards a theoretical framework that might help forge new currents of intellectual political resistance... Meeks concludes by making the case for reestablishing optimism as a necessary cornerstone for a successful progressive movement.



On April 17, 2023, CLACS hosted a book launch for Professor Erica Durante’s 2020 publication *Air Travel Fiction and Film: Cloud People* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). The discussion featured Stuart Burrows, Associate Professor of English at Brown University; Aníbal González, Professor of Spanish at Yale University; Felipe Martínez Pinzón, Professor of Hispanic Studies at Brown University, and Christopher Schaberg, Dorothy Harrell Brown Distinguished Professor of English, Loyola University, New Orleans. The audience was also treated to a performance by Mezcla Latin Dance Troupe.

The innovative aspects of the book launch were recently highlighted in a piece by Dorothy Harrell Brown Distinguished Professor of English at Loyola University New Orleans Christopher Schaberg titled “Reimagining the Academic Book Launch” in the publication *Inside Higher Ed*, which focuses on college and university topics.





"I wanted to create a space where my employees could come and learn and indulge their CURIOSITY, but also feel like they were taken care of and their work was valued. I get to do that here and create an environment that speaks to my values and my IDENTITY."

"The idea was to create a space where my employees could come and learn and indulge their CURIOSITY, but also feel like they were taken care of and their work was valued. I get to do that here and create an environment that speaks to my values and my IDENTITY."

SERVING A PLATE
BACK HOME

Stories of Latinx and Caribbean
Chefs and Restaurateurs in Providence

MILENA
PAGÁN
LITTLE SISTER

Sawyer Seminar

2020–2023 Mellon Sawyer Seminar Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center of the Study of Slavery and Justice, and the Africana Studies Department at Brown University were awarded funding to develop the Mellon Sawyer Seminar, “Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America.”

Together, these units organized a series of in person and online event under the guidance of its co-authors Patsy Lewis (CLACS), Brian Meeks (Africana Studies) and Tony Bogues (CSSJ) and the Sawyer Seminar committee (See p.--). It also benefitted from the energy of Kristen Kolenz, the Sawyer Seminar post-doctoral Fellow, who played an integral role in organizing the conferences and two of the three exhibitions and podcast associated with the project; as well as the Sawyer graduate proctors, Alexandria Miller and Karyn De la Mota. Its work was also anchored by the management teams and faculty at CLACS, Africana Studies Department, Rites and Reason Theatre and the CSSJ. The Sawyer Seminar also benefitted from important collaborations with the Departments of Literary Arts, Comparative Literature, Hispanic Studies and the Brown Arts Institute (BAI).

Over the course of three years (thanks to a one-year extension granted by the Mellon Sawyer Foundation due to the COVID-19 pandemic), we organized two academic conferences, various symposia, performances by José Torres Tama and Rebeca Lane, and a “virtual dance party” held via Zoom, exhibitions on art by immigrants and about the immigrant experience, a literary event featuring several renowned Latinx writers, and an online film festival. The pages that follow offer more detailed information on each of these activities. We have included some events from the previous academic year to demonstrate the breadth of this project.



Academic Reflections on Migration

2021 SAWYER SEMINAR CONFERENCE: MIGRATION, RACE, AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The first conference organized as part of this Sawyer Seminar was held November 4 and 5, 2021 virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was titled “Migration, Race, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,” and it featured numerous presentations by experts, scholars, activists, and advocates. The event included a total of 30 speakers including scholars from over a dozen universities; activists from Haiti, Brazil, and Honduras; six Brown University undergraduates whose work focuses on migration and race; and numerous Brown University faculty and staff members, who moderated the panels and guided the discussions.

The second Sawyer Seminar conference, “Histories of Migration and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean,” was a hybrid event that took place March 17 and 18, 2022. It began with a keynote address by H.E. Mrs. Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, titled “Addressing the Root Causes: Panama’s Long-term Strategy to Resolve Latin America’s Migration Crisis.” The panels featured over 20 presentations on such diverse topics as performance, violence and mobility, economic alternatives such as mutual aid, how migrants’ identities shape their new homes, and centering embodied experience. The organizers included the reflections of Brown undergraduate students who work on the topic, writers and activists, and scholars from throughout the region.

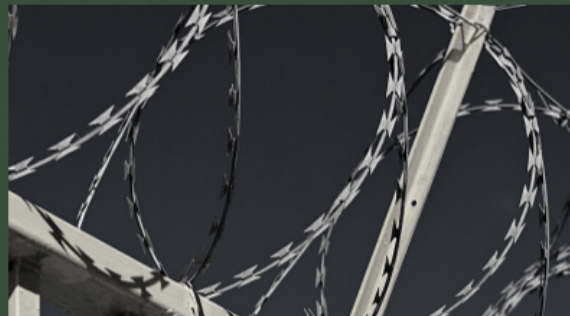


CLACS Director Patsy Lewis offers opening remarks on the first day of the conference with Watson Institute Director Edward Steinfeld and undergraduate student Felipe Félix Méndez '22.



As part of the second Sawyer Seminar conference “Histories of Migration and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean,” Professor Erica Durante organized a panel titled “Literature from the Diaspora between Forced Migration and Gender Violence.” It featured a public conversation with writers Karina Sainz Borgo of Venezuela (in person) and Dolores Reyes of Argentina (via Zoom). Each read a short excerpt from their work on the topic and answered questions posed by Professor Durante and members of the audience. During her visit to Brown, Karina Sainz Borgo also met with LACA community members, including several undergraduate students who discussed their own migration stories with her.

Camps in the 21st Century Americas



Marking the twentieth year of the detention camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba, this symposium brings together scholars and activists whose work engages with a broad landscape of detention in the Americas today.

Speakers include:

Jana K. Lipman, Tulane University

A. Naomi Paik, University of Illinois, Chicago

Iván Espinosa-Madrigal, Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights, Boston

Jasmina De León Gill, Case Manager / Deportation Defense Organizer, A.M.O.R.

Graduate student Jonathon Acosta, Neil Salzman '22, & Chaelin Jung '23

Monday, December 5, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST

Joukowsky Forum, 111 Thayer Street

For details, including the full symposium schedule, visit us at watson.brown.edu/clacs.

CAMPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY AMERICAS

The one-day symposium "Camps in the 21st Century" was organized by CLACS Faculty Affiliate Esther Whitfield (Comparative Literature) and was co-sponsored by the Departments of Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies.

Marking the twentieth year of the detention camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba, this symposium brought together scholars and activists whose work engages with a broad landscape of detention in the Americas today. The program featured renowned academics Jana Lipman and A. Naomi Paik; Iván Espinosa-Madrigal, the attorney who represented the Venezuelan asylum seekers sent to Martha's Vineyard in 2022 by Florida governor Ron Desantis; Brown students who have worked on the US-Mexico border; and local advocates including State Senator and Brown Sociology Ph.D. student Jonathan Acosta and Jasmina de León Gill of the group A.M.O.R.

Our academic reflections on migration also included the virtual event "Exploring Themes in Intra-Regional Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean," which was held on October 18, 2021. Three of our Cogut Visiting Professors and our Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow spoke about their research on movement within the region as part of an online event, focusing on experiences from Guatemala, Argentina, Jamaica, Cuba, and the United States.



Artistic Reflections on Migration

The Sawyer Seminar programming also included musical and other performances, literary events, and exhibitions in an effort to widen conversations around migration by bringing together different interpretations of the migrant experience from within the region. Some of the most powerful expressions of thinking about migration within the region take the form of literature, music, theater, and film.



One unique element of the first Sawyer Seminar conference (November 2021) was the "virtual dance party" held on November 4 that featured performers from throughout the region whose work focuses on race and migration in the Americas. CLACS invited Frontera Bugalú (US-Mexico borderlands), Danger AK (Mexico), and Laura Guevara (Venezuela and Mexico) to share their music with us via Zoom. The fully virtual event was hosted by Eduardo Pinillos and Raúl Castagneto of Peru's Martes de Salsa online program and Professor of Political Science and former CLACS director Richard Snyder.



REBECA LANE PERFORMANCE

One of the highlights of the Sawyer Seminar musical programming was a performance by Guatemala's Rebeca Lane, an award-winning rapper whose work explores the intersection between art and activism. CLACS organized an evening performance featuring some of her best-known songs on October 28, 2022. Providence's own DJ Gibran (Gibran Borbon) accompanied Rebeca. The event was attended by members of the Brown community and fans from as far away as Boston and New York.



Guatemalan "artist" Rebeca Lane visited Brown in October 2023. In addition to offering an evening performance featuring some of her best-known songs, she led the workshop "Art as a Channel for Working on Sexual and Reproductive Rights."

JOSÉ TORRES-TAMA PERFORMANCE

On November 17 and 18, 2022, CLACS welcomed José Torres-Tama, who presented his critically acclaimed, 75-minute performance that challenges the vilification of people in search of the elusive "American Dream," and reminds us all: "No guacamole for immigrant haters." José Torres-Tama is a published poet, playwright, journalist, photographer, renegade scholar and arts educator. In addition to his creative activism, he serves as the Artistic Director of ArteFuturo Productions in New Orleans. His solo work, *ALIENS*, was developed through a National Performance Network Creation Fund Award, and co-commissioned by the Ashé Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans, MECA in Houston, and GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C.

These performances, organized by Lisa Biggs, John Atwater and Diana Nelson Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Department of Africana Studies/Rites and ReasonTheatre were co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, the Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* at Brown, and the Brown Arts Institute

We are most grateful to John Atwater and Diana Nelson Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Lisa Biggs for organizing this event.



Professor Lisa Biggs and Davi Sapiro-Gheiler '23 led the discussion following José Torres-Tama's performance in Martinos Auditorium.



RETHINKING THE DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF MIGRATION, RACE, AND ETHNICITY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA: A LITERARY EVENT

On February 24, 2023, Brown welcomed six renowned writers whose work focuses on race, ethnicity, and migration in the Americas. Angie Cruz, Fred D'Aguiar, Francisco Goldman, Shara McCallum, Tiphonie Yanique, and Javier Zamora each read from their work and then discussed key topics with Literary Arts Department Chair Matthew Shenoda. Each writer was selected on the basis of their work and its relevance to the Sawyer Seminar topic, and CLACS Director Patsy Lewis and Literary Arts Chair Matthew Shenoda ensured that the group would represent different sub-regions and literary genres.

Rethinking the Dynamic Interplay of Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America:

A Literary Event

HOW NOT TO DROWN IN A GLASS OF WATER

YEAR OF PLAGUES

Monkey Boy


NO RUINED STONE

MONSTER IN THE MIDDLE

Francisco Goldman Solito

Angie Cruz
Fred D'Aguiar
Francisco Goldman
Shara McCallum
Tiphonie Yanique
Javier Zamora

Friday, February 24, 2023 | 5 PM
Martinos Auditorium, 154 Angell Street



Sponsored by
Africana Studies Department
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
Department of Literary Arts

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sawyer Seminar Steering Committee members Geri Augusto and Leila Lehnen organized a virtual film festival with Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow Mateo Díaz Choza in an effort to explore broad questions about migration as a contemporary phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean. How does migration shape notions of identity, belonging, nationality, or home? How do class, race, and gender impact the experience of migration? Can we imagine a world where migrants are integrated to their new realities or where leaving their own countries is not the only option for survival in the first place?

The starting point of this on-line discussion was two films –*The Cambridge Squatter* (2016) and *Stateless* (2020)– that explore two different areas intensely marked by migration and demographic movement: the city of São Paulo in Brazil and the Dominican Republic/Haitian border. By focusing on the lives of undocumented, stateless or homeless people, both documentaries stress the harsh realities migrants and refugees have to face in their new environments. The event featured Brazilian filmmaker Eliane Caffé, director of *The Cambridge Squatter*, and Dominican American writer Loída Maritza Pérez and engaged members of the Brown community and the wider public around these and other topics in both English and Portuguese.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER:

SAWYER SEMINAR

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL



MARCH 17, 2023
6 PM - 7:30 P.M.

FEATURING:
ELIANE CAFFÉ, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBRIDGE SQUATTER
LOÍDA MARITZA PÉREZ, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR, CULTURAL ACTIVIST

ONLINE ONLY!

MORE INFO:

watson.brown.edu/CLACS



Breaking Out: Immigrant Art from Stewart Detention Center

The first of our three Sawyer Seminar exhibitions was part of the second conference “Histories of Migration and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The project was conceived and curated by postdoctoral research associate Kristen Kolenz and enjoyed the support of Art at Watson, an initiative of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.

“Breaking Out” features a variety of pieces created by immigrants detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. Dr. Kolenz selected pieces loaned to her by El Refugio, an organization founded in 2008 that provides support to detainees at Stewart and their families and advocates for the closure of

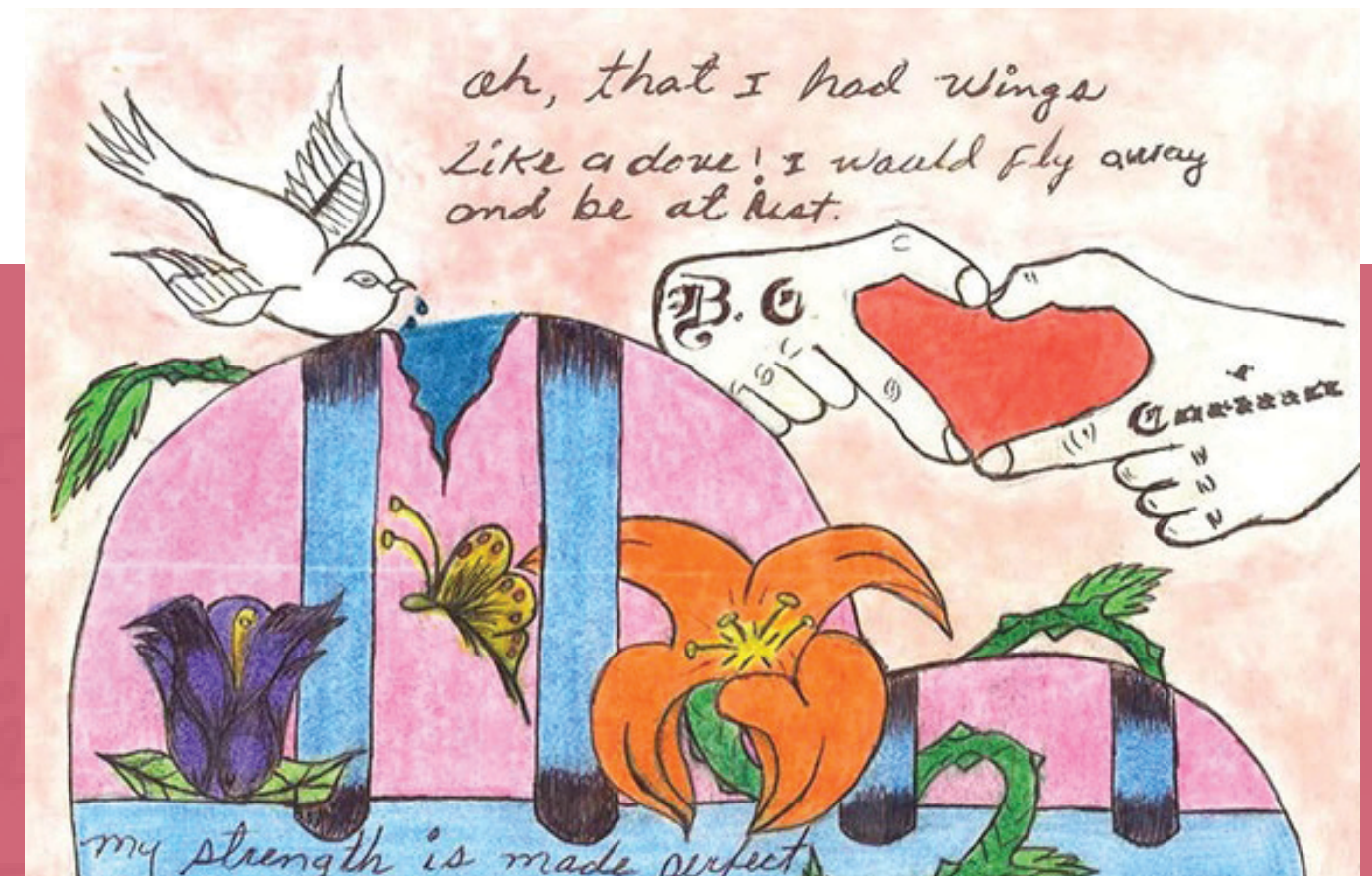
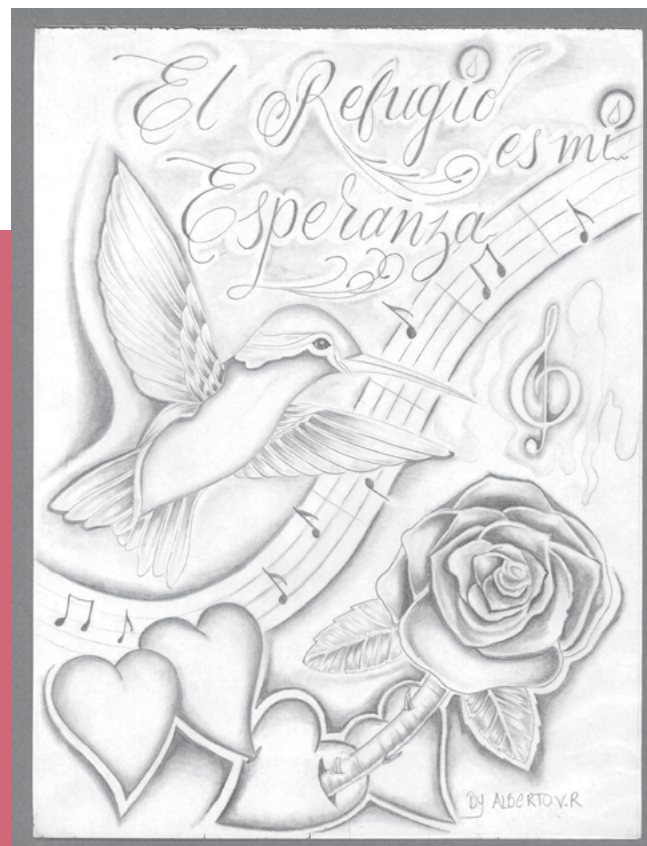


this and other ICE detention centers. The exhibit was co-curated by Erica Durante, visiting assistant professor of Latin American Studies, with assistance from Johanna García, Patti Ghezzi, and the team at El Refugio.

The exhibition was launched at the end of the second Sawyer Seminar conference and became a virtual exhibit that is now housed on the Sawyer Seminar website. The virtual version includes letters, drawings, and audio content.

“This exhibit is an opportunity to let people in detention speak for themselves about the conditions of their own lives,”

Kristen Kolenz, postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies



Serving a Plate Back Home: Migration Stories

On March 20, 2023, CLACS and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ) hosted the launch of the exhibit Serving a Plate Back Home: Migration Stories. Serving a Plate Back Home is an audio interview series and photo exhibition that explores the stories of five restaurant owners – Yveline, Joaquín, Welbi, Milena, and Jenny – who have reimagined how and where they can make home. This project offers a glimpse into the personal journeys and intentions behind five restaurants that function as enclaves for Latinx and Caribbean communities in Providence, Rhode Island.

Serving diverse customers from multifaceted yet culturally-rooted menus, each establishment serves as a nourishing site of transnational convening and a counternarrative on the predominantly-white New England landscape. These five restaurant owners build for themselves, their communities, and all Rhode Islanders spaces that transcend the limits of geographical borders and expand the practice of storytelling into the culinary.



RYTHUM VINOBN

CLACS is grateful to former postdoctoral research associate Kristen Kolenz, Public Humanities MA student Kennedy Jones, CSSJ Center Manager Kiku Langford McDonald, CSSJ Administrative Coordinator Africa Smith, and photographer Rythum Vinoben for their incredible work on the project. We are also tremendously grateful to the restaurant owners who shared their work and their thoughts with us.

The exhibition was accompanied by a podcast featuring interviews by Kristen Kolenz with the five restaurateurs which explores their experiences and their efforts at creating a slice of home away from home. The podcast is available on the Sawyer Seminar website (brownsawyerseminar.com).



RYTHUM VINOBN

Milena Pagan of Little Sister.



RYTHUM VINOBN

Yveline Bontemp of Garden of Eve.



RYTHUM VINOBN

Window on Memory: Art by Jasmine Thomas-Girvan

The Sawyer Seminar culminated in an exhibition of the works of Jasmine Thomas-Girvan, which was held in the Cohen Gallery of the Granoff Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibition was curated by CLACS Director Patsy Lewis. The convenors of this Sawyer Seminar are grateful for the funding support from the Brown Arts Institute and the production of this exhibition by the staff of the David Winton Bell Gallery, in particular the following individuals: Associate Curator Thea Quiray Tagle and Curator of Campus Collections, Registrar Nicole Wholean, and the production team.

Jamaican-born artist Jasmine Thomas-Girvan is a renowned jeweler and sculptor who has spent the last twenty-three years in Trinidad. She graduated from the Parsons School of Design in 1984, where she was awarded the Tiffany Honor Award for Excellence. Her work has appeared in major exhibitions in Jamaica, Mexico, Cuba, the Netherlands, Trinidad, Venezuela, the UK and the US, and has been recognized with a number of awards, including the Aaron Matalon Award for the most outstanding contribution to the National Gallery of Jamaica Biennial in both 2012 and 2017; a Jamaica Silver Musgrave award in 2014 for outstanding contribution in the field of art; and a Commonwealth Foundation Arts Award in 1996.

Jasmine Thomas-Girvan is one of the Caribbean's leading sculptors. Influenced by her training as a jeweler, Thomas-Girvan creates exquisite renditions of the painful experiences of slavery, forced migration, and colonialism that continue to impact



contemporary life in the Caribbean and the Americas. Drawing heavily on folklore, imagery, myth, music, literature, and poetry, Thomas-Girvan's work is a moving reflection on memory; the triumph of the human will to overcome oppression, subjugation and displacement; and the desire to create home and grow roots in strange lands. Window on Memory, a title inspired by Eduardo Galeano's poem of the same name, invites a reflection on the centrality of memory to the migratory experience: memory as buried, suppressed; to be discarded, reclaimed, repurposed; as a connection to the past and guide for the future. Just as the migrant fashions home from what is available and what they create, Thomas-Girvan draws on nontraditional objects such as feathers, bone, fabric, wood, seeds, gourds, and calabash, melded with gold, silver, bronze, and blown glass to create something whole and miraculous out of fragments.



My hope is that these works will help reveal some of the fugitive narratives, subsumed histories, and therapeutic interventions which have sheathed us over time. I ask people to allow themselves to be led by the imagery and to simply absorb its provocations. May we leave with an earnest curiosity of our continued roles in, and proximity to, the many traumas of history that continue to plague humanity. And like the generative modalities guarded by our ancestors, may it offer refuge and resource...ultimately a pathway to understanding/healing.

Sawyer Seminar Steering Committee

Geri Augusto



Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs

Kevin Escudero



Assistant Professor of American Studies

Lisa L Biggs



John Atwater and Diana Nelson Assistant Professor of Africana Studies

Andrea Flores



Assistant Professor of Education

Anthony Bagues



Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory and Professor of Africana Studies

Patricia Figueroa



Curator of Iberian and Latin American Collections

Kate Goldman



Center Manager, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Brian Meeks



Professor of Africana Studies. Former Chair of the Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre

Leila Lehn



Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Chair of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

Maiyah Gamble-Rivers



Former Manager of Programs & Outreach, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice

Patsy Lewis



Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Pablo Rodriguez



Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Richard Snyder



Professor of Political Science



Other Events

Climate Justice and Extractive Economic Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean

SPONSORED BY THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY

Thanks to the generous support of the Dean of the Faculty Lectureship Funds, and specifically the Charles P. Sisson II Memorial Lectureship, CLACS was able to host a workshop and symposium on Climate Justice and Extractive Economic Policies in Latin America. The event, which was held on March 7, 2023 at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, featured a discussion between CLACS Director Patsy Lewis and independent filmmaker Esther Figueroa on the film *Fly Me to the Moon*, which focuses on the bauxite industry and its impact on the Caribbean.

The event also included presentations by Brown University scholars such as ACLS postdoctoral fellow Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre and Professor of Political Science Richard Snyder and academics from other institutions in the US and around the world who participated both in person and virtually in the discussions.



Patsy Lewis with filmmaker Esther Figueroa at the March 7 event on Climate Justice and Extractivism.

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

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EXTRACTIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

FEATURING:

Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre, Brown University
Deborah Delgado, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
Esther Figueroa, independent filmmaker, writer, and linguist
Macarena Gómez-Barris, Brown University
Imaculata Kasimero, Wapichan Wiizi Women's Movement
Danielle Nembhard, Environmental Solutions Limited
Manuela Picq, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
William San Martín, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mimi Sheller, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Richard Snyder, Brown University
Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 10 A.M.-3 P.M.
JOUKOWSKY FORUM, 111 THAYER STREET / ZOOM

FUNDED BY THE CHARLES P. SISSON II MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WATSON.BROWN.EDU/CLACS](https://watson.brown.edu/clacs)

WATSON INSTITUTE
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies



Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre (Postdoctoral Fellow) presenting at the March 7 event

The full conference program is presented below, and all three sessions can be viewed on the [CLACS YouTube channel](#).

EVENT PROGRAM

10:00–11:30 a.m. | *Fly Me to the Moon*

Patsy Lewis (CLACS Director) in conversation with filmmaker Esther Figueroa

11:30–1:00 p.m. | Panel 1: Extractivist Sectors and Challenges of Alternative Energy

Chair: Luis Martin Valdiviezo Arista

“Can the Energy Transition be Fair? The Politics of Extraction in South America’s Lithium Triangle” | Richard Snyder and Lucas Gonzalez

“Dishing the Dirt on Bauxite Mining in the Caribbean” | Mimi Sheller

“Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Justice: Alternative Imaginings in an Era of Climate Change” | Danielle Nembhard

“Defending the defenders: How the politics of consent can restore our world” | Manuela Picq

1:30–3:00 p.m. | Panel 2: Climate Adaptation: Alternative Strategies and Perspectives

Chair: Macarena Gomez-Barris

“Beyond illegality: Accumulation and Stigma in the Amazonian borders” | Deborah Delgado

“The frontiers of carbon offsetting: international markets in Indigenous and campesino territories in Mexico” | Gerónimo Barrera de la Torre

“Food shortage in the wake of extractivism: How the climate and environmental impacts of extractive industries in the Rupununi leads to food insecurity” | Imaculata Kasimero

“Justice as Biogeochemical Governance: Multispecies Justice, Rights of Nature, and the Struggle over More-than-Human Sovereignty” | William San Martin

CLACS Affiliated Faculty Lecture Series

Each year, CLACS invites affiliated faculty members to present their work to the university and local community. This year’s faculty talks featured affiliates from various departments:

- Pedro Dal Bó, Economics Department -
The Economic Outcomes of Native Groups in Argentina
- Brian Meeks, Africana Studies -
Hiding in Plain Sight: Tito P. Achong, Race, and Anti-colonialism in Wartime Trinidad



Collaborations and Co-Sponsorship

We are proud of our collaboration with other centers and departments at Brown. This year, we co-organized several events with other units. Some of the highlights are described below:



On September 30, CLACS and the Center for Middle East Studies hosted the online event Struggling for Reproductive Rights: Perspectives from Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. The CMES Speakers were Selma Hajri, MD Specialist in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Reproduction, and

Leila Hessini, Independent Transnational Advisor and Activist. The CLACS Speakers were Tonni-Ann Brodber, Representative of the UN Women Caribbean Multi-Country Office and Mabel Bianco, Specialist in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics.



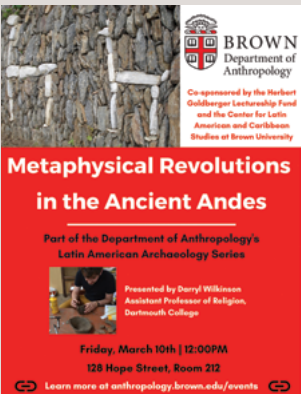
On April 4, the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies and CLACS presented a hybrid panel discussion titled "Haiti's Overlapping Crises: Is There A Way Through?" The event featured three experts who reflected on the current situation in Haiti and offered ideas for a way forward. Dr. Jacqueline Gautier, Advisor and Coordinator for Development and Fundraising for NPH Haiti's St. Damien Pediatric Hospital, discussed both the significant humanitarian need and humanitarian access challenges affecting the country. Historian Yveline Alexis, Professor of Africana Studies and Comparative American Studies at Oberlin College, talked about the historical roots of the current overlapping crises in Haiti. Sabine Lamour, Professor of Sociology and Gender at the State University of Haiti, focused on the impact that current crises have had on women and girls in Haiti.

CLACS IS PROUD TO HAVE CO-SPONSORED A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Co-sponsorship funds were awarded to the following faculty members this year:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Leila Lehnen (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies) and Felipe Martínez-Pinzón (Hispanic Studies) | Julio Ortega, Department of Hispanic Studies |
| Simin Liu, Department of Epidemiology | Parker VanValkenburgh, Department of Anthropology |
| Mark Ocegueda, Department of History | Stephen Woo, Department of Modern Culture and Media |

The funds were used to organize a wide range of activities, including the events shown at right.





Graduate Students

CLACS Affiliated Graduate Student News

CLACS engages with graduate students at Brown in several ways, including our role as a Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow host, source of funding for field work in the region, and through our Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. Although we do not have a degree program, we provide opportunities for students working in and on the region to meet and work together through social events, our graduate student research symposia, and proctorships and fellowships linked to CLACS grants.

There are currently over 40 CLACS affiliated graduate students from more than a dozen departments at Brown. We are pleased to highlight the following activities and accomplishments:

2022-2023 INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITY FELLOW: MATEO DÍAZ CHOZA (HISPANIC STUDIES)

As this year's Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow, Mateo taught a course titled "In-Transit Identities: Migration in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Popular Culture" and helped organize our Sawyer Seminar film festival. Mateo also co-organized the Andean Literature reading group together with Cogut Visiting Professor Luis Martín Valdiviezo Arista, bringing several writers from the sub-region to campus via Zoom. Thank you for being such an important part of CLACS, Mateo!



2022-2023 Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow
Mateo Díaz Choza



2023 CLACS Dissertation Prize winner Joshua Schnell

2022 CLACS DISSERTATION PRIZE WINNER:

Each year, CLACS awards a prize for the best dissertation in the area of Latin American and Caribbean Studies written by a current Brown University graduate student from any discipline.

CLACS is thrilled to announce that the winner of the 2023 CLACS Dissertation Prize is Joshua Schnell of the Anthropology Department. His dissertation is titled Cultures of Oral Care in the Southern Maya Lowlands (250 BCE-1000 CE). Congratulations!

CLACS RESEARCH FUNDING RECIPIENTS

The Center offers various forms of support to graduate students, including the grant for pre-dissertation research and the Sarmiento Research Fellowship. This year's funding recipients are:

Field Research Awards:

- Augusta da Silveira, History
- Débora Duque, Political Science
- Jay Loomis, Ethnomusicology
- Alexandria Miller, Africana Studies
- Adelaida Tamayo, Anthropology

Sarmiento Fellowship

- Santiago Hermo, Economics
- Juan Pedro Ronconi, Economics

CLACS Reading Groups

Each academic year, CLACS offers funding for student/faculty reading groups.

Groups are required to meet at least four times per academic year in order to read interdisciplinary scholarship, dialogue with invited visitors, and/or workshop participants' writing. It is expected that groups are open to anyone interested, draw from at least two departments, and have at least 5 regular members including at least one faculty member and one graduate student.

Our 2022-2023 groups were organized by affiliated faculty and graduate students and covered a wide range of topics:

SOUTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOHISTORY

This reading group supports academic research and training for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at Brown whose work focuses on the history and archaeology of South America before the 19th Century.

Organized by: Parker VanValkenburgh (Anthropology).

CONTEMPORARY ANDEAN LITERATURE

This reading group seeks to engage into dialogue with contemporary writers from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, whose work addresses issues of migration, extractivism, gender, class, racism, and colonialism.

Organizers: Luis Martín Valdiviezo (CLACS) and Mateo Díaz Choza (Hispanic Studies).

DARK ATLAS OF LATIN AMERICA: MAPPING RECENT HISPANOPHONE HORROR FICTION

This reading group will discuss a constellation of Latin American and Caribbean writers whose novels and short stories led to a renaissance in horror fiction.

Organizers: Erica Durante (LACA and Hispanic Studies) and Andrés González (Hispanic Studies).



Members of the Contemporary Andean Literature Reading Group at a March 2023 meeting.



Undergraduate Program

LACA Class of 2023

The concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACA) leads to a strong, interdisciplinary understanding of culture, history, and contemporary issues in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latino/a and Caribbean diaspora. Requirements are intentionally broad and flexible to accommodate the focused interests of students in understanding the diverse reality of this region. LACA features a wide selection of courses from departments across the university.

This year, seven students will graduate from Brown with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies:

Nia Callender

Hallie Fang-Horvarth

Shantal Hernandez

Brittany Loew

Miram Rice

Josue Zepeda Sanic

Mariana Fajnzylber (23.5)

*Congratulations to the Class of 2023,
especially our LACA concentrators!*

left: Cogut Visiting Professor José Miguel Nieto with his students.

GRADUATING SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

We asked our graduating seniors to reflect on their experiences as LACA concentrators, and are grateful to Nia and Shantal for sharing these words:

Nia C. Calendar



My favorite part of the LACA concentration has been taking classes and learning from visiting professors from different Latin American and Caribbean countries. It has been refreshing to learn from professors who have conducted most, if not all, of their research and teaching outside of the U.S. and, because of this, offer LACA concentrators with a myriad of perspectives. In addition to this, because it is a small cohort of concentrators, I have made deep, long-lasting, and meaningful connections with professors, students, and staff members in the department.

Shantal Hernandez



As a proud graduating senior of the CLACS department, I am thankful for its commitment to support the students beyond the classroom. Thanks to the financial support of the center, student organizations on campus are better able to showcase our culture at Brown. This year, Mezcla Latin Dance Troupe was able to acquire traditional Mexican folkloric dresses for our annual presentation and to wear for years to come. It is an honor to be able to represent my culture inside and outside the classroom and teach more students about the beauty and richness of Latin America both on the stage and in my senior thesis.

OUR 2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTED THE WORK OF FOUR OF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS. THE SPEAKERS WERE:

Thesis

Shantal Hernandez '23

Student Protests as a Form of Political Power: 1968 in Paris and in México

Miriam E. Rice '23

Living Skeletons: The Legacy of American Architecture in the Panamá Canal Zone

Josue Zepeda Sanic '23

Re-Imagining Images and Stories: A Reclamation of Indigenous Sovereignty and Agency Through A Sculptural Interpretation of the Popol Vuh

Capstone

Nia Callendar '23

Rhythmic Resilience: Afro-Cuban Rumba and the Revolution

DUG Events

Our Departmental Undergraduate Group (DUG) is a student-run group focused on Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Brown. All students are welcome to attend and participate in the DUG regardless of concentration. This year's DUG leaders were Nia Callender '23, Mariana Fajnzylber '22.5, and Shantal Hernandez Guerrero '23.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

This year, we hosted the second annual Día de los Muertos celebration in collaboration with the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, which featured both Mariachis de Brown and Mezcla Latin Dance Troupe.



DUG Events are organized by LACA concentrators and are meant to engage the student community around topics of interest to our undergraduate students. This year, the DUG organized a visit from a local Latine-owned food truck called Café Modesto, which served refreshments prior to the discussion held via Zoom with Brown alum and renowned author Xochitl Gonzalez.



The guest speaker for this DUG event was writer Xochitl Gonzalez '99.



Students gathered in The Underground for a discussion with Xochitl Gonzalez organized by the LACA DUG.



Café Modesto set the tone for the evening, serving coffee drinks and pastries.



In addition to the Día de los Muertos performances, the LACA DUG hosted an altar at the Watson Institute for the second consecutive year. Members of the community were invited to share photographs and other items that remind them of their loved ones who have passed away.



Art by Jasmine Thomas-Girvan, photograph by Rythum Vinoben.

Thank you for reading this year's CLACS Annual Report! For more information, including links to videos of past events, please visit our website, watson.brown.edu/clacs.

