

THE LATIN AMERICAN ICAN IST

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN
STUDIES

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back in-person classes**

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professor team
up for new book**

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embrace roles as
public intellectuals**

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The new LATINAMERICANIST

Announcing a new direction and an updated look

Instead of a “Director’s Corner” for this edition, we want to introduce you to the new *Latinamericanist*! This publication has existed since 1964, shortly after UF’s School of Inter-American Studies became the Center for Latin American Studies, endowed with Title VI funding and appointed a National Resource Center. Ever since, its purpose is to keep the Center’s community up to date with the latest news and accomplishments of its scholars and graduates.

As the Center continues to evolve toward its centenary, it’s clear that the driving force behind its longevity is the students, faculty, alumni, and staff whose excellence shapes the Center’s identity. Enduring a global pandemic has only strengthened this sense that our people make up the core of the Center’s success.

It’s this characteristic that guides the new direction of *The Latinamericanist*: we seek to tell the stories of our community through the people who define it, whether about student research, faculty innovation, or alumni achievement. We aim to feature stories about mentorship, like Victoria Reyes Garcia’s and Marianne Schmink’s (p. 17) and collaboration, like Carlos de la Torre’s and Treethep Srisa-Nga’s (p. 5). We want to highlight the real-world impact of Latin American Studies, like the public scholarship of its professors (p. 7), outreach with other institutions (p. 12), interdisciplinary projects and funding (pp. 9, 13, 16) and the fieldwork research of its students (pp. 15, 16). It’s also vital to share

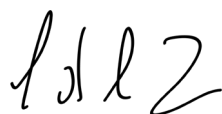
the scholarly work of students and faculty, like the writing of visiting doctoral student Diego Palacios Ocles (p. 14).

We know it’s impossible to fully capture the scope and magnitude of each individual’s contributions to the Center in just 24 pages once a semester. Latin American Studies sprawls across disciplines and borders, yielding a community of scholars immense in number, diverse in knowledge, and rich in thought. But this is what makes our community distinct: the interconnectedness of ideas and people, working to find opportunities and solutions in real-world contexts. With every issue of the *Latinamericanist*, it’s our mission to continue featuring these stories, and share in the standard of excellence set by the Center’s constituents.

If you have a story you’d like to see included in an upcoming *Latinamericanist*, please email the editor, Christa Markley, at communications@latam.ufl.edu.

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

It’s so exciting to see this new direction of *The Latinamericanist*. I look forward to continuing to share the successes of our faculty, students, alumni, and staff. Wishing you a prosperous 2022 and beyond,



Dr. Carlos de la Torre
CENTER DIRECTOR

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Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115530
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530
(352) 273-4705
latam.ufl.edu

CENTER-BASED FACULTY

Carlos de la Torre
Director

Timothy Murtha
(LAS/DCP)

Emilio Bruna
(LAS/WEC)

Susan Paulson
(LAS)

Bob Buschbacher
(LAS/TCD)

Mary Risner
*Assoc. Director,
Outreach & LABE
(LAS)*

Christopher L. Busey
(LAS/Education)

Tanya Saunders
(LAS)

Andrea Chavez
(LAS/TCD)

J. Richard Stepp
(LAS/Anthropology)

Joel Correia
(LAS)

Carlos Suárez Carrasquillo
*MALAS Director
(LAS/Pol.Sci.)*

Jonathan Dain
(LAS/SFRC)

Glenn Galloway
*Director, MDP
(LAS)*

Welson Tremura
*Director, FBLL
(LAS/Music)*

Rebecca Hanson
(LAS/Sociology)

Catherine Tucker
*Assoc. Director of
Academic Affairs
(LAS/Anthropology)*

Karen Kainer
(LAS/SFRC)

Bette Loiselle
*Director, TCD
(LAS/WEC)*

Pilar Useche
(LAS/FRE)

Carmen Martínez Novo
(LAS)

Nicholas Vargas
(LAS/Sociology)

Robert Walker
(LAS/Geography)

Writer, editor, designer: Christa Markley

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Carrie Martins and Thacher Loutin (MALAS 2023, standing) present discussion topics to fellow first-year MALAS students in Professor Rebecca Hanson's class, "Design & Methods of Research in Latin American Studies"

The Center welcomes back in-person classes

Students and professors alike share enthusiasm for renewed community

After 18 months with no classes convening in person, students and professors returned to campus for face-to-face learning on Monday, August 23. Among them was the new MALAS cohort, meeting in the afternoon for Professor Rebecca Hanson's class, "Design & Methods of Research in Latin American Studies."

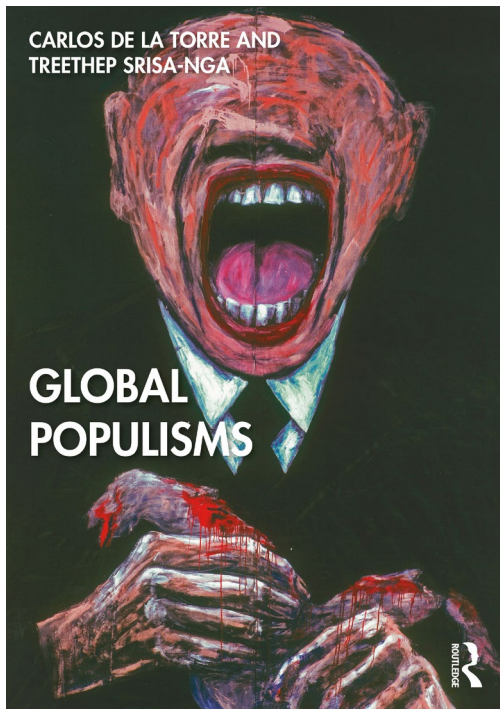
"Coming back to the classroom was unnerving, I think for both professors and students," said Dr. Hanson of the return. "Although there was no mandate for the use of masks, all my students wore them in class to keep everyone safe. Thanks to their collaboration, it was such a pleasure to return to classes face-to-face."

While online learning remains a valuable option across the university, resuming in-person classes and events has instilled a stronger sense of connection among the Center community.

"It's been re-energizing to have students and faculty coming and going at the Center again," said Center director Carlos de la Torre. "You feel a difference hosting classes and events, especially for the first year MALAS who are just arriving."

Dr. Hanson echoed the value of community amid a pandemic-affected graduate school experience. "It is hard to start an MA program in a new city and then be isolated by a health pandemic. Having a specific day and time when you know that you will be surrounded by your cohort for a few hours each week is so important for building support and friendships that are really essential to surviving graduate school."

Second-year MALAS students also reaped the benefits of an in-person community, as this was their first opportunity in graduate school to engage with the Center in ways more typical of a pre-pandemic experience. "Having face-to-face classes again has been a great experience and it feels good to go back to some sort of normalcy," said second-year MALAS student Wally Gallart. "Part of the reason that we go to school is to have the ability to converse and interact with our classmates and professors to share our ideas and build camaraderie. I feel like this semester has been my best semester in grad school yet, and I'm glad that I have been able to get to know people in person beyond the webcams." ♦



Student and professor co-author new book, "Global Populisms"

Center Director Carlos de la Torre and MALAS 2021 graduate Treethep Srisa-Nga examine populism throughout the world

In 2019, just as Treethep (Pepe) Srisa-Nga was beginning his MALAS degree, the Center for Latin American Studies was welcoming a new director, Carlos de la Torre. This timing would turn out to be fortuitous for them both, as Srisa-Nga's interests aligned exactly with De la Torre's expertise: populism. What began as a mentorship resulted in a partnership; the two co-authored the book "Global Populisms," published by Routledge Press in 2021.

Q. How did this project come about for you two?

SRISA-NGA: I was so excited when I learned that Carlos was coming to be the new director because I had read his works before. I'd been really interested in populism, and when you look at the literature on Latin American populism, his was one of the names that would appear. Eventually, I took his class, and I was assigned to him as his student assistant.

DE LA TORRE: After I edited the Routledge Handbook of Global Populism, they asked me to write a textbook and I accepted, but I asked for some time. There was a lot of information I didn't know because the scope was international. I had met Pepe, and for me it was very exciting to learn he was interested in populism. When he took my class, he was such a brilliant student that I had the idea: why not ask Pepe to write the chapter on populism in Asia? And we started having conversations, and he would bring perspectives that are new for me, and so I said, "Why don't we become co-authors?"

Q. How is "Global Populisms" different from other books on populism?

DE LA TORRE: One thing that is a bit different is that both Pepe and I come from the Global South. Many books on populism are Euro-centric. So for us, it was important to look at places where populism has been in power. Latin America, for example, is crucial to understand what are the effects of populism.

SRISA-NGA: We tried to cover the different manifestations of populism around the world, not just any specific region.

We cover Europe, the U.S., Latin America, and parts of Asia and Africa as well. These different experiences of populism throughout the world, particularly in the Global South, complement our broader understanding and definitions of the term.

Q. The audience for this book is the general public. Why was it important for you to write to that audience?

DE LA TORRE: We wanted to appeal to people that are interested in the topic but they're not necessarily academics. Only a few years ago, the topic of populism was confined to the hands of a few experts, and mainly historians.

And you know, Pepe and I were both raised in dictatorships [in Thailand and in Ecuador, respectively]. So we know the value of democracy. When you experience dictators, you value the freedoms that go with democracy: freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of association.

SRISA-NGA: That's true. We have that kind of moral obligation to defend democracy, not only in the face of military dictatorship but also in the face of the regime that claims to speak in the name of the people.

Q. Why is populism a relevant and timely topic?

SRISA-NGA: We are witnessing a number of cases where we're seeing the erosion of democracy, not the breakdown of democracy by military coups, as in the past (although there are some cases). That kind of abrupt death of democracy is not as common in global politics anymore. Instead we're seeing the

gradual attempt from populists to overhaul and manipulate democratic systems, institutions, and practices. We need to be aware of it.

Q. What do you want readers to understand about populism after reading your book?

SRISA-NGA: For me, it's the inherent relationship between populism and democracy. What Carlos and I have put forth in this book is to insist that populism is indeed part of democracy. If these leaders come from democratic elections, and if these leaders appeal to the people through critiques of the existing institutions, then there is something wrong with the existing current conditions of democracy. If you want to live under democracy, you have to find sustainable ways to fix those gaps in our existing democracy and not let populists exploit them and erode it.

DE LA TORRE: The media tends to portray populist followers as irrational or uneducated. They're treated like an anomaly, suggesting that populism comes from nowhere. But like Pepe said, populism exists when there are failures in democracy. And populist critiques of existing democracies are real. You have huge levels of inequality, people don't participate, people don't feel like they're being represented by the political parties. We have to take that very seriously. But the problem is in the solutions the populists offer. They assume that there are quick fixes, and they will fix everything. They assume that a politician is the savior of the nation, and that the people must trust in his persona more than in ideology. Then this person begins to pick up enemies: traditional politicians, the media, social activists—anybody who is critical of them. And then they start to create atmospheres in which you cannot have democratic conversations.

SRISA-NGA: Yes, these are not healthy conditions for democracy to flourish.

Q. How did you both benefit from this collaboration?

DE LA TORRE: I hope I can continue to collaborate with Pepe on book chapters or articles,

because this was a fantastic experience for me. I learned a lot from him. When you start a collaboration like this, it's not always easy to find somebody with whom you can work so well.

SRISA-NGA: I thank Carlos so much for extending this opportunity for a student to co-write an entire book with him. It's such an excellent opportunity for me to step up into the English-speaking academic world. And I think this is something that should be encouraged between faculty and students, if the academic and research interests align. There are many good academics who are quite established, but not every one of them is generous enough to invite students with less experience to co-author with them.

DE LA TORRE: That's what academia is all about. It's a craft. When you're a student, you're learning to become someone who writes books. There's a craftsmanship to it. And it was great that I was able to show Pepe what I know, not because I know so much, but because I'm older and have been doing this for a long time. And the collaboration works both ways; Pepe was seeing things in ways that I was not seeing, from different angles. It was a pleasure to work with him. ♦



Treethep Srisa-Nga and Carlos de la Torre with "Global Populisms"



(L-R) Lillian Guerra, Andrew Janusz,
Benjamin Hebblethwaite

Center professors embrace roles as public intellectuals

Expertise in Latin American Studies presents opportunities to engage with the public media; Lillian Guerra (History), Andrew Janusz (Political Science), and Benjamin Hebblethwaite (Haitian Creole) share their motivations, challenges

It's a Tuesday. Professor Lillian Guerra is teaching two classes today, at 10:40 am and 1:00 pm. But her day begins at 5:00 am. She goes for a four-mile jog, downs a cup of coffee, and drops her kid off at school. As soon as the car door closes, she's on a call. It's time for a pre-interview with Voice of America (VOA), the largest U.S. international news broadcaster. Dr. Guerra works out details with the interviewer for the remainder of her commute. The questions are incisive, and well researched. When she arrives at her office, they're ready to go live.

Recording for VOA's weekly audience of approximately 311 million people around the world, Dr. Guerra brings her expertise in Cuban and Caribbean history to the airwaves. She discusses the significance of Cuba's recent protests, the response by the Cuban government, and policy recommendations for the U.S. government moving forward. When the interview ends, it's 10:35, and time to meet her students for her first class, "Film, Image & Revolution in Cuba."

Professor Guerra is just one of a number of UF's Latin American Studies faculty who step beyond their traditional

role of professor and into the public media to share their insights and expertise with a general audience. Featured in print, video, and podcast across outlets such as PBS News Hour, The New York Times, NPR, The World, and CNN, Dr. Guerra has become a leading public voice on Cuba's protests.

"I was always fascinated by how the study of history could explain contemporary events," Dr. Guerra says of her motivation to engage with the general public. "When you look backward, whether 20 years or 200 years, you see the emergence of patterns, especially in unequal systems of power and wealth. In my classes, in my writing, in my media appearances, it's my driving interest to demonstrate how history can answer big questions about current events."

In recent years, Dr. Guerra has had greater opportunity to express her analysis to the media about Cuba, a result of consequential U.S.-Cuba policy changes from the Obama and Trump administrations, the shifts of power from Fidel to Raúl Castro to Miguel Díaz-Canel, the rise of corruption in the Cuban state, and the eventual bubbling over of discontent by

the Cuban people. July's unprecedented protests garnered the attention of international media, opening a space for Cuba experts to educate the public on the complexities of the topic.

There are challenges, though, for Latinamericanists to engage with the U.S. media on their areas of expertise, even when Latin American countries are in the news. For Professor Andrew Janusz, a political scientist specializing in Brazil, the primacy of U.S. politics in U.S. news means there's less interest in the politics of Brazil, or of Latin American countries in general. But Dr. Janusz, who has been featured in the *Washington Post*, *The Conversation*, and CNN, still sees opportunities for an understanding of Latin America to enrich Americans' perspectives on the U.S.

"We oftentimes talk about transmitting knowledge from the West to Latin America, and extrapolating from here to there," he shares. "But really, we can do the same in reverse, in what we're seeing with respect to politics, racial policy, economic policy, policy reforms, how to foster equality. It can be illuminating for the U.S. audience."

This intention of education and exchange between the Americas is fundamental to the mission of the Center for Latin American Studies, where faculty commonly turn to wider audiences to advance public knowledge about the region. With an eye on significant developments in the news, Center director Dr. Carlos de la Torre frequently mobilizes Center faculty and leading academics from other institutions on panel events livestreamed for the general public. Throughout the summer and fall semesters, the Center responded to protests and political crises alike, with events analyzing ongoing situations in Colombia, Cuba, and Brazil. Dr. Guerra herself spoke on three panels about Cuba from May to November, and Dr. Janusz was featured on the panel "Democratic Crisis in Brazil" in September.

"It's vital for the Center to be engaged with current events in Latin America. We want to show how our faculty are leading experts in their fields," Dr. De la Torre says. "More than that, our faculty are engaged with real-world applications and real-world impacts, for the countries and communities we work with. We embrace this opportunity to communicate with the public and educate them about issues in Latin America."

Without contributions from Latinamericanists, depictions of Latin America in the U.S. media are often limited, imparting an image that's centered on struggle rather than solutions. Rectifying this is a key motivation for Professor Benjamin Hebblethwaite, who specializes in languages and culture of Haiti. "With Haiti in particular, the media tends to focus on the superficial details of current events and people, whereas Haitianists like me are looking for ways to shift away from failed modalities to create constructive alternatives."

In August, Dr. Hebblethwaite wrote an op-ed for *Foreign Policy Magazine* titled, "Haiti's Foreign Language Stranglehold," which examined Haiti's current challenges

through the lens of its Francophone language policy. He followed up with another op-ed in *The Hill*, advocating for the innovation of safe and sustainable rebuilding materials like hemp after one of Haiti's devastating earthquakes.

"My effort to write op-eds is animated by frustration," he explains. "There are problems in Haiti that cause immense suffering for most of the population."

Dr. Guerra is similarly motivated to shift the typical focus of U.S. media on Cuba, a country that casts a long shadow in the American psyche. "One thing that I have wanted to get away from is this notion that Cubans were brainwashed," she shares. "Another is that you could simply understand Cuba if you understood Fidel Castro. For years, when I talked with Americans, they acted like he was the only man on the island."

Instead, Dr. Guerra seeks to centralize the Cuban people in conversations about Cuba, a perspective that often goes missing from U.S. media talking points. "Cuba from within," she says, is key to studying and understanding a country subject to stereotypes and misrepresentations from both the U.S. and Cuban governments. There's one tool she specifically cites as instrumental to achieving this: empathy.

"When I speak in the media, rather than talk in abstracts, it's more effective to tell a story," says Dr. Guerra. She employs this same strategy with her students, exemplified in her course "Film, Image & Revolution in Cuba." "Films and art and music are endowed with a kind of emotional capacity to create empathy that you don't find if you're just talking about the economics. Emotion pulls people out of their comfort zones, and it helps us reach a more sophisticated level of analysis and knowledge in my class."

Both Drs. Hebblethwaite and Janusz echo the interrelationship between teaching students and educating the public. "Because my work beyond the classroom argues for alternatives and solutions, it allows students to grasp the immensity of unfinished work in Haiti and it shows them that there is a myriad of untapped opportunities there," says Dr. Hebblethwaite.

For Dr. Janusz, his students help guide the way he presents information in a public outlet. "Because students at UF are extremely intelligent and well-informed, they ask the types of questions that members of the public are interested in," he says. "Our class discussions motivate me to think about those questions and how the general public can benefit from learning about them."

Beyond that, Dr. Janusz says, professors who embrace their roles as public intellectuals can exemplify to students that public scholarship is a means of leadership. "It's a way of showing students that their education in Latin American Studies is a foundation of knowledge that they can use to make an impact in the world around them – towards more equality, more justice, more prosperity for all." ♦

University Press of Florida Receives NEH Grant to Publish Diverse Stories of America

CONTRIBUTED BY
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA



The University Press of Florida has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to expand the Press's publications in African American Studies (AAS) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS).

The grant will support the Press's project "Exploring Diverse Stories of America through Humanities Publishing," enabling the Press to increase its capacity for publishing new titles in these two subject areas through the retention of staff and the rehiring of positions lost during the pandemic. Through the project, the Press will also convert backlist titles in these disciplines into digital and paperback formats; create an event series to discuss topics at the intersection of AAS, LACS, and publishing in the humanities; and establish paid internships for students interested in publishing.

The project was selected for funding as part of the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (#SHARP) awards program, made possible by \$135 million in supplemental funding allocated to NEH by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The SHARP grants provide emergency relief to help humanities organizations adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic continue to advance their missions. Publishing in the fields of AAS and LACS are central to the Press's scholarly mission and to its charge to offer the citizens of Florida high-quality, relevant publications about the state and the broader American South, a region that is rich with the contributions of diasporas from Africa, Cuba and the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Sian Hunter, senior acquisitions editor, said, "The Press has long been committed to publishing diverse voices and histories across the African diaspora, and this grant allows us to expand and deepen our books in these essential areas." Recent AAS titles published by the Press include the award-

winning *Paulu's Diaspora: Black Internationalism and Environmental Justice* by Quito J. Swan and *Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida* by Tameka Bradley Hobbs.

Stephanye Hunter, interim editor-in-chief, added, "I am deeply grateful to the NEH for this investment in the Press's publications on Latin America and the Caribbean, which have a longstanding history of making significant contributions to the scholarship of the region." Through the grant, the Press will build on a list of LACS titles that includes *Detain and Punish: Haitian Refugees and the Rise of the World's Largest Immigration Detention System* by Carl Lindskoog and *Home in Florida: Latinx Writers and the Literature of Uprootedness* edited by Anjanette Delgado.

Supported by the grant, the project's conversion of backlist titles in these fields into alternative formats will increase the accessibility, discoverability, and distribution of this research. The planned event series will engage scholars and communities of the state's HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions in conversations about race and diasporic heritage in the Americas. The project's paid internships, created for students affiliated with partner units at the University of Florida, will help expand inclusivity in publishing by providing opportunities for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to gain professional experience in the industry.

Press director Romi Gutierrez said, "AAS and LACS scholarship is traditionally marginalized and often suffers from shrinking budgets. By broadly disseminating and promoting this scholarship and helping to train a new generation of publishers in these critical areas, this project sustains more than just the Press. It benefits future scholarship in these fields." ♦

Neoliberal Multiculturalism and the Process of State Formation in Correa's Ecuador

BY ERIKA CINTRON

In her newest book, “Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador,” Dr. Carmen Martínez Novo presents an ethnography of Ecuador, focusing specifically on the process of racial formation and Indigenous movements in the country. Her work began in 2002 during her time living there, where she witnessed the election of Rafael Correa and its effects on Indigenous organizing.

During the book launch event, Dr. Martínez Novo discussed the process of writing an ethnography that included the perspectives of those in power, highlighting the difficulty and struggles that arise when approaching powerful actors such as government officials and religious and social movement leaders.

However, it is the inclusion of these perspectives that allow her book to paint a full image of the reality in Ecuador and the processes she is investigating: “You can’t study people in isolation since they are not isolated,” she says.

Dr. Martínez Novo was joined by her Center colleague Dr. Susan Paulson, as well as Dr. Rudy Colloredo-Mansfeld (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill) and Dr. Joanne Rappaport (Georgetown University). In her comment, Dr. Paulson remarked how “Undoing Multiculturalism” illustrates the process of cooptation of Indigenous organizations by the Correa government in the name of improving the country. She emphasized how neoliberal multiculturalism allowed the Ecuadorian state to present themselves as challengers to colonial capitalism, while still implementing policies that further



Carmen Martínez Novo with MALAS student Yhovana Karen Chura Cussi

strengthened structural inequalities. Dr. Rappaport followed by highlighting the importance of ethnography that focuses on various levels of society, as most work chooses to only focus on specific group and does not necessarily address how these different actors interact with each other. Dr. Colloredo-Mansfeld praised the book as a “vivid ethnography of a national extractivist civil society and the tensions that are within that society,” and asked Dr. Martínez Novo about her methodologies and how anthropologists should try to implement them in their own work. ♦

Center events AT A GLANCE

FALL 2021

Check out our YouTube channel to see all our recorded and streamed events!

- **Lecture** - Criminal Governance in times of post-Chavez revolution [2]
- **Panel** - Democratic Crisis in Brazil
- **Lecture** - Communists by Surprise? The rise to power of Pedro Castillo in Peru [3]
- **Lecture** - From Queer Ricans to Translocas
- **Book launch** - “Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador”
- Conversatorio with Germán Carrera Damas
- **Book launch** - “Rómulo Betancourt: His Historical Personality and the Genesis of Modern Democracy in Venezuela”
- Career talks with alum Francisco Santeiro [4]
- Brazilian Music Institute: Ella Jazz Across Cultures [1]
- **Lecture** - South American Claims in Antarctica: Colonial, Malgré Tout
- **LASA Panel** - Educación superior y estrategias antiracistas
- **Book launch** - “Modernidade Negra: Hip Hop, Artivismo, e Mudança Social em Havana”
- **Panel** - Cuba: Conflicto Político, Cambio Social, Derechos y Ciudadanía
- **Book launch** - “¿Casa Propia? La autonomía económica de las mujeres en Ecuador”
- **Panel** - El 21 de noviembre: Continuidades y Discontinuidades Electorales en Venezuela



youtube.com/
uflatinamerica

Renowned Venezuelan historian revisits the Center

Historian Germán Carrera Damas returns to the Center for two talks on Venezuela and democracy, joined by former UF president John Lombardi.

In 2000, Germán Carrera Damas first set foot on the University of Florida campus as the newly appointed Bacardí Family Chair for Eminent Scholars. This fall, he returned to Gainesville in celebration of his latest book, “Rómulo Betancourt: His Historical Personality and the Genesis of Modern Democracy in Venezuela.” Carrera Damas joined students and other guests for an informal talk on Venezuelan political history from Chávez to Maduro. His visit ended with a book launch panel event, where he was joined by former UF president John Lombardi, translator Elizabeth Lowe, and University Press of Florida director Romi Gutierrez.

The book launch was the culmination of a growing partnership with the University Press of Florida, who published “Rómulo Betancourt,” and an homage to the development of Latin American Studies at UF by Carrera Damas, former president and Latinamericanist John Lombardi, and now Dr. Carlos de la Torre, the current director, who carries the torch into the future. It also signifies the value of translating scholarly works to reach a wider audience.

“Rómulo Betancourt: His Historical Personality and the Genesis of Modern Democracy in Venezuela” can be purchased from University Press of Florida at upf.com. ♦



(L-R) Center director Carlos de la Torre, University Press of Florida director Romi Gutierrez, translator Elizabeth Lowe, author Germán Carrera Damas, former UF president John Lombardi





Left: Lisa Martino and Carrie Martins, right: Marcela Murillo

Virtual exchange program equips educators with innovative global curriculum

Dr. Mary Risner and Carrie Martins (MALAS 2023) facilitate training initiative for K-16 educators to develop collaborative international learning experiences online

BY CARRIE MARTINS

During Summer 2021, the Center for Latin American Studies offered a five-week training on designing a virtual exchange (VE) for educators from throughout Florida and Latin America. This program was funded by a USDOE Title VI grant and offered in collaboration with the Florida Consortium for International Education (FCIE) and Volusia County Sister Cities. In total, there were 13 U.S.-based participants and 10 participants from institutions in Mexico, Colombia, and Bolivia. These educators teach at levels ranging from middle school to graduate school, and most of the college-level U.S. participants work at community colleges.

The diverse backgrounds of the training participants made for rich discussion and a range of creative ideas on different aspects of VE. The subjects they were incorporating VE into included teacher education, nursing, Spanish, social studies, aerospace engineering, business, and biology. Some of the VE topics they chose included conducting an international job search and interviewing, defining the concept of liberty in different countries from a contemporary and historical lens, and exploring international solutions to the challenges set forth in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Some participants completed the VE projects they designed during the training in Fall 2021, while others will be carrying out their projects in Spring 2022. Additionally, several groups presented on their VE projects at the 21st Annual FCIE Conference in October. For example, Dr. Marcela Murillo from Santa Fe College and Iver Ajata from the Universidad Mayor de San Andres in Bolivia were in the middle of their VE at the time and had already expanded upon some of their assignments due to the enthusiasm demonstrated by their students to interact and learn from each other. Another participant, Dr. Lisa Martino from the University of Central Florida, also reported very positive responses from the students in her Career and Technical Education VE project, and was hoping to expand on her design for a future semester.

Building upon the momentum from last summer's VE training, Dr. Mary Risner and her collaborators have been awarded funding from the Longview Foundation to offer the training again in Summer 2022 with enhancements and revisions based on lessons learned from the first iteration. Additionally, Dr. Risner and her co-facilitator from the training, Carrie Martins, will be presenting on the training and its outcomes alongside several of the training participants at the LASA 2022 Congress in May 2022. ♦

Robert Walker and Joel Correia Among Team Receiving Four-Year NSF Grant

National Science Foundation awarded nearly \$1 million to UF-LAS team to study Indigenous socioenvironmental systems in the Ecuadorian Amazon

The National Science Foundation awarded a grant of nearly \$1 million to a multi-disciplinary team of researchers led by Dr. Robert Walker and including Dr. Joel Correia, both core faculty members of the Center for Latin American Studies. Other team members affiliated with the Center include Dr. Miguel Acevedo and Dr. Cynthia Simmons. Dr. Michael Esbach, recently graduated from UF and now at Princeton University, rounds out the team. The four-year project will study relationships between Indigenous socio-environmental systems, development, and forest conservation outcomes across the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Collecting data through collaborations with local partners, the project employs ecological assays, scientific surveys, and informant interviews to generate insights about Indigenous responses to development-induced ecosystem change and practices that promote ecosystem conservation.

“There are so many questions about sustainability and environmental resilience that Indigenous practices can offer answers to,” says Walker, the principal investigator on the grant. “It’s crucial that we learn from them and with them.”

The project’s data will be used to develop management models that can be implemented elsewhere in the Amazon basin, where ecosystems are under increasing threat of climate change, deforestation, and large-scale infrastructure projects. In the absence of a sustainable pathway, Walker predicts the Amazon rainforest will be replaced by fire-adapted grasses and shrubs sometime between 2060 and 2070.

The project possesses significant potential for global impact. Because Indigenous peoples steward 40% of

the world’s protected areas, learning from Indigenous environmental governance models could inform more equitable and sustainable conservation efforts around the world. Walker emphasizes, “A key aspect of this project is to create knowledge in partnership with Indigenous peoples that can inform other Indigenous peoples and communities.”

Such conservation potential, in turn, provides a powerful argument for the defense of Indigenous rights. “We view Indigenous rights as inalienable and vital to more just conservation practice,” adds Correia. “Therefore, this project intends to advance knowledge about tropical forest conservation in the context of climate change but also to use collaborative research as a vehicle to support Indigenous territorial rights.”

Between October 2021 and September 2025, team members will conduct research activities, which will involve a variety of stakeholders from different backgrounds and communities. In addition to a post-doctoral researcher, the grant supports training for eight Indigenous research technicians, as well as three

graduate students from historically under-represented populations. The project site will host undergraduate students for summer fieldwork courses, as well as virtual exchange with classrooms abroad.

“As the effects of climate change escalate, so does the necessity of implementing diverse strategies for environmental resilience,” Walker says. “Our goal is to share results that will shape contemporary conservation strategies for years to come, and that will support the rightful claims of Indigenous peoples, both in Amazonia and globally.” ♦

"A key aspect of this project is to create knowledge in partnership with Indigenous peoples that can inform other Indigenous people and communities who need it."

This text is developed by Diego Palacios Ocles, a visiting doctoral student whose thesis seeks to explain the labor struggles in Chota Valley, Ecuador.

Dreaming to become a cop: Anti-Black racism in Ecuador

BY DIEGO PALACIOS OCLES PH.D. © FLACSO-ECUADOR

In early 2019, at least 300 Black people living in the Chota Valley¹—the descendants of slaves brought to work in the sugar cane fields—fell victim to a mysterious mestizo woman and her Black boyfriend. They had promised that for \$2000 to \$5000 USD, they would help people get admitted to the police academy. A police officer makes \$900 USD a month and many poor and Black people see it as a mean for social mobility, but the admissions requirements often exclude those of underprivileged class and racial backgrounds. After the payments were made, the woman gave important information on the possible entrance dates and equipment so that they could start. As time passed by, many felt that this was a scam and demanded their money back, until one day she just vanished.

Two years later, some of the victims caught her by surprise in Quito; they kept her captive and beat her. Word had spread to the victims of her scam in the Valley, and they rushed to Quito. By the time we arrived, she had been taken to the police, so the law could deal with the complaints by the victims of her scam. We, the victims, waited outside the police building for several hours. In pain, many recalled how they had incurred debt or given away property (a motorcycle or a piece of land) to assure their children the possibility of social mobility and an advantageous future, but instead they were badly robbed. All of a sudden, several members of the police riot control unit (UMO, in Spanish) showed up, heavily prepared for a confrontation. The officers took her out through a back door and everything was silenced. In the videos recorded that day, this woman blamed her boyfriend, who is a police officer, and other senior officers within the institution. We recently heard that there's a new investigation; subsequently the victims will be required to make a statement.

In Chota Valley, since the 1970s, most of the young people aspire to become cops as a mean of social and economic mobility given the minimal chances that they have. Along with soccer and smuggling, police work is one of the limited opportunities at hand. Race and racial inequalities are not an ideological illness that resides in the heads of mean people. Instead, racial dynamics are embedded in the social system (Bonilla Silva, 2014) which provides with privileges to racial categories constructed as superior (white, honorary white, mestizo) and at the same time creates harsh realities for those racialized as inferior (Black and Indigenous). Since the 1960s, scholars have analyzed how race positions people in the labor market (Whitten 1965, 1986, Ronald Stutzman 1974, Rahier 1999).

These logics of racialization, segregation and oppression have not changed much since the 1970s when democracy returned to Ecuador. Black people in the Chota Valley, the descendants of slaves brought by the Jesuits to work in sugar cane haciendas, have historically been constructed as “negroes,” meaning less human, with powerful bodies, aptitude for sports, inherently violent, promiscuous and every other binary opposition to the imaginary white, virtuous and rational self. Blatant racism manifested in police executions of Black people and lynchings, together with racialized euphemisms (“Blacks complaint a lot,” “Blacks play soccer and dance very well”) used to maintain the racial order.

The police force has become more racially and ethnic diverse², yet Black individuals very rarely become officers. Instead, they are denied education and work opportunities. Hence, they dream of becoming a soccer star, or struggle to get the chance to join the police force. Often their desperation to help their children and siblings makes them victims of scammers that often escape the legal system.

Cited works

Bonilla Silva, Eduardo (2014) *Racism without racists: color-blind racism and the persistence of racial inequality in Latin America*. ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS, INC. Lanham • Boulder • New York • Toronto • Plymouth, UK, Fourth edition.

Rahier, Jean Muteba, *Mami, ¿qué será lo que quiere el negro?: representaciones racistas en la revista vistazo, 1957-1991*. En Ecuador racista: imágenes e identidades, editado por Emma Cervone y Freddy Rivera, 1991. Quito, FLACSO.

Stutzman, Ronald, *Black Highlanders: Racism and Ethnic Stratification in the Ecuadorian Sierra*. Doctoral Thesis Washington University. Ann Arbor: 1974, University Microfilms.

Whitten, Norman, *Black Frontiersmen Afro-Hispanic Culture of Ecuador and Colombia*. 1974 Prospect Heights Illinois.

Whitten, Norman, *Class, Kinship, and Power in an Ecuadorian Town: The Negroes 01" San Lorenzo, 1965*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.

¹ The victims reported this approximate number of people scammed in total only in Chota Valley.

² 4,912 out of 49,258 police officers in Ecuador are Indigenous and Black.

Student SPOTLIGHT

Nashia Graneau: Research project brings her home to Dominica and the Kalinago

MALAS student gathers stories of her community through oral histories

BY ANTHONY BAXTER, JR.

Those who are not familiar with the Caribbean region typically think of the Dominican Republic when someone mentions Dominica. However, the Commonwealth of Dominica is a country in the Caribbean that has its own unique history, culture, people, and traditions. MALAS student Nashia Graneau not only comes from Dominica, she is a Kalinago woman from the island. The Kalinago have inhabited the country long before European imperialism and colonialism. Despite the ramifications of these historical atrocities, the Kalinago are still very much alive and present.

Nashia is currently working on a research project centered on conveying the stories of her people through oral history. As a member of the community who speaks Dominican Creole fluently, she has been able to cultivate relationships and create work that is conducive not only to her career and community, but the fields of Caribbean studies, history, Indigenous studies, and beyond. Documenting and telling the stories of her people serves as a light to shine on issues affecting the Kalinago, and stories that have been undermined or ignored. Nashia shares more about her research, interests, and her future endeavors:

Q: So, tell me a bit about your research topic.

A: My research topic is an ethnography of gender relations within the community of Sineku, in the Kalinago Territory, with more attention to Kalinago women. I have specifically looked at education, motherhood and relationships.

Q: Have you had any unforeseen challenges where you had to adapt while conducting fieldwork?

A: One of the main challenges encountered whilst carrying out fieldwork is the resistance of Kalinago women to even begin having a recorded conversation with me about their life. Some aspects of the lives of Kalinago women include very personal experiences such as memories of domestic violence, as well as other forms of abuse that I am aware is not the easiest of experiences to speak on. Though this was not an unforeseen challenge, it was still difficult to persuade some of the women of the importance of their voices, and stories being documented. I constantly reassured them, throughout the conversations, that their names and any evident identifying marker will be removed.



Another huge challenge, again, not unforeseen, was the restrictions that came with COVID-19. Dominica had a curfew in effect which limited the number of hours that I could be out in the field, as well as how close to the respondents I could get, without fear of becoming infected, or infecting each other. I wore a mask, always, and kept my distance whilst collecting my recordings.

Q: Where do you see this research taking you in the future?

A: This research has thus far proven to fuel my interest in documenting the histories of my community. There are many aspects of Kalinago life that my research will not explore extensively, such as the lives of Kalinago men; hence, I intend on doing much more work associated with my people.

Q: Any particular goals or intentions in mind while you are conducting research about your people?

A: The main goal of this research is to have the actual voices of Kalinago women heard. Many times whilst reading history books on the Caribbean, as well as history books written on Dominica, I come across general histories of Kalinago people. Specifically, the information written on Kalinago women are very limited with huge gaps from colonial history, and current history. My goal is not to fill all those gaps, but to contribute to a better understanding of the lives of Kalinago women. Above all, I simply want to document our silenced histories, from our perspectives. ♦

Student SPOTLIGHT

Cody Case: community arts and public health in Salvador, Brazil

Through a FLAS scholarship and Latin American Studies mentors, ethnomusicology Ph.D. student pursues research on communal healing through music in Afro-bloco communities

BY ANTHONY BAXTER, JR.

Next year will find Cody Case, a Ph.D. student in ethnomusicology, conducting fieldwork research in Salvador, Brazil for the Fulbright-Hays fellowship he received. Cody's research seeks to investigate whether participating in *Afro-bloco* community music ensembles plays a significant role in creating healthier individuals and communities in Salvador, Brazil. His theoretical and methodological anchors weave together arts and public health—particularly resonant as Brazil recovers from the traumatic circumstances of COVID-19. Cody's work will involve close collaboration with Bahian scholars,

musicians, and community members with the intention of cultivating an ethical foundational network that leads to potential future public health, arts, and medicine projects between the University of Florida, the Federal University of Bahia, public health institutions, and government agencies in Salvador. Focusing on musical communal healing, resilience-building, and growth from personal and societal trauma, this research will advance applied medical ethnomusicology through infusing fieldwork with theories on *syndemics*, trauma, and necropolitics based on data collected in Salvador.



In the ongoing journey through his graduate studies, Cody has been guided by Center professor Dr. Tanya Saunders in building the theoretical foundation for his research proposal. Dr. Saunders's course "Black in the Americas" influenced Cody to pursue integrated discourses in sociology, popular music, Latin American Studies, Black studies, and post-colonial studies. Additionally, thanks to a FLAS scholarship, Cody received instrumental Portuguese language instruction from Center affiliate Andréa Ferreira.

Grant WRAP-UP

Reflecting on Pan-Amazon community of practice and learning

As Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon (GIA) looks to the future, stakeholders evaluate the experiences and takeaways from the three-year project

After three years of strengthening and implementing a polycentric network of key stakeholders from grassroots organizations, academia, NGOs, and government across the Amazon, the GIA project culminated in a three-day workshop to share its findings about improving infrastructure governance.

Fifty participants joined the workshop via Zoom, from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and the U.S.

GIA identified the following strategies as key opportunities for improving infrastructure governance: (1) continue dissemination of knowledge products already produced but not widely accessible, (2) expand use of new and innovative communication strategies for political impact, (3) strategically engage with broader audiences, such as churches, legislatures, government agencies, the private sector, and investors, and (4) deepen application of

legal and judicial tools, including free, prior, and informed consent protocols.

Planning for a continuation of GIA is underway. Key elements that will guide future work are focused analysis of measurable results, action-oriented strategies combining knowledge, communications, and collaboration, an integrated network within and across regions, and student engagement at UF and Amazonian universities alike.

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Victoria Reyes Garcia talks about Indigenous and local knowledge, interdisciplinary collaboration with TCD founder Marianne Schmink



left: Reyes Garcia spinning cotton with her feet, visit to the Tsimané in Bolivia, 2019
above: Schmink on her retirement from UF, 2017

In 1997, Victoria Reyes Garcia was living in Ecuador, working on her master's thesis, and doing fieldwork in partnership with a newly founded U.S.-based research initiative called MERGE—Managing Ecosystems and Resources with Gender Emphasis. This connection would lead her to MERGE's founder, Marianne Schmink, and eventually to the University of Florida, where she studied in the burgeoning Tropical Conservation and Development program and graduated with her doctorate in Anthropology.

Citing Schmink as one of the most influential scholars in her career, Reyes Garcia has followed a similar path to her mentor, devoting her career to bringing together researchers and local communities to better understand and improve the relationship between humans and the environment. In 2021, Reyes Garcia was elected as an international member of the National Academy of Sciences. In celebration of this honor, the two scholars reunited virtually to discuss their work. *This conversation has been edited for length and clarity.*

SCHMINK: Why did you decide to come to UF?

REYES GARCIA: I was amazed and interested in the interdisciplinary component at TCD. When you have this, you have more channels of dialogue and ways to understand. The other thing that attracted me to TCD was the applied side. It's not only about having a Ph.D. but also serving the people with whom you work. I wanted this component of, "Okay, let's go and save the world."

SCHMINK: That's exactly why I gravitated to that kind of work. And I remember very well watching you blossom as a student. You came in very ideological and convinced of what you wanted to go prove in the field, and you ended up being this amazing quantitative scientist. It's given you such incredible tools to share with your students and to further the research in ways people had to pay attention to.

REYES GARCIA: For me, having multiple influences was the right balance. If I only stayed in the quantitative side, I would stay in hypothesis testing and producing papers. But I remember saying, "Why does this matter for people?" You are dealing with people. It's the right balance of having theory-driven ideas, and participatory research, more applied research.

SCHMINK: Tell me about LICCI [Local Indicators of Climate Change Impacts], your latest project on Indigenous and local knowledge and climate change.

REYES GARCIA: The idea is that most of the science on climate change comes from natural scientists, but local knowledge can reach where meteorological stations cannot reach. Indigenous and local knowledge can help in the detection of climate change impacts. We've put together a network of research practitioners working with Indigenous and local knowledge. The idea of networks is key now, I think. In the past, we've done research through case studies that have very interesting insights, but many of these studies that deal with local people have a problem going to the higher level. Everyone knows their own thing but no one knows the global. So how do you find ways to keep the details of case studies and the richness and differences of what people do, but still bring voices higher to find a common theme? For example, the problems we have related to climate change impact or infrastructure development—the topic you are looking at with GIA [Governance & Infrastructure in the Amazon, *see page 16*—are common to many people, and if we don't network between researchers and local communities, it's hard for them to put a united voice on the map.

SCHMINK: The strategy I have found throughout my career is bringing people together. I don't know any other way to do that.

REYES GARCIA: Exactly. So in the LICCI project we have 40 partners collecting data in all these places in the world, and

we compare across cases. Now we are planning to do analysis that is very local, so that our partners are going to have the possibility to look at their own data in particular ways. And one of the final goals is to incorporate these local indicators into global models. We want to do policy-oriented work.

SCHMINK: It's a great model. Let's talk a little bit about your election to the National Academy of Sciences. What was it like?

REYES GARCIA: I didn't even know it was possible for foreigners! It's such a big honor for many reasons. It gives you a powerful instrument to bring a voice of what matters to people that usually will not be there listening. It's a real opportunity to communicate about Indigenous people, local knowledge, and the value of cultural diversity in the way we relate to nature.

SCHMINK: I think it's wonderful. I'm really proud of you. It's long-deserved recognition for your pioneering work.

REYES GARCIA: For me, it's important to remember it's not something you achieve alone. There are all these people that I've worked with, too. You don't represent yourself alone, you also represent a community.

▶ LEARN MORE ABOUT:

THE LICCI PROJECT: LICCI.EU

GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMAZON: GIAMAZON.ORG

Alumni ENGAGED

Alum Francisco Santeiro visits Center students for career talks

Students gain personalized guidance on global career development, working in Latin America, and opportunities in logistics and international trade

For many students, a major benefit of connecting with the Center is meeting with guest speakers that come to Gainesville and share real-world counsel for a future beyond graduation. Better still are guest speakers that graduated from the Center themselves, like Francisco X. Santeiro (LAS certificate, 1977) who returned to campus in October for three days of events and engagement with current students.

After graduating from the Center, Santeiro pursued a career in trade and logistics, working for DHL and FedEx. His expertise in Latin America led him to advance to Director of Government Affairs for FedEx's Latin America and Caribbean Division. Students interested in similar career paths attended talks where Mr. Santeiro shared his work experiences in Latin America, gave feedback on CVs and job search materials, and answered questions about career opportunities in international trade and logistics.

SCHMINK: Last question. What advice would you give to current TCD students for their future career in conservation and development?

REYES GARCIA: Never stop going to the field. It doesn't matter if you're now a professor, go to the field otherwise you lose track of what you're doing and why. When you go to the field, you remember your passion. One other thing that has served me well is to allow myself to be questioned all the time. Always allow new ideas to question what you've done in the past or what you do now. Working with Indigenous knowledge now is a very polemic and contested field if you are not an Indigenous scholar. When we started 20 years ago we were doing participatory methodologies that were advanced at the time but are now considered colonial. It has changed, and it's important to recognize it, and we have to change too.

SCHMINK: Thank you very much for this conversation; it's been really great to talk to you.

REYES GARCIA: I'm happy to contribute, and I hope I encourage people to follow this path. ♦

Dr. Mary Risner, director of the Latin American Business Environment program, coordinated a full schedule for Mr. Santeiro's visit. In addition to public talks and class discussions, Mr. Santeiro also met one-on-one with business students for personalized guidance and feedback. These kinds of interactions demonstrate to students the value in relationship building in career development.

"It's an honor to be invited back," Mr. Santeiro said of his visit to the Center. "I've been impressed by the students' interests, their involvement, their great questions. I commend them, and their professors, for their great work and enthusiasm." The Center continues to seek engagement from alumni with current students. If you're an interested alum, please reach out to Christa Markley at communications@latam.ufl.edu. ♦

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Taylor Doyle (International Studies)

Megan Hickey (Biology, Spanish)

Katherine McCall (Economics)

Adrian Oake (Political Science, Hispanic & Latin American Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics)

Vianka Ordonez (Criminology)

Kyle-Rae Patch (Psychology, Philosophy)

Mauricio Perez (Political Science)

Miguelangel Ruiz (History)

Hannah Townley (Political Science, English)

MALAS Degrees

Juliana de Mello Queiroz Santiago

Thesis: Connecting the Means with the Needs: the Amazon Fund Adaptive Governance in Supporting Conservation of Tropical Forests

Advisor: Bob Buschbacher

Specializations: Tropical Conservation and Development and Sustainable Development Practice

Juan Manuel Montealegre

Thesis: Coffee Agroecological Systems, Adaptation, and Sustainability in Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Advisors: Catherine Tucker and Pilar Useche

Specialization: Tropical Conservation and Development

Haradja Louisa Torrens

Thesis: Paths to Democracy: The City Whorl

Advisor: Richard Kernaghan

Specialization: Crime, Law and Governance

Igor Vianna Sousa

Thesis: Tourism Crisis Management:

Government Agencies in the Brazilian Amazon and Their Response to Deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic on Tourism

Advisor: Angelica Almeyda

Specialization: Tropical Conservation and Development

Graduate LAS Certificates

Raine Donohue (MDP)

Angelica Garcia Villacorta (FRC-MS)

Yeyetsi Maldonado Caballero (MDP)

Ana Violato Espada (FRC-Ph.D.)

MDP Degrees

Raine Donohue (Cohort 10)

Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Claudia Romero (Biology)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Identifying pathways to prosperity for rural communities in the Peruvian Amazon through the PRIME framework and the Green Value Tool®"

Yeyetsi Maldonado Caballero (Cohort 10)

Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Karen Kainer (Forest Resources & Conservation)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Traditional charcoal production in agroforestry systems: what can we learn from global experiences?"

Nicole Picón (Cohort 10)

Specializations: Global Health, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Research uptake for livestock systems in Ethiopia"

Madison Smith (Cohort 10)

Specializations: Sustainable Business, TCD

Advisor: Martha Monroe (Forest Resources & Conservation)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Understanding the human dimensions of conservation burials"

Tropical Conservation and Development Certificate / Concentration

Carolina De Oliveira Jordao (Ph.D., SNRE)

Raine Donohue (MDP)

Benjamin Lowe (Ph.D., SNRE)

Yeyetsi Maldonado Caballero (MDP)

Nicole Picón (MDP)

Riley Ravary (Ph.D., Anthropology)

Julia Salt (MS)

Madison Smith (MDP)

John Toohey (MS, WEC)

Igor Vianna Sousa (MA, LAS)

Alumni UPDATES

Kerri Hannan (MALAS 1999) appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy

Ms. Hannan is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service at the U.S. State Department. She graduated from the MALAS program in 1999 with a concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development. Prior overseas assignments include Bolivia, Argentina, and India. Her current position covers issues related to the People's Republic of China for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Moisés Moreno-Rivera (MALAS 2017) joins agency for equity and environmental justice

Mr. Moreno-Rivera has joined California's Natural Resources Agency as Assistant Secretary for Equity and Environmental Justice, where he will work to advance principles of environmental justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion at the Agency and its 26 departments. Mr. Moreno-Rivera has previously worked developing equitable and inclusive policies for state programs in California.

Timothy Power (MALAS 1986) named Head of Social Sciences Division at Oxford University

Dr. Power is a professor of Latin American Politics with research focus on democratization and political interests in modern Latin America, particularly Brazil. He previously served as the Director of the Latin American Centre at Oxford University, and the Head of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA).

Faculty NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Leslie Anderson (Political Science)

PAG. 5-28: "Robert Dahl, la Constitución Estadounidense y Donald Trump. Algunas consideraciones sobre la supervivencia de la democracia en los Estados Unidos." /Leslie E. Anderson. Huellas de los Estados Unidos, Buenos Aires. http://www.huellasdeeu.com/ediciones/edicion21/01-Leslie%20E.%20Anderson_pp.05-28.pdf

Efraín Barradas (LAS Emeritus) was named Académico Correspondiente de la Academia Puertorriqueña de la Lengua Española.

Norman Beatty, MD (Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine)

Working in partnership with the UF Equal Access Clinic Network and the UF chapter of Children Beyond Our Borders, Dr. Beatty and his team are working to promote access to health care screening tests to help Latin Americans with limited resources in our community here in Alachua County and throughout the state. Our hope is to provide free health screenings and education for common diseases that may effect Latin American communities, such as diabetes mellitus, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, depression, and Chagas disease. On December 4 we held our latest health fair and are planning our first event of 2022 in conjunction with UF IFAS CAFE Latino in Wimauma, Florida.

Trent Blare (Food & Resource Economics)

was selected as a UF Global Scholar.

Publications: (1) Blare, T. and Useche, P. 2021. The evolution of gender roles in rural Ecuador: The case of the cacao value chain. In: M. B. Avila Calle and G. Casado López (eds.). Ecuador; past, present, and future. Nova Science Publishers, Inc. Hauppauge, NY: 231-246. (2) Borja, R. M., Blare, T., Oyarzún, P. J., Padilla, G. and Zambrano, S. 2021. Una mirada a los logros y desafíos de las asociaciones agroecológicas de mujeres en Cotopaxi, Ecuador. [A view of the achievements and challenges of women's agroecological associations in Cotopaxi, Ecuador]. LEISA Revista de Agroecología. 37:1.

Fernanda Bretones Lane (History)

Publication: "Free to Bury Their Dead: Baptism and the Meanings of Freedom in the Eighteenth-Century Caribbean," *Slavery & Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies*, 42:3 (2021): 449-465, DOI: 10.1080/0144039X.2021.1927510 **Speaking engagements:** (1) Keynote speaker at the Hispanic Student Association's Solidarity Meeting, Sep. 29. (2) Guest speaker at the event "Young Voices on Immigration" organized by the Office of Political Affairs of the Hispanic Student Association, Nov. 16.

Kaira M. Cabañas (Art History) Keynote lecture: "On Lettrist Cinema" for the First

International Symposium on Cinema and Film Analysis, organized by the postgraduate programs at the Anhembi Morumbi University, Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) in Brazil. Lecture followed by a Q&A with Fábio Uchôa, professor and member of the organizing committee. To view the presentation visit: youtube.com/watch?v=snsFhplxMoY

Daniel Contreras (Anthropology) (1) Marsh, E.J., D. Contreras, M.C. Bruno, A. Vranich & A.P. Roddick. 2021. Comment on Arnold et al. "Drought and the collapse of the Tiwanaku Civilization: New evidence from Lake Orurillo, Peru" [Quat. Sci. Rev. 251 (2021): 106693]. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 107004. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2021.107004>. (2) Vining, Benjamin R., Daniel A. Contreras, and Aubrey Hillman. 2022. El Niño Southern Oscillation and enhanced arid land vegetation productivity in NW South America *Journal of Arid Environments* 198 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2021.104695>

Joel E. Correia (Latin American Studies)

Funding: Fulbright Scholar "Building the future: Infrastructure & environmental justice in Paraguay's Chaco." National Science Foundation DISES "Resilient socio-environmental systems: Indigenous territories in the face of change." **Award:** Political Ecology Society "Eric Wolf Prize" for best paper. **Publications:** "Infrastructures of settler colonialism: Geographies of violence, Indigenous labor, & marginal resistance in Paraguay's Chaco." In *Re-imagining the Gran Chaco: Contemporary Perspectives on Identities, Politics & the Environment in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay*. Hirsch, S., Canova, P., and Biocca, M. eds. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. **Talk:** "Water justice & environmental racism in the Chaco" at Syracuse University.

Carlos de la Torre (LAS) Book: with Treethep Srisa-nga, *Global Populisms*, New York: Routledge Press, 2021. **Book Chapters:** (1) "Trump's Populism," *Political Populism. Handbook of Concepts, Questions, and Strategies of Research*, 307-321. (2) "Fascism and Populism," *The Palgrave Handbook of Populism*, 166-177. (3) "La política exterior de la Alianza para los pueblos de nuestra América (ALBA): entre la inclusión y la promoción autocrática," *Política Exterior y Populismo en Europa y América Latina*, 191-204. **Non-Refereed Articles:** (1) Carlos de la Torre, "polarización, fragmentación y competencia en las democracias liberales", *Ecuador Debate* 112, Apr. 2021, 67-72. (2) Carlos de la Torre, "Trump y la polarización populista" *Ecuador Debate* 112, Apr. 2021, 73-88. **Conferences:** (1) "Populism: Conceptual Strategies and Debates" Keynote address, "The Age of Populism" conference, Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center,

Arab American University of Palestine, Oct. 22, 2021. (2) "Populism and Leadership" Workshop *Populism as a Challenge to Key Concepts in Political and Social Theory*, University of Lausanne, Nov. 5, 2021 (3) "The complex construction of the people and the leader in populism" Workshop at Kiel University Jul. 19-21, 2021. (4) "National Populism in Latin America" IPSA 26th World Congress of Political Science, Jul. 15, 2021.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE Emerita)

Awards: LASA Cuba Section Prize for outstanding scholarly contributions to Cuban Studies. **Publications:** Edited *¿Casa propia? La autonomía económica de las mujeres en Ecuador*, Quito: FLACSO-Ecuador and Abya Yala, 2021. Co-authored "Consensual Unions, Property Rights and Patrimonial Violence Against Women in Latin America," in *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 2001. DOI:10.1093/sp/jxab001; "De la potestad marital a la violencia económica y patrimonial en Colombia," in *Revista de Estudios Socio-Jurídicos*, 23(1), 2001: 1-33; and "Assets, Wealth and Property Rights in the Global South," in G. Berik and E. Kongar, eds., 312-320, *Routledge Handbook of Feminist Economics*, New York: Routledge, 2021.

Glenn Galloway (Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program) Moderated the IUFRO World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE) session, "Forest landscape restoration for climate, nature and people" in the Global Landscape Forum, carried out in conjunction with COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Panelists from CIFOR, WWF, World Resources Institute, Kyoto University, and UF (Katie Dowhaniuk, MDP student) presented in the session. Planning for the session was coordinated by Pia Katila of the Natural Resources Institute of Finland.

Karen Garrett (Plant Pathology and Food Systems Institute) New paper includes an example of how to target projects supporting potato seed health management in the Andes, to produce a greater benefit for smallholder farmers: Buddenhagen, C. E., Y. Xing, J. Andrade Piedra, G. A. Forbes, P. Kromann, I. Navarrete, S. Thomas-Sharma, R. A. Choudhury, K. F. Andersen, E. Schulte-Geldermann, B. A. Etherton, A. I. Plex Sulá, and K. A. Garrett. 2021. Where to invest project efforts for greater benefit: A framework for management performance mapping with examples for potato seed health. *Phytopathology* <https://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/10.1094/PHYTO-05-20-0202-R>

Mary Elizabeth Ginway (Spanish & Portuguese Studies) M. Elizabeth Ginway (SPS) and Terry Harpold (English) organized the symposium "Latin America Writes Back 2.0: Political and Environmental Crisis in Science Fiction" on Oct. 21-22, 2021. Held in Library East, the event attracted over 100 attendees

and featured talks by author/scholar Edmundo Paz Soldán (Cornell) and scholar J. Andrew Brown (Washington University St. Louis), along with panels by other scholars and writers who are helping to shape the future of science fiction in the region, including Pablo Brescia (USF) and David Dalton (UNC Charlotte), Emily Maguire (Northwestern) and Alfredo Suppia (UNICAMP), and writers Gabriela Damián Miravete (Mexico) and Giovanna Rivero (Bolivia).

Lillian Guerra (History) Book: *Patriots and Traitors in Revolutionary Cuba, 1961-1981*, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023. **Op-ed:** "The Return of Cuba's Security State," *The New York Times*. [nytimes.com/2021/05/27/opinion/cuba-artist-luis-manuel-otero-alcantara.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/27/opinion/cuba-artist-luis-manuel-otero-alcantara.html) **Book chapters:** (1) "Fidel Castro: From Grassroots Dictatorship to Communist Autocracy," *Dictators and Autocrats: Securing Power across Global Publics*. (Routledge, 2021), 55-70. (2) "Passive Puerto Rico and Revolutionary Cuba? Myths, Realities and the Optics of History," *Islands in Diaspora: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Puerto Rican and Cuban American History, Literature, and Culture*. (University Press of Florida, 2022). **Select media:** PBS *NewsHour*, PRI *The World*, NPR *Weekend Edition Sunday*, NPR *All Things Considered*, Council on Foreign Relations, *WBUR Here & Now*.

Rebecca Hanson (Latin American Studies) Graeme Blair, Fotini Christia, Jeremy Weinstein (lead authors), with Eric Arias, Emile Badran, Robert A. Blair, Ali Cheema, Thiemo Fetzer, Guy Grossman, Dotan Haim, Rebecca Hanson, Ali Hasanain, Ben Kachero, Dorothy Kronick, Benjamin Morse, Robert Muggah, Matthew Nanes, Tara Slough, Nico Ravanilla, Jacob N. Shapiro, Barbara Silva, Pedro C. L. Souza, Lily Tsai, and Anna Wilke. "Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South" *Science* Vol 374, Issue 6571

Benjamin Hebblethwaite (Languages, Literatures and Cultures) Book: *A Transatlantic History of Haitian Vodou: Rasin Figuié, Rasin Bwa Kayiman, and the Rada and Gede Rites* (University Press of Mississippi, Oct. 15, 2021) **Op-Eds:** (1) "What the Kidnapper Wilson Joseph's Costume Says About Haitian Politics: Vodou and Christianity are perpetually entangled with Haiti's power struggles." (*Foreign Policy*, Nov. 10, 2021) (2) "Haiti's Foreign Language Stranglehold" (*Foreign Policy*, Aug. 3, 2021) (3) "Rebuilding Haiti with bamboo and hemp" (*The Hill*, Aug. 28, 2021)

Andrew Janusz (Political Science) Publications: (1) Janusz, Andrew. "Race and Resources in Brazilian Mayoral Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* (2021). (2) Janusz, Andrew, and Cameron Sells. "Race and Campaign Resources: Candidate Identification Numbers in Brazil." *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (2021). (3) Janusz, Andrew, and Luiz Augusto Campos. "Candidate advertisements and Afro-Brazilian political marginalization." *Latin American Research Review*, 56:4 (2021). (4) Janusz, Andrew, Sofi-Nicole Barreiro, and

Erika Cintron. "Political parties and campaign resource allocation: Gender gaps in Brazilian elections." *Party Politics* (2021). (5) Janusz, Andrew. "Electoral incentives and elite racial identification: Why Brazilian politicians change their race." *Electoral Studies* 72 (2021)."

Karen A. Kainer (LAS & School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences) (1) Violato Espada, AL, ACC Vieira, KA Kainer, and M Galdino Almeida. 2021. Intercâmbio de experiências e aprendizados sobre manejo madeireiro comunitário em áreas protegidas da Amazônia: resultados e importância para o empoderamento comunitário. *Bol. Tec. 15, IFT, Belém*. http://www.ift.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Boletim_Tecnico_IFT_15_WEB_2021.pdf (2) Lopes da Fonseca, F., AL Violato Espada, N Cooper, KA Kainer, DM Gomes Mello and LH Oliveira Wadt. 2020. Manejo madeireiro comunitário em áreas protegidas da Amazônia: aprendizados e recomendações de como facilitar a troca de experiências entre comunidades e organizações. *Doc. 168, Embrapa, Acre, Brasil*. <https://www.infoteca.cnptia.embrapa.br/infoteca/bitstream/doc/1131542/1/27125.pdf>

Bette Loiseau (Latin American Studies/ Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)

Panel: How can scientists make meaningful contributions to the biodiversity crisis (Moderator), Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Annual Meeting 2021. **Publications:** Montañó-Centellas, F., B. A. Loiseau, and C. McCain. 2021. Multiple dimensions of bird beta diversity support that mountains are higher in the tropics. *Journal of Biogeography* 48:2455-2468. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14212>

Carmen Martínez Novo (LAS)

Presentations: (1) Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador (Pittsburgh 2021). (2) May 26, 2021, LASA. "Strategies to weaken the indigenous movement in Ecuador" & "Transnational and interdisciplinary perspectives on Latin American Studies: Journal Editors Perspectives" **Invited lectures:** Book presentation of Undoing Multiculturalism, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Anthropology Program, Mexico. "Paternalismo, ventriloquía y otras formas de privilegio blanco en Latino América", Congreso Ecuatoriano de Antropología y Arqueología, Diciembre 1-3, 2021.

Susan Paulson (LAS) Publications: (1) Degrowth: Less Resource Use for More Wellbeing (with K. Paulson-Smith), *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. (2) Review of Uncommon Sense: Shortcomings of the Human Mind for Handling Big-Picture Long-term Challenges, *Environmental Values*. (3) Review of Exploring Degrowth: A Critical Guide, *Environment and Society*. **Keynote Lectures:** (1) Korean Women's Association Annual Meeting, Seoul. (2) Land and Food Struggles in Latin America, Hamburg. Panelist: (1) Living well on a finite planet. Fearless Cities Event, Barcelona. (2) Launch of Undoing Multiculturalism.

Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador By Carmen Martínez Novo, Center for LAS, UF.

David O. Prevatt (Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment)

(1) Tracy Kijewski-Correa, David B. Roueche, Khalid M. Mosalam, David O. Prevatt and Ian Robertson (May 2021) *StEER: A Community-Centered Approach to Assessing the Performance of the Built Environment after Natural Hazard Events; METHODS* article. *Front. Built Environ.*, 31 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbuil.2021.636197> (2) Impacts of Hurricane Dorian on the Bahamas: field observations of hazard intensity and performance of the built environment: *Coastal Engineering Journal* (Aug 2021) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21664250.2021.1958613>; <https://doi.org/10.1080/21664250.2021.1958613> (3) *StEER - 14 August 2021, M7.2 Nippes Earthquake, Haiti PVRR: M7.2 Nippes Earthquake, Haiti PRJ-3269* | (Sept 2021) DOI:10.17603/h7vg-5691

Gabriel Prieto (Anthropology) (1) Prieto, 2021. Shark fisheries during the second millennium BC in Gramalote, north coast of Peru. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564894.2021.1910386>. (2) Grana, L. and G. Prieto 2021. Marine diatom remains as bioindicators of the uses of pre-Hispanic fishing gear recovered in ritual contexts at Huanchaco, north coast of Peru. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 39. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352409X21003795>

Mary Risner (LAS) was the recipient of the Career Connections Center (CCC) 2020-2021 Career Influencer Award in the faculty category. The annual award recognizes a faculty member who has championed the career development of students at the university through collaboration or mentorship.

Zully A. Rivera Ramos (Counseling & Wellness Center) Publications: (1) Buki, L. P., Rivera-Ramos, Z. A., Sabet, R. F., Lehardy, E. N., & Weiterschan, K. A. (in press). "¿Qué Viene Después?": Latina Women Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Twice. *Journal of Latinx Psychology*. (2) Buki, L. P., Rivera-Ramos, Z. A., Kanagui-Muñoz, M., Heppner, P. P., Ojeda, L., Lehardy, E. N., & Weiterschan, K. A. (2021). "I never heard anything about it": Knowledge and psychosocial needs of Latina breast cancer survivors with lymphedema. *Women's Health*, 17, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17455065211002488>

Raúl Sánchez (English) Invited lecture: "Studying Writing and Rhetoric in Our America," delivered as part of the University of Tampa Scholars' Symposia. October 8, 2021. <https://utampa.dspacedirect.org/handle/20.500.11868/2472?show=full>

Welson Tremura (LAS and Music) Invited workshops, master classes, performances: Lund University, Music Academy of Malmö, Sweden, Kulturskolan's Pålångskolan, Lomma, Sweden, Nov. 18-24. **Interview:** «Ama lo que haces y lo que haces te amará» <https://guitarmagazine.online/welson-tremura->

guitarrista-universidad-de-florida **Publication:** Contributing author, "Understanding America: the essential contribution of Afro-American music to the sociocultural meaning of the continent."

Catherine Tucker (LAS and Anthropology)

Publications: (1) Thorn, J., J.A. Klein, C. Steger, K.A. Hopping, C. Capitani, R. Marchant, C.M. Tucker, A. W. Nolin, R. S. Reid. 2021. Global mountain social-ecological systems scenario archetypes synthesized from local perspectives. *Global Environmental Change*. 69: 102291. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102291>

(2) Tucker, C. M, I. Alcántara-Ayala, A. Gunya, E. Jiménez, J. A. Klein, J. Xu, S. Bigler. 2021. Challenges for Governing Mountains Sustainably: Results of a Global Survey. *Mountain Research and Development*. 41(2). <https://doi.org/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-20-00080.1> **Invited Lecture:** Teaching & Research on Coffee Production, Fair Trade and Climate Change in a Precarious Time: A Fulbright Experience in Honduras. Invited by the UF Fulbright Committee. Sep. 30, 2021.

Paola Uparela (Spanish and Portuguese Studies) Elected as an Assistant Professors' spokesperson for the Association of Gender and Sexualities Studies (2021-2023)

Robert Walker (LAS and Geography) Award:

2021 Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award, by Conference of Latin American Geography, in recognition for a corpus of important published work. Recipients are scholars who are leading authorities in specific research topics and geographic areas of Latin America. **Grant:** Project leader and principal investigator of a new NSF project entitled "Resilient Socio-Environmental Systems: Indigenous Territories in the Face of Change." (\$998,682, 2021-2025). **Refereed articles:** three published in leading geography journals, including *Geographical Review*, elaborating on the theory of location rent.

AFFILIATE & PARTNER EVENTS



Latin America Writes Back 2.0: Political and Environmental Crisis

Libby Ginway, Emily Hind, Antonio Sajid López and Andrea Villa Ruiz (Spanish and Portuguese Studies) teamed up with members of the English department to host this 2-day event celebrating Latin American writing. Attended by over 100 guests across interdisciplinary lectures, readings, and roundtable discussions, the event explored themes of climate crisis, environmental activism, and the politics of posthumanism in Latin America. Nine author/scholars from across the Americas were featured.



Health care outreach to local Latin American community

Dr. Norman Beatty (College of Medicine) and his team are working to promote access to health care screening tests for Latin Americans with limited resources here in Alachua County and throughout the state. In addition to the UF Equal Access Clinic Network, Dr. Beatty is working alongside Maria Eugenia Zelaya, a MALAS alumna and Executive Director of local non-profit Children Beyond Our Borders.

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Please email Christa Markley at communications@latam.ufl.edu. The *Latinamericanist* features the impact of the UF Center for Latin American Studies through the experiences and accomplishments of its students, faculty, and alumni. Relevant stories will be considered for publication.

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Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
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