LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

LACS NEWSLETTER Autumn 2016

LACS collaborated with Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle (MAS) during the 2015 Afro-Latino Arts Education Fall Season

Dear all,

Looking at events across the hemisphere, it is clear that Latin American and Caribbean Studies is as urgent and needed as ever. Our course offerings will help students get a better understanding of the complexities behind the headlines of the Zika virus, the peace accords in Colombia, Black Lives Matter, and immigrations debates. Our faculty members can help you critically engage with the histories of global health, US-Latin American relations, and interdisciplinary explorations of the legacies of colonialism and slavery.

Beyond the classroom, we invite you to join dynamic LACS undergraduate and graduate student organizations that are creating new opportunities to shape the campus conversation over Latin American and the Caribbean. Students can get the opportunity to work closely with faculty and staff, organize their own LACS events, and meet some of the exciting speakers who are visiting UW from across the Americas. Students are also invited to apply for our new Dr. Clyde Snow Fund to support travel to and research in Latin America (please see the call for proposals on page 7).

We also invite members of the UW and Seattle community to our public lectures, which this quarter will included talks by an Indigenous activist in Oaxaca who reveals the dark side of wind power, a Guatemalan psychologist who will speak on the challenges of healing in Central America, and a scholar of sanctuary and asylum who will describe the promise and challenge of these old ideas in twenty-first century.

During a US election cycle that seems to generate more heat than light, we join you to join many LACS conversation that will enlighten and inspire.

Saludos,

Tony Lucero
Chair, LACS

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2015-2016 at a glance

2015 marked the first year of the International Decade for Peoples of African Descent (UNESCO). LACS collaborated with Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle (MÁS) a local arts organization led by LACS Assistant Director Monica Rojas-Stewart. The month-long arts education program during fall 2015 highlighted the contributions of the African diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean through music and dance workshops from 12 different countries, a film series, a panel on "Diaspora, Movement, and Memory", and multiple participation and volunteering opportunities for UW students in the community and on campus.

Two recipients of the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize ("the Green Nobel"), Berta Cáceres (photo) and Miriam Miranda shared stories of the struggles of their Lenca and Garifuna Indigenous communities in Honduras. Tragically, Berta was assassinated in her home on March 3, 2016. LACS joined the calls of outrage and solidarity and organized a special panel on campus with **Brady Piñero Walkinshaw** (WA State Representative), **Juan Rubio** (Seattle Public Library and Berta's cousin), **Katrin Wilde** (Executive Director of the Channel Foundation), and **Yoelin Connor** (Vice-president of Garinagu Houngua).

Luz Rivera of Mexico's Consejo Nacional Urbano y Campesino (CNUC) spoke on "Maíz y el País: Political Violence in Mexico and Corn's Lessons for Justice." From Nueva Trinidad, El Salvador, **Sandra Carolina Navarrete Ayala** and **José Faustino Alas**, shared their community's experience resisting the incursion of gang and mining companies. Partnering with our friends at the Maya Education Foundation and Global Health, we co-sponsored the visit of **Dr. Lisbeth Floridalma Chuy Chali**, one of the very few Kaqchiquel Maya physicians in Guatemala, to speak of the challenges her people face in finding access to healthcare in her country. We also co-sponsored the visit of **Eric Holt-Giménez**, of Food First, who gave an important lecture on "Climate, Food and Race: Challenges for the Food Movement."

This year also marked a historic moment in US-Latin American relations, as the US and Cuba began the process of normalizing relations. **Miguel Fraga**, the First Secretary of the recently opened Cuban Embassy in Washington, became the first official representative of the Cuban government to visit the UW since this historic change. We also co-sponsored the visit of Peruvian Ambassador **Luis Miguel Castilla**.

As always, LACS is committed to showcasing some of the best intellectual work on the Americas. This year, we were delighted to hear about new work in environmental history brought to us by Amherst College historian **Ted Melillo** who delivered a lecture on "Strangers on Familiar Soil: Rediscovering the Chile-California Connection." Seattle University political scientist **Onur Bakiner** shared insights from his new book Truth Commissions: Memory, Power, and Legitimacy.

We were also very glad to have scholars whose work reaches a broad audience. Professors **John Ackerman** (top photo left) and **Irma Sandoval**, from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), two of Mexico's leading public intellectuals provided a scathing critique of Mexican and US government policies. Journalist **Wes Enzinna** (bottom photo left), who writes on Latin America and Syria for Vice and The New York Times Magazine, shared his experience with UW students, faculty, and staff. Showing the reach of the arts, Afro-Brazilian poet **Salgado Maranhao** and translator **Alexis Levitin** shared their experience of their hemispheric collaborations.

We are also happy to report that this year saw the resurgence of the Latin American and Caribbean Student Association (**LACSA**). Congrats to the LACSA leaders! (photo). We continued to recognize extraordinary coursework through our annual student paper prize. The 2016 year's winner, **Leila Reynolds** wrote a terrific paper on NGO politics in Brazil, which like winners in past years, was based on original field research in Latin America. LACS students understand that they are the agents of their own education and that they are not just consumers of knowledge, but producers of knowledge in important and innovative ways.

Colombian voters say no to peace deal: WTF? (What's The Future?)

Oct 5, 2016

I was born on the same year the FARC guerrillas were formed in Colombia, marking the beginning of a new period of violence that has lasted 52 years. I don't know the country without war, and I was thrilled about the peace agreement reached earlier this year between the government and the insurgents. It was not a perfect deal, but after four years of negotiations, it accomplished a lot: 1) comprehensive rural reform for development of remote regions of the country; 2) new forms of political participation, including a FARC political party; 3) cease fire and security guarantees for former combatants; 4) economic and social alternatives to illicit drugs; 5) transitional justice and reparations to victims of the conflict; and 6) clear implementation and verification mechanisms. This was a far more comprehensive and in-depth peace agreement than other recent ones around the world (notably, El Salvador, Guatemala, South Africa). Most salient is item 5: it is a peace deal centered on the victims. Recognizing the loss, pain and suffering of the victims (more than 220,000 people killed and over 6 million displaced, not to name the victims of rape, torture, kidnapping, etc), the agreement was centered on forgiveness and reparations in order to build a peaceful future. The transitional justice courts would offer reduced sentences and mostly community service to perpetrators who confessed their crimes (some heinous crimes excepted).

On Sunday Oct 2 the country voted NO to this peace deal by the slimmest of margins (less than 0.5%), and over 60% abstention. The result shocked many, since polls had been forecasting ample advantage to the Yes side. I was getting ready to celebrate the results at home with friends, and we spent the evening speculating "how could this happen" and "what comes next?"

Results in the capital, Bogota, were amply in favor, but in many other urban areas where war is mostly watched on TV the No won. Rural areas, especially those most affected by violence, mostly voted Yes. It is heartening to see the victims reaffirm they can forgive, even if they cannot forget. Peacebuilding is a complex process.

A few days after the shock of the referendum result, the picture is still not clear. Former president Uribe was a champion of the campaign against the peace deal, and his role in the next steps is still to be determined. A victory with such a slim margin and high abstention rates would not have been very solid support to the deal anyway. Both the government and FARC quickly confirmed their willingness to continue finding paths for peace, but the cease-fire was already given a deadline of Oct 31 by the government, and it is not clear who will need to be around the table to resume negotiations.

Several scenarios are emerging: 1) Renegotiate a new deal, 2) convene a constitutional assembly, 3) congress going on with the deal anyway, 4) wait and see, or 5) return to war. They are all worse alternatives than the approval of the peace agreement, but the plebiscite results are the expression of democracy at work. Some argue that plebiscites and referendums are imperfect vehicles for democracy, or that the error margin is greater than the slim margin of the winning side. Like Brexit, the results were surprising to many, not just in Colombia but around the world (see The Economist, for example). The initial speechlessness of the Yes campaign has turned to humor and soul-searching, and the cockiness of the victorious No campaign will need to result in concrete proposals on the table. As I write, the Nobel peace prize has not been announced yet: it may still be President Santos, with or without the FARC leader. Or maybe not. Regardless, the country needs to find a way forward that is not a return to war and violence, something different from the 52 year of war, which started when I was born.

Ricardo Gomez
Associate Professor, UW Information School; LACS Executive Committee member.

LACS Student Life

LACSA

Latin American and Caribbean Student Association

LACSA is a vibrant group of undergraduate students from different parts of Latin America and/or students with an interest in the region . You do not need to major in LACS to join! If you are interested in joining LACSA please contact us at lasuw@uw.edu.

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LACSA—Grads

From the U.S. to Argentina, from Environmental Sciences to Geography, graduate students from across campus with an interest in Latin America and the Caribbean meet regularly to discuss current topics, exchange readings, plan a colloquium and engage in fun social activities! If you would like to get involved e-mail lasuw@uw.edu or directly to :

lacsa-grad@u.washington.edu.

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Featured Graduate Student: Dustin Welch

JSIS Ph.D. Candidate Dustin Welch wins Fulbright-Hays fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Peru

Ph.D. Candidate Dustin Welch García has won the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and will spend the 2016-17 academic year conducting research in Peru. The Fellowship provides funding for dissertation research abroad for graduate students pursuing non-Western European area studies.

Dustin Welch received his MA in Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree at the Jackson School of International Studies. His research asks when and why NGO-led electrification projects catalyze innovation in large-scale, public-private energy initiatives in rural Peru. The empirical focus of his research is an NGO whose success has prompted the Peruvian government to electrify 500,000 homes via solar energy. This demonstrates that small-scale NGO initiatives may be able to spur governments to adopt energy policies that address historical structural inequalities, while progressing towards a global clean energy future. His project offers an ethnography of the policy contact zone between state and non-state actors, both in the capital city and selected rural field sites. A state-society understanding of how energy policy is constructed and negotiated in Peru can generate insights into the politics of clean energy in other developing states.

Welch, who grew up in Seattle, will split his time between Lima (the capital) and Cajamarca (in the Andean highlands). Earlier this year Welch received the Inter-American Foundation Grassroots Development Field Research Fellowship.

Photo: Dustin Welch García; NGO technician installing a solar home system in rural Cajamarca, Peru

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Faculty and Staff News

LACS Postdoc

Dr. Jason Tockman is a Visiting Scholar in the JSIS Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, through and Postdoctoral Fellowship provided by Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Tockman received his PhD in Political Science from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2014, and has subsequently worked as a lecturer/ instructor at UBC, Simon Fraser University, and Langara College. His research interests center on the dual themes of (1) democratic participation and rights of sectors that have historically been politically excluded, especially indigenous peoples, and (2) social, political and economic development in Latin America. Tockman's postdoctoral research project studies the policies and practices that contribute to country compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) through focused case studies in Canada, the US, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

Recent publications

Interview with Dr. Chuck Bergquist

"Entrevista a Charles Bergquist," por Hernán David Jiménez Patiño, *Revista de Historia Regional y Local* [Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Medellín], Vol 8, No 15 (enero-junio de 2016), pp. 410-423.

UW Bothell IAS faculty member **Dr. Yolanda Padilla** published a volume of critical essays that she co-edited titled *Bridges, Borders, and Breaks: History, Narrative and Nation in Twenty-First Century Chicana/o Literary Criticism*. Padilla also co-wrote the introduction and contributed a chapter and an interview she conducted with literary scholar Ramón Saldívar.

Dr. Megan Ybarra co-edited a special issue in *Geoforum* and also contributed a paper: Kelly, AB and Ybarra, M (2016) Issue introduction: Green security in protected areas. *Geoforum* 69: 171-175 [equal authorship]; Ybarra, M (2016) "Blind Passes" and the production of green security through violence on the Guatemalanborder. *Geoforum* 69: 194-206

LACS Assistant Director **Dr. Monica Rojas-Stewart** contributed to the *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography* (Oxford University Press 2016) with the biography of four Afro-Peruvian artists Carlos Hayre, Andres Soto Mena, Arturo Zambo Cavero, and Felix Casaverde.

Awards and Recognitions

LACS Chair **Dr. Tony Lucero** has been selected to co-chair the selection committee for International Dissertation Research Fellowships for the Social Science Research Council.

French and Italian Studies Assistant Professor **Dr. Maya Smith** received a Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship for the fall quarter and an RRF for the winter.

In collaboration with Northwest Detention Center Resistance **Dr. Megan Ybarra** was awarded a small grant with the Antipode Foundation. They will write a "Hunger Strikers' Handbook" with hopes to get launched March 7, 2017.

Spanish and Portuguese Studies Professor **Dr. Anthony Geist** 's translations of the Peruvian poet Luis Hernández, *The School of Solitude* (Evanston: Swan Isle Press), was a finalist in the 2016 Pen Awards for best book of poetry in translation, and was named one of 100 "Must-Reads" of Latin American Literature by BookRiot. Professor Geist conducted a reading from it in Librería El Virrey in Lima, Peru and it was featured in the poetry festival Las Líneas de su Mano in Bogotá.

LACS Assistant Director **Dr. Monica Rojas-Stewart** received the annual Jackson School Student Association Student Service Award in spring 2016 in recognition of her outstanding service to students.

In addition, Excelencia Tumi USA, has awarded Dr. Rojas-Stewart with the 2016 "Professional of the Year for the State of Washington" award. This particular award recognizes Peruvians in the U.S. who have excelled in their careers, in community service, and for their contributions to the betterment of society.

¡Felicitaciones!

LACS events this fall

Colombia's Historic Moment with Ambassador Juan Carlos Pinzón

Sep. 13, 2016, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

The Seattle Anthanaeum

The World Affairs Council welcomed the Ambassador of Colombia Juan Carlos Pinzón, for a discussion of the peace agreement. LACS Chair Jose Tony Lucero moderated the conversation. A few weeks later Colombians voted "No" to the peace agreement.

Climate Change and Land Rights in Mexico with Indigenous Rights Activist Bettina Cruz

October 5th, 2016 12:30pm

William H. Gates Hall

As a binnizá Indigenous woman and member of the Assembly of Istmo of Tehuantepec Indigenous Peoples in Defense of Land and Territory, Bettina works to counter the impact of private companies operating wind farms on Indigenous lands.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies, American Ethnic Studies, American Indian Studies, Center for Human Rights, The Channel Foundation, UW Law Global Affairs, LL.M. Program in Sustainable International Development, and International Human Rights Clinic .

Freedom of Movement - a Human Right? Lecture by Dr. Linda Rabben

October 6th, 2016 4pm CMU 120

Dr. Rabben's discussion drew from her new book Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History (University of Washington Press, 2016). Rabben explores the long history of sanctuary and analyzes modern asylum policies in North America, Europe, and elsewhere, contrasting them with the role that courageous individuals and organizations have played in offering refuge to survivors of torture, persecution, and discrimination.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies, UW Center for Human Rights, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington Press, and UW Graduate School.

Guatemalan Women Healing Toward Justice: the case of Sepur Zarco

Wed, Oct. 19, 2016, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thomson 101

Join The Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) on tour this fall with Maudí Tzay! Maudí Tzay, a Guatemalan community psychologist with the Community Research and Psychosocial Action Team (ECAP), will talk at the University of Washington about the crucial role of healing in movements for transitional justice and the healing opportunities that justice holds for survivors of state violence .

Latin American and Caribbean Studies and American Indian Studies.

Dangerous Subjects this fall:

Plurinational Tensions: Indigenous Rights, Democracy, and Citizenship in Contemporary Bolivia.

Dr. Jason Tockman

Thursday Nov 10th 12:30-2pm
Thomson Hall 403
RSVP to lasuw@uw.edu by 11/8

The Women of Movement for Justice in el Barrio, the Community, and Another World

Wed Nov 16, 2016 3:30pm CMU 120

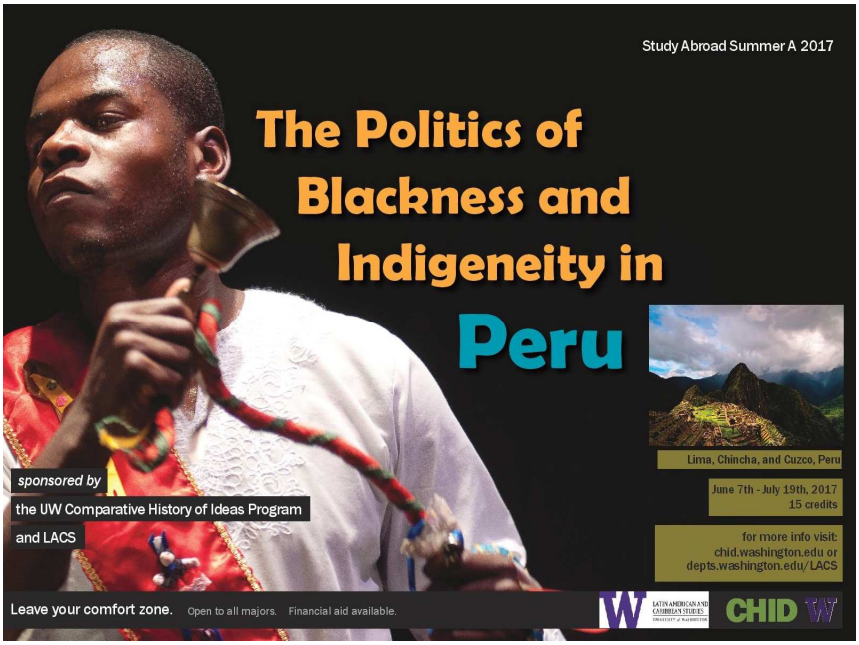
The new film brings to life women who face the challenge of being displaced from their home countries only to face the threat of displacement from their homes in El Barrio, NY.

Announcements

LACS is excited to launch The Dr. Clyde Snow Fellowship Fund!

With the generous support of Dr. Vincent Phillips, the **Dr. Clyde Snow Fellowship Fund** was established fall 2016 to honor the work and legacy of a groundbreaking forensic anthropologist who combined academic training with the tireless pursuit of justice. Dr. Snow helped track down Josef Mengele in Brazil and worked to bring peace and justice to the families of the disappeared in Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, and around the world. The fellowship is open to students enrolled in any undergraduate, graduate or professional school at the University of Washington to support travel and related expenses, living expenses, and research materials on projects in or about Latin America and the Caribbean that are in the spirit of the social justice-oriented work of Dr. Snow. Fellowship amounts are expected to range from $250 to $1000.

Applications will open in early winter quarter. Deadline is March 1st 2017
For more information: jsis.washington.edu/latinam/opportunities/fellowships-scholarships/



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM in Lima, Chincha, and Cuzco, Peru Summer A-term 2017

This interdisciplinary program examines diversity by asking how identity and history are constructed, negotiated, and renegotiated in Peru through artistic production and expressive culture, and how art engages the politics of historical memory and imaginations of Blackness and Indigeneity. (Photo Credit Milena Carranza)

Program Directors:
Dr. Monica Rojas-Stewart
& Dr. Adam Warren

For more information: chid.washington.edu

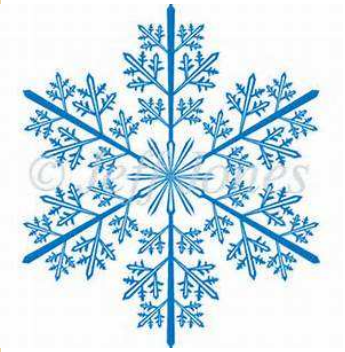
SAVE THE DATE!

African Studies and Latin American & Caribbean Studies invite you to their joint

~ Holiday Party ~

Thursday December 8th 2016 3:30-5pm
Smith Room (Suzzallo Library, room 324)

RSVP to / lasuw@uw.edu / africa1@uw.edu



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Be a Superhero!

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- Become a LACS Superhero today by giving online at **http://giving.uw.edu/lacs**.
- You can also send a check payable to **University of Washington**. Send gifts to the address above.
- Occasionally, there are volunteer and internship opportunities available to UW students and recent graduates. E-mail us for more information!

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