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THE LATIN AMERICAN ICAN IST

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN
STUDIES

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winner brings together
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Director's CORNER

DR. CARLOS DE LA TORRE

You will read in this issue how the Center for Latin American Studies is going back to normality, whatever that word means. We hosted three major conferences that were postponed due to COVID. In February, “Voices from the Forest: Community Driven Strategies for Biocultural Diversity” organized by Bob Buschbacher; in March, Rebecca Hanson and Richard Kernaghan put together an in-person conference entitled “Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas: on the Aesthetics of Methods and Crafting of Claims,” and in April with Amie Kreppel (Director of European Studies) and Michael Bernhard (the Raymond and Miriam Erlich Eminent Scholar Chair in the Department of Political Sciences) we organized the conference “Still the Age of Populism?” I want to thank the Center’s staff, in particular Andrea Dahdah Palencia, Christa Markley, Xania Ramos, and our MALAS students for their hard work in making these events possible.



In addition to larger-scale events, we relaunched our MALAS Coloquio series that features faculty research, with presentations by Rebecca Hanson, Mariana Mora (the Spring 2022 Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar), and Cristian Pérez and Joshua Simon. We hosted book launches, invited speakers from other universities, and enjoyed the chance to gather and interact in person. The Center also benefited from visiting scholars Mariana Mora, Rebecca Williams, and Jennifer Fuenmayor. We are looking forward to hosting Dr. Gabriela Alemán, the inaugural Kislak Family Foundation Writer in Residency in Fall 2022. She will teach a course on creative writing and short Latin American stories, launch the translation to English of her book *Family Album*, and conduct a film series featuring films from Latin America.

Our faculty continues to gather research grants and awards recognizing their scholarship – too many to name in this space! (See p. 24 for a list of faculty accomplishments.) The Center faculty will grow further, as we are hiring a professor of Afro-Hispanic Literature at the assistant professor level, and an Assistant Director of Academic Affairs. I am very proud of the work and accomplishments of our MALAS students—I want to highlight Francisco Sánchez for coediting a volume entitled “la muerte nuestra de cada día. Violencia armada y políticas de seguridad en Venezuela.” As you will read in this issue of the

Latinamericanist, MALAS student Kleber Naula is teaching Ecuadorean Kichwa. We continue to gather generous donations, and our Alumni Board is supporting us with lectures, internships, and mentoring for our students. Finally, we are thrilled that our students will go to the field this summer with Tinker and Center-based endowment funds for student research. We are looking forward to the 2022-23 MALAS, MDP and TCD cohorts.

I want to express my gratitude to Administrative Support Assistant Xania Ramos, who is leaving us, as well as to Carlos Suárez, who directed the MALAS program for 3 years, and to Catherine Tucker, who served as Assistant Director of Academic Affairs for 3 years. Catherine and Carlos will come back after well-deserved sabbatical and research leaves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'cdlt'.

Dr. Carlos de la Torre
CENTER DIRECTOR

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Saying goodbye to the Center

MALAS graduate Wally Gallart looks back at his time in grad school, from the challenges and the triumphs to the little things he'll miss

BY WALLY AURELIO GALLART (MALAS 2022)

When I started the MALAS program back in August of 2020, I had no idea what to expect. All I knew was that I aspired to take full advantage of the opportunity I had been given. But the first two semesters were some of the most daunting times of my academic career. At times I wondered if I belonged. The grind and the demands associated with being a graduate student felt overwhelming, and the pandemic-related challenges didn't help. I wanted to give up, but a voice inside me kept reminding me to keep going, and that I needed to be persistent.

Even with the obstacles, I was still able to excel inside the classroom and be the student that I wanted to become. The Center provided me with the tools I needed to be successful, and I have felt their full support through this journey. Yet, what brings the biggest smile to my face isn't the academic success, it's the memories I've created outside of it. Without a doubt, this past year has been one of the best periods not only in my academic career, but in my life. I've savored every second, and cherished all the small things we often take for granted. I have enjoyed the library meet-ups with friends, running into them in the breakroom, the pep talks I would give them to keep going, and to stay positive. I also enjoyed soaking up the sun at Plaza of Americas... my favorite way to procrastinate and neglect responsibilities! It was all the small moments that added up and accumulated to make this journey memorable.

I've been surrounded by people who care deeply about me as a student, but most importantly desire to see me soar as a human as well. I feel blessed to have been in the position that I was in for the past two years. I am fortunate to say that when I reflect on this time, I will remember this stage of my life fondly.



I'll conclude with this: my research centered on the right to the city. This idea that we all should have a say in shaping the city after our heart's desire and to dictate the urban process. Yet, to me, it goes beyond just urban planning. It should be applied to our lives as well. To dictate your urban process is to take control of your life. To do what is best for you. I want others to be motivated and encouraged to pursue whatever it is that they are passionate about. To maximize their abilities and become the person they dream of becoming.

As I pen my last goodbye to the amazing staff, friends, classmates, committee, professors, and supervisor I have had at the Center all I can say is thank you! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this period of my life with you. ♦

► **Are you an alum of the Center? Let us know what's going on with you!**

Please complete our Alumni Update Form online at: bit.ly/3s5H2KA and share your news! If space permits, we will include your update in the next edition of the Latinamericanist.

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Cultivating “el lugar de encuentro” at the Latin American Research Review

The University of Florida is hosting the LARR for the first time in the publication’s history, bringing a new vision for the journal and prominence to the university

Fifty-seven years after its founding, the Latin American Research Review (LARR) has come to the University of Florida for a five-year term, from January 2021 until December 2025. Headed by editor-in-chief and Center professor Carmen Martínez Novo, with an editorial staff including professor Heather Vrana (LAS/History) and student assistant Daniel Fernández Guevara (LAS/History), hosting the LARR at UF offers the opportunity for the Center to shape the field of Latin American Studies and benefit Center students and faculty alike.

A shared history

The LARR is one of the world’s leading journals in Latin American Studies. It is an interdisciplinary journal, focused on the social sciences and the humanities (anthropology, economics, history, literature and cultural studies, political science, and sociology) with an international audience of authors and readers. The journal receives approximately 350 submissions annually, accepting articles in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and publishes four open-access issues across the year.

The LARR’s original purpose derived from the rising importance of area studies in the United States post-World War II. The same historical moment transformed UF’s School of Inter-American Studies into the Title VI-funded Center for Latin American Studies, with the goal of cultivating specialized experts on individual regions of the world. Since mid-century geopolitics was the driving force of this movement, political science was an early emphasis for the LARR, as well as languages, culture, and history.

But the LARR has evolved over time, dependent on geopolitical contexts, trends in the field, and the subsequent

perspectives of its editorial board, led by its editor-in-chief and “home” institution. With each new tenure and editorial board, there’s an opportunity to keep with tradition or respond to it, shaping not only the journal but the field it investigates.

“Un lugar de encuentro”

Managing the scope of a journal that covers so many disciplines, topics, and geographical areas can make it difficult to structure a cohesive final publication. For Dr. Martínez Novo’s team, the way forward was through reimagining the journal’s interdisciplinary legacy. Beginning in March 2022, each issue will be organized around themes that connect the disciplines. “In a way, we’re responding to the Latin American tradition that isn’t so worried about the boundaries of the disciplines,” Dr. Martínez Novo says. “But rather, we’re looking at the problems of an economic crisis or climate change, from an interdisciplinary perspective.”

The themes aren’t pre-determined, however – a key feature of this approach. “Publishing is about finding trends,” says editorial assistant and PhD student Daniel Fernández Guevara. “We want to look at all of these conversations and questions going on simultaneously in all of these fields, and put them in conversation with each other.”

This method can yield unexpected and exciting results. “In our next issue, one of the themes is about politics and decolonization in connection with the arts, which I didn’t expect,” Dr. Martínez Novo reveals. She previews some of the articles – one on Afro-Cuban art in the 1930s, another on muralism among Zapatistas of Mexico, another on the aesthetics of graphic artists under the socialist Allende government in Chile. “This is what I enjoy most about

working on the LARR,” she shares. “I get to have a perspective on the whole field of Latin American Studies, and see what is new and coming up in the field.”

When Dr. Martínez Novo and Daniel talk about the LARR, each of them invokes the metaphor of “the table,” and what it means to exchange ideas with other scholars seated around it. “There is this sense we need a space for engagement between disciplines, where academics are sitting at a rather large table of people, with our ideas and our sources, and we chime in and try to figure out the world we’re living in, with all our points of view,” Daniel says. “The LARR is like that. In Spanish, we’d say it’s ‘un lugar de encuentro’ – a meeting place.”

Opening new spaces

Another new feature of the LARR under Dr. Martínez Novo’s tenure is the “Debates” section. Inspired by the Latin American tradition of the essay, the section seeks to include writing about Latin American societies that has deep theoretical or epistemological insight without relying exclusively on empirical data (a characteristic that often means rejection from most academic journals). “We want to encourage critical theoretical points of view and debates,” Dr. Martínez Novo explains. “In my view, there’s a place for both – we can keep the quantitative, empirical part of the journal, but also open different spaces.”

There are also new perspectives on the editorial team, a significant goal for Dr. Martínez Novo, who is the LARR’s first woman editor-in-chief. Since women are historically underrepresented in political science and economics, Dr. Martínez Novo recruited women editors (Abby Córdova and Jana Morgan for political science, and Rosa Luz Durán for economics) with the aim to bring non-orthodox perspectives to the conversation.

Then there’s Center affiliate Heather Vrana, the third UF representative on the editorial team, who specializes in the histories of disabilities in Latin America. “Heather’s almost building a new field, looking at how people with disabilities were integrated or not integrated in Central American

societies,” Dr. Martínez Novo says. “It’s so exciting to see her developing that, and bringing new ideas to the LARR.”

Getting students involved

Because of the depth and scope of the LARR, each issue of the journal comes to life through exhaustive work by a team of both seen and unseen contributors. One instrumental role is the editorial assistant, a student position occupied by Daniel Fernández Guevara for the first of UF’s five years. Among other tasks, Daniel processes submissions, communicates with authors, and creates reports. He also works directly with the editor-in-chief, which offers invaluable insight into the world of publishing.

“My favorite part of the position has been reading submissions and being able to talk about submissions with Dr. Martínez Novo,” Daniel shares. “I’ve learned what it’s like to evaluate and find the potential in a submission, which in turn has helped my writing. It helps me think about the kinds of questions people are asking, and what questions I think students should be asking.”

With four more years left in the LARR’s term at UF, there will be four graduate students that follow Daniel as editorial assistant. “Anyone who comes into this position will gain a deeper understanding of academic publishing and how the process works,” agrees Dr. Martínez Novo. “I think it helps them lose fear of publishing, which is so important.”

Working at the LARR also has the potential to improve future career opportunities, thanks to the journal’s international network of scholars and development of practical skills in managing people and administrative tasks. For Daniel, wherever he goes next, he’s taking something even more intangible with him. “So many people voluntarily give their time and their expertise to make this journal, even though most of them don’t get any credit for doing it. They do it to keep this institution alive for the next generation,” he reflects. “So I hope that I can bring some of that spirit that the LARR has given me, and carry it somewhere else.” ♦

DEMYSTIFYING THE PUBLISHING PROCESS

Dr. Martinez Novo says it’s important to learn about the publication process because it helps authors “lose fear” of publishing. Here are four tips that might help the next time you submit work to a journal:

Make sure your work is a good fit for the journal.

Even brilliant articles by established authors will get rejected if the article doesn’t match the goals of the journal. Do research on each journal before you submit your paper.

Spend time crafting your title and abstract.

Many authors write their titles and abstracts last – when it’s tempting to rush the process and press “submit.” But these elements come first for readers, so don’t cut corners! They need to be clear, concise, and engaging.

Anticipate edits, and accommodate them.

Rarely are articles accepted without any edits from the peer review process. Stay open-minded to feedback, and try to incorporate it where possible.

Make a clear argument.

Your article must have a recognizable, clear argument that is contributing new ideas to your field. It seems obvious, but the writing process is long and winding, so it’s easy to lose sight of the biggest goal.

Charles Wood Thesis Award winner brings together scholarly work and community collaboration

Alum Marcos Silverio Ramos Valdés (MALAS 2020) talks to Maricarmen Torres Medina (MALAS 2023) about his thesis on the role of home gardens in Cuba

BY MARICARMEN TORRES MEDINA

Community building and scholarly work are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, all academic endeavor is shaped by the relationships we establish throughout the process. We assign meaning to the encounters with people, places, species, objects and cultures that surround us. Therefore, our academic work should recognize and highlight the way in which these approaches shape our research design and fieldwork decisions. Along the way, we not only build knowledge; we also learn to forge communities of collaboration and a develop a sense of belonging.

Communities are as diverse as their members. Such heterogeneity calls for a commitment in which continuous effort and negotiation are needed to find common ground. This understanding can emerge from shared experience, values, culture, or a place, and the strength of its bond ratifies through respect, flexibility and reciprocity. Hence, the connection between scholarship and community not only allows us to understand our place as researchers and as community members, in turn, this awareness guides us to engage with the world in a meaningful way.

Marcos Silverio Ramos Valdés, winner of the 2021 Charles Wood Thesis Award, invites us to reflect upon these topics with his MALAS thesis: *The Role of Home Gardens in Creating Community Ties in La Habana, Cuba*. As I had the opportunity to speak with him, I was able to get to know about his intellectual interests, and learned about



how anthropology gives us tools to understand some of these relationships. “Often, Latin American studies focuses too much on politics, crime, violence, and so forth,” he said. “There is beauty in our cultures that lie outside of our status as peripheral. Music, food, relationships, and so forth. As someone who grew up with these gardens, I grew up having an intimate connection with the land and the plants provided to us. I think all of us in Latin America have experienced this one way or another but there has to be a retrospective and a deep take on it.”

Community as a starting point

Born in Cuba, Marcos migrated to the U.S. with his mother at the age of eleven. The family settled in Orlando, Florida, where they built ties with the Latino community through his grandfather’s “cafeteria” (small restaurant). The family also continued to cherish the relationships it already had back in Cuba.

When it came to deciding about his research topic, Marcos’ deep bond with the land and the gardens allowed him, in first place, to highlight the importance these gathering places had in the history of the “campesino,” as well as in the internal migratory movements from the countryside to La Habana. Second, it enabled him to render a more intimate account of the experience. Also, besides his first-hand understanding of the Caribbean experience, Marcos was inspired by two Cuban intellectuals passionate for this geographical zone: “Jose Barreiro, an indigenous Cuban scholar really inspired me to do work in Cuba,” he shared. “And to try to focus on the real history of Cuba that Fernando Ortiz talks about, one that comes from real Cuban experiences and is without American politization and theory.”

Marcos' theoretical framework draws precisely from the concept of transculturation, proposed by Fernando Ortiz. This conception allowed him to explore how Cuban culture was able to incorporate diversity regarding a historical past, practices and social experiences. One of the ways in which diversity is shown in its text is through the catalog of plants that Marcos was able to identify in "los barrios" that he studies. Also, drawing from American scholar Natasha Myers, he argues that gardens should be considered in its all possibilities, and also that the notion of "nature" should be stresses through looking at the relationship between plants and humans. "I decided that I wanted to treat plants in a post-human fashion which means that I wanted to make plants as social agents that influence social action. As a result, humans also became the focus of my work, and how gardens are the mosaic by which the cultural background of the person is painted upon. I wanted to see if this was the case."

Through his investigation, Marcos identified that gardens in Cuba were common grounds through which community members were able to establish links within social, economic and religious aspects. This space allowed them to gather and, as Marcos writes in his thesis, the "[p]hysical spaces that promote dialog between neighbors, by facilitating a system of friendly reciprocity, and by holding a deep religious significance that links the gardener and the community with their ancestors and the divine."

Community participation in research

COVID-19 imposed some challenges for Marcos and his research design. Because he was unable to travel to Cuba, he relied on his creativity and on the relationships he had back home. Having his mother as a starting point, he was able to build a snowball sample for a single family participants in some "barrios" of La Habana. He also shared that to him it was important to step away from top-down research, and instead, allow the field to inform and keep shaping his theoretical approach, in a more grounding manner. In terms of how to approach his questions, Marcos incorporated into his questioner open and closed questions that could give him a broader perspective of the phenomena he was studying. The community members of "los barrios" also contributed to the research by taking and sharing photograph of their gardens and their plant species. Readers are able to appreciate the diversity of the garden's designs, such as hanging gardens with plant pots made from recycled containers.



Photo credit: Marcos Silverio Ramos Valdés



In terms of how to disseminate his findings, Marcos found it challenging, as he was not able to send any documents other than pictures. Therefore, information was shared gradually through relatives, family and "padrinos," as Marcos called them. One of the things that some of the community elders would highlight about the experience is how the research was able to present that people continue to practice medicinal gardening, even amongst the younger ones, which was something thought to be lost.

Recognition and reciprocity

Receiving the Charles Wood Thesis Award has a special meaning for Marcos. As we engaged in code-switching between Spanish and English, we talked about the food that we missed from our respective countries of origin, the communities that we left behind, the music and history that Cuba and Puerto Rico share, and also, we exchanged our experiences in MALAS. I was able to learn about how much it meant to him to have been able to focus on his education, after all the effort that he had put into it, and the opportunities he is grateful for that allowed him to complete his projects. He especially recognized the support he received from his mentors and professors, such as Dr. Karen Kainer, Dr. Augusto Oyuela Caycedo, and Dr. Catherine Tucker, who either helped him shape his research interests or inspired him to pursue new challenges.

His family has also been a major source of support. He dedicated his thesis to both his mother and grandmother. When I asked

him how he felt about winning this award, and what his family felt about it, he shared, "It is a great honor. I did not think I would win. My mother and grandmother were more hopeful, but I always try to humble myself and think that there is always room to improve."

As of right now, Marcos is an anthropology student pursuing a PhD at the University of Cornell in New York. He is interested in archeology, and although he will always be engaged with Cuba, he said, "The heavy politicking and the pandemic make it very hard for me to go excavate so I have shifted my research focus – with similar questions – to Honduras, a place I have been introduced to very amicable thanks to Catherine Tucker and her work. My advisor, John Henderson, has been a great mentor and friend in helping me move my research to Honduras, where he has worked for many years."

¡Enhorabuena, Marcos! ♦



In conversation: Bacardi Scholar Mariana Mora

Talking to Dr. Mariana Mora about her scholarly work, she says she likes to engage in a kind of “porous academia” – one that isn’t solely dialoguing within the bounds of the

academy, but rather participating in a kind of outward exchange with human rights organizations, social movements, and so on. The phrase came to her in an instant during a conversation with Center affiliate professor Richard Kernaghan, when they were collaborating on the ethnography conference in March.

“I find it useful because it helps articulate how I make my work grounded,” she explains. “I focus on the embodied knowledge and the politics of the everyday. When I talk about politics, I don’t refer just to the big marches or the demands to the state, but rather I am interested in that which is low volume, low decibel, so imperceptible that sometimes we don’t register them yet they generate other possibilities and alternative understandings.”

This practice of intensive listening to understand complex social phenomena is a result of Dr. Mora’s training as a social anthropologist. She is an associate professor and researcher at the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS) in Mexico City, visiting the Center this semester as the Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar. “One of the things I find fascinating about anthropology and ethnography is that it puts in dialogue aspects of social relations that on the surface may seem very disparate,” she says. “But if you’re looking at it from embodied knowledges of those affected, all of a sudden they become visible and point to aspects of social phenomenon that form part of the undercurrents.”

Dr. Mora applies this approach to her research, which focuses primarily on Indigenous movements, racism, state violence, and colonial structures of power, informed by her background in decolonial feminist theory and centered on identifying violence and justice. Often, exploring invisible intersections in those contexts results in an illumination of structures of power that would otherwise remain hidden. And in many cases, those power structures are not just invisible but silent – and silencing.

“There are slower violences and apparently more imperceptible violences,” she explains. “The media and the state tends to focus on spectacular forms of violences, and everything else

gets systematically silenced. But these violences affect everyday life, they are immersed in racialized and gendered structures of violence and hence influence strategies of justice. You have to name violences in order to strategize forms of justice, and in Mexico there is very little discussion around how racism and gender intersect with different forms of violence. My work seeks to name both.”

A sense of justice was at the center of Dr. Mora’s seminar this semester, which set out to examine ways different collective actions enact the political and produce alternative understandings of justice. Together, she and the students engaged with Black and Indigenous thought in Latin America on the topic of violence and a sense of justice. “We’ve been working as a group – rather than a vertical teacher-student relationship, but as a collective working through ideas,” Dr. Mora notes. “We came up with our own concepts that I find very enlightening and provocative. It’s been a joy, and a privilege to learn alongside the students from the Center.”

The sense of appreciation between professor and students is mutual: when Dr. Mora was introduced as the keynote speaker at the ethnography conference, a group of her students in the crowd erupted in cheers of support. “I’m very impressed with the level of engagement and analytical capacity of the students here at the Center,” she reflects. “In my class, there’s been a collective desire to push ourselves into the space of not knowing, and figuring things out through discussion and dialogue. I think it’s reflective of the scholarly commitment of the students here.”

Dr. Mora’s mentality of “porous academia” has fostered a kind of openness for listening and exchange that have made connections and invigorated ways of thinking among the faculty and student scholars at the Center, and Dr. Mora herself. As the semester wraps up, Dr. Mora will return to Mexico and her home institution, continuing fieldwork in Bahia, Brazil, embarking on a collaborative research project with Afro-Mexican and Indigenous women’s organizations in Mexico, and finishing up a book project on Ayotzinapa, the case of 43 students who were disappeared in Mexico in 2014. Though she is moving on from the Center, there are opportunities to stay connected in the future. “I’m hoping that the dialogues with the students and faculty here will continue,” she confirms. “I’d love to see if there can be collaborations between my home institution and the Center, if master’s students here want to go do the PhD with us, or we can organize virtual seminars, for example.” Undoubtedly, the quest for listening, dialogue, and connection is a cornerstone for Dr. Mora’s work, and has made a lasting mark on the Center’s community. ♦

Center hosts three spring conferences

After two years of pandemic-related postponements, the spring semester saw the confluence of three major conferences at the Center

The Center for Latin American Studies hosted three major conferences this spring semester, fostering connections between colleagues, students, and invited guests on a range of topics. Each conference brought together experts in their respective disciplines to dialogue on new ideas and seek solutions to issues in the field of Latin American Studies and beyond. All conferences were open to the public and attended by students and faculty from many departments at UF.

VOICES FROM THE FOREST: AMAZON CONFERENCE (*February*)

Organized by Robert Buschbacher and the Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon Project, “Voices From the Forest” was a two-day online conference uniting partners from Indigenous communities in Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay. Through six panels and multiple open discussions, the conference explored community-driven strategies for biocultural conservation, identifying challenges and opportunities and centering Indigenous perspectives.



Center events AT A GLANCE

SPRING 2022

*Events denoted with an asterisk can be viewed on our YouTube channel

- *From Populism to Fascism - by *Federico Finchelstein* [1]
- COLOQUIO: Policing the Revolution: Chaos, Conflict, and State Violence in Venezuela by *Rebecca Hanson* [2]
- *Voices from the Forest: Community-driven strategies and actions for biocultural conservation
- Desarrollo afrodescendiente en Puerto Rico: una mirada epistemológica by *Pablo Rivera* [3]
- *Bomba puertorriqueña: auto gestión, identidad, resistencia y luchas by *Pablo Rivera* [6]
- COLOQUIO: Nineteenth-Century Political Thought, by *Cristian Pérez Muñoz with Joshua Simon*
- Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas: On the aesthetics of methods and crafting of claims [4]
- *Jacaré Brazil in Concert and Beyond with *Welson Tremura and Jacaré Brazil*
- COLOQUIO: Ayotzinapa, Feminist Reflections Against the Disposability of Racialized Masculinities by *Mariana Mora*
- Inside the Collapse of Venezuela: Things Are Never So Bad That They Can't Get Worse by *William Neuman* [5]
- *The Right to Have Rights: Cuban Artists Confront the State by *Coco Fusco*
- “Still the Age of Populism?” Conference



bit.ly/3Er8b18



ETHNOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE IN THE AMERICAS *(March)*

“Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas: On the Aesthetics of Method and Crafting of Claims” brought together scholars from across the Americas to explore the use of ethnographic methods in the research process and the evidence they generate. Organized by Rebecca Hanson and Richard Kernaghan, the four-day conference hosted hands-on workshops by invitation to UF students and faculty, panel presentations open to the public, and a film screening. Bacardi Scholar Mariana Mora delivered the keynote, “Reflections on sensorial evidence, the politics of listening and the possibilities of justice.”

STILL THE AGE OF POPULISM? *(April)*

“Still the Age of Populism?” was organized in conjunction with Reset Dialogues on Civilizations, an international association dedicated to cross-cultural dialogue on topics of international relations, pluralism, human rights, and democracy. The conference addressed the political phenomenon of populism through eight panel presentations and subsequent discussion among the conference’s attendees. Cases of populism were explored in Brazil, the U.S., Germany, the Philippines, and Venezuela, examining its manifestations across a range of contexts, including religion, the military, propaganda, abortion, nativism, climate change, and the pandemic.



Photography in the field: how images can transform and transcend research

MALAS student Maricarmen Torres Medina explores the power of image in conversation with classmate and photographer Francisco Sánchez

BY MARICARMEN TORRES MEDINA with Francisco Sánchez (MALAS 2023)



Photo credit: Francisco J. Sánchez

“...the relationship between what we see and what we know is never settled.”

Ways of Seeing, John Berger

Francisco and I met for coffee at Karma Cream, a cute vegan coffee shop on University Avenue. At first, our Saturday afternoon was filled with conversations about some authors and scholars, as we were working with a paper that we had to turn in for a class that next Monday. We also talked about his latest published chapter in a collaborative work that was presented some weeks before, and about a short photographic essay he wrote for *NACLA*. Later on, we decided – regardless of the breezy cold weather of that spring day – to take a stroll around Downtown, Gainesville.

As we walked towards Bo Diddley Plaza, we saw small restaurants, closed stores, and abandoned sidewalks. Everything looked very still. Even so, we almost crashed with a stubborn cyclist that insisted on passing us on the sidewalk. To be fair, it was more my fault than the cyclist's. Because I was distracted thinking about how to articulate a follow-up question in our

conversation, I misunderstood Francisco's non-verbal cue of “get out the way,” and instead of moving to the right side of the sidewalk as I should have, I moved to the left. I nearly ended up in the street ditch.

Once my heart rate returned to normal, I posed a question that would guide the rest of our conversation: how does photography compliment field research and the written text?

Francisco and I are first-year students in the MALAS Program at the University of Florida. Our cohort stands out for being noticeably diverse. There are students from South America, the Caribbean, the US and Korea. Different languages, races, ages, cultures and migration experiences are represented. Francisco comes from Venezuela, and I, from Puerto Rico. We are both in our thirties, and before coming here, we had professional careers. Besides sharing these particularities, we are also interested in violence and its representations.

Over the years, Francisco worked as a social psychologist. He also served as a collaborator for an NGO back in Venezuela. What is particular about his work is how he has been able to combine clinical work with ethnographic research. His most

recent work, *Nuestra lucha es para que nos escuchen: Mujer, agencia, Resistencia política y la búsqueda de justiciar en Venezuela*, offers an in-depth analysis of his three-year field work with women whose children were killed extrajudicially by the Venezuelan state police. He explores not only the spaces these women inhabit, but also the most visible struggles that seeking justice entails in a system that seems to thwart such efforts.

Francisco's chapter in the book *La muerte nuestra de cada día* is a follow up from a shorter visual essay he had written for NACLA. Contrary to the essay, he does not include photography in the book, but he does include descriptions from his ethnographic notes, which are rich enough to imagine sensorial experiences like the smell of a Venezuelan state mortuary. However, in the visual essay *Venezuelan Women Confront State Violence*, Francisco shows his audience places, transportation systems, people that keep on the trace of the struggle of women seeking recognition and justice. Talking about this last visual essay, I asked him a question that I had reflected on in my own photographic experience: how do you feel about photographing people? His answer: "It makes me uncomfortable." He followed by explaining to me that when doing so, he tends to distance himself from making portraits. He approaches photography in a more photojournalistic way, preferring to depict people in their "natural" state. But also, he mentioned something that I had not considered before. Just as subjects become aware that they too are being looking at, the photographer catches him or herself in the act of watching. In the recognition of others, we also recognize ourselves. In this sense, the photographic process tells us about ourselves too. Just as John Berger states in *Ways of Seeing*: "we only see what we look at. We never look at just one thing; we are always looking at the relation between things and ourselves."

Photography can generate sentiments of inauthenticity or even imposture. In *La cámara lúcida*, Roland Barthes argues that, in photography, the self emerges as an "Other" because it produces an artful disassociation of self-consciousness (33). He furthers by explaining that the photography poses the conflict of deciding to whom the photography belongs, either to the subject that is being photographed or to the photographer. In this sense, photography turns the subject into a sort of object. Barthes also establishes that four imaginaries emerge with photography that are in constant collision: what we think we are, what we want others to think about us, what the photographer thinks of us, and what others might think of such images when they are used. There is a sense of uncertainty about how the image will be read. Readings will vary, and society will assign value and meanings as the photographs moves around social context (35).

For example, Francisco explained to me that, as he attended the homes of the mothers during interviews, he used to photograph them in their everyday activities. Afterwards, he would show them the photographs he had taken. "I look ugly" or "I look old" were their common remarks. Some would express feeling of embarrassment. In this sense, the photographs brought into the conversation questions about their self-perception. For these women, their search for justice had taken over ten years of their lives. Therefore, these images that Francisco had showed them

represented the trace of time. It allowed them to compare the image that they had about themselves before losing their children and forced them to think about their lives at the present time. Also, they became aware that they were being seen. Every place they visited, every action or demonstration, they knew they were being looked at. After this realization, rather than become overly self-conscious about appearance, they used this knowledge strategically. Conversations and reconceptualization about victimhood took another turn. They recognized the power they were able to wield over others, as well as the place they could hold in the process of representing themselves.

Additionally, when Francisco was accompanying the women in Venezuela, his position as an outsider was evident through the photographic process. The women became aware that they were being looked at, and that their bodies and gestures were, at the same time, being read. However, once this consciousness through the photographic experience was obtained, the relationship of photographer and photographed readjusted. Sentiments of embarrassment dissipated, and the act of photography by the other – Francisco – was incorporated as a strategy for their own movement. Over time, Francisco was shooting not only for his research, but for the women themselves. They transformed his photography into a tool that allowed them to represent and shape the narrative of their struggle. A new way of reaching out to a broader audience emerged, which allowed them to disseminate their claims of justice for their children.

If all this story serves our argument, I would reiterate that for us the place of images, photography specifically, within scholarly work is a developing moment, in which the gazing eye of the photographer and the photographic subject come together to talk about the own process of the image. Where they share the emotion, memory, insecurities, aspirations and failures. In this sense, drawing from a written text that Francisco shared with me once about his reflection on photography, he stated that the photographic moment is not that which happens only by change – as has been argued – but rather, it is the ensemble of the experience of gazing and being gazed, as well of language and shared meaning.

At the end of our journey, Francisco and I said goodbye, and followed our own paths. The photographs of Gainesville that are included in this article were taken by Francisco, who had his camera that day. While we were walking, I did not notice that he had taken them. I became aware of it when he sent them to me at the end of the day. However, to him, they could represent that which he noticed that day. To me, of what I was not able to notice, or was too distracted to pay attention to. Either way, for both of us, they remind us of that chilly day in which the city was still, and we were strolling curiously into this new place. ♦

Cited works

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Kaira Cabañas centers Latin American contemporary art in award-winning book

Immanent Vitalities examines Latin American art with revitalizing analysis

Little more than ten years ago, an art history education would have likely reduced Latin American art to one simple chapter: the ancient art of Mesoamerica. Dr. Kaira M. Cabañas (LAS, Art+Art History) is part of the ongoing shift by art historians to focus and expand the presence of Latin American art in an academy where it is historically underrepresented. In her most recent book, *Immanent Vitalities: Meaning and Materiality in Modern and Contemporary Art*, Dr. Cabañas centers Latin American art from the mid-twentieth century to the present with in-depth analysis that redefines what it means to interpret and understand works by artists from Latin America. The result of this endeavor led to a unanimous vote by the jury of the College Art Association to award *Immanent Vitalities* its prestigious Frank Jewett Mather Award for art criticism. Read more to learn about *Immanent Vitalities* and Dr. Cabañas's vision for art history and analysis.

Q: What led you to this topic, and to write this book?

CABAÑAS: One inspiration for this book is Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro's 2006 conference on modern and contemporary art from Latin America, which he organized on occasion of the new Blanton Museum of Art's reopening. The event was notable for bringing together leading professionals in the field—artists, curators, and academics. As I describe in the preface to *Immanent Vitalities*, I vividly recall the moment when Waltercio Caldas pulled a piece of plastic out of his pocket, setting it on the table next to him and Gabriel during their public conversation. Suddenly the plastic began to shift, its creases unraveled, and its semi-opacity became increasingly translucent. The material came alive before the public's eyes. I do not remember what Caldas was responding to at that specific moment, but I imagine, given his unique mode of presentation, that he was doubling down on how materiality impinges on artistic representation as well as on art's perception. Here materiality trumped verbal discourse on art, and since then the "magic" of the material that he pulled out of his pocket has lived on in my thinking such that this scene has unwittingly served as a point of departure for some of the concerns articulated in my book.



Photo: José Falconi



Q: What do you want readers to understand after reading your book?

CABAÑAS: It is important for readers to understand that *Immanent*

Vitalities does not presume to provide a continuous genealogy from global modern to contemporary art. In each chapter I focus on a representative case of artistic production in which an artist seems to begin her work by asking what can art as a material object and practice do (rather than exclusively what art is). This distinction is key. My aim with *Immanent Vitalities* is to prompt readers to rethink materiality through artistic practices so as to affirm what escapes aesthetic representation (and, by extension, philosophical representationalism), while remaining attentive to social differences and lived experience.

Q: Who is the audience of your book? Why was it important to write toward that audience?

CABAÑAS: *Immanent Vitalities* addresses a growing market in art history and the art world more generally for new perspectives on the history of modern and contemporary art, the art of Latin America, and new materialisms. My hope is that the book's interdisciplinary reach makes it a valuable reference for courses on modern thought, Latin American culture, new materialist aesthetics, curatorial studies, and aesthetics and politics. This said, I also write with an eye to less specialized audiences. I aim for my books to be readable not jargon filled. The latter is important if one hopes to capture readers beyond the academy. In writing the book, I imagined its interest would also encompass museum professionals, including curators and educators, as well as students interested in modern and contemporary art in general.



Matheus Rocha Pitta, *no hay pan*, 2015.
Five framed Polaroids, 28.5 × 62.5 cm.

featured in *Immanent Vitalities: Meaning and Materiality in Modern and Contemporary Art*

Q: How has your perspective as a Latinamericanist informed your experience as an art historian?

CABAÑAS: Written from the perspective of the academy in the United States and with that public in mind, *Immanent Vitalities* contributes to a less geopolitically oriented approach to the modern and contemporary art of Latin America. I propose that the cumulative effect of an approach that takes geopolitical alignments and international cultural policy as the primary framework for how art signifies has been, paradoxically, to isolate Latin America as a separate geographic and self-sufficient field. The approach has also produced an implicit academic bias: When one writes about the modern and contemporary art of Latin America, one needs to provide more cultural context (to let geopolitics lead the way), while theoretically informed art history seems to remain doggedly within the purview of (Euro-American) modernist art histories. In short, one can write field changing work as a Latinamericanist and claim one's work as a central to shaping the discipline of art history and its stakes.

Q: What challenges and opportunities do you find as a scholar who works at the intersection of so many disciplines, each with their own lenses for interpretation and analysis?

CABAÑAS: That's a complex question, deserving of a complex answer. First, I think it is important to aim for intensive knowledge and to understand the contours and evolution of a specific problematic across disciplines, so that one does not merely cherry pick ideas that suit and illustrate one's analysis. Turning to different analytical and disciplinary lenses offers an opportunity to challenge what one thinks one knows. I find this has been a pleasure and challenge for practicing a different type of art history and is at the center of my current project *Deviant Art Histories*, which explores intersections of art and psychiatric reform in different geographic regions. As I ask in the manuscript in progress: what can art history become when one looks at art and its histories as produced under different institutional, cultural, colonial, and psychic conditions? My aim has been to un-discipline art history by revealing its entanglement with adjacent histories in order to recover forms of agency and write more inclusive histories. ♦

Announcing the Kislak Family Foundation Artist/Writer in Residence Program

With donation from Kislak Family Foundation, the new residence program will host a Latin American artist/writer at the Center each semester

The Center for Latin American Studies has established the Kislak Family Foundation Latin American Artist/Writer in Residence program, thanks to a significant donation from the Kislak Family Foundation. The program will support a semester-long residency for an eminent writer or artist, with the purpose of exposing the campus community and Gainesville residents to creative works of art and literature.

“We're thrilled to announce this program,” said Center Director Carlos de la Torre. “The arts are such an important part of culture and community, and it's exciting to bring that not only to our students at the Center, but also to the campus and the city of Gainesville.”

KISLAK
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

LATIN AMERICAN
ARTIST/
WRITER
IN RESIDENCE
PROGRAM

at the UF Center for
Latin American Studies

As part of the residency, the visiting artist or writer will teach courses or conduct workshops, deliver public lectures, tutor students of creative writing or art, and engage with the Center's intellectual activities. These engagements will strengthen collaborations with the College of the Arts as well as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, particularly the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

With the Kislak Family Foundation support, this program will bring preeminence in the Latin American arts to the University of Florida. The first Kislak Family Foundation Artist/Writer in Residence, Ecuadorian writer Gabriela Alemán, will arrive at the Center in Fall 2022 and teach a course on Latin American short stories. ♦

Faculty SPOTLIGHT

Meet the Center's newest core faculty member: Christopher Busey

Dr. Busey bridges LAS, African American Studies, and Education, and serves as co-coordinator of the MALAS specialization, Education in the Americas



In 2017, when Dr. Christopher Busey made the decision to accept a position at the University of Florida, the opportunity to be affiliate faculty at the Center for Latin American Studies was a major reason he said yes. Five years later, Dr. Busey is the newest core faculty appointment at the Center, where he says he feels a “sense of belonging,” thanks to the collegiality among faculty, students, and staff.

“I feel welcome when I come to work,” he says. “I enjoy coming to the office, I get along well with my colleagues. Because the Center is a smaller space, I can have small talk conversations with colleagues in the hallways, I can see flyers for events we’re having, I can know a bit more about what my colleagues are doing, and what they’re studying.”

With additional appointments in Education and African American Studies, Dr. Busey’s research and teaching examines African diaspora in the Americas through the lens of education. But it’s the emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean that is particularly important to him, as the region is often omitted from the conceptualization of diaspora and education, in favor of U.S.-based perspectives. “My aim is to expand the geopolitical boundaries that are conjured when we talk about Blackness in the educational domain,” he explains. “Sometimes I’m looking at Afro-Latinxs in the United States relative to discourses of curriculum, teaching, and policies, but I’m also examining Black educational activism alongside histories of imperialism and colonialism in Panama, and how that looks different in contexts across Puerto Rico, Colombia, Nicaragua, or Brazil.”

This expansion of geopolitical boundaries illuminates one of the few adjustments Dr. Busey has made as core faculty at the Center. “A consistent type of question I get is, ‘Are you a Cubanist?’

or ‘Are you a Brazilianist?’” He chuckles. “I’m a Blackist. I’m concerned about Black folk everywhere. I try to think beyond the nation-state as the central unit of my analyses. While at times it is relevant to focus on a particular geopolitical context, the general thrust of my work is such that we can understand how Blackness is articulated and performed across the hemisphere as well as grapple with the transnational logics of anti-Blackness.”

Since joining the Center as an affiliate, Dr. Busey has co-established and serves as co-coordinator of the MALAS specialization “Education in the Americas,” together with Dr. Mary Risner. The specialization focuses on educational research, theory, and practice relevant to Latin America and Latinx communities in the United States, and seeks to prepare graduates for careers in education, public policy, academia, and transnational organizations. “My goal for this specialization is to cultivate an interdisciplinary approach towards understanding education as a political act,” Dr. Busey explains. “Education is bound with meanings of what it means to be human, and thus intertwined with issues of race and racism, gender, sexuality, and class. That’s an understanding I hope that students leave the specialization with, so that they can take a critical approach to education as an institution, but also be able to contextualize generative responses to the abject conditions that the institution of education can reproduce.”

Although Dr. Busey’s career is still young, he has already garnered acclaim for his cumulative body of work. In March, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) awarded him the 2022 Early Career Award for Social Studies Research. With over 25,000 members, AERA is the largest and most prominent education research organization in the U.S., encompassing over 150 special interest groups. “It is definitely meaningful to me, to know that I have peers in my field that hold my research in high esteem,” Dr. Busey reflects. “But I didn’t self-nominate; I’m not in this game to pursue awards.”

Nonetheless, there’s a gravity to the recognition – a result of the current political climate surrounding race and education in the United States. “At this moment, when the theories I use are on the chopping block, not just in the state of Florida, but across multiple states, it gives this award all the more meaning. I don’t shy away from what I do, but it can be easy to second-guess yourself.” He pauses. “To receive this award, in this moment? To me, in many ways, it confirms the meaning behind the work that I need to do, and I will continue to do.” ♦

Student SPOTLIGHT

Exploring new approaches to sustainable & socially responsible business practices

MALAS graduate Verónica Paz González uses interdisciplinary connections and research to develop career in entrepreneurship

BY ANNA RODELL

Verónica Paz González is a 2022 MALAS graduate in the Latin American Business Environment (LABE) specialization. As one of few LABE students to undertake a capstone project in completion of her degree, her work is advancing not only her own career, but also the scope of the Center.

Originally pursuing politics in Latin America, Verónica transitioned into the ethical and sustainable business field after learning more about possibilities through the LABE specialization with LABE Director Mary Risner. A meeting with Dr. Kristin Joys as well as the completion of Joys' Social Entrepreneurship and Business for Good Lab: Sustainable Business Consulting further inspired Verónica's MALAS research and career direction.

Verónica's passion for ethical and sustainable business continued to grow, which allowed her to eventually complete the qualifications to become a business school Social Impact and Sustainability (SIS) scholar. Verónica also met her business partner through one of Dr. Joys' courses. Together they envisioned a socially sustainable application – Where U Should Eat (WUSE).

WUSE aimed to better inform customers of the social and environmental endeavors of restaurants, highlighting the ways restaurants go the extra mile in doing responsible business. Verónica and her partner were accepted to the Gator Hatchery entrepreneurship program in Spring 2021, where they received mentorship, legal advice, office and conference spaces, networking, and other support.

Verónica formulated her capstone to facilitate conducting market research for the app, WUSE, in Bogotá, Colombia and Gainesville, United States. Connecting with significant chains and small local restaurants, Verónica spent the summer in both locations, interviewing owners, employees, and customers.

Pursuing her Sustainable Development Practice Certificate coursework, Verónica used theory she learned in her classes to



critically examine the results. Findings revealed that the WUSE app would increase transparency for elite business and customers, and that awareness of responsible business practices was not a predictor of customer behavior. Moreover, a restaurant may not wish to take on responsibility for yet another review app like WUSE when the most pressing problems reported for owners were time and money. Informed by this feedback, Verónica and her partner decided to halt WUSE's development.

Equipped with her research results, Verónica and her team pivoted, creating a consulting firm called "Flow Collaborative." The firm is inspired by the idea of "connecting business to the flow of nature" through assisting clients with their social and sustainability goals. Flow Collaborative became incorporated in February 2022. Verónica plans to continue developing the start-up after graduation.

Verónica's trajectory over the course of her MALAS program studies is an example of how mentorship, real-world exposure, and innovation along with interdisciplinary connections come together in the Center for Latin American Studies to help students prepare for future careers, whether in academia or other fields. ♦

Student SPOTLIGHT

MALAS student Kleber Naula brings dynamism to Kichwa conversation class

The opportunity to gain proficiency in Indigenous and Creole languages offers value to students



Partially visible behind a projector screen, the chalkboard in Matherly 051 still bears the evidence of a physics lesson from earlier in the day: a complicated equation sprawls the length of the surface, complete with trigonometry functions, a Greek letter Sigma, and even an infinity sign. (Math fans might recognize it as a Taylor series.) On the adjacent dry erase board, Latin American Studies student Kleber Naula (MALAS 2023) scrawls an increasingly lengthy sentence in Kichwa, adding each subsequent component at the behest of his enthusiastic students testing their knowledge.

From the back of the classroom, observing the two sequences facing one another, the elementary Kichwa seems just as complicated as the college-level mathematics.

But the complexities of the language don't dampen the enthusiasm and engagement of Kleber's students. In fact, Kleber himself generates much of the dynamic energy in the room, bouncing between the white board and his students with verve and good humor. His students seem to respond in kind.

"Every Thursday I practically ran to Kleber's class," says Spence Rohlwing, one of Kleber's students – and a fellow MALAS student. "His unique and engaging teaching style taught me far more than I thought possible in just a few months. I could not have asked for a better experience."

Kleber took on teaching the class at the start of the spring semester, as an opportunity to engage other students in learning his native language, and to fulfill hours for his graduate assistantship. Hailing from the rural community of El Troje in the Colta-Chimborazo province in Ecuador, Kleber is a

native speaker of Kichwa, an Indigenous language of the Andes mountains with numerous dialects and approximately 10 million speakers across South America. Before teaching Kichwa at the Center, Kleber taught Kichwa I and II for U.S. Peace Corps volunteers in El Troje – just like his uncle Manuel Naula fifty years before him.

That experience made him an ideal candidate to introduce the language to fellow students at the Center. "Kleber uses great pedagogical tools," says Professor Carmen Martínez Novo, who observed the Kichwa class throughout the semester. "He uses bodily cues to communicate with students which Kichwa particle is needed at a particular moment in a sentence. He does quizzes, songs, conversation, and images to make the class dynamic. He is teaching with great charm and charisma."

A particularly helpful – and charismatic – teaching tool is Kleber's cartoon caterpillar Kichwita, which he draws on the white board to illustrate the sequence of Kichwa suffixes (na, ka, mi, tak, chu, manta, pash, kuna, and pi – one for each caterpillar segment) that must be added to words to build grammatical structures. With Kichwita smiling down on the class, the students follow Kleber's cues to construct long and winding sentences totaling upwards of 44 suffix additions.

But nothing seems too daunting in Kleber's class. The students celebrate their conversational triumphs and joke about their grammatical challenges, answering "ari" (yes) and "mana" (no) to Kleber's questions in Kichwa. It's hard to imagine that the physics class could have been this fun.

"I am absolutely amazed at the great progress that my colleagues have made speaking Kichwa here at UF," Kleber says. "My amazement is even greater when I see how an Andean language continues to make people fall in love. Listening to my language at UF is a tribute to my grandparents, Juan and Tránsito."

Students have expressed interest in continuing to Kichwa II in future, demonstrating that Indigenous and Creole languages from Latin America have an audience with U.S.-based Latin American Studies students eager to learn them, especially from a dynamic and knowledgeable teacher like Kleber. Language proficiency is an instrumental asset to conducting fieldwork, particularly to those students who rely on interviews and conversations to collect data. Considering the complexity and urgency of issues facing Indigenous communities across Latin America, being able to communicate in local Indigenous languages is an invaluable and relevant skill. ♦

Student SPOTLIGHT

April Rubin graduates with an LAS minor, selected for New York Times fellowship

Journalism major gained expanded perspectives from Latin American Studies, anthropology

For any scholar, curiosity is a characteristic that almost always leads to rewarding results. For a journalist, it is an integral component of daily work and career success. For April Rubin, a journalism major graduating with minors in Latin American Studies and anthropology, curiosity has guided her undergraduate experience, from the classes she took to the next opportunity she's embarking on: a fellowship with the New York Times.

Before she even enrolled at the University of Florida, April knew that Latin American Studies was something she was interested in exploring. Part of this interest stemmed from her heritage – her mom's family is Argentinian, and April grew up speaking Spanish at home – but she also noticed a lack of attention on Latin America in her early education. “You learn a lot about world history, American history, even European history,” she shares. “But not so much about Latin American history or even current events in Latin America. I knew it was something I wanted to prioritize.”

Once at university, April declared a major in journalism and began pursuing a minor in anthropology, which transitioned easily into an accompanying Latin American Studies minor. The ability to customize her academic path with a diversity of options was an important feature of the program. “The breadth of things that you can learn through Latin American Studies has enriched me a lot,” she says. “You can find classes that tailor to so many interests, and you learn perspectives that can inform a lot of different disciplines moving forward.”

Two particular classes that stood out for April were Dr. Tim Murtha's Urban Design in Latin America and Dr. Catherine Tucker's Culture of Coffee, because of the way they invited students to look more deeply at their subjects. “I took the coffee culture class because I'm passionate about coffee,” April jokes. “But every day I'd sit at my computer [the class was online due to the pandemic] with my cup of coffee and learn about what I was drinking – the economics of it, the culture surrounding it. It was fascinating.”

Dr. Murtha's class on urbanism similarly expanded her perspective on a topic she hadn't previously considered. “It was the first time I had learned anything about urbanism, and it changed the way I look at things now because I'm seeing it through that lens and applying it to other regions,” April



reflects. “Part of what we learned was that some of these Latin American cities were the fastest growing and the fastest to adapt, and so other places should look to them as a model.”

She also points out another benefit to a Latin American Studies minor – the fact that in many LAS classes, undergraduate students are sitting side-by-side with graduate students, something that isn't so common in other disciplines. “It was so valuable to not only have the expert professor in the room, but also these students who are becoming experts. It gave me so much more understanding about Latin America than if I had been in a class that was strictly undergrads.”

As April graduates and moves on to her next endeavor, the ability to look beyond the surface to explore in-depth ideas will serve her well. Named one of the 2022-2023 New York Times fellows, April will travel to New York City and work on the publication's express desk, which means that she will be responsible for fleshing out breaking news into more detailed stories.

“I think any journalist has to be well rounded in what they know and what they are aware of,” April reflects. “For me, that comes in a lot of different ways, but one of them has been taking these classes that helped me become more aware about people and what's going on in the world. And I think that in the future that will make me a more thoughtful journalist.” ♦

From Campeche to Gainesville: Fostering teacher relationships between Florida and Mexico

BY THACHER LOUTIN (MALAS 2023)

The Center for Latin American Studies has a history of offering summer professional development opportunities as part of its outreach program, with the goal of fostering educator collaborations with teachers throughout Latin America. In recent years the Center has worked with Campeche, Mexico organizing a teacher exchange program in 2017, a 10-day institute in 2018, and hosting Darwing Perez, a visiting Instituto Campechano English Professor in the spring of 2019. The Center and the Autonomous University of Campeche (UAC) signed a cooperation agreement just prior to the pandemic, which slowed down activities. This spring, Nadia May Acosta, an English as a Foreign Language teacher from the UAC-affiliated Godoy High School, came to Florida. Dr. Mary Risner meticulously prepared her two-weeks schedule full of school visits and excursions with local educators. Dr. Carlos de la Torre, the director of the Center for Latin American Studies, greeted her with great enthusiasm.

Ms. May Acosta had school site visits speaking with students in Volusia and St. Johns Counties at St Augustine High School, Daytona Beach Elementary, New Smyrna Beach High School, and DeLand High School. She also participated as a judge at the Volusia County Schools World Language Festival. Her



Alachua County tour included visits to Loften High School's Career and Technical Education Academies, Hawthorne Middle and High School, and Kanapaha Middle School. Ms. Anna Rodell and Ms. Thacher Loutin, graduate students and members of the Center for Latin American Studies' Outreach team, welcomed her to the University of Florida Campus and the Center for Latin American Studies during an organized tour alongside Dr. Crystall Marull, from UF Spanish and Portuguese Studies. In addition, Carolina Currea, a teacher in the department of Spanish at Hawthorne Middle and High School, had a crucial role in the success of her visit.

With far too many other things to list, it can be concluded that Ms. May Acosta's visit had a positive impact on our schools. In an effort to cultivate long-term relationships with educators, the Center for Latin American Studies Outreach Program places high emphasis on the development of relationships between Florida teachers and Latin America. This summer, eight teachers will be participating in a 10-day program in Campeche to further build relationships and develop projects among educators. ♦





Katie Coldiron

MALAS 2017



Q: What is your current position?

COLDIRON: I am the Digital Archivist of the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, an emerging preeminent program at Florida International University in Miami, FL. I will also be a PhD student in History at FIU this coming fall semester.

Q: What motivated you to pursue a MALAS degree?

COLDIRON: I entered the MALAS program immediately after graduating from college. Up until that point, I had spent my entire life in rural Kentucky, so I knew I wanted something different from that. Additionally, I did not find my interest in Latin America until later in college; I studied abroad for a semester in Mexico during the second half of my junior year. Upon returning to complete my senior year, I dedicated myself to improving my Spanish via additional coursework and an internship at a local social service agency for Central American migrant farmworkers. I was lucky enough to meet and take classes with two professors, one in Spanish and the other a sociologist from Argentina, that gave me the confidence to apply to and recommended me for graduate programs in Latin American Studies. I applied to three in total, all in states with large Latin American/Latinx diasporas and was accepted to two. Touring campus (coming from a small college, I was shocked that an entire library was dedicated to Latin America), sitting in on a class, and talking to the late Dr. Richmond Brown are what sold me on coming to UF.

Q: How does your MALAS degree help you in your job today? How has it informed your career?

COLDIRON: It was by coming to UF that I got to know the state of Florida at large, and especially South Florida. I have no doubt that being in Florida inspired me to gear my MALAS studies towards Cuba. The Center has always had unique ties

to Cuba, and the bust of José Martí that sits in the Center was done by Juan José Sicre, who also made the large Martí statue in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana. When I got to the Center and needed a job, I was pointed towards the Latin American and Caribbean Collection library, which is one of my favorite places I have ever worked. From there, I ended up in another library job in Cataloging, and then following my graduation, I went to work on a digitization project in Cuba on behalf of the UF Libraries. After that, I wound up at the University of Texas at Austin doing another master's, this time in Information Studies, and I graduated from that program in Spring 2021. I firmly believe that having done the MALAS degree, as well as the accompanying professional experiences I previously mentioned, were crucial for me to land the position I currently have, and one in Miami at that. So, in a way, I've come full circle by both coming back to Florida and living in the center of the Cuban Diaspora outside of the island.

Q: What was the most valuable part of your MALAS experience?

COLDIRON: The other MALAS students, hands down. The Center has always done a really good job of bringing students together into these unique and diverse cohorts, and mine was no exception. The most rewarding part of the experience in the program for me was this group of friends I made, many of whom remain some of my closest friends to this day. We are from all over and have unique interests and experiences but come together on a shared passion for the region.

Q: What advice would you give students as they pursue their MALAS degree and/or graduate with a MALAS degree?

COLDIRON: First, going off my answer to the previous question, the other students in the program are some of your best resources, whether it be for research advice, finding funding opportunities, or even travel companions. Secondly, take advantage of every opportunity because one always leads to another. Finally, I would say just believe in yourself, and know that just being in and graduating from this amazing program, one of the oldest of its kind, will open doors for you for the rest of your career.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in the MALAS program?

COLDIRON: I came to MALAS not really knowing who I was, but with vague ideas of who I wanted to be. It was a life-changing experience, and without it I would not have met my partner (Juan Rojas, MALAS 2022) nor would I be where I am at in my career now, knowing fully who I am and where I am going. ♦

Fieldwork FESTIVAL

Held on March 18 in Smathers Library, the annual Fieldwork Festival was an in-person event once more, after two years of virtual adaptations. As is tradition, the second-year graduate students met with first-years for a morning session to answer questions and give advice about the fieldwork experience. In the afternoon, the students welcomed members of the public to view their presentations and ask questions about their project, offering an opportunity to share their work with experts and non-experts alike.



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1. Yhovana Karen Chura Cussi, *1st prize MALAS*
 2. Alejandro Sánchez, *grand prize*
 3. Vanessa Luna-Celino, *1st prize pre-dissertation*

4. Ana Ugalde-Brenes, *1st prize MDP*
 5. Autumn Rose, *2nd prize MALAS*
 6. Natalia Uribe-Castañeda, *2nd prize pre-dissertation*

7. Jennifer Johnson, *2nd prize MDP*
not pictured: Raine Donohue, video prize



Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Sophia Carvalho (Health Education and Behavior, Community Health Promotion)

Roberto Ferrer (Criminology)

Emma Donnelly (Language, Literature & Linguistics - Spanish, History)

Daniela Ordóñez (Political Science, Sociology)

Casie Fort (Anthropology)

Samantha Nunez (Linguistics, Spanish)

Valeria Oller (Health Education and Behavior, Pre-Professional Health Studies)

Jessica Judkins Cooke (Language, Literature & Linguistics - Spanish, History)

April Rubin (Journalism)

Rocio Zaldivar (Microbiology and Cell Science)

Eric Marsh (Economics, Language, Literature & Linguistics - Spanish & Portuguese)

Isabella Zucaro (Economics, Portuguese)

Alexandre Menager (Linguistics, Spanish)

MALAS Degrees

Katiana Bague

Internship topic: Code-switching in the Archives: Improving Description and Access for U.S. Latinx History and Culture Collections at the National Museum of American History's Archives Center

Specialization: Latinx Studies, Migration & Transnational Studies

Chair: Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler

Britany Green

Thesis topic: Analyzing Indigeneity in Oaxacan Social Movements: The APPO and Popular Resistance

Specialization: Indigenous Studies

Chair: Joel Correia

Yhovana Karen Chura Cussi*

Thesis topic: Education and the Reconstitution of Identity in Plurinational Bolivia: Perspectives, Experiences, and Indigenous Identities

Specialization: Indigenous Studies and Education in the Americas

Chair: Carmen Martínez-Novo

Erika Cintron

Thesis topic: Countering Mexican Necropolitics: Community Policing in the Costa Chica and la Montaña, Guerrero

Specialization: Crime, Law and Governance

Chair: Juliana Restrepo Sanin

Anthony Leonard Baxter Jr

Thesis topic: The Hand of Nzambi: An Ethnographic Study of Palo Mayombe Nkisi Malongo, across the Atlantic

Specialization: Caribbean Studies

Chair: Benjamin Hebblethwaite

Francis Sophia Gow

Thesis topic: The Rise and Dawn of Women Political Leaders: Lessons from Argentina

Specialization: Crime, Law, and Governance

Chair: Juliana Restrepo Sanin

Helena M. Lopes

Thesis topic: Messages of Resistance, Autonomy, and Human-Environment Relations: Comunicados from the Xingu Indigenous Territory to Non-Indigenous Outsiders

Specialization: Indigenous Studies

Chair: Susan Paulson

Wally Aurelio Gallart

Thesis topic: The Right to the City in La Carpio, San Jose, Costa Rica

Specialization: Development Studies and Economic Analysis

Chair: Timothy Murtha

Verónica Paz González

Capstone topic: A Socially & Environmentally Responsible Digital App Business Model: Restaurant Initiatives and Preferences in Bogota, Colombia and Gainesville, United States

Specialization: Latin American Business Environment

Chair: Mary Risner

Juan David Rojas

Thesis topic: El infierno en medio del paraíso: Migration, Crime & the Frontier in the Darien Gap

Specialization: Crime, Law and Governance

Chair: Joel Correia

Graduate LAS Certificates

José Alejandro Sánchez Morales* (MDP)

Caitlin Robison (Anthropology)

Priscilla Vanessa Moreno Bell (Education, Curriculum, and Instruction)

Jennifer Johnson* (MDP)

Ana Ugalde-Brenes* (MDP)

MDP Degrees

Katherine Fiorillo Dowhaniuk

Specializations: Gender and Development, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Measuring women's empowerment in agroforestry activities in northern Uganda."

A.J. Hart

Specializations: Conservation Tourism, TCD

Advisor: Angélica Almeyda (Latin American Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Volunteer tourism and community-based conservation efforts

in Costa Rica: an examination of a volunteer tourism experience and its impacts on the Osa."

Jennifer Johnson*

Specializations: Natural Resource Policy and Administration, Water Resources, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sarah McKune (African Studies / Environmental and Global Health)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Learning from the international diversity of health worker protests during COVID-19."

José Alejandro Sánchez Morales*

Specializations: Tropical Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Cheryl Palm (Agricultural and Biological Engineering)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Facilitating smallholder farmer engagement with data-driven agriculture: a case study in the Yucatán Peninsula, México."

Sarah Strohinger

Specializations: Natural Resource Policy and Administration, Water Resources, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "We sent down water from the sky:" analyzing impacts of fog water harvesting in Ait Baamrane, Morocco."

Ana Ugalde Brenes*

Specializations: Gender and Development, Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Las reinas de sus colonias: examining women's empowerment in Kuxtalil cooperative's network in Yucatán, México."

Sustainable Development Practice Certificate

Verónica Paz González, MALAS

Tropical Conservation and Development Graduate Concentration and/or Certificate

Marliz Arteaga Gomez Garcia, PhD SNRE

Pamela Montero Alvarez, PhD SNRE

Riley A Ravary, PhD Anthropology

Carolina De Oliveira Jordao, PhD SNRE

Sarah Strohinger, MDP

José Alejandro Sanchez Morales*, MDP

Jennifer Johnson*, MDP

Katherine Fiorillo, MDP

Priya P Pershadsingh, MDP

Antonio James Hart, MDP

Gabriel Cardoso Carrero, PhD Geography

* denotes a winner in the Fieldwork Festival, see opposite page

Alumni UPDATES

Alumni: please complete our Alumni Update Form online at: bit.ly/3s5H2KA and share your news! If space permits, we will include your update in the next edition of the *Latinamericanist*.

Joseph Scarpaci (LAS graduate certificate, 1985)

Mr. Scarpaci (Executive Director for the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture + Economy) was awarded the 2022 Preston James Award by the Conference of Latinamericanist Geographers in recognition to contributions to public service and public policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Matthew Trokan (MALAS 2010)

Mr. Trokan has been named Roxbury Public Schools Supervisor of Social Studies and World Languages (7-12) in Roxbury, New Jersey. Mr. Trokan joined the administrative staff of Roxbury School District in 2019.

Nathania Martínez (MALAS 2020)

Nathania Martínez began working at Mujeres de Islas as a Programs Coordinator. Mujeres de Isla is a community service organization in Culebra, Puerto Rico that works in sustainability and transformative education to build a culture of peace and Culebrense identity.

Faculty NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Leslie Anderson (Political Science)

2016 book, *Democratization by Institutions: Argentina's Transition Years in Comparative Perspective*, University of Michigan Press, 2016, has been translated into Spanish and published in Argentina as *Democratización a través de las instituciones: los años de la transición en una perspectiva comparativa* by Prometeo Libros, Buenos Aires. It is part of a series: *Democracia, partidos y elecciones*. Director: Alejandro Tullio.

Thomas T. Ankersen (Law, Director of the Conservation Clinic) co-authored an article on treaty-based international mangrove management. The article includes faculty and student co-authors affiliated with the UF Center for Coastal Solutions and highlights Costa Rica as a case study. Using Ostrom's principles for self-governance of the commons, we identify where improvements could be implemented to increase effectiveness of the current frameworks to meet ongoing challenge of managing mangrove-derived resources and services in the face of a changing climate and human needs. J E Walker, T Ankersen, S Barchiesi, C K Meyer, A H Altieri, T Z Osborne, C Angelini, *Governance and the mangrove commons: Advancing the cross-scale, nested framework for the global conservation and wise use of mangroves*, *Journal of Environmental Management*, Volume 312, 2022, 114823.

Trent Blare (Food & Resource Economics)

Blare, T. and Donovan, J. 2022. Challenges for 'going local' by the tourism sector: Lessons from direct food sourcing initiatives in Cusco, Peru. *Tourism and Hospitality Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F14673584221074923>

Mark Brenner (Geological Sciences)

Publications: (1) Waters, M.N., et al. 2021. Harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins in Lake

Amatitlán, Guatemala, coincided with ancient Maya occupation in the watershed. *Proc Nat Acad Sci (USA)* 118 No. 48 e2109919118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2109919118>. (2) Armenteros, M., et al. 2021. Mollusk death assemblages in 210Pb-dated marine sediment cores reveal recent biotic changes in the Gulf of Guanahacabibes, NW Cuba. *Marine Environ Res* 171:105477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2021.105477>. (3) Obrist-Farner, J. et al. 2021. New estimates of the magnitude of the sea-level jump during the 8.2-ka event. *Geology*. <https://doi.org/10.1130/G492961>.

Fernanda Bretones Lane (History)

Received a Rothman Summer Fellowship from the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere for work on her manuscript, *Shores of Asylum: Fugitivity, Empire and Slavery in the Colonial Caribbean*.

Daniel Contreras (Anthropology)

Publications: (1) Contreras, Daniel A. 2022 *Stages, Periods, and Radiocarbon: 14C Dating in the Archaeology of the Central Andes*. *Ñawpa Pacha: Journal of Andean Archaeology*. (2) Contreras, Daniel A. 2022 *Chavín et Cupisnique*. In Faugère, Brigitte and Nicolas Goepfert, eds. *Atlas de l'Amérique précolombienne*. Paris: Éditions Autrement. pp56-57 (3) Wilson, K M, W C McCool, S C Brewer, N Zamora-Wilson, P J Schryver, R L F Lamson, A M Huggard, J Brenner Coltrain, D A Contreras, and B F Codding 2022 *Climate and demography drive 7000 years of dietary change in the Central Andes*. *Scientific Reports* 12(1):2026. **Symposium co-organizer**, 87th Annual Society for American Archaeology Meetings in Chicago, IL (April 2022): *Leveraging Radiocarbon in the Central Andes: From Chronologies to Research Agendas*

Joel Correia (LAS) Publications: (1)

"Between flood & drought: Environmental racism, settler waterscapes, & Indigenous water justice in South America's Chaco." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* <https://bit.ly/3CJGIW2>. (2) "A political ecology of jurisdictional REDD+", with Marcelo S.R. da Silva, *Journal of Political Ecology* 29(1): 123-142 (3) "Geographies of Latin American social-environmental movements" in *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Movements*, Grasso & Guggini eds. Invited talk: "Jurisdictional REDD+ in Acre, Brazil" Excellence in Political Ecology Award Recognition, Political Ecology Society Conference, Salt Lake City UT. Conference paper: "If not justice, then what? Notes on climate change, relationality, & aporia." American Association of Geographers Conference, New York City, NY.

Max Deardorff (History)

Awards: Global Fellow, University of Florida International Center; Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, University of Florida. **Speaking Engagements:** Seminário Permanente de História do Direito da UFC, Universidade Federal do Ceará: Fortaleza (Brazil), 30 April 2021. **Conferences:** "Custom, Possession, and Domicile: Native and Black Vecindad (Urban Citizenship) in the Colonial Spanish Settlements of the Northern Andes," American Historical Association, New Orleans (LA), 7 January 2022; "Children of Empire: The Ebb and Flow of Mestizo Identity Politics in Early New Kingdom of Granada," The Conference on Latin American History, New Orleans (LA), 9 January 2022.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE emerita) completed her term as President of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida. She co-

authored, with Boaz Anglade (FRE) and Pilar Useche (FRE/LAS), "A Gendered Analysis of Individual-level Asset Poverty in Ecuador," *Feminist Economics* 28 (1), 2022: 46-85.

Carlos de la Torre (LAS)

Publications: Refereed Articles: (1) "Latin American Populist Authoritarian Inclusion," *Comparative Political Theory* 1 (2), 2021, 187-201. (2) "Las ambivalencias de los populismos latinoamericanos", *PolHis Revista Bibliográfica del Programa Interuniversitario de Historia Política* 14 (27), 2021, 15-38. **Book Review:** Paula Biglieri and Luciana Cadahia, *Seven Essays on Populism*, Cambridge: Polity Press 2021, Populism doi:10.1163/25888072, 2022

Elizabeth DeVos MD, MPH (Emergency Medicine-Jacksonville)

Grant: Pediatric Emergency Medicine Ultrasound for Paraguay (AMB Foundation and with assistance from Butterfly iQ and Philips Lumify Global Health Programs). Dr. DeVos and the UFHealth Jacksonville EM residency and Pediatric EM Fellowship partner with the National Pediatric Hospital of Paraguay in Asuncion for distance learning in point of care ultrasound skills. **Publications:** (1) Pickering, A et al. Building a virtual community of practice for medical students. The Global Emergency Medicine Student Leadership Program. *JACEP Open* V2,16,29 December 2021. (2) Patino A et al. Emergency Medicine Around the World: Analysis of the 2019 American College of Emergency Physicians International Ambassador Country Reports. *JACEP Open*. V3,12,28 February 2022.

Andrea Cabral Leal Ferreira (SPS)

We had talented Portuguese student interns, Sofi-Nicole Barreiro and Cristina Cortez, working for the renowned Brazilian NGO Catalytic Communities. Sofi-Nicole and Cristina served as Portuguese-English translators for the RioOnWatch branch of the institution. Here are the articles Sofi-Nicole worked on this semester: <https://riononwatch.org/?translator=sofi-nicole-barreiro>; and here are the ones Cristina translated: <https://riononwatch.org/?translator=cristina-cortez>.

Frank Fernandez (Education) and his co-editors received the Books of the Year Award (edited volume category) at the national conference of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education for "An Asset-Based Approach to Advancing Latina Students in STEM: Increasing Resilience, Participation, and Success"

Susan D. Gillespie (Anthropology)

Gillespie, Susan D (2021) *The Extended Person in Maya Ontology*. *Estudios Latinoamericanos (Sociedad Polaca de Estudios Latinoamericanos, Warsaw)* 41:105-127. <https://doi.org/10.36447/Estudios2021v41.art6>

Rebecca Hanson (LAS) Publication: Hanson, Rebecca and Verónica Zubillaga. 2022. *Shifting*

Dynamics of Violence: The Revolution's Most Powerful Legacy? *NACLA* 54(1): 96-100; Awarded Grant for Post-Conflict Security Structures and Citizen Buy-In (Co-PI) from Department of Defense, FY2021 Minerva Research Initiative Amount: \$1,423,151; Awarded Grant for An Institutional Biography of the Venezuelan Police (PI) from University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Funding: Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund Amount \$8,400. **Presentation:** With Verónica Zubillaga: "Gritos, regaños, charlas y susurros: Respuestas de las madres a los actores armados y la militarización en dos barrios de Caracas", Centro de Estudios de Género-Colmex y Programa para el Estudio de la Violencia-CIDE, April 20, 2022

Benjamin Hebblethwaite (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

Mariana Past and Benjamin Hebblethwaite's translation, "Stirring the Pot of Haitian History by Michel-Rolph Trouillot," was awarded Honorable Mention for LASA's Isis Duarte Book Prize (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press). Hebblethwaite's article, "Kòltiz, a Patriotic Haitian Practice of Solidarity: Haitian collaborative groups affirm that 'every human is human,'" appeared in *Foreign Policy*, April 16, online: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/16/haiti-economy-koltiz-solidarity-language/>

Tace Hedrick (English) "Mexican Gothic." *Northeastern Modern Language Association*, Baltimore, March 10-13.

Karen Kainer (LAS / School of Forests, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences)

Publication: Pires da Costa, KC, JF de Carvalho Gonçalves, A Leão Gonçalves, A da Rocha Nina Junior, R Kirmayr Jaquetti, V Fernandes de Souza, J Celerino de Carvalho, A Varmes Fernandes, J Keith Rodrigues, G de Oliveira Nascimento, LH de O Wadt, KA Kainer, R Monteiro Bezerra de Lima, FC Schimpl, J Pereira de Souza, S Silva de Oliveira, HT da Silva Miléo. DP Souza, AC Lopes da Silva, H Massaco Ito Nascimento, JM Furtunato Maia, F de Almeida Lobo, P Mazzafera, M Viana Ramos, HH Ferreira Koolen, R Ribeiro de Moraes, K Martins, N Leal Filho, HE Mendonça Nascimento, K Duarte Gonçalves, Y Verçosa Kramer, GA Martins, and MO Rodrigues. 2022. *Advances in Brazil nut tree ecophysiology: Linking abiotic factors to tree growth and fruit production*. *Current Forestry Reports* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40725-022-00158-x>

Martha Kohen (Architecture DCP)

Continuing our work in Puerto Rico, the Program for the Puerto Rico Re Start 4, included Architectural Design Studio 8, with a week long travel to the Island of 16 Senior Students and two faculty this Spring Semester, the development of 16 distinct proposals for the Eastern region, and the exhibitions of the research and the proposals in the DCP Gallery in April 8th-15th. The Puerto Rico program from our Center for Hydro-

generated Urbanism (CHU) was started in 2017 following the Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and has uninterruptedly collaborated with island Universities (UPR and PUPR), Stakeholders, NGO's and Agencies, providing joint medium and long term visioning while enriching the student's experience. The program has the support of the Office of Research UF, UFIC, LATAM, SOA an DCP.

Carmen Martínez Novo (LAS) February 2022: "Indigenous politics in contemporary Ecuador." Talk for the Foreign Service Institute of the US Department of State. March 2022: Editors' panel. First Congress of the Red de Investigación sobre el Trabajo del Hogar en América Latina, 26-28 de Marzo 2022. Milbrath, Susan. *Seasonal Cycles, Veintena Rituals, and Yearbearer Ceremonies in Central Mexico*. *Trace* 81:247-248, Enero 2022.

Susan Milbrath (FLMNH) (1) Milbrath, S. *Seasonal Cycles, Veintena Rituals, and Yearbearer Ceremonies in Central Mexico*. *Trace* 81:247-248, Enero 2022. (2) Milbrath, S. *Thresholds of Time and Space: Yearbearer Imagery in Postclassic Codices*. *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* vol. 2(3): 8-28, 2020. (3) Milbrath, S. *Postclassic Effigy Censers of Mayapán: Context, Iconography, and External Connections*. In: *Settlement, Economy, and Society at a Postclassic Maya City: Mayapán, Yucatan, Mexico*. Masson, M A, Hare, T S, Peraza Lope, C, Russell, B W (eds.), 293-313, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021 (S Milbrath, D Walker, C Peraza Lope) (4) Milbrath, S. *Closing the Portal of Itzmal Che'en Effigy Censers and Termination Rituals at a Mayapán Ceremonial Group*. In *A Forest of History: The Maya after the Emergence of Divine Kingship*. T W Stanton and M K Brown, eds., 204-235. University Press of Colorado, Boulder, 2020 (M A Masson, C Peraza, W Cruz Alvarado, S Milbrath).

Jeffrey D. Needell (History) Honorable Mention, Warren Dean Prize for the Best Book or Article in English on Brazilian History in the Last Two Years, for *The Sacred Cause: The Abolitionist Movement, Afro-Brazilian Mobilization, and Imperial Politics in Rio de Janeiro*. Stanford University Press, 2020.

Susan Paulson (LAS) Publications: (1) Paulson et al. *Caring Masculinities: Stories of Interspecies Love in the Andes and Atlantic Forest*. *General Anthropology Bulletin*. (2) *Gender-aware care in pandemic and postgrowth worlds*. *Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology FOCAAL Blog*. (3) Paulson et al. *Convivial Conservation with Nurturing Masculinities in Brazil's Atlantic Forest*. In *Convivial Futures. Views from a Post-Growth Tomorrow*. **Invited Lectures:** (1) *Degradación ambiental y desigualdad socioeconómica*. XXXI Congreso de Derecho, Los Derechos de la naturaleza para un mundo sustentable, Universidad de las Américas, Puebla. (2) *Degrowth: Decrease Resource Use*

to Increase Well-Being, Columbia University. Conference: Anticipatory Perspectives on Post-Corona Crisis Economy. American Anthropology Association.

Charles A. Perrone (SPS emerita) published *_First Chico Buarque_* in the Brazil 33 1/3 series at Bloomsbury Academic, as well a volume of his own poetry *_Designs_* (cyberwit press).

Stephen Perz (Sociology and Criminology & Law) Publications: (1) Stephen Perz, Marliz Arteaga, Andrea Baudoin Farah, I. Foster Brown, Elsa Renee Huaman Mendoza, Yara Araújo Pereira de Paula, Leonor Mercedes Perales Yabar, Alan dos Santos Pimentel, Sabina C. Ribeiro, Guillermo Rioja-Ballivián, Martha Cecilia Rosero Peña, L. Cecilia Sanjinez L., and N. Galia Selaya G. 2021 "Participatory Action Research Methods for Conservation and Development: Experiences from the Amazon." *Sustainability* 14:233. Article 29 pages. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14010233>. (2) Stephen Perz, Guillermo Rioja, I. Foster Brown, Miroslava Frias, Elsa Mendoza, Armando Muñante, Mercedes Perales, Vera Reis, and Juan Fernando Reyes. 2021, "The Contributions of Transboundary Networks to Environmental Governance: The Legacy of the MAP Initiative." *Geoforum* 128:78-91.

Mary Risner (LAS) was invited by the U.S. Department of Education, International and Foreign Language Education Office to give a plenary talk on Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) at the Interagency Language Roundtable.

Laurie Taylor (Libraries) \$2 million dollars awarded for grant: Revitalizing the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC). <https://dloc.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/revitalizing/>

Catherine Tucker (LAS / Anthropology) Presentations: (1) *Gobernanza de los Recursos de Uso Común: Definiciones y conceptos fundamentales para su aplicación a las cuencas hidrológicas.* Workshop on Valuing Ecosystem Services for CREHO-RAMSAR Panama, Santiago, Panama, Mar. 9, 2022. (2) *Coffee Production, Water Use, and Watershed Protection in Honduras: A Community Case Study.* Presented at the UF Water Institute Symposium, Gainesville, FL. Feb. 23, 2022. (3) *"Fostering Sustainability through Innovative Coffee Production and Alternative Trade: The Case of Café Orgánico de Marcala (COMSA), Honduras."* Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Am. Anthro. Assoc., Baltimore, MD, Nov. 18, 2021. **Workshop leadership:** Common-

pool Resources Field Experiments, CREHO-RAMSAR Panama & UF Water Institute. Santa Fe, Panama. Mar. 10, 2022.

Welson Tremura (LAS / Music) is contributing author of the book titled "Understanding America: the essential contribution of Afro-American music to the sociocultural meaning of the continent," chapter *Folia de Reis: An Afro-Brazilian Experience in Rural Brazil.* Edited by Fernando Palacios Mateos, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, Melissa Jerome, Angie Soto, Jessie English (George A. Smathers Libraries) 2022, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), The Archives, Libraries and Digital Scholarship Section, Best Article Award for "Contesting Colonial Library Practices of Accessibility and Representation" in *Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation.* Edited by Mary Kandiuk. Sacramento: Library Juice Press, 2020. <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR0001168/00001>

Heather Vrana (History) received a Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship for academic year 2022-23.

Fulbright SCHOLARS (2021-2022)

With seven Fulbright U.S. scholars for 2021-2022, the University of Florida is ranked fourth on the list of U.S. colleges and universities with the most Fulbright scholars this year. Of these seven distinguished awardees, three are affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies, reflecting the significance of our faculty's work in their regions, and their dedication, leadership, and excellence as scholars. Congratulations!

Joel Correia

Paraguay

Center for Latin American Studies

Kathleen Colverson

Ecuador

LAS / IFAS Food Systems Institute

Heidi Powell

Dominican Republic

LAS / Art Education Program

Welcome NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY

Javier D. Donna

Economics

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

José Miguel Ponciano

Biology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Marta L. Wayne

Biology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Virginia Maurer
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Carmen Diana Deere Director's Fund

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Colonel Glenn A. Farris Scholarship

Christine Farris-Edwards & Thomas Edwards

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