

A Report prepared for the Society for Latin American Studies

## **SLAS Postgraduate Conference Grant**

**Contribution awarded to attend the XXIX International  
Congress of the Latin American Studies Association**

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## The Application

In September 2010 I submitted my application with the requisite documentation to the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS).

## The Congress

During the first week of October 2010, I had the opportunity to attend the XXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), in Toronto, Canada.

During the 4-day LASA Congress (6-9 October), I attended several sessions related to my doctoral dissertation and research interests, which are concentrated in indigenusness and sexual and reproductive health issues. I met other postgraduate students and senior researchers working on similar subjects, and took this opportunity to refine my ideas with regards to how my own project fits into current research trends in Latin America.

I delivered a presentation, 'Social Representations of Sexual Health among Mexican Indigenous Adolescents', as part of an interdisciplinary panel on 'Health, bodies and medicine', which included doctoral candidates and academic staff from institutions located in North and South America.

Panellists hailed from different academic and geographical backgrounds, and reported varied data from four different Latin American countries. This particular mixture allowed for a dynamic debate and exchange of research-driven knowledge, feedback and contacts. In particular, I received constructive responses to my oral presentation and valuable suggestions for reporting my data and disseminating the results of my research in the future.

I regard my participation in the congress as a great and enriching experience, for which I am most grateful.

## The Awarded Grant

Upon my return from Canada, I received an email from SLAS confirming the award of the grant and, a few days later, I gratefully accepted a cheque for the amount requested.

Receiving this contribution aided me enormously towards covering the costs of the trip. Furthermore, the grant allowed me to avoid spending part of the funds I had allocated for living expenses in London during the last stage of my doctoral studies.

## The Acknowledgements

Taking into consideration the events and experiences reported here, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to SLAS. I would especially like to thank the members of the Committee who evaluated my application, as well as the administrative staff who responded to my queries before and during the application process. As a young Latin American scholar in the UK, I am extremely pleased to know that our studies are supported not only through the network and events of SLAS but also via the financial budget available to SLAS members.

I acknowledged the SLAS award in my presentation both verbally and in the written materials I used. In addition, I expressed full recognition when reporting my participation in the LASA Congress through the newsletter of the academic department where I undertake my studies (Institute of Social Psychology, London School of Economics and Political Science).

## Contact

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