

## SLAS COMMITTEE 2002-2003

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### *Dear SLAS Member,*

One issue which involves most of us, working on Latin America, is the degree of involvement that the United States has in the region. Recently, we have already seen greater evidence of direct activity in Colombia, with greater investment in military hardware and an increase in the level of 'advice' being given both in the fight against drug production and in the escalating internal conflict through the expanding *Plan Colombia*.

In April, there was the strange removal and replacement of President Chavez from office in Venezuela. There were signs that the initial process had received encouragement from the United States, but then was overturned by Venezuelans' determination to maintain the democratic process in their country.

Also alarming, was the way in which the United States managed to force the removal of the chairman of the UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, then levered out Jose Bustani, a highly respected Brazilian diplomat, from his post as the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

This latter intervention came in conjunction with the USA accusing the Cubans of promoting weapons of biological warfare within their nascent but important pharmaceuticals industry. This charge was vigorously refuted in a statement by Fidel Castro. Until this point, responsible observers were led to hope for a change in the US policy towards Cuba. At present, the United States policy throughout Latin America gives real grounds for concern.

*Elizabeth Allen*

**PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT!!**  
**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE, NUMBER 73,**

**The last date will be midday on 15 August 2002.**

**Please note** that this is a month earlier than usual, as the Editor will be carrying out field research at the normal time. Even if your news is only provisional, at that date, please send in your contribution and an address where readers can get in touch, nearer the time of the event, to check the details

**Material and contributions:**

- **Until mid July**, please send material for inclusion to Karen Hegyi at [khegyi@geog.gla.ac.uk](mailto:khegyi@geog.gla.ac.uk)
- **Mid July to mid August:** please send material for inclusion to the Editor, at [gsia05@udcf.gla.ac.uk](mailto:gsia05@udcf.gla.ac.uk)

**Recent attacks of viruses please help us:** the *SLAS Newsletter* received a number of viruses through email attachments, taking much time to clear. We worry that we may get our computers put completely out of action by attachments and discs. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your help and would prefer it if you could include your material into the body of your Email wherever possible.

**Deadline for material to be included in the January Issue of the *SLAS Newsletter*, Issue No. 74, will be midday on 15th December 2002.**

# SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS 2002

## 1. SLAS CONFERENCE REPORT FROM THE ORGANISER

Around 180 Latin Americanists headed for Norwich on the weekend of 22-24 March for the SLAS annual conference which was being held at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia this year. The organisers were pleasantly surprised that so many people were prepared to head for the wilds of Norfolk.

This year's Conference consisted of two plenaries and seventeen panels on a variety of contemporary, historical and literary themes. In all, more than a hundred papers were presented over the two days. Our plenary speakers presented contrasting perspectives on the economic changes that have occurred in Latin America over the last quarter century. On the Friday evening, Professor David Barkin of the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico City provided a critique of Mexican development policy highlighting the tremendous social and environmental costs associated with the neo-liberal model. However he saw cause for optimism in the grassroots initiatives for alternative development that had sprung up around the country. Professor John Williamson of the Institute of International Economics gave a much more positive, although not uncritical assessment of the Washington Consensus in his keynote speech on Saturday.

Like an army, a Conference marches on its stomach and no doubt the success of this year's conference was in large part down to the excellent dinners provided by the Sainsbury Centre restaurant. The wheels of the conference were well oiled by the receptions provided by the School of Development Studies and SLAS on Friday and the Latin America Bureau, marking its 25th anniversary, on Saturday. The cultural side was not forgotten with an opportunity to see the pre-Colombian exhibits in the Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts and the Latin disco on Saturday night which got participants of all ages dancing, although by that stage the organisers were too exhausted to do anything except eat and drink.

**Rhys Jenkins.**

## **2. MINUTES OF THE AGM: 22 March 2002, UEA Norwich**

**1. Minutes of the last AGM (2001, Birmingham).** The President reported that due to several computer malfunctions, the minutes were currently unavailable for the AGM to approve, but they would be included in the next *SLAS Newsletter*.

**2. President's report.** The President gave a report on the Society's progress in 2001-2: *BLAR*, society membership, promotion of the Society, the *SLAS Newsletter*, the implementation of the new constitution, and the new committee elections.

**3. The results of the elections were as follows:** David Fox -treasurer; Gareth Jones - membership secretary; Six ordinary members: Andrew Canessa, Sylvia Chant, Nikki Craske, John Fischer, Rachel Sieder, Peter Lambert.

**4. The results of the Harold Blakemore Prize essay contest** were not announced due to the fact that there had been 15 submissions and the committee had not had enough time to consider them all. The President reported that the results of the contest would be announced as soon as possible in the *SLAS Newsletter* and on the website, and the winners would be notified in writing.

**5. Treasurer's report.** David Fox, SLAS Treasurer, reported that the Society was in good financial heart, with the total income for 2001 at 74,396.39. The Society had sufficient funds to spend on further support for conferences, postgraduate field research visits, and other activities, as well as to run the Society for several years to come.

**6. AOB.** A suggestion was made that next election ballots be distributed by e-mail and with more time be allowed to return the forms. The committee will take this suggestion under consideration.

## **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Committee met on five occasions over the year (in Birmingham, April 2001; London, May 2001; Edinburgh, October 2001; and twice in Norwich, January and March 2002). The issues we dealt with revolved around the following areas:

- The Annual Conferences (Birmingham 2001 and UEA 2002)
- SLAS grants
- SLAS involvement in CCASA (Coordinating Council of Area Studies Associations)
- SLAS involvement in Espacio Común UEALC (Unión Europea América Latina y el Caribe)
- SLAS involvement in CEISAL (Consejo Europeo de Investigaciones Sociales de América Latina)
- The *SLAS Newsletter*
- SLAS membership
- *BLAR*
- Implementation of 2001 Constitution (approved at last year's AGM)

**Annual Conferences:** The Annual Conference in Birmingham was indeed a great success. With over 180 participants, a programme that included 16 sessions, the Committee duly thanked the organisers: Bob Gwynne and his team. It is equally evident, at present, that we are at the beginning of a Conference, here at the UEA, that promises to be as successful, stimulating and exciting as last year's gathering. We have 175 participants, in a conference that boasts sixteen sessions, 100 papers, two noteworthy plenary speakers and a host of cultural activities such as tomorrow's visit to the Sainsbury Art Centre and the Saturday Latin disco de rigor. I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that we are extremely grateful to Rhys Jenkins and his team here at the UEA for having prepared what will no doubt be an inspiring and memorable Conference. I am also pleased to announce that we already have a venue for next year's SLAS Conference, and can therefore inform you that we will be meeting again, around this same time of the year, at the University of Manchester, 11 – 13 April 2003.

**SLAS Grants:** In broad terms it can be said that one of this Committee's main objectives has been to translate the Society's financial well-being into more grants, in an attempt to boost and encourage research in Latin American Studies primarily here in the UK. As a result, this year, further to the existing Harold Blakemore Essay Prize, the SLAS Postgraduate Bursaries for the Annual Conference and the well-established SLAS Postgraduate Travel Grant we have introduced two new grants: (1) The SLAS Conference Grant for Postgraduates and (2) The SLAS Grant for Latin American Scholars. With the first of these two we have formalised the existence of a grant which, unlike the Travel Grant (aimed at assisting postgraduates with their expenses to go to Latin America to carry out field work) is there to assist postgraduates attend conferences outwith the Annual SLAS Conference and the Annual PILAS Conference which already receive financial support from the Society. The second grant, aimed at Latin American scholars in the early stages of their career, has been created to assist Latin American academics attend the SLAS Conference. In summary, you will be pleased to know that, this year alone we will be awarding 6 travel grants this coming year; we awarded 3 Conference grants; we awarded 3 SLAS Grants for Latin American Scholars; provided 14 Postgraduate bursaries to assist the postgraduates' attendance at this Conference; contributed £500 towards the Annual PILAS Conference held in Oxford last November; and that we will be awarding the Harold Blakemore Prize, worth £400 this year, after there were no submissions last year.

As noted in the 2001 Constitution, it is one of the Society's aims to: "sponsor or co-sponsor such other conferences or meetings as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate". As a result, we have also invested SLAS funds in assisting conferences such as: "Peru After Fujimori", Liverpool, November 2001 "New Latin Americanisms", Manchester, June 2002. We have also supported Nikki Craske and David Lehman, who have recently completed a piece on the history of SLAS, with the appointment of a Research Assistant who worked through the SLAS Archive in Liverpool, compiling statistics and data we hope to make available to SLAS members in the near future.

**SLAS in the national and international arenas:** Hand in hand with this mission to extend our financial support of research-related activities in the field of Latin American studies, we have endeavoured to make the Society's presence felt in the national and international arenas. In national terms, last June, your President and Vice President played an active role, together with the Director of the Standing Conference of Centres and Institutes of Latin American Studies, in drafting the new constitution of CCASA. We subsequently proposed Cathy Davies, Manchester, for President of CCASA and our nomination was supported by the Standing Conference. Although the elections were meant to be called last October, with the vote taking place in November 2001, neither we nor the Standing Conference have heard from the Acting President of CCASA. No doubt once the elections are called we will strive to have Cathy Davies elected, thus ensuring that CCASA actively represents the interests of Latin American studies. In international terms, we remain members of CEISAL, but are no longer on their Junta Directiva, formed last June in Moscow. We continue to believe that we should play a major role in this European confederation/umbrella- organisation of associations, institutes and centres of Latin American studies – and will thus be hoping to be represented at the next CEISAL meeting, to be held at the 3rd CEISAL Conference, in Amsterdam, this coming June.

In international terms, I also represented SLAS, courtesy of the Spanish Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deportes, at the first meeting of the UEALC – Espacio Común, held in Murcia, last October. Although my function there was merely advisory, using this initial contact to offer a brief exposé on who SLAS is and what we do, advertising, in the process, all of the main Institutes and Centres in the UK, it is important that you are informed of initiatives which are being pursued in mainland Europe which concern academic links with Latin America. Following the declaration of Paris 2000, the EU intends to extend its existing Erasmus/Socrates networks to Latin America, beyond the current Alfa programmes. The so-called UEALC – Espacio Común is thus pressing on with its proposals and you can visit their website at: <http://www.um.es/uealc>.

**On-going problems:** There have been problems, as well, and these need to be noted. The most troubling one related to **the fall in SLAS Members** suffered this year, in great part due to the teething problems that have resulted from us devolving the management of our membership fees to Blackwell. However, I can now state that the drop in membership was not as dramatic as previously feared. Whilst we had 407 individual members when Blackwell took over the publication of *BLAR* and our members' subscriptions, we currently have 310.

Notwithstanding this drop, the highly successful rise in institutional subscriptions to *BLAR*, (479 now, where there was only 281 previously), has meant that we are financially better off than we were previously. This year alone, *BLAR*, through Blackwell, has provided SLAS with an income of £15,000, to which we must add our membership income of £5,324 and our £992 share of the surplus: total equals £21,316. This does not mean that we intend to sit back and forget the fact that almost 100 members have not renewed their membership. Following this afternoon's meeting with representatives from Blackwell, we intend to work closely to encourage the members that still have not renewed to do so. Blackwell are offering to arrange a special offer for these customers, encouraging them to renew for 2002 and receive the 2001 volume of *BLAR* at a heavily reduced rate. We are also negotiating the possibility of having Blackwell accept Standing Orders, avoiding in so doing, the kind of blips we suffered in January when many members had not yet renewed their membership. I think we will agree that the Blackwell run of *BLAR* issues has been absolutely first class and I hasten to note our gratitude to the Senior Editor, Paul Garner, who will be standing down as from now, replaced temporarily by Ronnie Munck, and to Nikki Craske who resigned as Editor in October, replaced by Nicola Miller.

**With regards *BLAR*** – its success is clearly beginning to cause logistical and time-related problems for those SLAS members who serve as the Journal's editors. There is a certain inevitability about the increasing professionalisation of the *BLAR*, if not SLAS. As an example, by having a different editor take on the administration of book reviews every so often, publishers are continuously sending sample copies to the wrong address. The increasing administrative burdens of the editors are beginning to show. It is for this reason that we are

currently considering giving *BLAR* a permanent address. Mirroring the way in which the *Journal of Latin American Studies* is hosted by the Institute of Latin American Studies in London, we are currently exploring the possibility of having the Institute of Latin American Studies in Liverpool become the permanent home of *BLAR*. Needless to say, such an arrangement would require the appointment of a part-time secretary. The Committee, the Director of ILAS, Liverpool and Blackwell are presently looking into how this idea may be implemented.

**With regards the *SLAS Newsletter*** – Once again problems outside our control led to the latest issues being sent out later than we had intended. Notwithstanding this, the *SLAS Newsletter* remains a fantastic means of spreading information about the Society’s members and I would like to thank Elizabeth Allen for the first class job she continues to do as the Editor of the *SLAS Newsletter*.

**Elections:** The last major issue we had to overcome was the implementation of the new Constitution. Ironically, despite elections being now constitutionally in place... there was no need for an election to be held. In other words, had there been more nominations than vacancies in the Committee (which is what we expected), we would have been circulating the nominees’ views and balloting the membership by post. As it happens there were eight names for eight places: Treasurer: David Fox; Membership Secretary: Gareth Jones; Ordinary Committee Officers: Andrew Canessa, Sylvia Chant, Nikki Craske, John Fisher Peter Lambert, Rachel Sieder. Please note that, according to the new Constitution, these Committee members will remain in place for the next two years. And I leave you with the Treasurer, wishing everybody a fantastic conference.

**Will Fowler, President of SLAS.**

## **1. SLAS ACCOUNTS 2001: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Triodos Bank	25,000.00	Cmtee Mtg travel costs	1,465.46
B/F Abbey National	29,555.63	Administration	243.54
B?F Nat West	869.56	CCSA 2000	100.-00
Subscriptions	2,479.00	SLAS Newsletter prod.	2,390.00
Interest	2,157.00	SLAS Newsletter prod	1,200.71
		98/99/2000	

conference 2000	590.00	BLAR 2000	1,117.00
Subs: LARR	267.00	BLAR2001	980.10
BLAR 2000	13,119.00	Conference 2001	395.60
PILAS	33.72	Harold Blakemore Prize	
Ads	75.00	Bank charges	16.00
Conference 2001	250.00	Subs LARR	204.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,396.39</b>	PILAS	500.00
		pg travel awards 2000	500.00
		pg travel awards 2001	3,700.00
		pg conference awards	680.00
		Conf:Women in Sp.Stds	300.00
		Conf: Commonw'lth Fnd	600.00
		Conf:Peru after Fujimori	850.00
		Refund subs	188.00
		C/F Nat West	603.45
		C/FTriodos Bank	25,000.00
		C/F Abbey National	33,362.31
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,396.39</b>

## 2. SLAS ACCOUNTS 2001: SLAS PATTERNS

<b>Income</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
subscriptions	4465	4396	5675	5658	2291
Conference	-2453	-985	23	54	-925
BLAR	9669	11221	12512	13119	15000
Interest	1538	202015	2462	2157	
<b>Expenditure</b>					
SLAS Newsletter	1887	2125	3180	3680	2390
BLAR	4300	3946	4370	1117	980
Committee	1443	1136	2220	1535	1709
pgs	1325	2035	4132	5586	4857
Other conf's			550	1000	1750
<b>Assets Jan1st</b>	<b>40935</b>	<b>43848</b>	<b>51333</b>	<b>55169</b>	<b>64005</b>
Change in yr.	3174	7485	3836	8836	9960
HB Fund	2444	2041	1711	1575	1628

#### **4. REPORT ON *BLAR* 2002**

The *Bulletin of Latin American Research (BLAR)* has undergone a number of changes since last the SLAS annual conference. Four issues have appeared under the imprint of our new publisher Blackwells. There has been a slight drop in circulation but that is due to subscription problems as the general reception of the 'new look' *BLAR* has been uniformly favourable. We have initiated a new section called Debate which seeks do just that on key issues for Latin Americanists, which has attracted favourable comment. We have done rather more special issues which many academics like for teaching purposes. Submission rates for material have improved although we are still not attracting enough from Latin America itself I believe.

There have been a number of changes in personnel. Nikki Craske has been replaced by Nicola Miller as Reviews Editor and Paul Garner has been replaced by Ronnie Munck as Co-ordinating Editor. There is a search for a new editor now under way and suggestions should be forwarded to myself, or Will Fowler. There is also consideration being given to housing the journal at ILAS Liverpool with a view to providing better continuity. Views on this proposal are also welcome.

**Ronaldo Munck (r.p.munck@liv.ac.uk), Co-ordinating Editor, *BLAR***

#### **5. SLAS POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS 2002**

The *Society for Latin American Studies* is delighted to announce that the following postgraduates have been awarded SLAS Travel Awards this year - Congratulations to you all ! Sean William Burges, University of Warwick; Nicola Foote, University College London; Jennifer S. Fraser, Birkbeck College, University of London; Juliet Hill, University; Anne Catherine Luke, University of Wolverhampton; Sabine Pallas, University of Glasgow; and Lawrence Weston, University of Nottingham Trent

**Will Fowler, President of SLAS.**

#### **6. HAROLD BLAKEMORE ESSAY PRIZE 2003 AWARD**

The Society for Latin American Studies invites current or recent postgraduates of British Universities to submit an essay for consideration for the Harold Blakemore Prize. The generosity of the many donors to the memorial fund administered by the Society means that the prize is £200. The subject of the essay should fall within the field of Latin American Studies and the work should not have been published elsewhere. Essays submitted in previous years should not be resubmitted, and former winners of the prize may not apply. The winning essay may be considered by the Editors for publication in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. Two copies of the essay, which should be double spaced and no more than 8,000 words in length, should be submitted to the President of the Society by 1st March 2003. A panel of judges for the prize will be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Society at the University of Manchester, at the SLAS Annual conference 11-13 April 2003. Contact Dr. Will Fowler, President, Society for Latin American Studies, Dept. of Spanish, St. Salvator's College, University of St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AL, Tel: 01334 476161, Fax: 01334 463 677, e-mail: wmf1@st-and.ac.uk

## **7. SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003:**

### **CALL FOR CONVENORS, PANELS, & PAPERS**

The 2003 Annual Conference of the Society for Latin American Studies will take place at the University of Manchester, UK, from Friday 11th April until Sunday 13th April 2003. Further details will be announced in the October *SLAS Newsletter*, and will also be posted on latam-info and on the SLAS Website in due course (<http://www.slas.org.uk>). Dr Paul Cammack is the organiser, at the Department of Government, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 0161 2754899. E-mail: paul.cammack@man.ac.uk He would be pleased to receive proposals for whole symposia on any subject or theme related to Latin America, as well as any offer of papers.. Please send your proposals to Paul Cammack or to the SLAS Secretary, Victoria Carpenter, EHSL, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby DE22 1GB. Tel: 01332 591607. Fax: 01332 597736. E-mail: V.Carpenter@derby.ac.uk

### **PLENARY SESSION: A SUMMARY**

## **MEXICO: 25 YEARS LATER Towards a new understanding**

**David Barkin, Univ Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco, Mexico City**

Mexico is the wunderkind of Latin America. After suffering the “lost decade “ of the 1980s, alongside most of the other countries of the region, apparently, the country has been successfully “retooled” to meet the challenges of globalization. Not only did it reorganize its productive structure so as to take advantage of its accession to the GATT (now World Trade Organization, or WTO) and implement a thorough unraveling of trade barriers that led to an important increase in international trade, but it also has made the transition required by its integration into the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In the midst of a litany of social and economic disasters in other parts of the hemisphere –from the profound crisis of Argentine society, the challenges facing Venezuela, the continuing toll of violence in Colombia, to the seemingly intractable problems of setting the Central American republics on a path towards economic development– why should I choose to focus on the problems facing Mexico in this period and in the coming years? Rather than attributing this nay saying to the whims of a “spoilsport,” I would ask you to consider my analysis as a basis for reflection about the profound contradictions wreaking havoc on the country and about the dangers of continuing with the present strategy of unbridled international integration. Finally, I will end on a positive note, considering some possible alternatives that groups in Mexico are already attempting to implement.

### **A brief economic history:**

Without going into details of methodology or the niceties of its social significance, I find that a brief exploration of the purchasing power of minimum wages in Mexico a convenient metaphor for following the country’s economic history during much of the XX century<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Many of these details, along with an analysis of the history, can be found in my book, *Distorted Development: Mexico in the world economy* (Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 1990)

Suffice it to say, for present purposes that after a lengthy period of unprecedented prosperity from 1935 to 1970, popularly known as the Mexican miracle, a seemingly endless series of crises ushered in a period of declining real wages that brought the minimum wage index its lowest point, since it was instituted in 1934. Although its social significance is different today, than it was at its zenith in 1976, there is no question that real wages have been declining for a substantial part of the population for more than a quarter century, and that more than one-half of the population finds itself living in poverty.<sup>2</sup>

The deterioration in personal incomes was accompanied by a dramatic shift in the geographic distribution activity. With a new emphasis on the maquiladora as the source of dynamism for the integration of the economy into the global marketplace beginning in the mid-1980s, the northern border region acquired a new significance that it is still unprepared to manage. More than 3,000 firms were established, employing in excess of 1.3 million people at its highest point, in the semi-arid reaches of the Mexico's "semi-arid" north; concentrated in four enormous cities (Tijuana, Cd. Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, and Matamoros) and more than a dozen smaller border cities, local governments do not have the fiscal resources or administrative and human capacity to manage this unbridled growth. Internal migration became a powerful force, polarizing the country by reorienting population growth northward.

A second source of economic growth, the automotive sector, has also been thoroughly transformed with integration. It went from being a highly protected industry producing high cost products for the local market, to an important part of a global industry assembling vehicles with parts produced in all three NAFTA countries, and boasting at least one of the most highly productive plants on a

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<sup>2</sup> The leading academic analyst of the statistics about living standards and income levels, Julio Boltvinik, estimates that a family now requires more than six minimum salaries to be able to live above the officially established level of poverty, well above the income of more than three-quarters of Mexico's households. He also sustains that more than 40% of the population is now living in extreme poverty, a living standard that does not allow for acquiring and/or producing the bare minimum of goods need for mere survival.

global scale. This industry was also relocated from its historical orientation to the concentrated local markets in the central part of the country to new installations in the deserts of northern Mexico to facilitate the importation of auto parts and the export of finished vehicles; this further heightened pressures on scarce water resources and desert ecosystems, and encouraged even more migration from the declining states in central and southern Mexico.

Ironically, in spite of the dynamic growth of these two sectors, the Mexican foreign trade balance has been in deficit since the early 1990s. Although somewhat reduced in the most recent period because of the sharp decline in real incomes, the “deconstruction” of the industrial sector and national policies facilitating imports has led to a very important increase in foreign trade, and most especially the import of inputs for the production of consumer goods. Unfortunately, this led to the massive import of basic agricultural products, thereby placing the peasantry at risk, along with tens of thousands of small enterprises, unable to survive foreign competition<sup>3</sup>.

### **The Bottom Line:**

Mexico’s people have gone from riches to rags. During the decades following the Revolution, Mexico enjoyed years industrial growth, the consolidation of an industrial labor force, and the modernization of agriculture, along with important improvements in living standards, and the availability of educational opportunities and medical services. While it is true that inequality in Mexico increased substantially and political control grew progressively more oppressive, by the mid-1960s there was a sense of optimism that pervaded the country, incorporating virtually every segment of society.

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<sup>3</sup> An analysis of the structure of imports and exports confirms the broad changes in the economy painted in these summary statements. The country’s exports were dramatically transformed from primary products – petroleum and agricultural – to manufactured products, from the maquiladoras and the auto industry. Similarly, “intermediate” goods for domestic industry have increased their participation in imports, to supply the parts and materials needed for the manufacture of the products to be exported.

The dramatic reverses of the late-1960s and political unrest generated by the inability of the system to continue delivering on the promises of the “revolution of rising expectations” ushered in a lengthy period of multiple crises and political struggle. During the first half of the 1970s, significant segments of the capitalist class engaged in class warfare against the central government’s attempt to protect wages, initiating an unprecedented halt of investment activity that thrust the country a process of social and economic conflict. It would take more than a decade for the dust to settle, after which a new group of financiers were in control and were reshaping the economy to prepare it for its full integration into the global marketplace.

The decline in real wages and living standards was accompanied by the burgeoning of the informal economy and the emergence of a process of social disintegration and a flourishing drug economy. A deceptive period of social calm followed, a result of a new period of price stability achieved by the imposition of a draconian incomes policy; a creative package of “bribes” bought widespread popular support for policies to promote international integration.<sup>4</sup>

Mexico’s pretension to become part of the “first world” was symbolized by its incorporation into the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the opening of negotiations for its accession to the North American Free Trade Agreement. The imbalances created by an overvalued exchange rate, financial improprieties and the dismantling of the domestic productive structure provoked the devastating devaluation of December 1995 that caused widespread suffering extending into the middle class and merchant sectors. The new model is dependent on foreign investment (in new plants, in securities and in Mexico’s foreign and internal debt) offers attractive opportunities to young professionals in the financial, communications and information technology sectors.

### **Alternative models for social and economic organization**

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<sup>4</sup> These bribes included massive imports of cheap clothing (tennis shoes, cotton underwear, and other items from China) for the working classes, preferential credit terms for housing and consumer electronics for the middle classes, and permits to import luxury automobiles for the very wealthy, among other programs.

Not all Mexicans are passively waiting to be pulled down into this morass of declining real wages and increasing immiserization. In spite of its seeming irrationality,<sup>5</sup> millions of peasant families continue to plant native maizes for their own use and that of their neighbors. As many as 15 million people are claiming membership in ethnic communities, although many of them no longer speak an indigenous language or otherwise qualify for such status by census standards (which reports about 6 million indigenous people).

In the aftermath of the Zapatista uprising in 1994, hundreds –if not thousands– of indigenous communities have affiliated with the Congreso Nacional Indígena and embarked on local and regional programs to insulate themselves better from the problems of the national economy. These communities are searching for ways to exercise a modicum of self-governance in their internal organizations and in the management of their territories.

Without going into more detail than would be appropriate in this short presentation, suffice it to say that indigenous and peasant communities are searching for ways to strengthen their organizations and their ability to survive at the margins of globalized society. In addition to maintaining relations with migrants and continuing to produce their basic needs locally, they are looking for ways to diversify their economies. Among the areas that are becoming important are ecotourism, artisan production and water management. I have been working with several of these projects and can succinctly summarize their strengths: they involve initiatives that attempt to identify ways of inserting innovations into existing community structures to produce new commodities and services. They are most successful when the goods can be placed in niche markets that protect the producers from the withering forces of international competition or costly systems of intermediation. In other instances the projects offer communities the opportunity to produce marketable services (e.g., culture- or eco-tourism) or establish ecosystem management programs that generate income from joint implementation programs under the Kyoto Convention for Combating Climate Change or regional efforts to protect or enhance watersheds and forests.

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<sup>5</sup> Because sowing the grains locally costs more than importing them from

The most successful of these programs to construct alternatives to globalization have a common commitment to not simply relying on new products or services. They explicitly include programs to reinforce local capacities for social, productive and environmental management along with some measure of investment to maintain or expand the local or regional possibility of supplying the basic commodities required for survival and community welfare. Thus, the process of diversifying the productive structure is predicated on strengthening existing institutions and defending inherited productive and ecosystem management practices. These are the fundamental elements for moving towards the sustainable management of regional resources<sup>6</sup>.

## **SLAS 2002: ANNUAL CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA**

This section contains the reports submitted by the convenors of the panels at the SLAS Annual Conference, at the time the SLAS Newsletter went to press. Further reports may be included in the next issue, in October. For more information, or copies of the papers presented, please contact the convenors.

### **PANEL 1 LATIN AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY: WHERE IS IT GOING?**

The panel on the future of Latin America's democracy was a great success. Fourteen papers were presented covering issues such as: an analysis of the

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countries where lower interest rates and subsidies are significant.

<sup>6</sup> For more information about some of the projects in which I am involved that are attempting to assist communities in applying these principles, consult the following articles: "Overcoming the Neoliberal Paradigm: Sustainable popular development." In: Henry Veltmeyer and Anthony O'Malley, (eds.), *Transcending Neoliberalism: Community-based development in Latin America*, Kumarian Press, 2001, pp. 184-204; "Water and Forests as Instruments for Sustainable Regional Development" *International Journal of Water* Vol. 1:1 (2000). With Carlos Pailles. Pp. 71-79; "Innovations in Indigenous Production Systems to Maintain Tradition." In: C. Flora (ed.), *Interactions Between Agroecosystems and Rural Human Community*, Miami, FL: CRC Press, 2001. With Lourdes Baron. Pp. 211-219. "La nueva ruralidad y la globalización." In: E. Pérez y M. Farah (eds.), *La Nueva Ruralidad en América Latina*, Bogotá: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, 2001.

theories of the Latin American state; civil-military relations; gender and the state; and policy-making processes in Mexico and Chile. It also included an analysis of democracy from different perspectives in Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. The last session was a round-table where all participants and the audience discussed the future of the democracy.

The main conclusions addressed how to improve the substantive quality of democracy, local participation and its impact on democracy at different levels, and the different issues that countries in Latin America are facing such as the Venezuelan experience, the Colombian conflict, the Argentine crisis. There was a general optimism about the future of Latin America's democracy which gave us the motivation to start thinking about research projects, collaborative work and next SLAS in Manchester. I would like to thank all the participants and assistants for making this panel so interesting and enjoyable.

**Laura Tedesco, Sch of Devt. Studies, Univ. of East Anglia**

## **PANEL 2 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA: ALTERNATIVES TO NEO-LIBERALISM.**

The panel opened with a paper on 'Power, ideology and the Washington Consensus: the development and spread of Chilean housing policy' by **Alan Gilbert**, University College London, U.K. Alan's paper debunked the view that neo-liberal social policy models were directly exported from Washington to passive Latin American states. Taking the example of housing policy in Chile, he showed that the policy lead was often taken by Chicago educated ministers in Santiago, well before organisations like the World Bank had developed clear policy models in this area.

This was followed by a paper on 'From the weak to the strong' Social protection in Latin America' by **Armando Barrientos** of IPDM, University of Manchester, U.K. Armando combined global value chains and social protection matrices to examine the vulnerability and wellbeing of workers engaged in the Chilean grape industry. He found these workers to be highly vulnerable, and with minimal access to social protection of any kind.

**Brian Linneker** from Middlesex University discussed 'Civil Society Responses to Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nicaragua.' His paper considered the policy context within which the Poverty Reduction Strategy Proposal is being prepared in Nicaragua as part of the conditions for entry onto the HIPC initiative. He considered some recent official evidence on the magnitude, distribution and change in the depth of poverty in Nicaragua, before Hurricane Mitch, over the period 1993 to 1998. He also examined the role of the Civil Coordinator for Emergency and Reconstruction, a civil society network expression which came together after Hurricane Mitch.

The paper on 'Democratizing Development: The Participatory Budgeting Approach to Administration, Redistribution, and Partisan Competition' by **Aaron Schneider** from the Institute of Development Studies explored how this has been successfully been applied in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He observed that the scheme has attracted hundreds of thousands of participants and has had significant results, both socially and politically. Aaron argued that the approach could represent a potential alternative to neo-liberal policy processes, although he pointed out that the same participatory strategies could promote social exclusion if they were applied in a less propitious political setting.

This was followed by a discussion of 'The Social Construction of New Citizens: the NGO Phenomenon in the Brazilian Amazonia' by **Benjamin Buclet** from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France. This paper evaluated and analyzed the consequences of the recent empowerment of NGOs in the management of a wide variety of social issues in Brazilian Amazonia. Benjamin asked whether the NGO phenomenon truly enlarging the limits of democracy to include the excluded, or is it simply contributing to the creation of an institutional sub-world? He identified a new form of social management. NGOs position themselves as intermediaries between the population they work with and public authorities, implementing numerous "development activities" with a wide variety of objectives often linked to health, education and labor issues.

**Ruth Pearson**, from Centre for Development Studies, University of Leeds showed a video and gave a talk about 'The Red Global de Trueque in Buenos Aires: the people's alternative currency.' Since the 1990s, the Buenos Aires based "Global Barter Network" has established itself as an innovative and effective social safety net, particularly for the "new poor". Ruth discussed the extent to which this is a replicable model, and whether it is sustainable in the current crisis period.

This was followed by a paper on 'Occupational Health in the Mexican Maquiladora Industry.' by **Alfonso Mercado** (Colmex, México) and Elizabeth Cueva (Colef). Drawing on the findings of a large quantitative survey, they evaluated the compliance of occupational health standards by Mexican maquiladoras. They also discussed the firms' performance in the prevention of labour accidents and illnesses. Some obstacles and some favourable factors for improving this performance were explored.

**Peter Lloyd-Sherlock**, from the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia discussed 'Financing health services for pensioners in Argentina: a salutary tale.' Drawing on the findings of a Nuffield Trust funded project, his paper examined the problems facing a pensioner health care financing programme in Argentina, known as PAMI. The Programme is accumulating large deficits and many of its services are of doubtful quality. PAMI's problems and its resistance to reforms are put in a wider context of Argentina's liberalised health care system, neo-liberal adjustment and flawed governance. The Argentine experience has relevance to other developing countries with weak state regulatory capacity, and points to the dangers of delegating old health financing to the private sector.

A paper on 'The turning points in The World Bank urban policies: the case of Brazil.' was presented by **Ana Cavalcanti**, who is Assistant Professor at Universidade Federal de Alagoas, and Visiting Researcher at the Brazil Center, University of Texas. Ana observed that multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank, have largely shaped urban policy making worldwide. In most cases, the urban policy advocated by the Bank for cities in developing countries have

demanded high investments that have been granted through loans programs from the Bank to Southern governments. Her paper examines North-South relations in urban policies. It investigates the role of multilateral agencies in shifting urban policy paradigms, with special reference to the Brazilian case, by means of discussing the assistance strategies on the urban sector used by the Bank to the country. The main aspects highlighted in this work are the turning points in urban policy that have occurred in an panorama in which multilateral agencies give emphasis to the neoliberal agendas in the course of adjusting agendas.

The final paper in the panel was on 'Storytelling as a Political Tool: A Case Study from the Nicaraguan Women's Movement.' by **Katherine Isbester**. Katherine began with some pertinent observations about Williamson's keynote address, arguing that the Washington Consensus continues to draw on an essentially utopian narrative. She went on to argue that "story telling" can be a powerful tool for social movements to influence policy agendas. Using Nicaragua as a case study, she considered the role of storytelling in raising awareness about domestic violence against women, and in leading to legislation.

**Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, School of Development Studies, Univ. of East Anglia.**

### **PANEL 3 CUBA: THE PROCESS OF SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT**

**CONTINUES? Convenor: Ken Cole, Univ of East Anglia.**

### **PANEL 4 TOPICS IN THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA**

**Convenor: Gustavo San Roman, St Andrews University**

### **PANEL 5 LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: ANALYSIS AND DEBATE**

**Convenor: Victoria Carpenter, University of Derby.**

### **PANEL 6 LATIN AMERICAN PRESS HISTORY**

**Convenor: Maria Teresa Cortes Zavala, Univ. Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo, Mexico**

## **PANEL 7 RESHAPING SOCIAL PROTEST IN LATIN AMERICA: PASSIVE RESISTANCE OR REINVENTING UTOPIA?**

This symposium analysed the revitalisation of traditional forms of resistance and the emergence of new forms of social protest in Latin America in the context of the economic, political, social and cultural transformations produced by neo-liberal stabilisation policies and economic adjustments in the region. In the first session titled Social Protest and Human Rights in Chile and Argentina, there were 15 participants and two presentations. The first one, The Agrupación Chilena de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos: From Ritual Protest to Social Protest 1976-2001 by **Mario Aguilar**, from the University of St. Andrews (mia2@st-andrews.ac.uk) presented the case of the movement of the Agrupación Chilena de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos (AChFDD). The paper suggested that within periods of massive social repression small communal movements act as social catalysts for individuals that were expected to remain private due to persecution, physical and psychological torture.

The second presentation On Conflict, Identities and Human Rights: Social Protests and the Problem of Justice in Argentina in the 1990s by **Sebastián Pereyra** from the Univ of Buenos Aires, Argentina (Sepereyra@ciudad.com.ar), analysed the significance of human rights movements as they contributed to define the core elements of the protest repertoire in the 1990s.

Session two Latin America: Violence and the Globalisation of Resistance had 25 participants and two presentations. The first one was Violence, Neo-liberalism and Social Protest in Latin America by **Carlos Figueroa Ibarra** from the University Autonoma de Puebla, Mexico (cfiguero@siu.buap.mx). His paper discussed violence and social protest in Latin America in the post Cold War context, and opened the discussion about what is new and what is old in the current social and political process in Latin America. The second paper, The Zapatista Movement in Mexico: A local struggle going Global? by **Nicolina Montessori**, University of Lancaster (nicolienmontessori@hotmail.com), addressed the issue of power relations and social networks as well as opposition

groups developed in the case of the Zapatistas movement, by looking at the Zapatistas discourse.

Session three, with 12 participants, was dedicated to Argentina: Crisis and Social Protest. The first paper, The Battle of Buenos Aires: Popular Rebellion and the Power of the Unrealised, by **Ana C. Dinerstein** from the University of Bath (A.C.Dinerstein@bath.ac.uk), provided an interpretation of the Argentine crisis through the prism of the forms of mobilisation and participation which preceded and followed it. She suggested that the crisis epitomised two simultaneous processes: the process of collapse of Stability as a particular form of capital's command over society; and the process of recomposition and empowerment of new forms of labour and social resistance which emerged from the bosom of stability and stood against it.

The second paper Social Struggles in Today Argentina by **Maria C Cotarelo and Nicolas Iñigo Carreras** from PIMSA (Programa de Investigacion del Movimiento de la Sociedad Argentina) Buenos Aires (Pimsa@piluso.clacso.edu.ar), offered the results of their research on the different forms of social struggle carried out by the working class and other popular classes since the end of the decade of 1980 until today and discuss methodological criteria both in terms of an appropriate understanding of these forms and in terms of their periodisation. A third paper by **Paula Klachko** (Raff@ad.com.ar) also from PIMSA, Argentina: Social Conflict in Argentina in the 1990s. Analysis of paradigmatic cases, was also mentioned and circulated. The paper addressed the roadblocks in Cutral-Có and Plaza Huincol in 1996 and 1997.

In the Round Table session all participants to the forum discussed the main issues addressed in the papers. We organised the discussion around the question posed in the title of the symposium: Social Protest in Latin America: Passive Resistance or Reinventing Utopia? Debates included the political significance of the Zapatista's proposal, particularly the notion of dignity; the significance of the Forum of Porto Alegre, the emergence of new social subjects and the still importance of the working class in current social protest and

struggles; the change in the paradigm of revolutionary projects vis-a-vis the power of the state; the meaning of revolutionary armed forces like the FARC in Colombia and the use of violence, the role of social scientists in creating a new political utopian discourse. Some of us were more optimistic than others with regard to the future of the region. Although we did not reach any conclusion, we did agree with that the present time is a special and exciting moment in which there is scope for the emergence of new subjects and forms of protest, as well as for a reshaping of old forms of resistance for the reinvention of utopia. But of course this depends on the subjects themselves and on the context of their struggles. Papers available from the authors or the convenor of the panel.

**Ana C. Dinerstein, Dept of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath**

#### **PANEL 8: 'ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA'**

There were two sessions in this panel, and there were four presentations. These are the titles, presenters, and abstracts of the papers:

**Gabriel R. Molteni**, (London School of Economics), Economic Ideas in Argentina during the inter-war period. Refighting old battles? The paper focused on the economic ideas of Alejandro E. Bunge, the main economic thinker and economic reformist during the inter-war period in Argentina. The importance of Bunge's works lies in the fact that he provided a clear and coherent diagnosis of the Argentine economic development problems during that time. During his life, Bunge held a critical attitude towards Classical Economics and its main theories, mainly directed towards its method and content, its scope and objectives, and its interpretation and emphasis. This critique was sometimes explicit, and sometimes implicit. Along all his writings, it is possible to find criticism on the applied methodology, on the underlying assumptions or axioms, on general statements, on generalisations treated as 'laws', on inadequacies of exposition, and so on. As a result, he claimed that orthodox thought was, by its own nature, ill fitted for identifying and answering the needs of a particular country as Argentina.

**Mritiunjoy Mohanty**, (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta), Financial Structure and the Effectiveness of Monetary Policy: the Mexican case - from revolution to the crisis of 1982. Most discussions on monetary policy

effectiveness tend to take place in an institutional void. This paper traces the institutional evolution of Mexico's financial markets between the Mexican Revolution and debt crisis of 1982 and discusses how this institutional structure and changes therein informed, constrained and facilitated monetary policy. The choice of time period was dictated by the fact that the two events that frame the discussion altered the structure of Mexican financial markets and therefore the institutional context within which monetary policy was executed. It has been argued that the relative ineffectiveness of the Mexican state in achieving its monetary policy goals during this period - specifically, its inability to direct the use of credit - had to do with the existence of financial grupos. The paper argues however that this had less to do with the existence of grupos and more with the institutional features of the financial system. As a counterpoint, the paper briefly discusses the Japanese case.

**Vidal Llerenas**, (University of York) ,The Mexican process of decentralisation: Statecraft and historical institutionalism. Since the 80s the Mexican government has promoted policies of decentralisation in education, health and basic infrastructure services. However, even when the federal government is devolving a greater proportion of fiscal resources than ever before, it is doing so in a way that ensures control over policies and resources. The paper attempts to explain the outcomes of the Mexican process of decentralisation by analysing how an elite in office constrained by historical institutions used policies decentralisation in a strategy way in order to keep the power.

**Carmen Ledo**, (Delft University of Technology),Urban Inequalities and Social Exclusion in the city of Cochabamba-Bolivia. The general objective of this research is to study the relationship between spatial-temporal urban development processes and social changesbetween 1970's-1990's, in Cochabamba - Bolivia. The hypotheses concern: Urban stages; the urban development of the main cities and job/opportunities there; and the identification of the inequalities and social exclusion in Cochabamba. The research is also concerned with urban morphology dynamics (through time), depicting any change that occurs in the process of urbanisation or urban development. Five types of data were collected giving information about Socio-economic Status, Social-spatial Status, Living

Conditions, Position in Life Cycle and Vulnerability. These information sets characterize the respondents. The conclusions focus on identifying the interventions of the municipality in favour or against any social group infringe the citizens' freedom and perpetuate a climate of insecurity, violence and urban segregation. Emphasis is on the development of a framework to identify critical variables, and to elaborate processes and methodologies to integrate considerations of spatial scale with the concept of sustainable urban development.

**Gabrial Moltoni, London School of Economics**

### **PANEL 9. REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

The Panel on was held on Sunday morning, and gathered four papers divided into two session. The papers in the first session focused on different aspects of Mexico's integration into NAFTA. **Miguel Angel Jiménez**, from the London School of Economics, presented a paper on "Regional, vertical and horizontal integration within NAFTA and the regional economic restructuring in Mexico". His article investigated how globalisation and regional integration of the Mexican economy into NAFTA has led to changes in the regional economic structure of Mexico. The presentation offered quantitative (non-econometric) and qualitative analyses on the economic shifts undergone by certain sectors and the impact on labour markets.

**Gavin O'Toole**, from Queen Mary, University of London, considered instead the tension in Mexico between integration and nationalism by focusing on a key question addressed by the administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari between 1988-94: how to maintain sovereignty and national identity in an era of globalisation. Gavin's paper, "Integration and Nationalism in Mexico during the Salinas sexenio", drew attention to the political role key myths engendered by nationalism, such as sovereignty, continued to play in Mexico amid neoliberal reforms that, in theory, challenged national frontiers. This issue, Gavin argued, had more than rhetorical importance because of the potential strength of opposition to NAFTA and rapprochement with the US.

After the coffee break, the second session hosted another two papers. **Rafael Sánchez** from the University of Sheffield, made an interesting presentation on “Government Preferences on Central American Integration: A Comparative Analysis of El Salvador and Costa Rica in the 1990s”. Rafael highlighted commonalities and divergences in the positions of these states, and their strategies and views of integration. Rafael did so by analysing domestic and structural factors accounting for governments’ preference formation from an intergovernmentalist perspective.

Finally, **Andrea Oelsner**, from the London School of Economics, looked into the transformations in the Argentine-Brazilian relationship and their mutual perceptions since the late 1970s. In her paper “Transformations in the Southern Cone of South America: Brazil and Argentina and the emergence of a Security Community”, Andrea argued that the dramatic improvement of bilateral relationship led to a top-down construction of an incipient Pluralistic Security Community, bringing about parallel changes in the mutual and self perceptions of its members, not only at the governmental level but also at the level of society.

After the presentations, participants contributed with questions that enriched the debate and made the event even more enjoyable. The Panel on “Regional Integration in Latin America”, as well as the SLAS Annual Conference resulted in an enlightening experience that contributed to expanding our understanding of regional integration dynamics. I am sure that both panellists and participants in the Forum and Conference will agree on this.

**Andrea Oelsner, London School of Economics, London.**

#### **PANEL 10 : CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AMAZONIA**

This panel set out to explore some of the challenges to attempts to integrate environmental conservation and development in Amazonia and how different institutional arrangements develop to mediate these relationships and to adapt to rapidly evolving cultural, political, social and environmental change Three papers were presented.

**Sergio Rosendo** gave a paper entitled 'Institutional synergies in natural resource management: insights from extractive reserves' which outlined the interactions between institutions at different scales and the issue of 'scaling up' where local collective action institutions become part of wider networks and social movements in the case of the development of extractivist reserves in Brazilian Amazonia. Support for extractivist communities has been concentrated at an organisation at state level, the OSR which has been empowered above for example community level institutions.

**Aili Pyhala's** presentation, 'Participation, institutions and protected area management' discussed how ideas about 'participation' although firmly embedded in development discourse and practice is relatively new in conservation. Examination of the creation of the Allpahuayo-Mishana reserve in Peruvian Amazonia shows how conservation approaches exclude local communities in many ways; through an external definition of problems, design of solutions and imposition of organisational structures. A failure to identify and recognise local institutions for resource management results in numerous problems of fit particularly regarding property rights and power.

**Marcia Muchagata** presented a jointly authored paper on 'Integrating agrarian and environmental policy in Amazonia' outlining the policy processes associated with the new agrarian policy. PRONAF, and the Environmental Crimes legislation in Brazil. These two policies developed in very different ways with greater civil society participation in PRONAF. However there is very little integration of environmental and agrarian concerns at any level, which severely militates against more effective resource management.

The discussions involved a careful examination of concept of 'institutions' as a broad framework for analysis and in defining communities. The extent to which mestizo populations are excluded and are not assumed to have the legitimate claims – to environmental resources, to ecological knowledge, to nature itself – in comparison to indigenous people. An interesting area of discussion concerned whether the presentations assumed that more participation unproblematically

meant more conservation – in the case of Brazil's environmental policy lack of wider participation in policy processes has perhaps led to a regulation which is unfeasible and not implemented.

**Katrina Brown, University of East Anglia.**

### **PANEL 11 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN LATIN AMERICA: SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES**

The panel attracted a broad span of papers, both thematically and in geographical terms. This led to wide-ranging and at times quite intense debate, with common issues producing some coherence across a total of nine presentations. Several of the presenters were final year doctoral students, reporting on recent fieldwork experiences.

The first session focused on Mexico and Central America, starting with **Alejandro Anaya-Muñoz** (University of Essex), on the 'politics of recognition' in Oaxaca. Alejandro examined state level political strategies of the PRI, aimed at ensuring governability alongside an increasingly powerful indigenous political class in the municipalities, and in the context of indigenous rights demands. **Rosa de la Fuente** (Universidad Complutense) talked about the politicisation and socialisation of space in Chiapas in the wake of the EZLN uprising; here, issues about the territorialisation of identity came to the fore. **Valerie MacNabb** (University of Toronto) looked at women's political empowerment in Guatemala. Her paper focused on indigenous women's use of a 're-invented' Maya cosmovision in constructing an effective political discourse in the post-Peace Accords era.

To start off the second session, **Sarah Radcliffe** (University of Cambridge) examined political networks of indigenous peoples in Bolivia and Ecuador in transnational perspective. Sarah developed an analytical model of 'entanglement' as a means to examine the cultural complexity and regimes of power that transnationalism produces. She identified three modes of entanglement: the discursive, around notions of culture; the organisational, around agencies of development practice; and the social, whereby values of gender and ethnicity are

embedded in development practices, from the body through to international institutions and policy models. **Sian Lazar** (Goldsmiths College London) looked at political processes among urban Aymaras in El Alto Bolivia. Based on fieldwork conducted in the turbulent year of 2000, her paper highlighted the crucial interconnections between city and countryside in the development of Aymara political discourses and practices that challenge attempts at neo-liberal reform in the country. In his paper, **Jim Ross** (London Guildhall University) examined the disruption to the lives of the San Andrés islanders, arising from mass immigration of mainland Colombians into the territories of the island creoles, reaching crisis point in the 90s as a result of constitutional and economic reforms. Strategies of resistance have led some islanders controversially to advocate an ethnic self-reclassification as 'indig-enous' people, in order to fall within the protective ambit of ILO Convention 169.

The third session focused on peoples of Amazonia, beginning with **Oscar Forero** (Imperial College London), whose paper drew attention to the seeming incompatibility between the Western concept of 'human security', being applied militarily in Tukano territory at the present time, and the holistic notion of 'management of the world' exercised by the Tukano in relation to their natural environment. **Françoise Barbira-Freedman** (University of Cambridge) examined the scope for the revival of traditional medicine in Western Amazonia, based on her work on projects in the Ucayali River system of eastern Peru. She looked at the discourses of health, nature, and the environment being generated in the context of globalisation of indigenous medical knowledge and practices. Her paper raised issues about intellectual property rights, about the internationalisation of traditional medicine, and about cultural values which, paradoxically, inhibit the use of 'live pharmacies' for local level health care, while promoting their potential for extraction and commercialisation. **Adolfo de Oliveira** (University of St Andrews) brought a psychoanalytical framework to the analysis of the relationship between Brazil's indigenous people and the state. Indigenist representation of the indian by agents of the state is cast as the expression of an 'economy of desire' which today is met by an increasingly autonomous indigenous population who defy their former position as discursive receptacles of the

other's desire, shifting from the psychoanalytical position of object to that of subject.

A number of interconnected issues drew the papers together, for example: the concept of 'indigenous' peoples: how viable is it? In what contexts is it used, in whose discourse, and to what ends? the concept of 'culture', whose is it? Is 'culture' the point? If so, how? Intersections between identity, territoriality and legal rights highlight different levels of interaction with the global: local, national, and international multiple frameworks.

The construction of identity deterritorialisation and transnationalism interacts with the culturalisation and/or ethnicisation of politics, as well as the tension between essentialism and cultural specificity. Modes of economic mobilisation work against globalisation, particularly in the fields of environmental protection and health, along with competing frameworks of knowledge and intellectual rights

The session was very well attended (at times it was standing room only) and there was a core of participants who stayed with the panel throughout, greatly contributing to the quality of the discussion. The panel opened up a number of debates which will be pursued, along with others, at the conference on indigenous peoples to be held at ILAS, University of Liverpool, in February 2003. Please watch the *SLAS Newsletter* for details.

**Rosaleen Howard, Inst. of Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool**

#### **PANEL 12 NINETEENTH CENTURY CAUDILLOS**

**Convenor: Will Fowler, University of St Andrews.**

#### **PANEL 13 LAW IN LATIN AMERICA: NEW DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH**

**Rachael Sieder, Univ. of London, Pilar Domingo, Queen Mary & Westfield Univ. , Fional Macaulay, Oxford University.**

#### **PANEL 14 LAND TENURE ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICA**

**Convenor: Flavio de Souza, Univ. Federal de Alagoas, Brazil.**

## **PANEL 15 IMPROVING DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE IN NGOS IN LATIN AMERICA**

Janet Townsend's thought-provoking presentation was a critique of donor fashions and new managerialism and set the tone for the rest of the session. Sarah's talk was extremely lively and sparky treating the question of how social soaps in Nicaragua can change behaviour. Ana treated the question of how the internal dynamics of groups on microcredit schemes affect outcomes and made her points forcefully. The convenor's presentation was on qualitative data collection and examined the trials and pitfalls associated with question design and entry points for fieldwork in the context of Cajamarca, Peru. This was followed by Stinne's talk on the production and use of visual representations within NGOs, underlining that these are far from being neutral activities.

In the final half hour there was a discussion around the broader themes. It was suggested that despite the general gloomy picture and uncomfortable position of researchers and NGOs in the present climate, there is a need for strategic optimism in resolving the questions posed and facing the challenges ahead. The speakers and abstracts were as follows:

**Janet Townsend**, (University of Durham), 'The role of the transnational community of NGOs'. We explore the role of development NGOs in Mexico, Ghana and India as a transmission channel for two meta-languages: donor fashions and new managerialism. This paper argues that these tend to impose similar policies on different poverties and see NGOs as (sometimes very unwilling) agents of a new imperialism. Development NGOs are a transnational community, tied together by talk. Many of their professionals belong to van der Pijl's trans-national classes (1988), synchronising behaviour and outlook along common lines all around the world until they become interchangeable. Donors use this community to promote both development fashions and Desai and Imrie's (1998) new managerialism.

From a two-year project we have, following Tvedt (1988), found in these NGOs a donor-created and donor-led system carrying resources and authority from the core to the periphery, and information and legitimation from periphery to core. Outcomes are complex, contradictory and contested and the fashions are perhaps more often implemented than the managerialism, but the languages are extraordinarily and improbably similar. The researchers have sought to learn from NGOs what strategies have been successful within this very uncomfortable frame to get their ideas on to the agenda and find a place for local priorities. The first goal has been local and UK publication to report such strategies back to NGOs, for instance in Spanish in Mexico and English in the UK.

**Sarah Bradshaw**, (University of Middlesex): 'NGOs Communicating for Social Change: Exploring the impact of Nicaragua's first social soap'. As definitions of what constitutes development have changed over recent years so too have the activities of national development NGOs. One recent shift has been the introduction of multi-media social communication strategies to spread, most notably, health-related issues at a national level. This paper explores some of the issues that such strategies raise for evaluating impact, performance and accountability, focusing on Nicaragua. There, one of the country's feminist NGOs launched a social soap aimed at 13-24 year olds with story lines that focus on what, for many, remain controversial issues such as violence, abortion and homosexuality. The results of the recent impact evaluation will be used to illustrate some of the problems in assessing the effectiveness of such strategies that approach development through seeking to influence social attitudes.

**Ana Marr**, (SOAS, University of London): 'A critique of NGOs role in issues of microfinance and poverty alleviation the case of Peru'. The supposed success of joint-liability lending schemes in developing countries has generally been attributed to their ability to mitigate asymmetric information problems between lenders and borrowers, thus increasing access to financial services for people with no traditional collateral, leading to potential positive impacts on poverty reduction. However, existing theoretical and empirical studies tend to be partial and over-simplistic. Theories on asymmetric information in credit markets, on the one hand, specialise in particular aspects of group lending schemes, e.g.

screening of borrowers, peer monitoring etc. and are largely based on overly simple assumptions about group behaviour. Empirical impact studies, on the other hand, focus almost exclusively on the end-use of credit in order to assess poverty impacts, largely overlooking the impacts arising from group interactions. This paper presents a more comprehensive analytical framework for assessing the success of microfinance in achieving its dual objective of financial sustainability and poverty reduction. The paper argues not only that microfinance has not solved the original problems of information asymmetries but also, that in its pursuit of financial sustainability it is actually destroying the very foundations of these schemes, creating more poverty and excluding the poorest and most vulnerable from any given group. Findings are based on empirical data collected during fieldwork in Peru during 2000-2001, examining Communal Banking programmes in the shanty towns of Lima and the rural communities of Cusco.

**Katie Wright**, (University of Bath), "Problemas seniorita? Nosotras no tenemos ninguno". Qualitative data collection for impact assesment: Getting the questions right. Increasing interest in impact assessment of microfinance and other development oucomes highlights the need to understand causal links between activities and outocmes in order that programmes and services can be improved. This paper explores how the problem of attribution can be overcome by using qualitiative methods. In particular, it draws out the complexities of using prompting and open-ended questions in semi-structured interviews and also considers entry points for field research. This is done with reference to a study of the impact of microcredit on women in poor areas of Cajamarca, Peru. Drawing on findings from over a period of eighteen months fieldwork, it examines the trials and pitfalls in question design and suggests guidelines for better practice.

**Stinne Hoejer Mathiasen**, (IDSCDR, Roskilde University, Denmark): 'NGO Performance and the Politics of Visual Representation: A Case Study of Production and Use of Photographs in the Work of Southern NGOs in Ayacucho, Peru'. By drawing on experiences from three periods of fieldwork in the Ayacucho region in Peru, it is demonstrated how visual representations play an important role when southern NGOs account for their development work. The paper pays special attention to the use of photographs in two situations: the presence of

photo galleries in the entrance halls of NGO offices and the widespread use of photographic appendices in evaluation reports sent to the northern donors. The production and 'work' of these visual representations are discussed in relation to the concept of 'docile objects' in order to identify the advantageous properties of the visual representations. Through the concepts of 'simplification', 'discrimination' and 'silencing of savage cousins' it is, however, at the same time showed that production and use of visual representations is far from being a neutral activity. Rather it should be viewed and studied as 'politics by other means'. The paper concludes that research on NGOs could benefit from paying closer attention to the issue of visual representations.

**Katie Wright, Dept of Economics & International Development, Univ of Bath.**

#### **PANEL 16 INTER-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS: IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR LATIN AMERICAN HOST NATIONS**

**Convenor: Jens Hentschke, University of Newcastle, and Michael  
Derham, University of Northumbria**

#### **PANEL 17: COLOMBIA VIDEO SESSION**

Two videos were presented, dealing with different aspects of the Colombian conflict: a 30-minute documentary prepared by Canadian human rights activists, *"The Hidden Story: confronting Colombia's Dirty War"* produced by Kathy Price, and a 52-minute historical testimonial, *"Gaitán Sí"* produced by María Valencia. The Canadian production is a hard-hitting denunciation of human rights violations and of the Colombian State's responsibility for military and paramilitary repression; it analyses the roots of the conflict, US intervention through "Plan Colombia", and the difficult prospects for peace with justice. It provoked a lively discussion among the dozen or so present at the session, with evident differences of opinion as to the responsibilities of the State, the paramilitary and the insurgency in the conflict, but all agreeing on the need for peace and reconciliation. María Valencia's prize-winning account of the life of her grandfather, the populist leader Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, whose assassination in 1948 was a crucial moment in the origins of "La Violencia", combines interviews with documentary footage to create a powerful portrayal of this lawyer, politician

and mass orator. Gaitán's identification with the cause of the poor, beginning with the "masacre de las bananeras" in 1928, and his challenge to the oligarchic domination of the two traditional parties, made him the most important political figure of the 20th century in Colombia, and it is impossible to understand today's conflict without an appreciation of the significance of Gaitán and his movement. Several of those present expressed interest in acquiring copies of the videos. The organisers have some copies of "The Hidden Story" available, and can provide information on how to contact the French producers of "Gaitán Sí"; we can be contacted at <dlraby@liv.ac.uk>.

**Luisa Antonia Raby and David Raby**

### **PILAS TRAINING SESSIONS**

#### **(Postgraduate Students in Latin American Studies)**

**President 2001-2:**

Laura Gomez Mera, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP, tel: (01865) 276150

**President 2002-3:**

Sean W. Burges, Dept of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK. Tel: 02476-5 23486.

E-mail: porfo@csv.warwick.ac.uk

**PILAS Session coordinator:** Paul Cammack, Dept of Government, Univ of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 0161 2754899.

E-mail: paul.cammack@man.ac.uk

### ***SLAS MEMBERS NEWS 2002***

**CLAUDIA HASANBEGOVIC**, PhD Research (candidate), University of Kent at Canterbury. Email: claudiniah@yahoo.com. Claudia recently published a book on domestic violence in Cuba. This book presents the analysis of multi-

disciplinary research on domestic violence in Havana, Cuba (in Spanish) and is the first work of this kind published outside Cuba, and by a foreigner so far. In 1999, Claudia received the Harold Blakemore Prize Award from SLAS. Title: *Violencia Marital en Cuba: Principios Revolucionarios vs Viejas Creencias*, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent at Canterbury, 2001. Price: (US Dollars) U\$S 17.- Euros, 19.- (postage included), or £12 (postage included) in the UK, ISBN 1-902671-13-19 (This version of the book is in Spanish. English version is in progress)

**JENS HENTSCHE**, University of Newcastle, is currently carrying out research for a book on *Reconstructing the Brazilian Nation: public schooling in the Vargas era*. The first draft of this book is now complete and he is working on an article on the impact of positivism on state and nation-building in Brazil. Recent publications of his include: *A emergencia do estado intervencionista no Brasil* as a chapter in a book by Amos Nascimento on *Brasil: perspectivas internacionais*, published by the Methodist University of Piracicaba Press. In July of 2001, Jens was elected Fellow of the Royal Historical society, and in January this year, he taught a three day seminar on 'Populism and neopopulism: a comparison of Europe, the United States, and Latin America' at the Institute of Political science of Heidelberg University in Germany. For the first semester of 2001-2002, he was awarded the AHRB Research Leave Award.

**MARTA ZABALETA**, Middlesex University, Email: m.zabaleta@mdx.ac.uk. In order to help in disseminating the work of Latin American Women Writers in the UK, in the EU and in the Americas also, and with the intention of trying to change the canon collectively, Marta Zabaleta has been involved - founding, coordinating and/or supporting - a number of seminal activities. In most of them, she has been helped, supported and/or inspired by a number of colleagues, such as Dr Peter Bush, Director of the British Centre for Literary Translation, East Anglia University, and Prof Kirsten Malmkjaer, Director of the Research Centre for Literary Translation, Middlesex University, Centre. It is expected that members of SLAS would be willing to support these activities also.

**1 Bases concurso literario “letras lejanas”**, convocado por la Embajada de Chile en Londres, el concurso será en castellano. Podrán participar todas las chilenas que vivan en Reino Unido, con excepción de aquellas que trabajen para la Embajada de Chile. Cada participante puede enviar hasta tres trabajos narrativos (testimonial o de ficción). El tema de este primer año es “*La lejanía*”. Del país, de una misma, de la pareja, de la familia, de la sociedad. Estamos buscando piezas narrativas que reflejen esta situación tan común en el mundo de la mujer. Para mayor información contactar a Carmen Gloria Dunnage, Agregada Cultural de la Embajada de Chile en Londres. Teléfono: 020 7580 6392 Fax: 020 7436 5204 E-mail: embachile@embachile.co.uk

**2 Female Voices of the Argentinian Diaspora**, Canning House, 26 de junio 2002, 6.30pm, Londres. Presentación de las poetisas y su obra más reciente, por la Dra. Marta Zabaleta, School of Arts, Middlesex University. Lectura de sus poemas, por las autoras Dras. Nela Rio, St. Thomas University, Canada y Gladys Ilarregui, Delaware University, USA

**3 Mujeres y palabras en el Mundo**, Amsterdam, 2002, (Women and Words in the World, WWW202). Red fundada y coordinada por M. Zabaleta. Cuarto Encuentro Cruzando fronteras en la poesía de Norteamérica hacia el mundo. Tendrá lugar durante el Tercer Congreso Europeo del CEISAL, 3-6 julio 2002 El Quinto Encuentro de Mujeres y Palabras en el Mundo, WWW 2003, Santiago.

**4 Representación de las dictaduras del Cono Sur por los artistas latino-americanos**. Coordinadora Dra Zabaleta -Co-coordinadoras. Nela Rio y Joane Puttlitz, New York. Tendrá lugar durante el ICA 51, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, 14-18 de julio 2003,

**PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL NOTES FOR MEMBERS NEWS**

**TO:** Elizabeth Allen, Editor, *SLAS Newsletter*,  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Adam Smith Building, Univ. of  
Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QH. Email: gsia05@udcf.gla.ac.uk

**FROM:** Member's Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....  
.....  
Tel No: ..... Fax No:.....  
Email No:.....

**CURRENT RESEARCH:**

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

**APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS**

**OTHER NEWS/ACTIVITIES (PAPERS READ, TRAVEL, ETC.)**

Please continue on another sheet...



## NEW BOOKS

### FROM THE SOCIETE SUISSE DES AMERICANISTES

**Baer, Gerhard, Gutierrez Estevez, Manuel, and Munzel, Mark, coordinators, *Arts indigenes et anthropologie/ Artes idigenas y antropologia, Societe suisse des americanistes, Bulletin 64-45/ 2000 - 2001, Sept - Oct 1999, pp 255, maps, tables, b&w photos.***

This is a beautifully presented book, with many fine black and white illustrations, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Societe. 26 articles cover general themes; art and craft; masques, rites and iconography; art and fiestas; aesthetics, enjoyment, morals and identity; reflections about art; and oral voices and traditions in Argentina, Andes, Peru, Amazonia, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil.

### FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Picacato, Pablo, *City of suspects: crime in Mexico city, 1900-1931*, Duke University Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Durham and London, January 2002, pp 365, Pbk £16.95, hbk £49.95, appendix, notes, bibliography, index, 8 b&w photos.**

This book studies the scale and range of crime in the early twentieth century in Mexico City in order to highlight the historical foundations of social problems which are of such concern today. Sections in the work look at the modern city; the policed city; the construction of Mexican criminology; honour and violent crime; violence against women; money, crime, and social reactions to larceny; the invention of rateros; penal experience in Mexico City; and crime contested. Based on original research and interviews, this book will be of interest to those concerned with social relations in Mexico as well as those studying crime and violence.

**Moreiras, Alberto, *The exhaustion of difference: the politics of Latin American cultural studies*, Duke University Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd., Durham and London, January 2002, pp 350, pbk £15.50, hbk £45.95, notes, bibliography, index.**

This book considers the way we think about Latin America as a regional unit and how this has changed with developments such as globalisation. Sections cover: conditions of Latin American critique; global fragments; negative globality and critical regionalism; theoretical fictions and fatal conceits; restitution and appropriation; the national popular in Antonio Candido and Jorge Luis Borges; the end of Magical realism; the aura of testimonio; the order of order; and hybridity and double consciousness. This is a specialised book which will appeal to those wishing to dig deeper into cultural studies in the region.

**Masiello, Francine, *The art of transition: Latin American culture and the neoliberal crisis*, Duke University Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Durham and London, February 2002, pp 334, pbk £16.50, hbk £49.95, b&w illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.**

One of the series on *Latin America Otherwise: languages, empires, nations*, this book explores the problems defined by writers and artists during the post dictatorship years in both Argentina and Chile. divided into three sections on masks, maps, and markets, the subjects studied are: Latin American intellectuals at the century's end; the spectacle of difference; gender traffic on the North/South horizon; travel, translation and sexuality; the politics of the text, and poetry for the new millennium. A detailed book for those concerned with literary criticism.

**Salvatore, Ricardo, Aguirre, Carlos, and Joseph, Gilbert M., eds., *Crime and punishment in Latin America: law and society since late colonial times*, Duke University Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Durham and London, January 2002, pbk £16.95, hbk £49.95, pp 448, tables, figures, afterword.**

This compendium gathers together articles on the relationship between ordinary people and the law over a wide range of subjects and places, mainly between 1780 and 1950. Essays explore: Crime in the time of the great Fear - Indians in the Peruvian Southern Andes; women, order and progress in Venezuela; Judges, lawyers and farmers in rural Buenos Aires; Work, property and rights in the Brazilian cane fields of Rio de Janeiro; Prostitutes, health crimes and society in Mexico City; Witchcraft in Brazilian law and literature; Passion, peversity and

Justice in Argentina at the turn of the last century; criminals in modern Mexico City; punishment in post-emancipation Jamaica; capital punishment after the fall of Rosas; prison reform in Lima; girls in prison in Buenos Aires; and life as seen from the prison cell in Buenos Aires province.

**FROM UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS**

**Zingg, Robert, *Behind the Mexican mountains*, (ed. by Howard Campbell, John Peterson, and David Carmichael), University of Texas Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Austin and London, February 2002, pbk £18.95, hbk £37.95, pp 306, notes, index, b&w photos.**

The book records the travel account by anthropologist Robert Zingg during the University of Chicago expedition to record Tarahumara ethnography in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1930. It is a vivid, personal, account of the life and environment of these isolated and then unacculturated indigenous people which will entertain and inform all those interested in Mexico and its people.

**Babb, Florence E., *After revolution: mapping gender and cultural politics in neoliberal Nicaragua*, University of Texas Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Austin and London, January 2002, pp 304, pbk £18.95, hbk £37.95, notes, bibliography, index, b&w photos.**

Looking at the influence that neoliberal policies have had on Nicaragua since the 1990's, this book considers: writing after revolution; gendered politics of location; gender, memory and cultural politics; local and national view from the barrio; women, urban co-operatives and neoliberalism; co-operatives to microenterprises in the postrevolutionary era; narratives of development, nationhood and the body; and towards a new political culture. It will interest those concerned with the development of post socialist societies and Nicaragua in particular.

**Menchaca, Martha, *Recovering history, constructing race: the Indian, black and white roots of Mexican Americans*, University of Texas Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd, Austin and London, March 2002, pp 375, pbk £18.95, hbk £41.95, maps, b&w photos, epilogue, notes, bibliography, index.**

This is a book which uses the concept of racialization to describe the way in which Mexican Americans have been marginalised and restricted in rights of land ownership. Chapters consider: racial foundations; racial formation; the Gran Chichimeca and New Mexico; Spanish settlement of Texas and Arizona; Settlement of California; liberal racial legislation 1821- 1848; land, race and war 1821-1848; Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo and the racialization of the Mexican population; racial segregation and liberal policies then and now; epilogue on observations of race and history. This is a readable and interesting book of wide interest.

**Fischer, Edward F., *Cultural logics and global economies: Maya identity in thought and practice*, University of Texas Press and Combined Academic Publishers Ltd., Austin and London, February 2002, pp 287, pbk 17.50, hbk £37.95, notes, glossary, bibliography, b&w illustrations, index.**

Global and local factors have forced Guatemala's indigenous Maya to defend their cultural identity and this book considers: Maya culture and identity politics; Tecpan and Patzun, Guatemalan political economies and the world system, the rise of Pan-Maya activism, constructing a Pan-Maya identity in a post-modern world; souls, socialisation, and the Kaqchikel self; hearth, kin, and communities; local forms of ethnic resistance; economic change and cultural continuity; and convergent strategies and cultural logics. This is a work which will interest all those concerned with Central America, and especially those interested in the continuity of indigenous identity.

#### **FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

**Vinison III, Ben, *Bearing arms for His Majesty: the free coloured militia in colonial Mexico*, Stanford University Press and Cambridge University Press, California and Cambridge, October 2001, hbk £40.00, pp 304, appendix, notes, bibliography, index, tables, maps, b&w illustrations.**

This book is an institutional history, looking at the lives of tens of thousands of part-time coloured soldiers who made up the free-coloured militia in colonial Mexico. Chapters consider: militia awakenings; internal militia structure, finances and the officer corps; recruitment, occupations, and marriage, the loathed tax; the

fuero privilege; and the meaning of race. This detailed book will interest all those concerned with this period in Mexican history, as well as those interested in the development of racial concepts in Mexico.

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## **INSTITUTIONAL NEWS & SEMINARS**

### **UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

**International Development Department, School of Public Policy**

**Centre for Urban and Regional Studies – CURS**

**Tel: 00 44 121 414 5033 Fax: 00 44 121 414 5032**

**Email: R.A.Nickson@bham.ac.uk Website: <http://www.bham.ac.uk/IDD>**

### **STAFF NEWS:**

**Andrew Nickson's** recent publications include:

- The limitations of water regulation: the failure of the Cochabamba concession in Bolivia. *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, Vol.21, No. 1, Jan.-March 2002, pp. 99-120 (co-author) 'Tendencias actuales de las finanzas locales en América Latina', *Trimestre Fiscal (Mexico)*, No. 72, Jan.-March 2001, pp. 9 - 27.
- Los retos de los gobiernos locales en América Latina. *Síntesis: Revista de Ciencias Sociales Iberoamericanas (Madrid)*, No. 33-34, Jan.-Dec. 2000, pp. 41-59.
- Establishing and implementing a joint venture: Water and sanitation services in Cartagena, Colombia (2001), Building municipal capacity for private sector participation series, Working paper no. 442 03. DFID & UNDP PPPUE. <http://www.ghkint.com/pdf/Cartagena.pdf>
- The Córdoba water concession in Argentina (2001), Building municipal capacity for private sector participation series, Working paper no. 442 05. DFID & UNDP PPPUE. <http://www.ghkint.com/pdf/cordoba.pdf>

**Annie Rubienska** (IDD) ran two workshops on performance evaluation in Mexico City – the first for the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) from 28 Jan-1 Feb 2002 and the second for the Contaduria Mayor de Hacienda from 4-8 Feb

**Andrew Nickson** joined the team of external advisors assessing projects for URB-AL, an EU-funded programme for linking municipalities in Latin America and Europe. In December 2001 he worked in the Sub-Secretaria de Reforma Administrativa of the Provincial Government of Buenos Aires at La Plata.

**Mike Beazley and John Downie** (CURS) visited the Department of Housing and Urban Studies, University of Chile in April 2002 as part of a British Council-funded exchange programme on housing and urban regeneration.

**Ady Carrera**, doctoral candidate at IDD, participated as guest lecturer directing the module 'Local Government' on the Diploma Course 'Globalisation and Local Economic Development' from 6 - 20th February 2002 in San José, Costa Rica. This programme is co-sponsored by the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO), Costa Rica, the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), both of Holland.

#### **VISITORS**

- The Mexican Ambassador to the UK, **Rose Alma Moreno**, delivered a lecture on 'The new Fiscal Federalism in Mexico' at the School of Public Policy on 15 November 2001.
- **Viviana Fernandez**, of the Department of Housing and Urban Studies, University of Chile visited CURS in October 2001 as part of a British Council-funded exchange programme on housing and urban regeneration.

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**UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

**CENTRE FOR LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH**

**Department of Geography & Topographic Science, Glasgow G12 8QQ**

**Tel: 0141 339 8855, Fax: 0141 330 4894**

**Email: [khegyi@geog.gla.ac.uk](mailto:khegyi@geog.gla.ac.uk) [Http://www.gla.ac.uk/centres/clar](http://www.gla.ac.uk/centres/clar)**

**STAFF NEWS: Arthur Morris** will be undertaking research in Argentina and Peru between 15<sup>th</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> May.

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**School of Geography, Leeds LS2 9JT**

**Fax: 44 (0) 113 233 3308 Phone: 44 (0) 113 275 8881**

## **STAFF NEWS AND CURRENT RESEARCH**

**1. DFID's Natural Resources Systems Programme** funds research in southern Bolivia on ways of fostering community-driven links with local professionals. It draws on earlier work in the same area and a series of communities are improving livestock health, pruning and spraying fruit trees [with minimally-toxic chemicals] with some remarkable results. One community is building a dry stone wall around prehistoric terraces to allow their cultivation and a series of experiments are being undertaken by *comunarios* to find ways of minimising frost and hail hazards. Details and reports available from: **David Preston** Email: [d.a.preston@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.preston@leeds.ac.uk) or on the website: <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/groups/andes/fragenv.htm>

**2. Pollution in the upper Pilcomayo.** Work is progressing with a team from the US and Birkbeck to assess contamination in selected rural communities in Potosi and Chuquisaca. It is looking at heavy metal accumulation in water, soils, sediments and field crops from the city of Potosi to Sotomayor. First report due in April.

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

Stephan Beck, Narel Paniagua y David Preston (Editores), *Historia, ambiente y sociedad en Tarija, Bolivia*, Instituto de Ecología, UMSA La Paz, School of Geography, University of Leeds. Fecha de publicación: Diciembre de 2001, 278 páginas con 30 en colores, Precio: US\$25, 25 euros (£15) en Europa. Este libro presenta una serie de artículos escritos por científicos bolivianos, argentinos,

belgas, españoles y británicos resumiendo ocho años de investigación sobre el medio natural y socio-económico en el sudoeste de Bolivia. Información: d.a.preston@leeds.ac.uk, "Herbario Nacional de Bolivia" , lpb@zuper.net

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**UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**  
**INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**  
**Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 3WW**  
**Tel: 0151 794 3079. Fax: 0151794 3080**  
**Email: ilas@liv.ac.uk or smurph@liverpool.ac.uk**

18 Apr Jane Feltham (ILAS), University of Liverpool  
*Recent Archaeological Research at Pachacamac, Peru*

25 Apr Research Student(s) Presentation(s)  
*Details to be confirmed by Director of Graduate Studies*

Seminars are held in the Institute (Lecture Room 3) on Thursdays at 4.00 p.m. (unless otherwise stated) and normally continue until c. 5.30 p.m.

#### **STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS**

Two new PhD students started in October 2001:

**Colin Campbell:** 'The relationship between the dominant hegemony of the global economy of the United States of America and the political economy of the United States of Mexico' Supervisor: Nikki Craske

**Anita Schrader:** 'Escuelas para padres in Guatemala' Supervisor: Nikki Craske

#### **VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE:**

**Cecilia Rivera**, Department of Social Sciences, Pontificia Universidad, Catolica del Peru visited the Institute from 24 February to 6 March. During her visit she led a workshop entitled 'Changes in Andean Rural Society: Ideologies of Gender and

Citizenship' and also gave a Special Seminar entitled 'Masculinities, Imaginaries and Social Change in Andean Rural Society'.

**CONFERENCE: Professor James Higgins** (Department of Hispanic Studies) is organising a British Academy -sponsored Conference, entitled 'Heterogeneidad y Literatura en el Peru', in Liverpool between 9-10 April 2002. Further information from Professor Higgins at [jhiggins@liv.ac.uk](mailto:jhiggins@liv.ac.uk)

**NEW APPOINTMENTS: Dr Fionnghuala Sweeney** has been appointed Lecturer in Comparative American Studies from 1 April 2002. She will be course Director of the Comparative American Studies degree. Her research interests include The Black Atlantic and the writings of Frederick Douglass.

**GRANTS: Dr Astvaldur Astvaldsson** has been awarded an AHRB leave scheme grant from September 2002.

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**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:**

**INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**31 Tavistock Square , London WC1H 9HA**

**Tel: 0171-862 8870 Fax: 0171-862 8886**

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2-3 May	Conference	<i>The Bolivian Revolution at 50</i> (to be held at Harvard University)
11 May	Workshop	<i>South American Archaeology</i>
25 May	Workshop	<i>Latin American Music</i>
7 Jun	Conference	<i>Contemporary Change in Mexico: The Impact of the Fox Administration</i>

Full details of the Institute's programme of Conferences, Workshops and Seminars is published on the Institute's website which is updated regularly with new information and any amendments. A copy of the programme will be sent on request. Please note that advance registration for conferences and workshops is required. For further information contact the Seminar Secretary, Olga Jiménez (tel. 020 7862 8871; e-mail OJimenez@sas.ac.uk).

### **STAFF CHANGES**

- **Tony Bell** left ILAS to become Secretary and Registrar in the School of Advanced Study, which hosts the Institute. Tony's association with ILAS goes back 15 years, and staff of the Institute are pleased to be able to continue the association with him in his new role. Tony's replacement as Administrative Secretary of ILAS is Karen Perkins (karen.perkins@sas.ac.uk).
- **Dr Kevin Middlebrook** took up his appointment as Lecturer in Politics in January 2002.

### **VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS, 2001- 02**

- **Elina Gonçalves da Fonte Pessanha**, Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Anthropology of Work)
- **Charles F. Pessanha**, Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Political Science)
- **María Eugenia Chaves**, Ecuador (Gender and Slavery)
- **Helga Baitenmann**, USA (Gender and the State)
- **Germán Carrera Damas**, Venezuela (History)
- **José María Ghio**, Universidad Torcuato di Tella
- **Richard Gott** (Modern History)

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

For the full list of titles and ordering details see ILAS website:

[www.sas.ac.uk/ilas/publicat.htm](http://www.sas.ac.uk/ilas/publicat.htm)

**1. Palgrave/ILAS series:** *Multiculturalism in Latin America: Indigenous Rights, Diversity and Democracy*, Rachel Sieder (ed.) Forthcoming in June

## **2. ILAS Series**

- *Rule of Law in Latin America: The International Promotion of Judicial Reform*, Pilar Domingo and Rachel Sieder (eds.)
- *Regional Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Political Economy of Open Regionalism*, Victor Bulmer-Thomas (ed.)
- *Mexico: Dilemmas of Change*, Kevin Middlebrook (ed.) published with Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, Univ. of California, San Diego. Forthcoming 2002/3
- *Development Prospects in Cuba: Issues of an Agenda in the Making*, Pedro Monreal (ed.) Forthcoming
- *Studies in the Formation of the Nation-State in Latin America*, James Dunkerley (ed.) In press
- *Social Exclusion and Engagement: Social Policy in Latin America*, Chris Abel and Colin M. Lewis (eds.) Forthcoming 2002

## **3. Nineteenth-Century Latin America series**

- *The European Revolutions of 1848 and the Americas*, Guy Thomson (ed.)
- *The Political Power of the Word: Press and Oratory in Nineteenth-Century Latin America*, Iván Jaksic (ed.) Forthcoming November 2002
- *Blacks and National Identity in Latin America*, Nancy Naro (ed.) Forthcoming 2003

**4. ILAS Cultural Studies:** *This America We Dream Of: Rodó and Ariel 100 Years On*, Gustavo San Román (ed.)

**5. Research Papers:** *Perón and the Unions: The Early Years*, Torcuato S. Di Tella

**6. Occasional Papers :** *A Footnote to Borges Studies: A study of the footnotes*, Evelyn Fishburn

**7. National Information Handbooks, Biographies and Guides**

- *Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the UK, 2002*, Forthcoming
- *Guide to Latin American and Caribbean Library Resources in the British Isles: A Directory*, Alan Biggins and Valerie Cooper (comp.), published with ACLAIR

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**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL STUDIES**

**School of Modern Languages, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL**

**Tel. +44 161 275 3543 Fax. +44 161 275 3031**

**Website: <http://www.art.man.ac.uk/lacs/>**

**TAUGHT MA IN LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL STUDIES**

The University of Manchester is offering a taught MA in Latin American Cultural Studies one year full-time or two years part-time. The MA will also be offering two fee bursaries\* awarded on a competitive basis to UK or EU students. Closing date for bursaries competition: 16 August 2002. Visit our website for details: <http://www.art.man.ac.uk/lacs/> New for 2002, there are also bursaries available from the University of Manchester's Faculty of Arts. The deadline for this competition is 2 April 2002, For further details please contact [amanda.mathews@man.ac.uk](mailto:amanda.mathews@man.ac.uk)

Latin American Cultural Studies is a new, dynamic, and rapidly expanding interdisciplinary field of study. It involves a re-evaluation both of cultural studies and of Latin American studies. The MA programme is an integrated MA degree programme combining expertise from the Departments of Spanish and Portuguese, and Social Anthropology, in association with the Departments of Government, and of Sociology.

Structure: core courses on methodology and on issues in Latin American Cultural Studies, (culture and the nation, mestizaje and transculturation, globalisation, diaspora and transnationalism etc.) plus a range of optional courses on, for example: latin america on film; women's writing, conquest and colonization, black identity and culture, gender, race, and sexuality, nation, culture, the state, anthropology and colonialism.

Staff: include Jon Beasley-Murray, Catherine Davies, Paul Cammack, John Gledhill, Penelope Harvey, Jeremy Lawrance, Hilary Owen, John Perivolaris, Patience Schell, Peter Wade.

The course is open to graduates with a degree equivalent to 2i or above in an appropriate area of the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences (Hispanic Studies, Portuguese, Latin American Studies, Social Anthropology, History, Politics, Sociology, Women's Studies etc.). The course will be taught through the medium of English. For more information, about the course or about the bursaries, contact: [lacs@man.ac.uk](mailto:lacs@man.ac.uk) or visit the Manchester Latin American Cultural Studies Website: <http://www.art.man.ac.uk/lacs>.

**CONFERENCE - THE NEW LATIN AMERICANISM: Cultural Studies Beyond Borders. An international conference: 21-22 June 2002**

Our aim is to define and interrogate twenty-first century Latin American Studies; our premise that the so-called "crisis" in Latin American Studies makes for new opportunities, connections, and avenues of enquiry. History, Anthropology, Politics, Visual Studies, Literature, Marxism, Deconstruction, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies. **Registration:** To register for "The New Latin Americanism," please contact the Centre for Latin American Cultural Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK. Note that we expect spaces to be limited, so please register early. Registration fee is £25 (£15 for students and the unwaged) For further information contact: Jon Beasley-Murray and Patience Schell. The Centre for Latin American Cultural Studies, Manchester. [lacs@man.ac.uk](mailto:lacs@man.ac.uk)  
<http://www.art.man.ac.uk/lacs/>

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**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER,  
Department Of Spanish And Portuguese Studies,  
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9pl  
TEL. 0161 275 3046. FAX. 0161 275 3031**

**PHOTOHISPANIC IDENTITIES: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Photographic Representation and the Search for Identity in the Hispanic  
World 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2002, University of Manchester**

Interest in the role of photography in the Hispanic world is long overdue, and well founded. Until very recently little attention has been paid to Hispanic photography in serious discussions of the medium, apart from occasional acknowledgement of the limited number of Hispanic photographers who enjoy an international profile.

There has been little discussion of photography in Hispanic Studies. This is the case even though Hispanic Cultural Studies has been a rapidly expanding field in the last fifteen years. Several major critical and theoretical works have consequently emerged, along with exciting and intellectually rigorous new journals. A substantial body of research is emerging, largely in response to interest generated on the part of the multicultural needs of the general public and university students. Researchers and educators working in this new field have attempted to expand the focus of their academic interest beyond a tradition of literary or historical studies. As a result, contemporary music and popular culture have provided them with rich raw material, as have women's cultural production and Hispanic cinema. But there is still far to go in the expansion of the field, spurred on by the danger of becoming fixated on a limited range of new areas.

The aim of this conference is to promote the inevitable. In studying visual arts there is the continuing need to engage critically with Hispanic painting from other than just an art historical perspective. And, how much richer to complement the study of the moving image with that of its parent medium, still photography, in its chemical and digital forms. There are certainly differences of production and

reception between the moving and still image, but a preoccupation, for example, with representation by foreigners and self-representation could be better explored comparatively. PhotoHispanic Identities will provide the opportunity for participants to explore the holistic cultural repercussions of photography's relation to other visual media, narrative, history, realism, portraiture, documentary, landscape, anthropology, nationalism, travel, gender, sexuality, race, self-representation. Photography in the Hispanic world has not, until now figured as an area of serious study, though Spain and Latin America have been photographed by many of the great Hispanic and non-Hispanic photographers, and on behalf of influential cultural and government institutions. This conference will make visible the richness of photography's shifting roles in the expanding Hispanic world.

Proposals should consist of title, brief outline (approx. 500 words), name and affiliation, short list of publications/experience and be sent by e-mail or post to; Dr John D. Perivolaris, University of Manchester, Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL (tel. 0161 275 3046. fax. 0161 275 3031. Conference Fee: £40. £20 for students. Further registration details available in May 2002

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**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**  
**CENTRE FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES**  
**92 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7ND**  
**Tel: (44) (0)1865 284464 Fax: (44) (0)1865 284461**  
**Email: [enquiries@brazilian-studies.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@brazilian-studies.oxford.ac.uk)**  
**Website: [www.brazil.ox.ac.uk](http://www.brazil.ox.ac.uk)**

3 May Conference: *'Brazilian Poetry'*  
11 May Human Rights Workshop: *'Police Reform in Brazil'*  
24 May Workshop: *'European FDI in the Brazilian auto industry: regional strategies and locational choices'*  
27-28 May Annual Oxford Petrobras conference: *'Energy, the environment and*

*sustainable development'*

17-18 June Annual Oxford Globo Conference '*Cultural globalisation and the defence of national cultures: the case of Brazil*'

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**UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS**

**Institute Of Cultural Identity Studies, School Of Modern Languages**

**University of St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AL.**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**VIOLENCE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY 27 - 29 JUNE 2003**

**What Issues Do We Intend To Focus On?** The Modern Languages offer a particularly rich account of all phenomena connected with the centrally human theme of Violence. We scan across many culture zones (European, African, American); and, diachronically, over many time zones (from the pogroms and crusades of the Middle Ages to the conflicts of colonial and postcolonial times). We are interested in: history, politics, and ideologies; public and private life; literature and arts; religions, ideas, culture theory.... Our scanning is naturally interdisciplinary, as well as open to cross-cultural parallels and comparisons. We aim to exploit this diversity and breadth, which is a strength of Modern Languages as a discipline, while yet focussing on major axes of significance and concentrating attention on specific thematic areas.

Our leading questions are: What is violence?? How is it related to culture on the one hand, to identity on the other? We seek to address key questions on **violence and identity** such as:

- What relations are we observing between violence and identity?
- How are these portrayed and analysed?
- What general account is being given of self and other? Of the tearing or distortion of a relationship? · Is violence a natural and/or inevitable outcome of conflicts of interest and identity? · Is it always morally negative?
- To what set of [theoretical-explanatory] anthropological perspectives does the account given of it refer explicitly or belong implicitly?

We seek to address key questions on **violence and culture** such as:

- How is violence represented and why?
- What type or form of violence is depicted?
- What is its functioning, its origin, nature, in a given historico-cultural (and ideological) context of reference?
- What type of representation of violence is being offered? · How does it, in turn, function within the context of reference? · Where is it coming from?
- What are the implicit norms and values that declare it violence and govern its presentation?
- What difference does the representation make?
- Can violence be deconstructed in representation? Can it be understood and modified by artists? · How far and how well does the artistic representation counter the fascination of violence? Does the artist matter as witness or as actor vis-à-vis the violence(s) of private life or history?

It is the intention of the organisers to edit a series of books, region-based, using as a basis a selection of papers given at the conference (e.g., Violence, Culture and Identity in Latin America, Violence, Culture and Identity in Germany, Violence, Culture and Identity in Russia, etc.). Each is intended to profit from, and to exploit diversely, the overarching perspectives explored.

Symposia will be based on:

1. Violence, Foundation Myths and Iconography. Convenor: Malcolm Humble,
2. Violence and Colonial/Postcolonial Identity. Convenor: Dr Lorna Milne,
3. Violence as Subversion and Oppression. Convenor: Dr Peter Read,
4. Violence and Identity in Literature. Convenor: Dr Stefan Pugh,
5. Political Violence and National Identity. Convenor: Dr Will Fowler,
6. Linguistic Violence and Nation States. Convenor: Ronnie Ferguson,
7. Gender, Violence and Identity. Convenor: Prof. Helen Chambers,
8. Ideology and Praxis of Violence. Convenor: Dr David Gascoigne,
9. Thinking Out the Links Between Culture, Identity and Violence. Convenor: Prof. Paul Gifford,

**Conference Organiser:** Dr Will Fowler, Dept of Spanish, University of St

Andrews, Fife KY16 9AL. E-mail address: wmf1@st-and.ac.uk Proposals for Papers (a 300-word abstract) to be submitted to the Convenors by 30 September 2002 Conference Registration [Full-Board] 27 - 29 June will probably be in the range of £160.00