

SLAS COMMITTEE 2005-2006

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Dear SLAS Member,

The crisis in Bolivia during May has raised urgent questions about the capacity of a president to determine policies and priorities. In this poor country, the parliamentary conflict over the way in which oil and gas revenues were used have provoked street fighting, a general strike, blockades of communications, and mass marches on the capital city. Natural gas reserves which stood at 5.6 trillion cubic feet in 1999, are now estimated to be almost ten times as large, some 53.3 trillion cubic feet, in 2005. The more radical opposition to the government demanded 50% well head taxes, rather than the softer 18% set up under new legislation. For many, even these proposals are too soft. There have been widespread demands for the nationalisation of the industry and the overthrow of a government that refuses to use the assets of the country to the benefit of the mass of the population.

The resignation of the President, Carlos Mesa Gisbert in May 2005 is the second such ousting in under two years. Mesa, as Vice President, replaced Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in October 2003 after widespread popular protests when Sanchez signed with transnational companies contracts which gave away gas and oil reserves of the country for a pittance. Between 67 and 80 people were killed in the protests of 2003; in the recent uprising a dozen or so protesters have been reported injured during conflict with police and security forces.

In Venezuela, by contrast, President Hugo Chavez leads a policy of diverting oil profits into projects for social development, such as health centres, education, drinking water provision and schools: a programme which distributes national wealth to those in greatest need, not just to a small elite. The demands in Bolivia reflect the same consideration from the President: that natural wealth must remain invested in all the people, not sent abroad or restricted to the benefit of a privileged few. The Bolivian Supreme Court President, Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze has been appointed to the position of President, but his time in office depends on the acceptance of those who so recently demonstrated in the roads and in the streets, and whether he can effectively convene elections to choose a new president. A truce is in effect, but the underlying issues still wait to be resolved.

Elizabeth Allen, Editor, SLAS Newsletter

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT!!

Deadline for material to be included in the October 2005 Issue of the *SLAS Newsletter*, Issue No. 82, will be midday on 15 September 2005.

All contributions, from SLAS Members, members of PILAS, and organisations and institutions with an interest in Latin America, are very warmly welcomed

Material and contributions:

Please send all material for inclusion in email, text only format, to Elizabeth Allen, at gsia05@udcf.gla.ac.uk 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

Virus attacks: please help.

Please, wherever possible, include your material into the body of your Email. If you cannot do this, please run your material through a virus checking system before sending. We do hope you will understand and do your best to help us. Many thanks.



2005 SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The SLAS Annual conference 2005 was held in the University of Derby from the 8-10 April. SLAS Annual Conference University of Derby, 8-10 April 2005.

Up to 200 people attended the conference in total, 170 known (and paid-up) participants and several others (panellists and drop-in participants) whose status was less clear at the end. What is clear is that they came from a variety of places, specifically (besides the usual solid core of UK members) Ireland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the USA, Canada, Australia and several Latin American countries, notably Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and also South Korea.

About 160 papers were delivered across 23 different panels, most running for a morning or an afternoon but some running all day and even continuing into the Sunday. There were a gratifyingly high number of postgraduate participants and also, even more gratifyingly, of postgraduate panel convenors.

Book displays were as usual mounted, throughout, by LAB and Blackwells, but also by the Cambridge Centre for Latin American Studies and Taylor and Francis, with the University of Pittsburgh. The Friday reception also included the presentation of the Liverpool-*BHS* Festschrift tribute to Jim Higgins, who unfortunately was unable to be present but whose celebratory volume was on display and sale.

The plenary on the Saturday was given by Neil Larsen, of University of California Davis, on 'Latin Americanism without Latin America: 'theory' as surrogate periphery in the metropolitan university'. Predicted as challenging and against the grain, from a writer already well respected and well known in US Latin American cultural studies, the lecture, eloquently and forcefully delivered despite Larsen's arrival from California only hours before, was indeed highly polemical.

Challenging the domination of post-structuralism and the tyranny of theory in the US Latin-Americanist academy, increasingly divorced from the reality in and of Latin America itself, Larsen traced the evolution of the new canon, taking the audience through notorious cases such as the *testimonio* debates around Rigoberta Menchú, and leaving few post-modernist shibboleths unscathed. With a clarion call to actually go and experience the Latin American reality and, specifically, to engage with Latin American intellectuals, and find out what they are thinking, he recommended a rejection of theory for its own sake and what he called a 'mindless dehistoricised theoretical loop'. Despite jet-lag, Larsen then heroically engaged the audience in an honest 25-minute question-and-answer session.

Social events included a Friday reception given by the City of Derby (and hosted by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roy Webb). On Saturday evening, a reception sponsored by Latin America Bureau (to launch John Crabtree's new book on Bolivia, *Patterns of Protest*) was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of Derby, Professor John Coyne, and the Dean of the Derbyshire Business School, Professor Mary Carswell. This was then followed by the splendid *BLAR*-sponsored conference dinner at the Derbyshire Cricket Club (also, unusually, attended by the VC) and then by the statutory late-night Latin disco.

SLAS PRESIDENT'S REPORT, APRIL 2005

Leiden conference, 2004.

This proved to be one of the largest ever SLAS conferences, with 36 panels and about 350 participants. Of these, 120 were British, 60 Dutch, 35 Mexican, 40 from the USA, 15 Chileans and 15 Brazilians, with smaller numbers from Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Portugal, France, Norway, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Greece, Denmark, Germany, Canada, and Iceland. Ten postgraduate bursaries were awarded and seven bursaries made to Latin American scholars. There were two plenary speakers (Professor Marcelo Cavarozzi of the Universidad Nacional San Martín, Argentina, and Miguel Angel

Centeno, of Princeton University). The conference made a good profit of over £2000. The Society's warm thanks are due to conference organiser, Patricio Silva, as well as to his team.

Support for postgraduates

Ten grants of £500 were made to postgraduates to support their research and three grants of about £500 were given to help postgraduates attend conferences. This year, 25 applications were received from postgraduate members for support for research. Of these, it has been decided to help eight applicants with grants of £600 each. Three awards were also made to help postgraduate members attend conferences. The official letters of notification will be sent out after the conference, by the new Secretary.

Support for conferences and workshops

A number of grants were made to help support a conferences organised by SLAS members:

- "Post-war violence and conflict: Latin America in comparative perspective". Organised by Mo Hulme. University of Liverpool, 9-10 September 2004. (£1000 awarded)
- "Celebrating the Fourth World: as symposium for Gordon Brotherston". Organised by Valeria Fraser, Peter Hulme and Dr Eleanor Wake. University of Essex 13-16 September 2004. (£1000 awarded)
- "Youth violence in Latin America: gangs, street children and juvenile justice in perspective". Organised by Gareth Jones and Denis Rogers, LSE, 26-27 May 2005 (£800 awarded)
- "When was Latin American modern". Organised by Nicola Miller and Stephen Hart. UCL. 16-18 February 2005. (£500 awarded).

BLAR

The Society's journal has done well under Senior Editor Sarah Radcliffe and her co-editors, Jon Beasley-Murray, Jean Grugel and Nicola Miller. It continues to derive great benefits from being based at ILAS in Liverpool, and from the work of the editorial assistant there, Mary Keaney. Blackwell's yearly publisher's report, presented at the BLAR Editorial Board Meeting on 8 April, was very favourable

and, as in the previous year, showed greatly increased on-line access to the journal and very good subscription rates, although institutional subscriptions were slightly down as more institutions access the journal through consortia. However, individual subscriptions were up on 2003. Income to SLAS from BLAR increased by 11% on 2003 figures.

SLAS has signed a contract with JSTOR and a full set of back numbers of BLAR is currently in the process of being scanned for full on-line access.

SLAS is pursuing an initiative led by LASA, via which Latin American institutions can get on-line access to *Latin American Research Review* at reduced subscription prices. We hope it will be possible for the same institutions to get access to BLAR, through the LARR portal.

- Sarah Radcliffe is now stepping down as Senior Editor, after several years productive work. The Society is very grateful to her for the sterling efforts she has made in guiding the editing of the journal. Nicola Miller will take over as Senior Editor. The replacement for Sarah will be David Howard (Geography, Edinburgh).
- Jon Beasley-Murray has also decided to step down. Many thanks to him. A search is under way for a replacement, with some positive possibilities under negotiation.

Website

The Society's IT Officer, Katie Willis, continues to maintain the SLAS website, which has become one of the key faces that the Society presents to the world.

SLAS Newsletter

Many thanks are due to Elizabeth Allen for her unstinting work on the SLAS Newsletter which continues to provide an invaluable service to SLAS members. Current and some past issues of the SLAS Newsletter continue to be accessible via the SLAS website.

Membership

Blackwell reports that this currently stands at 487 (including 140 postgraduate members and 29 NALACS members). This compares to 410 in 2003.

SLAS Annual Lecture Series

In 2004, SLAS held its first Annual SLAS Lecture. This is a new lecture series which seeks to raise the profile of SLAS nationally and internationally by inviting well-known speakers to address a theme of general interest. The first lecture was given by Professor William I. Robinson on 29 October 2004 at Senate House, University of London, in conjunction with the Institute for the Study of the Americas. William Robinson is Professor of Sociology, Global Studies, and Latin American and Iberian Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara and he spoke on "Latin America and the crisis of global capitalism". The Lecture was well attended by a varied audience, including postgraduate students and staff from the University of London.

Negotiations are currently under way to organise the next Annual Lecture, which will be held in Manchester in October.

PILAS

The PILAS Conference took place between February 4-5, 2005, in Cambridge. Approximately 40 people attended. Ten panels were held. For the first time, the conference was supported by funding from the AHRB, as a result of a bid put together by María Fernanda García, with the support of ILAS, London.

A new committee was elected for 2005-2006. The new President is José Deras (Jose.Deras@port.ac.uk) from Portsmouth University. The new Secretary is Cassandra Sweet (cs375@cam.ac.uk) from Cambridge University. Omar Rodríguez, from Aberystwyth (jor04@aber.ac.uk), was co-opted as IT Officer.

At the PILAS conference, it was agreed that it was best to have PILAS webpage reduced in content and added to the SLAS webpage.

Thanks are due to the previous PILAS organisers for their hard work: María Fernanda García (President), Alina Gamboa (Secretary) and Karan Bubber (IT Officer).

Harold Blakemore Essay Prize winner

There were 16 entries this year. The judges awarded the prize jointly to Into Goudsmit (Anthropology, Goldsmiths) for “Praying for government: peasant disengagement with the Bolivian state” and to Ariadna Acevedo Rodrigo (History, Warwick) for “Playing the tune of citizenship. Indian brass bands in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico, 1876-1911”. Both will receive a prize of £400. Goudsmit’s essay was an excellent account of how the Bolivian state acts and is perceived to act at the local level, while Acevedo’s essay linked the local practices of brass-band musicianship to broader processes of nation-building, citizenship and indigenous identity.

UKCASA

The old Coordinating Council for Area Studies Associations finally ceased to exist in 2003. It was replaced by UKCASA (United Kingdom Council for Area Studies Associations), formed on 5 November 2003 with 16 area studies associations. It has met regularly since then and made useful representations to such bodies as the AHRB (in relation to the proposal to draw up a league table of the top ten history journals) and HEFCE (in relation particularly to RAE 2008).

British Academy

The International Policy Committee of the British Academy has decided to set up an Area Panel for Latin America and the Caribbean, formed by academics from various institutions and disciplines, as well as the President of SLAS and representatives from the British Museum and the British Council. The Panel is looking at ways the BA can support academic research activity in Latin American Studies. Initiatives include earmarking some Visiting Fellowship awards for Latin American and Caribbean studies and the suggestion of a dedicated seminar series, sponsored by the BA.

Derby Conference

The SLAS Committee and members of SLAS would like to extend warm thanks to Victoria Carpenter, and her assistants, for organising a very successful conference in Derby this year, with 23 panels. Victoria did a tremendous job, considering that she was in the late stages of pregnancy in the run-up to the conference. In fact, she gave birth to Samantha Nikole Carpenter on Monday 4th April.

This conference was notable for the strong participation of postgraduate members as panel convenors. SLAS made available eight bursaries to assist postgraduate members to attend the conference, while five awards (and one registration fee waiver) were made to Latin American scholars to help with their travel expenses from abroad.

SLAS Committee

In May 2004, Jon Beasley-Murray stepped down as SLAS Publicity Officer and Diego Sanchez was co-opted to take his place. Thanks to Jon for his valuable work and to Diego for taking on the job.

In early 2005, nominations were invited for candidates for the following posts on the SLAS Committee: President (to replace Peter Wade) Vice-President (to replace Tony Kaptcia) Secretary (to replace Victoria Carpenter) 3 Ordinary Committee Members (to replace Sean Burges, Mo Hume and Sasha Schell).

Nominations were received and the following candidates took office unopposed:

President:	Tony Kaptcia
Vice-President:	Victoria Carpenter
Secretary:	Adrian Pearce
Committee Members:	Mo Hume, Sasha Schell and Paulo Drinot

Peter Wade, President of SLAS

HAROLD BLAKEMORE ESSAY PRIZE WINNER 2005.

There were 16 entries this year. The judges awarded the prize jointly to Into Goudsmit (Anthropology, Goldsmiths) for "Praying for government: peasant disengagement with the Bolivian state" and to Ariadna Acevedo Rodrigo (History, Warwick) for "Playing the tune of citizenship. Indian brass bands in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico, 1876-1911". Both will receive a prize of £400. Goudsmit's essay was an excellent account of how the Bolivian state acts and is perceived to act at the local level, while Acevedo's essay linked the local practices of brass-band musicianship to broader processes of nation-building, citizenship and indigenous identity.

SLAS TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2004 (AGM, 8/5/2005)

1. The summary which has been circulated follows the practice of my predecessor in showing assets carried forward at the end of 2003 as income, and those at the end of 2004 as expenditure. Thus, we began the calendar year 2004 with assets of almost 79K (78,949.57) and ended it with 70K (70,472.65), expenditure having exceeded income by 8,476.92.
2. This apparent profligacy, which at first sight reverses a trend of increasing assets annually during the previous decade, is explained largely by the fact that income for the previous year, 2003 (and, therefore assets carried forward) included receipts of £7,290 from registration fees for the Leiden Conference which were not actually disbursed until 2004. For purposes of comparison the assets carried forward at the end of 2002 (73,474.61) provide a more meaningful figure. It remains the case, nevertheless, that in 2004 the Committee succeeded in spending rather more than in previous years.
3. **On the income side**, the principal source was Blackwell, which pays part of the cost of the Editorial Assistant (£3,084 in 2004) and a royalty (£25, 631) based on sales of the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* during the previous year. 'Subscriptions' (£1,641.50) declined by £210 compared with 2003: not surprising as older members finally get round to cancelling their

standing orders. Interest payments (Tridos Bank 546.99, Abbey 1,005.71) were down by £101.00. The payment from the University of Cambridge was the refund of an unused grant to enable a Latin American scholar to attend the Leiden conference.

4. Turning to expenditure

- SLAS Newsletter: expenditure was £2,600 more than in 2003, partly because the University of Glasgow did not claim until 2004 for reimbursement of earlier postage costs.
- Conference: a residual payment was made, as shown, for 2003. The expenditure on the 2004 Congress by the Society (some monies went straight to Leiden and were spent there) was £2,362.44 greater than the total income of £20,970.87 received for this event in 2003/4. However, I have included under expenditure the total of £1,010 awarded in bursaries to assist post graduate members to attend, and a further £3,342 awarded to Latin American scholars (of which £700 was refunded, so net payments were £2,642). The 2003 account summary does not show a figure for the latter, but for the former it was £250, so this is one area where greater generosity was evident.
- A total of £6,900 awarded to postgraduates as contributions for costs of fieldwork in Latin America and participation in overseas conferences was £800 greater than in 2003. Similarly grants to UK institutions to support the organisation of conferences increased by 1K.
- Expenditure on Committee expenses – overwhelmingly reimbursement of travel expenses – was down by £400 (despite one meeting having been held in Leiden). Similarly that on BLAR (primarily for the salary of the Editorial Assistant) was lower in-year by nearly 2K, but this is misleading since it reflects the frequency with which The University of Liverpool, which pays the salary in the first instance, requests reimbursements. The cost will increase in the current year, not least as the Editorial Assistant is now 0.6 rather than 0.5.
- The ‘SLAS lecture’, costing £1,700, was an innovation which turned out to cost rather more than had been anticipated; the exercise will be repeated, I understand, in 2005 but on a more modest scale.

SLAS ACCOUNTS 2004

- The £600+ for postage refers specifically to the charge made by the University of Derby for the distribution of ballot papers for elections to the Committee: democracy does not come cheap!
- The other expenditure items are, I think, self explanatory, but if there are any questions about them (or anything else in my report) I should be glad to respond.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to my predecessor as Treasurer, David Fox, who handed over his files to me in good order in the middle of 2004, and to the auditor, Tony Bell (Registrar and Secretary of SAS), who examined the accounts and copious supporting documentation and confirmed (for the Charity Commission) their accuracy.

John Fisher, SLAS Treasurer, 8.4.2005

SLAS AWARDS TO POSTGRADUATES 2004-5

1. FOR RESEARCH TRAVEL

Valeria Perasso, University College London, Transnational flows and cultural consumption in Argentina (in relation to film)

Samantha Ross, University of East Anglia, Bilingual diversity in Mexico

Jessica Gibbs, University of Manchester, Latin American road movies

Sandra Aguilar, University of Manchester, Cooking modernity in 1950s rural Mexico

Kathrin Forstner, University of East Anglia, Women's craft marketing co-ops in highland Peru

Matthew Wilburn, University of Cambridge, Political ecology of mangroves in Honduras

Sonja Wolf, University of Aberystwyth, Human rights NGOs in El Salvador

Aurelie Charles, University of Leeds, Trade liberalisation in maquiladora region of Mexico

2. FOR TRAVEL TO CONFERENCES

Jane Archer, Birkbeck College, University of London, to attend the XIII International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment, Rio de Janeiro June 5-9, 2005. Her paper on 'Managing Pollution by Mining in the Bolivian Pilcomayo River System', has been accepted for presentation at the conference

Carlo Cubero, University of Manchester, Society for Caribbean Studies, UK

Natalia Preigo, University of Liverpool, AHILA, Spain

Anne-Marie Smith, University of Liverpool, Childhoods 2005, Oslo

MINUTES OF THE SLAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE ANNUAL SLAS CONFERENCE, 2005

8 April 2005, University of Derby

1. Minutes of previous meeting published in the SLAS newsletter of January 2005, were accepted as an accurate record.
2. Peter Wade, SLAS President, delivered his report. The AGM thanked Victoria Carpenter and the conference organising team for the work put into this year's event..
3. Harold Blakemore Prize. This year, 16 entries were submitted. The joint winners were Into Goudsmit (Goldsmiths) for "Praying for government: peasant disengagement with the Bolivian state" and to Ariadna Acevedo Rodrigo (Warwick) for "Playing the tune of citizenship. Indian brass bands in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico, 1876-1911".
2. John Fisher, SLAS Treasurer delivered his report. The AGM thanked Tony Bell, the Auditor, for his work.
3. Election of Committee
4. The AGM ratified the following changes to the Committee, following unopposed nominations: Tony Kapcia as President, Victoria Carpenter as Vice-President,

Adrian Pearce as Secretary, and Mo Hume, Sasha Schell and Paulo Drinot as Ordinary Ctte Members.

5. Any other business. There was no other business.

THE SECOND SLAS ANNUAL LECTURE

The SLAS Annual Lecture is a new initiative. It aims to make a focus for SLAS which lies outside the usual conference and workshop arrangements. It is proposed to be a public event, to provide interesting Latin American topics for lectures. In the future the SLAS Annual lecture is expected to be held in places which may not have established centres of Latin American studies, and everyone, SLAS member or non-SLAS member will be welcome. Suggestions for locations and speakers are welcome.

The first SLAS Annual Lecture was given by William I. Robinson on 29 October 2004 at Senate House, University of London, in conjunction with the Institute for the Study of the Americas.

The second will be held in Manchester, at the University, on the 7th October 2005.

THE NEXT SLAS ANNUAL A CONFERENCE, 2006: UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham will be the next venue, with Tony Kapcia as the lead organiser. Possible dates are 31 March - 2 April, or 7-9 April. These dates avoid the AHGBI and LASA conferences and Easter weekend. Anyone interested in proposing a panel should contact Tony Kapcia (A.Kapcia@nottingham.ac.uk)

BULLETIN OF LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH

Editors' report for Editorial Board Meeting, April 8 2005, University of Derby

2004-5 has been a busy year for the Bulletin and one which shows that the Bulletin is going from strength to strength.

Editors

The Editorial team comprises Sarah Radcliffe (retiring Senior Co-ordinating Editor), Nicola Miller (incoming Senior Coordinating Editor from April 2005), Jean Grugel (Book Reviews Editor), and Jon Beasley-Murray. Having been on the Editorial team for a good number of years, Sarah Radcliffe is now stepping down.

Editorial Assistant and Blackwells

The Editorial Assistant, Mary Keaney, continues in her post having been with the *Bulletin* for just over 2 years. She continues to make an invaluable contribution to the *Bulletin's* production and smooth running, liaising with each of the Editors, as well as with book publishers, reviewers, authors, and the Blackwells production team. Following discussions last year with the Editorial Board and the SLAS committee, the Assistant post was raised to a three-day per week position in the autumn 2004. This increase in assistance has been invaluable in permitting Mary to spend more time on book reviews, and chasing paper reviews.

In our dealings with Blackwells, we have been very pleased with their professional co-operation. We have continued to hold meetings with the Blackwells production and Editorial team who assist in dealing with any problems and changes in the production process.

Submissions

The submission rate has been healthy over the past year, with a total of 43 submissions between April 2004 and March 2005. Of the 2004 total, 13 articles were accepted (approx one-third acceptance rate). Having the Editorial Assistant log and administer all submissions makes the tracking of articles a more streamlined process. While it is unfair to pinpoint certain submissions, it is perhaps worth noting that the Democracy issue edited by Laura Tedesco was a great success as evidenced by electronic access figures. While the submissions of papers and special issues continue at a good rate, we aim to improve the quality of submitted articles and to increase the number of individual articles submitted. We would like to encourage all Board members to continue to promote the journal as a publication outlook for their colleagues, students and conference attendees.

Debates

This section of 'state of the art' articles has proven to be a popular section with our readers, as evidenced by the rates of 'electronic downloads' for these papers. Our July 2004 issue contained a Debate by Peter Wade on *mestizaje*. However, there is a slow-down in submissions, reflected in the fact that 2 issues this year have NOT included a Debate piece. This fall off is perhaps due to the fact that we rely upon the good will of our (already pressed) colleagues to produce a commissioned piece. However, we remain committed to this type of item in the Bulletin, and welcome any suggestions – or even proposals – for future Debates from members of the Editorial Board.

Special issues/Sections

Since the last report, we have published special sections on Citizenship (23: 2, April 2004), and on Brazilian popular culture (24: 2, April 2005). We have thus kept to our objective of having one special issue or section per volume, which appears to be working well given the current flow of material. We have several special sections/issues currently in the pipeline at various stages of completion.

Citation ranking

As reported at last year's meeting, the *Bulletin* has not historically been in a citation index, and the decision was taken to prepare an application to ISI for inclusion in their citation system. The paper work was completed in February 2005, and submitted to Blackwell who then passed it on to ISI. We now have to wait a year for a response, so hope to have some news for next year's Editorial Board meeting.

Name change

Having raised the issue of a possible name change at the last Editorial Board meeting, all members of the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board were canvassed for their opinions. The overwhelming majority of these boards' members thought that the name should remain *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, as this name was well known and respected in the area studies field. In discussion with the team at Blackwell, we agreed that the subhead 'Journal of the Society of Latin American Studies' should be given more prominence on the front cover, a change that was agreed and put into production.

Thanks

The Editors would like to thank Mary Keaney for her friendly and professional work for the *Bulletin* over the past year. We would also like to thank all reviewers of articles and books for their hard work over the past year, a group that includes many members of the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board. The continuing editors would also like to record their appreciation of Sarah Radcliffe's long-standing commitment to the journal, particularly during the time she has served as Coordinating Editor. We are all very sorry that she is standing down, but look forward to continuing to work with her as a member of the Editorial Board.

The Editors, 16 March 2005

SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: REPORTS ON SESSIONS AND PAPERS

The proposed panels are listed below. If you would like further details of the papers or discussions that took place, please contact the panel convenor directly. Reports of panels have been received from conference panels numbers 2, 8, 9, 16, and 19. If other convenors send in reports they will be included in the next issue of the SLAS Newsletter, as long as the Editor receives copy by the beginning of September.

1. Political Identities in Latin America after Neoliberalism

Convenors: Mercedes Barros, University of Essex & Sebastián Barros, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia. Email: mbarro@essex.ac.uk or chenke_1@yahoo.com

2. The Memory and Silence of the Period of the Military Regimes

Convenor: Mario Aguilar, University of St. Andrews, mia2@st-andrews.ac.uk

This panel continued the ethnographic, historical, and literary investigations on the topic of memory that had started at the SLAS annual meeting in Leiden 2004. The introduction by **Mario Aguilar** reiterated the different genres and intellectual approaches of memory and the need to continue an open interdisciplinary work on the topic. A social actor of the period, **Elie Valencia** (The Hague) presented a graphic testimony of human rights abuses in southern Chile, i.e. Magallanes.

Mercedes Barros (University of Essex) followed with an exploration of the narrative and landscapes of suffering in Argentina, a larger vision of the “dirty war” that became ethnographic reality through the current research by **Saskia van Drunen** (CEDLA) on the memory site of “El Olimpo” in Buenos Aires, and the textual memory of exile and return in Tizon’s novel *La casa y el viento* interpreted by **Carolina Rocha** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Gloria Galindo (Ohio State University) followed with a literary exploration of the Chilean writers Luis Torres and Alejandra Costamagna and their own perceptions through poetry and prose of exile, repression, and silence. The final paper read by **David Tombs** (Trinity College Dublin) explored Christian notions of forgiveness and the prosecution of Augusto Pinochet. It was clear from the panel that discussions on memory and silence allow researchers to work together and to explore the past by providing interpretations of the past within the present. Those attending the panel were the same throughout the day, a social practice that allowed the group to share memories and ideas in order to continue those explorations at the next meeting of SLAS.

M.I. Aguilar, Director Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, Tel. 01334-462835 Fax. 01334-462852 <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/divinity/csrp.html>

3. Communities and the Environment Affected by Mining

Convenor: Denisse Roca, ASU. hadazul79@yahoo.com

4. Postcolonial Stress Disorder? Europe's Colonial Legacy in Latin

American Cultures. Convenors: Chris Harris, Univ. of Liverpool, Email: C.Harris@liv.ac.uk & Amit Thakkar, Lancaster Univ. Email athakkar@lanc.ac.uk

5. Latin American Literature: Past, Present and Future

Convenor: Victoria Carpenter, Univ. of Derby V.Carpenter@derby.ac.uk

6. Violence and Conflict Management in Latin America

Convenor: Patricia Brito, Central University of Venezuela, Caracas
Email: pbcpoluxhb@hotmail.com

7. Brazilian Studies

Convenor: Sara Brandellero, University of Oxford. Email:
sara.brandellero@queens.oxford.ac.uk

8. Latin America Press History

Convenor: Laura Llull, Univ. Nac.del Sur, Argentina. Email:

llull@infovia.com.ar

En el panel que tuve la oportunidad de coordinar en el marco de la 2005 SLAS Conference, llevada a cabo en la Universidad de Derby, se presentaron diez trabajos relacionados con la historia de la prensa en Latinoamérica realizados por investigadores argentinos, británicos y mexicanos.

Durante las seis sesiones, que se desarrollaron durante todo el sábado 9 y la mañana del domingo 10 de abril, cada expositor presentó su respectivo paper, destacando los objetivos de su trabajo, la metodología empleada y las conclusiones. Luego de cada una de las sesiones, los asistentes tuvieron la oportunidad de efectuar comentarios y preguntas a los expositores, quienes, a su vez, pudieron explayarse sobre diversos aspectos de sus investigaciones.

Así, **Laura Herrera Serna** (Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México DF), **Adriana Pineda Soto** (Universidad Michoacana), **Francisco Fernández Martínez** (Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes), **Celia del Palacio Montiel** (Universidad de Guadalajara) y **Jessica Retis** (Instituto Ortega y Gasset; España) expusieron respectivamente sobre Las guías de forasteros de México, 1761-1910; La prensa electoral mexicana en el siglo XIX; La función e importancia de la prensa decimonónica durante el período Ilustrado en Europa y América; La transición al periodismo industrial en tres regiones de México a principios del siglo XIX y El rol de la prensa en la construcción simbólica de la realidad: imágenes de inmigrantes ecuatorianos y argentinos en El País, El Mundo y ABC.

Iona MacIntyre (University of Nottingham) y **Lucía Bracamonte** (Universidad Nacional del Sur) aportaron el tema del género en la prensa con sus respectivas ponencias tituladas: Dedicado al bello sexo argentino: a nineteenth century editorial war y Cultura política socialista y derechos de las mujeres en la prensa argentina de principios del siglo XX: el caso de Bahía Blanca. **Hugo Hortiguera** (Griffith University, Australia) expuso sobre Espacios de frontera y pseudo-información: el melodrama delictuoso en el periodismo argentino contemporáneo y **Steve Hewitt** (University of Wolverhampton) sobre El movimiento de Veteranos y Patriotas, 1902-1924. En mi caso particular presenté

el paper titulado El diario La Nueva Provincia y el golpe de estado de 1966 en Argentina.

Se generó así un enriquecedor diálogo entre colegas que trató fundamentalmente sobre aspectos relativos a los marcos metodológicos que empleamos quienes nos dedicamos a este campo al momento de abordar nuestros objetos de estudio. Me permito por último subrayar la excelente calidad de todos los trabajos presentados y la disposición de los investigadores que colaboraron totalmente para que este panel se constituyera en una instancia de intercambio y enriquecimiento para todos los que participamos del mismo.

Agradezco a quienes respondieron tan generosamente a mi convocatoria y también quiero expresar mi reconocimiento a todo el Comité de la SLAS en general, al profesor John Fisher, a Linda Marshall y, particularmente a la Dra Victoria Carpenter, a quien felicito por la llegada de Samantha. Muchas gracias a todos.

Laura Llull

9. Comparing Performance Measurement in the Public Sector: Lessons for Policy Implementation. Convenor: Gerardo Mixcóatl Tinoco, Univ. Autónoma de Campeche Email: gmixcoat@uacam.mx

10. (Conducted as Panel 9):Housing, Urban Poverty and Social Movements
Convenors: Fernando Diaz Orueta, University of Kent at Canterbury
F.Diaz-Orueta@kent.ac.uk and Maria Luisa Loures, Universidad de Alicante, Spain, ml.loures@ua.es

The discussion focused on the analysis of populism and its changes in a context of supposed popular classes social fragmentation. Local characteristics are basic to understand how the populism works. Not only the social composition of a locality, but also the social networks and the different social organizations and their links with the government and the political parties. **Emmanuelle Barozet's** paper about two Chilean cities (Santiago de Chile and Iquique) showed the importance of intermediary networks: they are not working only when the

electoral campaign arrives, but also in the everyday life. Formally, some intermediary networks could be created for other purposes, but frequently they are used to promote the interests of a local leader (*caudillo*). These forms of personalized democracy help to everyday survival of popular classes but they can't be considered as a form of direct democracy.

Another important matter studied in the session was the role of women heads of households in Latin America. As **Elise Anna Tejeda**'s paper proved, they are more vulnerable to poverty and they have specific problems to face housing access. Planning processes don't take into account how women heads of households participate in the building of the city and, specially, of the popular settlements. The author's paper explains the results of a research on the periphery of Mexico City (*Chalco*), showing the lack of recognition for the role of women heads of households. She adopts a gender-sensitive and human rights based approach, emphasizing the need of a gender awareness as a relevant urban design strategy.

Fernando Díaz Orueta and María Luisa Lourés

11. The Birth of the Modern World in Latin America, 1780-1914

Convenor: Matthew Brown, University of Bristol Matthew.Brown@bristol.ac.uk

12. Nationalism and the Left since 1930

Convenors: David Wood, King's College, London. david.m.j.wood@kcl.ac.uk
and Michael Goebel, UCL. thomasmichaelgoebel@yahoo.co.uk

13. The Cuban Revolution: Productivity and Consciousness in Socialist Cuba.

Convenor: Helen Yaffe, LSE. helen_yaffe@yahoo.co.uk

14. Immigrants, Emigrants and Re-Migrants: agents and other key links in Latin American migration chains.

Convenor: Michael Derham, University of Northumbria. michael.derham@unn.ac.uk

15. The Political Economy of Neo-liberalism in Latin America

Convenors: Andréia Galvão, Univ. Estadual de Campinas agalvao@unicamp.br
José Marcos N. Novelli, Univ. Estadual de Campinas novelli@unicamp.br

16. Democracy, power and participation in contemporary Latin America

Convenor: David Raby, Inst. of Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool
dlraby@liv.ac.uk

17. (Convened as panel 16) International Relations in South America

Convenor: Sean W. Burges, Norman Patterson School of International Affairs,
Carleton University, Canada. seanburges@yahoo.com

The panel discussed the tensions and controversial issues characterising the past, present and future of the international relations of South America. The three sessions, for a total of 9 presentations, covered South American interstate relations within the continent and with the outer world. Attendance was very satisfactory, with a peak of some 30 participants in the last one. All presentations raised interesting issues and stimulated a lively and intellectually challenging discussion.

In the opening session, **Cassandra Sweet** illustrated the features of the Indo-Brazilian commercial relationship in the pharmaceutical sector, **Jean Grugel** critically reviewed issues of citizenship and the social agenda of Mercosur, and **Claudia Fabbri** discussed the use of Social Constructivism to explain Argentine-Brazilian nuclear relations.

In the second session, **Gian Luca Gardini** exposed the discrepancies between diplomatic history and the democratic fanfare surrounding the genesis of Mercosur, **Andres Malamud** unveiled the incongruity between political discourse and the effective realizations of Mercosur, and **Sean Burges** critically reviewed the prospects for an effective South American regional grouping. The proceedings of this session will be submitted for publication in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs.

In the third session, **Jae-Sung Kwak** assessed the state of the art of East Asian-Latin American relations covering the bilateral and the multilateral dimensions, **Matias Spektor**, using the case study of Henri Kissinger and Brazil, addressed the understudied issue of relationships between great and regional powers, and

Laurence Allen stressed the relevance of domestic environment to bilateral relations and the continuing significance of territorial perceptions in Argentine-Chilean relations. In a global and increasingly 'multilateralised' world, it emerges that bilateral relations are still a fundamental tenet in the international relations of South America.

Sean Burges and Gian Luca Gardini

18. Empleo, distribución funcional del ingreso y desprotección social en América Latina. Convenor: Javier Lindenboim Centro de Estudios sobre Población, Empleo y Desarrollo, Univ. de Buenos Aires. jlinden@econ.uba.ar

19. (proposed panel for the conference) Government and Institutions in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Latin America. Convenor: Catherine Andrews, Univ. Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Mexico. candrews@uat.edu.mx or cathandrews2002@yahoo.com.mx

Panel 19: (actual panel presented) Current politics in Latin America: impacts on development, integration and international relations

Based on factual research and containing insightful analysis, the four papers presented at this panel had something new to be said and worth-knowing about Latin America cross-national contemporary politics.

Aaron Schneider, of the University of Glasgow, and **Rebeca Zuniga-Hamlin**, a free-lance consultant, summarized the findings of field research they conducted in rural Peru in 2002, at a moment when a rights-based approach (RBA) began to be implemented as a response to poverty. The authors pointed out that RBA mixed with existing clientelist practices to produce governance hybrids, which has to be taken into account when designing programs to reduce poverty not only in Peru but throughout all Latin America.

Mikhail Mohammeddinov, of the University of Glasgow, provided an overview of the Mercosur (Mercado Comun del Sur) linking together Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, and compared it to the European Union. As Brazil alone accounts for 80% of Mercosur population and gross domestic product, it has

been difficult to build a balanced, well-functioning institutional framework for Mercosur, he remarked.

Gustavo Emmerich, of the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana (UAM, from Mexico City), presented data showing that in the ten last years military expenditures have increased 23% in South America (while simultaneously they have decreased in Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico). Brazil's position as the biggest military power in Latin America and the USA support for the Colombian military, combined recently with the actual or planned purchasing of heavy military and naval equipment by Venezuela and Chile, he added, are fueling what could well be the starting point of an arms race in South America.

Luis Medina, also from UAM, analyzed the contest for the position of Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). In his view, the nomination of the former president of Honduras Francisco Flores, even if endorsed by the United States of America (USA), had no possibilities. So, the real contest was limited to ministers Ernesto Derbez from Mexico and Jose Miguel Insulza from Chile. According to Medina, Derbez is the second-best candidate for the USA and some of its closest allies in the hemisphere, while Insulza -a Socialist- is preferred by left-leaning governments. [Update: ultimately, Flores resigned his nomination and the OAS tied up in electing Derbez or Insulza.]

An extended discussion period ensued. The linkages between poverty and unnecessary military expenditures, as well as the opposition between clientelism and effective citizenship, were outlined. In other aspects, international hemispheric relations were assessed from the diplomatical, economical and political points of view, relating them to the OAS, Mercosur and other hemispheric integration schemes, and the current military build-up in some South American countries. Additionally, some ideas for further research and joint projects came out at the discussion.

Let me end this report with a personal note of appreciation to SLAS and particularly to Professor Victoria Carpenter, the 2005 Conference organizer. In

spite of being until a few months ago a perfect stranger to SLAS, I was kindly allowed to be a convenor with no questions or references asked. This, alongside the many other interesting panels and discussions I was able to attend, tells me much about the openness and vibrant life of what has since become, too, *my* Society.

Gustavo Ernesto Emmerich, Cordinador de la Línea Procesos Políticos
Posgrado en Estudios Sociales, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana –
Iztapalapa, Mexico, D.F. gus12052000@yahoo.com

HAROLD BLAKEMORE PRIZE 2006

The Society for Latin American Studies has an annual essay competition for current or recent (graduated in the year preceeding the submission date) post-graduate students of British universities. The winning essay writer will receive a cash prize (recently, the winner has received a prize of £400). 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*. For entry to the competition for 2006, TWO copies of the essay, which should be double spaced and no more than 8,000 words in length, should be submitted to the SLAS President by February 2005. A panel of judges for the prize will be appointed by the SLAS Committee. The winner should be announced at the SLAS Annual Conference in the University of Nottingham, in April 2006.

Tony Kapcia, Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 951 5801 Email: a.kapcia@nottingham.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING SLAS DEADLINES AND EVENTS

Listed below are forthcoming SLAS events and deadlines. If you have any queries about particular events, then please contact the organizers directly. I am happy to answer any general queries. Details about all SLAS activities can be found on the SLAS website: www.slas.org.uk

<<http://www.slas.org.uk/>>

Katie Willis, SLAS IT Officer <Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk>

1. The 2006 SLAS Conference.

The Annual conference of the society will take place at The University of Nottingham 31 March - 2 April 2006. The deadline for panel proposals is 31 October 2005. Each panel can nominate 1 Postgraduate presenter for a SLAS bursary and 1 Latin American scholar for a SLAS travel grant. (It is the convenors responsibility to make those nominations). Further details can be found at <http://www.slas.org.uk/conference/index.shtml>

<<http://www.slas.org.uk/conference/index.shtml>>

2. The Second SLAS Annual Lecture – an open meeting, all welcome.

This novel event will take place on Friday 7th October 2005 at The University of Manchester. The speaker will be Duncan Green (Head of Research, Oxfam). The title of the lecture is 'Twenty Years of Neoliberalism: Where does Latin America go from here?'. All SLAS members and non-members are welcome. Further details will be circulated nearer the time, or check on the webpage for SLAS..

3. Deadline for applications for Postgraduate Conference attendance.

Applicants must be members of SLAS and follow the application procedure outlined on the website at: <http://www.slas.org.uk/grants.shtml#conf>

<<http://www.slas.org.uk/grants.shtml#conf>>

4. SLAS is providing for 3 forthcoming conferences:

- **Patagonia: Myths & Realities.**
2 -4 September 2005, University of Manchester: For further details see:
<http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/Research/Conferences/>
<<http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/Research/Conferences/>>
 - **God's Revolutionaries? Faith and Impiety in the Mexican Revolution 1910- 1940.** 14 -15 October 2005, Queen's University, Belfast: For further details see: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/Mexico/>
<<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/Mexico/>>
 - **Colonial Worlds: Alternative Views on the History of Colonial Latin America.** 27 October 2005, Institute for the Study of the Americas, London: For further details, please contact ISA:
<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/events/index.php>
<<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/events/index.php>>
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PILAS: Postgraduate Students in Latin American Studies

PILAS is the postgraduate arm of the Society for Latin American Studies in the UK (SLAS, www.slas.org.uk). An organization run by students, we aim to foster the interaction between postgraduate students researching on Latin America from different scholarly disciplines at academic institutions in the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe. Everyone is welcome.

PILAS COMMITTEE

PILAS President: Maria Fernanda Garcia Rincón, University of Cambridge
mfg22@cam.ac.uk

PILAS Secretary, Alina Gamboa, Univ. of Warwick, A.Gamboa@warwick.ac.uk

IT Officer, Karan Bubber, University of East Anglia, K.Bubber@uea.ac.uk

PILAS Mailing List

PILAS also operates an Internet mailing list which is used to distribute information on upcoming events. If you are feeling ambitious you can also use the mailing list to organise events. The mailing list is also an ideal way of making

initial contact with your fellow postgraduates. The PILAS Committee would like to update their mailing list to better serve the postgraduate community working on Latin America. To join the mailing list, we are asking postgraduates to email: mfg22@cam.ac.uk, with 'join pilas FIRST NAME LAST NAME' written in the subject line. Also, check the PILAS website to find out about the Forum, the List of Experts on Latin America and other creative initiatives.

PILAS Eighth Annual Conference:

3-5 February 2005, University of Cambridge, UK

The 8th Annual PILAS Conference took place at the University of Cambridge, during February 3-5, 2005. Twenty-seven students presented papers and more than forty people attended. The conference was organized in ten panels that covered a wide selection of topics and remained multidisciplinary in its approach to literature, history, economics, politics, arts, indigenous communities, governance, citizenship, national identity and development of Latin America.

Students that participated came from the following universities: University of Newcastle, Oxford Brooke University, University of Nottingham, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Manchester, University of London, University of Cambridge, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Sorbonne, Paris, European University Institute, Florence, University of Arizona, University of Aberystwyth, University of Portsmouth, UCL, University of Warwick, ILAS, and University of Liverpool. The conference continues to attract an international audience.

The conference began with a small gathering at a local pub that allowed for relaxed and informal discussions. The following day the first session began with Historical thoughts of Argentina and Mexico. **Iona Macintyre** spoke about Newspapers, pamphlets and national organization in post-independence Buenos Aires. The paper looked at some of the different genres which abounded in the press during this period of transition and conflict. **Yolanda Eraso** then spoke about the Society 'Conferencias de Señoras de San Vicente de Paul' in Cordoba, Argentina during the beginning of the 20th century and its provision of

welfare to the poor and relationship with the State. **Ben Smith**, finished the session with a paper on Priests and Parishioners: anticlericalism and resistance in Huajuapán, Mexico.

Literature was covered in the second session with a discussion on the identity in Latin American literature. **Penny Johnson**, explored the ideological implications of translating Neruda's *Canto General* and how the chosen translation techniques may have had an effect on targeted cultures. Following that paper, **Charlotte Liddell**, presented an analysis of Nisia Floresta's less well-known works, *Paginas de uma vida ebbscura* and its influence of Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Lastly, **Paul Robert McAleer** examined the role of comedy in Latin American realist novel after the boom; referring specifically to the genre: hysterical realism.

In the third session we heard three papers that discussed visual representation in Latin America. **Katie Earnshaw**, discussed the Chiapas Photography Project and analysed the complex ways in which the project's discourse of indigenous to self-representation are played at different levels. **Carlo Cubero**, presented a recent edit of an ethnographic film that he is developing on the trans-insular identities in the island of Culebra in the Caribbean. **Jessie Gibbs** finished the session with an analysis of the road movie: *Sin dejar huellas* in a search for utopia as a recurring theme in Latin American road movies.

After lunch **Dr. Sarah Radcliff**, Editor of the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* gave a talk on how to publish in area studies journals which we all found very useful. She provided examples and approaches one could take with regards to publishing while a PhD student.

Then we had the fourth session on Development Discourses and how outside discourse have direct impact on local communities. **Monica Mazzer** examined the current policy fashion for development interventions based on ideas of participatory communication in supporting sustainable livelihoods of the poor, based on detailed case studies of radio communication. **Judith Walcott** followed with a paper that examined the discourse of development on the

Ecuador-Colombia border, and its implications for the changing role of the nation-state. Finally **Alejandra Navarro-Smith** finished the session with a review of a number of cases that have generated political division and local conflicts in the community of San Jeronimo in Chiapas that arise from people's participation in "productive projects" boosted by State policies for development.

The last session of Friday covered papers on economics and institutional reform in Latin America. **Silke Lechner**, using a neo-institutional approach presented a comparative study of Ecuador and Bolivia's political dynamics of tax reform. **Casandra Sweet** then spoke about the emergence of an indo-brazilian trade coalition developed through a globalized "south-south" network. **Annika Bolten** reviewed the lack of reform of the exchange rate of the "Cavallo Plan" in Argentina in the late 90s which implied missing a crucial window of opportunity for non-crisis exit. **Leandro Carrera**, for the last paper of the session gave a series of political explanations for economic reform in Argentina (1989-99), Chile (1982-90) and Spain (1982-96).

The day ended with a reception at Newnham College followed by dinner at the Bun Shop, a local Tapas Bar. Dinner included a series of tapas, wine and nice Latin American music.

Saturday had several panels where urban issues, indigenous rights, and politics were discussed. The sixth session discussed informal economic sector, with **Maria Fernanda Garcia** discussing how public space is negotiated in Caracas, Venezuela by street vendors. **Laurence Crot** then proceeded to present an analysis into the public participation mechanisms in the formulation of Strategic Plans and Participatory Budgets in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The following topic for the day was Trade in Latin America. **Andrea Carla Bianculli** spoke about Trade Agreements in the 21st century focusing on the fit between regionalism and social agendas in trade agreements. **Jose Deras**, in his economics' paper, explained the development of the Central America Common Market through the application of the Gravity model.

The eighth session of the conference was entitled Migration and intelligence agencies in Mexico. **Eve Bantman** discussed academic and popular interpretations of the relation between Mexico and the United States by discussing migration, government propaganda and nationalist ideology. **Omar Rodriguez** discussed the role of Mexico's main intelligence agency and its current level of professionalism and role in society.

We then had a session on political contrasts and consequences where **Natalia Ajenjo Fresno**, explored constitutional choices in presidential regimens in Latin America claiming it has been underestimated in the literature attributing to (pure) presidential regimes an inherently poor democratic performance. **James Scorer**, later spoke about the two wars of the Argentine military dictatorship (1976-83): the *Guerra sucia* and the Malvinas/Falklands conflict.

The last session of the conference discussed indigenous people's struggles in Latin America. **Joanna Crow** spoke about the role Mapuche Museum of Cañate is having on challenging or reinforcing national identity in Chile. **Claudia Ituarte-Lima**, spoke about human rights in the interamerican system using an example of a Guatemalan indigenous peoples relationship with the environment.

This conference was made possible with the support and help from Centre of Latin American Studies at Cambridge University, Society of Latin American Studies, and Institute for the Studies of the Americas. A special thanks to **Julie Coimbra**, from CLAS, University of Cambridge, also helped with the prior arrangements to the Conference and **Karen Perkins** from Institute for the Study of the Americas in coordinating AHRB funding.

We also thank **AHRB** for sponsoring PILAS for this conference and **Centre of Latin American Studies**, University of Cambridge for sponsoring the lunches and coffee breaks. This multidisciplinary conference really helps postgraduate students have the opportunity to share their work and meet others working in similar topics in the U.K., Europe and this year even the United States.

PILAS Elections

Elections were held during the conference and the new committee for 2005-2006 is the following:

PILAS President: Jose Deras, Portsmouth University, Jose.Deras@port.ac.uk

PILAS Secretary: Casandra Sweet, Cambridge University, cs375@cam.ac.uk

PILAS IT-Officer: Omar Rodriguez, Abersymth University, jor04@aber.ac.uk

Lastly, I would like to thank the participants for making this event such a success. **Maria Fernanda Garcia**, PILAS President 2004-2005

PILAS Postgraduates in Latin American Studies News for the period Feb/2005 to Feb/2006

A new committee 2005/06:

President: Jose Deras, Portsmouth University Jose.Deras@port.ac.uk

Secretary: Cassandra Sweet, Cambridge University [cs375@cam.ac.uk]

IT Officer: Omar Rodriguez, Aberystwyth University [jor04@aber.ac.uk]

PILAS activities for [2005/2006]:

1. PILAS Session: [08/April/05] as part of SLAS conference [Derby] included:

- PILAS Plan socialization with participant, including the confirmation that the ***Ninth PILAS Conference 2006 will take place at Portsmouth University [2-4 February, 2006].***
- A presentation of ACLAIR titled: 'LA Ph.D. Researchers: Information and library resources in UK for research in Latin American Studies.'
- A presentation of BLAR: 'Publishing Issue and Submitting Work to BLAR.'
- And an activity of 'discussion and feedbacks' about the PILAS activities.

2. PILAS Network and Communications:

a PILAS webpage: the establishment of PILAS page on SLAS webpage was agreed. The PILAS information will be available on <http://www.slas.org.uk> [May,

2005] – including the applications forms and more details for the next PILAS Conference. Temporal PILAS information is offered on:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PILAS_NETWORK/

b. Mailing Lists: PILAS continues circulating information [and exchanging] with members through the mailing lists.

3. The Ninth PILAS Conference 2006 at University of Portsmouth 02-04/February/2006.

4. SLAS Committee: Given that PILAS is an arm of the *Society for Latin American Studies* [SLAS], the whole plan is expected to be achieved in coordination with SLAS, including the permanent participation in its committee [SLAS committee].

5. PILAS will explore financial programs for Latin American Students [and Studies]

REPORTS FROM SLAS-SUPPORTED EVENTS.

1. WHEN WAS LATIN AMERICA MODERN?

A report on a workshop held at University College London and ISA, 16-18 February 2005

This event involved two plenary lectures, given on 16 and 17 February by visiting speakers from Cuba and Mexico, and a day of paper presentations and discussion on 18 February. The two lectures, by the Cuban film director Julio García Espinosa and the Argentine cultural studies scholar Néstor García Canclini, were both very successful events, which were well-attended by staff, students and other interested scholars. Even though it was reading week, it was pleasing to see a good number of undergraduates from both the Spanish and History departments in the audiences, along with MA and research students.

For the Friday workshop, we also had a very high attendance, with 78 people registered, apart from the invited speakers and chairs. Four panels were held: social sciences, history, film and literature, and cultural studies. Two papers were presented at each panel, and there was plenty of time for discussion. At the end of the day, the proceedings were concluded by an invited discussant, who provoked a very lively debate on the inter-disciplinary issues that had arisen during the day. A great deal of enthusiasm was expressed, both by participants and audience, about the value of the inter-disciplinary approach, which brought out many common themes as well as areas of tension and debate. Overall, the event was highly successful, and the convenors are now planning an edited collection of the papers, to be supplemented by short discussion pieces, which ISA is interested in publishing in its series. We are very grateful for all the support that made this workshop possible.

Nicola Miller, Department of History, UCL and **Stephen Hart**, Department of Spanish, UCL, 4 March 2005

2. POST-WAR CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE: LATIN AMERICA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE.

University of Liverpool, 9-10 September 2004

I attach the conference report for ILAS Liverpool conference 2004 which received £1000 from SLAS. The conference was held over two days at the University of Liverpool's Foresight Centre. A variety of papers were presented, covering a wide range of contexts and issues, centred around the theme of post-war conflict and violence. There were five sessions, culminating in around-table debate.

SECTION 1 GOVERNANCE, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE.

Natascha Adama, Centre for Third World Studies, University of Ghent *What happens after the failure of Institutions and Party Systems in Latin- America? The Rise of the Predatory State*

This paper explored cleavages in the analysis of the conflicts in Latin America moving the analysis beyond historic explorations of neo-liberalism and modernity. The paper examined the distinction between different types of conflicts, making linkages between institutional weakness and weak party

systems. The analysis was broad based, addressing the conflicts of Suriname, Venezuela, Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and Argentina.

Jenny Pearce, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford *Peace-building on the Periphery: The Case of Huehuetenango, Guatemala*

This paper presented some of the initial findings of research being undertaken in the Department of Huehuetenango, Guatemala, which began the year after the peace accords were signed in 1996. It explored the limits of externally constructed and driven peace-building programmes, highlighting the complex nature of violence. The Department of Quiché is the 'periphery of the periphery' one of the poorest in Guatemala, which suffered the highest number of massacres after Quiché during the war. It has eight different ethnicities living in 31 municipalities, each impacted in different ways by pre-war processes, the impact of war violence and allegiances, and post-war dynamics. The research began in 1997 and continues, with the aim of following over time the processes of social, economic and political change in a complex post war environment.

Cath Collins, ILAS, University of London *'Prosecuting Pinochet' - Post-transitional Justice Relruptions in the Americas*

The paper argued that post-transitional justice trajectories are primarily internally driven. Transnational initiatives, although occasionally successful in their own right, have not been able to interrupt or foreshorten domestic post-transitional trajectories to the extent of independently creating favourable accountability conditions. In El Salvador, transnational legal activity has been insufficient to catalyse domestic accountability change where domestic actor pressure and judicial receptivity remain weak. For Chile, even domestic actor pressure with a strong 'legal' character was unable to effect wider transformation until matched by judicial change. Judicial change in Chile has been decisive, yet it is hypothesised here that it has been both limited and specific to the historic human rights issue.

SECTION 2 HISTORIC PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE

Bronwyn Harris, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (South Africa) *"It's our daily bread" Violence and South Africa's Transition to Democracy*

This presentation explored South Africa's culture of violence; it engaged with trends, patterns and expressions of conflict in the post-apartheid nation. Drawing on research conducted by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), an NGO based in Johannesburg, it looks at the continuities and changes in violence over the nation's transition from apartheid to democracy. The paper explored the impact of the past on the trends of violence that define post-apartheid South Africa and raised questions as to what extent the process of democratisation has created a space for the expression of violence. Linking with other papers presented, the paper also explored the role of transitional justice institutions such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on contemporary manifestations of violence. The speaker also touched upon the reproduction of violence and fear.

Miguel Cruz, UCA, El Salvador *Normalised Violence: Exploring the Development of a Culture of Violence in Central America*

This paper argued that high levels of violence in the last decade in Central America cannot be explained as a simple crime wave following sustained armed conflict. Violence predates the conflicts in the region, notably in El Salvador and Guatemala, and can be identified through an exploration of social relations, which are based on a 'culture of violence'. This culture of violence can be seen in the high levels of rural violence, which are unique to Central America in comparison to the rest of Latin America, where violence is largely concentrated in urban sectors.

Rhys Kelly, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford *Theorising Memory Work as Conflict Resolution Practice*

This paper engaged with recent debates about how to deal with the legacies of large-scale violence, in particular, the function of criminal tribunals and truth commissions in promoting justice and reconciliation. Drawing on contemporary research in 'memory studies', the paper questioned some of the core assumptions underpinning these approaches to 'memory work' - processes for

'working through' painful histories. It argued that trials and truth commissions are ill-equipped to deal with the complexity and ambiguity of war-time memories. The paper reflected on the meaning of 'truth' in relation to contemporary conflict and the ways in which people make sense of their experiences. Secondly, it argued that public mechanisms of memory work do not take sufficient account of the localisation and privatisation of memory, and its resistance to outside influences. The paper suggested a need to rethink the necessary time-frames for and location of memory-work. And raised questions on the tensions between the therapeutic and 'pedagogic' (or preventative) aims of memory work, particularly in societies divided by violent conflict.

SECTION 3 VIOLENCE AND THE EVERYDAY

Luz Villareal, GSEU, University of Liverpool: *The Role of Civil Society in the Colombian Conflict.*

Based on data gathered from seven focus groups and from interviews with individuals involved in the study of the Colombian conflict, this paper explores the ways in which the conflict is viewed by Colombian Civil Society. The paper explored innovative techniques for researching violence and conflict, and the implications of the research process for constructing epistemologies of violence. This highlighted not only the multiple and complex understandings of violence by those in who live with conflict, but also cautioned on privileging certain voices within studies of violence and conflict.

Cathy McIlwaine, Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London *Everyday Violence in Latin America: Experiences from urban Colombia and Guatemala*

This paper explored the experience of everyday violence for people living in urban poor communities in Colombia and Guatemala drawing on participatory urban appraisal methodologies. Using a typology that differentiates political, economic and social violence, it highlighted how political violence, while important in some contexts, is much less significant in the daily lives of the ordinary people compared with economic and social violence. The paper illustrated the causes and implications of this everyday violence for the urban poor in Colombia and Guatemala, highlighting the multiple and intersecting

nature of this violence, which ultimately has to be analysed in a holistic manner. Finally, it suggested some broad policy interventions as identified by local people themselves.

Ulrich Oslender, Department of Geography, University of Glasgow *From collective land titles to geographies of terror: black communities on Colombia's Pacific coast and forced displacement*

In 1991 Colombia's new constitution declared the nation to be multicultural and pluriethnic. Afro-Colombians seemed to have reason for further optimism, when progressive legislation in 1993 granted collective land rights to black communities living in the rural areas of the Pacific coast region. Yet ten years later, the escalation of Colombia's internal conflict into this region has resulted in unprecedented levels of peasant displacements and effective de-territorialisation of rural black communities. The Colombian Pacific coast, erstwhile referred to as 'peace haven', is now characterised by geographies of terror, imposed by warring guerrilla and paramilitary groups. This paper examined the nature of this externally induced violence in the region and the ways in which a generally favourable political opportunity structure, which aimed at opening up channels of democratic political participation in Colombia, has been eroded by this new context of violence, terror and fear. As black peasants live with the constant threat of massacres, hundreds of thousands have fled their lands to seek refuge in the larger cities the speaker proposed the concept of 'geographies of terror' to analyse the particular spatial characteristics of this conflict, but also to address the problem beyond the usual focus on the displaced population in the cities.

SECTION 4 GENDER AND VIOLENCE

David Tombs Irish School of Ecumenics Trinity College, Dublin *The Ethics of Speaking of the Unspeakable*

The truth commission reports for El Salvador (1993) and Guatemala (1998 and 1999) provide important insights into 'unspeakable' tortures and other sexual abuses conducted by state forces during counter-insurgency operations in Central America in the 1980s. There is a growing recognition that such abuses must be recorded as serious human rights violations, and identified as an integral part of the military's strategy. Academic research in this area can make a

valuable contribution to understanding what happened and the political and cultural dynamics at work. However, such research remains fraught with difficulties. This paper explored the ways in which researchers need to be sensitive to the ethical issues involved in discussing these areas of the reports, especially because the survivors often continue to struggle with the pain and feelings of stigma. In particular, the paper concentrated on why researchers need to ask why they are focussing on these issues, what purpose their work has, and how it is likely to be seen by others.

Mo Hume, ILAS, University of Liverpool *Privileging Violence: The Gendered Dynamics of Tolerance*

This paper examined how gendered violence continues to be minimised within public and private discourse. Through an examination of social understandings and reactions to violence, based on qualitative research in El Salvador, the paper argued that gendered violence remains an issue sidelined from mainstream social and political debates. In a society where the threshold for tolerating violence is huge, gendered violence stands out as an issue which, to a large degree, has become normalised as a central element of gender relations. The paper argued that different social meanings of violence and the resultant policy response reflect dominant gender cultures which fail to recognise many manifestations of violence. As such, thus contributing to and reinforcing continued social and political cleavages.

Honor Fagan, Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth *Feminist Transformative Politics and The Logic of Revelation in the Face of Globalising War*

The construction of a feminist transformative politics through a logic of revelation in and around war has been somewhat successful, but more recently some outcomes from a corollary liberal feminist shift - the militarisation of women - has flown in the face of this progressive politics. This paper explored imagery of transformative politics and of militarised women in current violent conflicts to better see the pervasive intersections between gendering and warring, the manipulation of concepts of 'masculinity' and 'femininity' in warring and peace

processes and what the speaker termed the crisis of representation for feminist anti-war mobilisation.

SECTION 5 RESEARCHING VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

Mauricio García, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford A

Collective Action for Peace Database: A New Research Tool for Assessing Peace Mobilization in Colombia

This paper argued that it is quite surprising that in the quantification projects developed in the field of Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution, there is an overwhelming focus on violence and war, but only a very little attention paid to peace initiatives in strict sense. The paper pointed out that there are more than 50 war and conflict databases, but not one that systematically makes an account of the social dynamic for peace. In an effort to overcome this situation, a database has been developed a database to measuring the collective actions for peace performed by the Colombian society. This paper presented on one hand, the way in which the database has been developed: the context of violence in which it emerged, the characteristics and variables used in the database, and the reliability of the data. But on the other hand, the paper also presented the preliminary results, highlighting the more important tendencies in the considerable level of collective actions for peace in Colombia in the 1990s, which has implied not only a massive mobilization (more than 30 millions people in 10 years) but also a growing process of peace activism, organization and networking. In addition, this peace mobilization has opened social and political spaces to social groups and sectors, enabling them to reject violence and express their wishes and proposals for peace.

Wim Savenije, FLACSO El Salvador *Urban Youth Violence: Victims and Aggressors Intertwined*

In El Salvador the connection between youth and violence is seen as intimate. Youth gangs and secondary school students are often seen as culprits of the eye-catching violence in Salvadoran society. Youth gangs are blamed for the widespread terror and violence in marginalized, poor communities where they live. Students are held responsible for violent encounters in the streets and at bus stops of important public transport routes, when they transit the Metropolitan

Area of San Salvador on their way to and from school. The victims are frequently other young people of the same group that commit these acts of violence, in other words: gang members and students. Belonging to a youth gang or attending a certain secondary school justifies becoming a victim of a violent attack in the eyes of rival gang members or students of opposing institutions. Violence is in this sense a group phenomenon where becoming a victim or an aggressor depends on the social constellation of the encounter between the adversaries. Although it is quite possible to discern individual aggressors and victims, the understanding of the acts of violence cannot go without reference to the different groups of which they are members. Therefore, the methods of studying these forms of violence need to take into account the importance of the social group, i.e. as a space where norms and meanings about 'us and them', about friends, allies and adversaries are elaborated and reinforced, as well as incentives for violence distributed. This paper explored this idea through a case study of interschool violence in San Salvador.

Anita Shrader, ILAS, University of Liverpool *Participant Action Research (PAR) in the Study of Parental Violence Towards Children in Guatemala City*

This paper described the research methods used in a pilot research/development project aimed at reducing violent forms of childrearing in two multiply-deprived communities in Guatemala City. The research and development project on which the paper was based deals with some of the most private and potentially painful facets of human experience, the nature and quality of primary relationships. Many research methods contain the risk of 'manufactured intimacy' and the instrumental use of friendship for research purposes.

The first part of the paper provided an introduction to the theoretical justification for combining quantitative and qualitative methods. The second part offered a profile of the fieldwork locations, the methods used in each and the problems and difficulties encountered. It focused on participant action research (PAR) in the villages of Canalitos (in the northern perimeter of Guatemala City) and contrasted this with methods used in an inner-city church and the Family Law Courts.

Andy Higginbottom, Department of Criminology, Middlesex University*Solidarity Research as Methodology: The Crimes of the Powerful in Colombia*

This paper highlighted that Colombian society is not post-war, rather it is an ongoing violent confrontation in which research is immediately referenced in policy debate. This paper was based on an investigation as a response to social movements seeking international support to overcome human rights violations. The disciplinary framework employed is critical criminology. The speaker argued that assumptions about crimes of powerful actors - counter-posed between the trusting and the sceptical oblige a choice in research methodology between an agency or victim led investigation. This paper explored the social movements' experience. Case studies were investigated in the context of solidarity action. The methodology used and explored in the paper was a combination of action research and NGO based research.

SECTION 6 BEYOND VIOLENCE?

The final session took the form of a roundtable, with the participation of some of the speakers. Prof Ronaldo Munck spoke of the linkages between globalisation and violence. Bronwyn Harris explored some of the challenges of dealing with trauma and violence, exploring the practical as well as theoretical implications of such work. Prof Jenny Pearce analysed the key developments in violence and peace research in recent years, with specific attention to the contribution of the conference presentations. She made links between the historic direction of the academy in terms of research on violence and conflict and new directions that were addressed in the conference. Finally, Miguel Cruz explored the role of the nation state in fostering a culture of violence. Although focussing specifically on Latin America, he drew together other examples from the conference presentations, looking at cases of Colombia and South Africa. The session generated great debate among all participants.

Mo Hume, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool, Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 7WW, Tel: +44 151 794 3340, Fax:+44 151-794-3080

SLAS MEMBERS NEWS

GEMMA NASON, SLAS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AT BLACKWELLS. I

would like to introduce myself as the Editorial contact working on the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* at Blackwell. I realise that the Blackwell contact address provided for SLAS Members within the SLAS Newsletter is actually now out of date. The contact for any Member that either wishes to join SLAS, or who has a query about their Membership should be to me at: Membership Services, Blackwell Publishing, PO Box 1269, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2ZE, Tel: +44 (0) 1865 778171, Fax: +44 (0) 1865 471776

Email: membershipservices@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com

Colin Clarke, was among twenty professors of Oxford University who were recognised for their contributions to human development at a ceremony carried out by Sri Chinmoy at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in June 2003. Sri Chinmoy conducts weekly meetings at the United Nations devoted to mediation for world peace.

Colin was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters at Oxford University in 2004. The degree was approved by the division of Life and Environmental Sciences and awarded with respect of his life-time publications on the social geography of Mexico and the Caribbean, and, more specifically in recognition of his research on urbanisation, rural communities, complex social structures, and small states.

During the Caribbean Studies annual conference held at the University of Lancaster in July 2004, Colin was made a life member in recognition of his contribution to research on the Caribbean and his role in fostering Caribbean Studies in the UK. He was secretary of the society on two occasions in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and President in 1978-80.

His current research is on Kingston, Jamaica, since independence and he has recently sent to press a second edition of 'Kingston, Jamaica: urban development and social change 1962-2002' with Randle Publishers. He is

Emeritus | professor and Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford and made research visits to Jamaica in March 2004, and to Mexico in July 2004.

David Fox - retired from Geography Dept, University of Manchester. Remains Consul for Chile in Manchester. Also Treasurer and Trustee of Quaker Bolivia Link - mainly works supporting sustainable development projects in the Altiplano. Web site www.qbl.org

Sylvia Chant (Professor, Geography and Environment, LSE), holds a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2003-2006). She gave two seminars in February on her current research into the 'feminisation of poverty' in Asia, Africa and Latin America: one at the Centrum voor Studie en Documentatie van Latijns Amerika (CEDLA), Amsterdam, and at the other at UNESCO (Gender in the Social and Human Sciences Seminar Series), Paris. Sylvia has also recently joined the Gender Advisory Group of the UNDP's Poverty Reduction Network. This newly-established scheme is being piloted until the summer of 2005. In order to enhance the way the UN operates 'on the ground', it involves sharing experiences and advice on issues of gender and poverty reduction as they arise in the day-to-day work of UN field practitioners in different parts of the world. Further information on the PRN's and UNDP's knowledge networks can be found on <http://www.undp.org/knowledge>.

MORE 'MISSING' SLAS MEMBERS! HELP US TO FIND THEM PLEASE

Does anyone know the location of **Stephen Wilkinson** (Hampton Wick), or **Catherine Hunt** (Liverpool)? Both these SLAS members seem to have moved address and their SLAS Newsletters and BLAR are being returned to sender. If you know where they are please let Gemma Nason at Blackwell's (details above in this section on members news) know and she can get their SLAS mail to them again. Thanks for your help!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SLAS MEMBERS NEWS

TO: Elizabeth Allen, Editor, *SLAS Newsletter*,
Faculty of Social Sciences, Adam Smith Building, University 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.

CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

New Water Culture in Latin America

Call for participation in the Meeting for a New Water Culture in Latin America to take place in Fortaleza, Brazil, 5-9 December 2005. The event aims at bringing together the scientific community, social movements and other collective actors working in the different fields connected with water issues in Latin America, ranging from ecologists to the anti-privatization movement. Details of the meeting and a contact address for further information and registering can be found at: www.unizar.es/fnca/america.

José Esteban Castro, Senior Research Associate, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, St Antony's College, Oxford OX2 6JF
Phone: +44 (0) 1865 284990 Fax: + 44 (0) 1865 554465 Mobile: + 44 (0) 7764611858 E-mail: esteban.castro@st-antonys.ox.ac.uk,
[Http://users.ox.ac.uk/~jecastro/](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~jecastro/) Visit our Research Project's web site PRINWASS) at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~prinwass/>

Latin American panel/ papers – BISA Conference

The next BISA conference (held in December 2005) is approaching and I was wondering whether any SLAS members would be interested in contributing to a Latin America panel for the conference. There was nothing at all on Latin America last year and here in Aberystwyth we (2 PhD students) were hoping that something could be set up this time.

Sonja Wolf, Department of International Politics, University of Wales Aberystwyth, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3DA, Wales, UK. sow4@aber.ac.uk

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS: RETHINKING THE IBERIAN ATLANTIC, 20-22 April 2006, University of Liverpool UK

The Atlantic has, since the 1990s, become established as the principal site of cross-cultural encounter between Europe, Africa, and America. However, while recent research into multiple different 'Atlantics' tests the boundaries of established national and disciplinary research frames, studies of the many

separate 'Atlantics' do not easily communicate with one another. Starting from the question of whether we can – or should – talk about an 'Iberian Atlantic', ***Rethinking the Iberian Atlantic*** is the first in a series of events hosted by the University of Liverpool's Schools of History and Modern Languages that aim to explore the common ground shared by different and diverse approaches to the historical and cultural study of Iberian interventions in the Atlantic, from the 16th to the 21st century.

We especially invite proposals that address (but are not limited to) the following issues:

- How might an Iberian Atlantic be located within the widening framework of Atlantic Studies, and what might it mean to scholars from different disciplines and traditions working on Iberian Studies in the widest sense?
- How might research into specific Iberian experiences of the Atlantic – whether cultural, historical, political, social or economic – contribute to, confirm, or challenge the hegemonic narratives of Atlantic Studies, from which the Iberian perspective is so often absent?
- How might our understanding of an 'Iberian' Atlantic be nuanced by the existence of Basque, Catalan, Galician, Portuguese and Spanish Atlantics, and the parallels – or conflicts – between them?
- What new understandings arise from looking beyond the traditional Europe-America-Europe axis to axes centered on the extreme north (Canada, Scandinavia, Ireland...), south (Guinea, Cabo Verde, Angola...) or mid-Atlantic islands?

Keynote speakers include: Catherine Davies (Nottingham), John Fisher (University of Liverpool), Eliga Gould (University of New Hampshire), Diogo Ramada Curto (IUE).

Proposals for papers should include a title, an abstract of about 300 words, and your full contact details (including an e-mail). We warmly encourage postgraduate submissions, and a limited amount of financial aid may be available for student participants. Please send proposals, by 15 October 2005, to

either of the following: Dr Harald Braun, School of History, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 7WZ, h.e.braun@liv.ac.uk or Dr Kirsty Hooper, School of Modern Languages, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 7ZR, kirsty.hooper@liv.ac.uk

IT NEWS

Plano Latino: distribución de películas Latinoamericanas

Guillermo Rossi es el responsable de Plano Latino, distribuidora con base en la ciudad de Buenos Aires, dedicada a la distribución de películas Latinoamericanas de género documental en soporte DVD o/y VHS. A través de nuestra pagina web que podrá visitar en breve, www.planolatino.com.ar, podrá acceder a nuestro catálogo que incluye diversas temáticas, como antropológicas, de derechos humanos, culturales, artísticas, sociales, políticas, etc. Nuestro objetivo es ofrecer este tipo de producciones a Universidades, Bibliotecas, Mediatecas, Museos, y a todo organismo cultural para fines educativos, informativos o de colección.

Guillermo Rossi, PLANOLATINO, Conde 747 3º A (1426), Ciudad de Buenos Aires – Argentina, 005411-45516970

Boletín Brasil Centro de Estudios Brasileños Ortega y Gasset

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<http://www.ortegaygasset.edu/publicaciones/boletinbrasil/boletinbrasil.htm>

Brazilink: information on Brazilian issues.

I am writing to you to announce Brazilink <http://www.brazilink.org>, and suggest that you consider adding our link to your institution's website and forward this e-

mail to your colleagues and students. Brazilink offers selected and continuously updated sources of information on a wide range of Brazilian issues. For further details about this project, please click at the 'about' menu, at the top of our website. In order to sustain this resource on an open access basis, from which students and researchers can benefit, we'd be very thankful for your cooperation in helping us promote this initiative. Every link to our site helps to keep this project free for all. Many thanks.

Celia Correia, Director, Brazilink: Connecting People, Information and Ideas on Brazil, <http://www.brazilink.org> brazilink@brazilink.org Tel: +44 0208 974 6797 and +44 07816 983 991

Novidades universitárias e Institucionais, Susan Bach

Distribuidora@sbachbooks.com.br This is a new service on-line we are now offering our clients. It is a bimonthly list of new titles published by the various university and institutional presses of Brazil distributed by Susan Bach. These titles will not be repeated on our regular **Clippings Bach** but will appear later, fully catalogued, in our **INFORMATION LETTERS** (with the identification tag **NUB/ BACH** to inform you of their previous appearance on-line). These and other titles may be ordered as usual, by e-mail, mail or fax. We hope this additional information will help you further in your timely selections of new books from Brazil. *Novidades universitárias e institucionais bach, nº 09, Rio de Janeiro, 25 de março de, 2005*, for example, has items on: history, geography, sociology and economics, women, africana, education, media, communication and journalism, psychology and psychoanalysis, sciences and technology, ecology, literature: history and criticism, poetry, linguistics, technical books - didactic materials, and technical books – biomedics.

Volunteer to work in Ecuador – Voluntarios de Occidente

Invites you to teach English, sports, or basic computers in the heart of the Andes. A unique opportunity to participate in a short-term, low –cost volunteer programme in Ecuador with this group. Check out the details at: Email voccidente@hotmail.com Webpage: www.geocities.com/vdovolun/

Tatiana Proskouriakoff (1909-1985): Mayan archeologist

As the author of the biography of the renowned Maya archaeologist, Tatiana Proskouriakoff (1909-1985), I have been giving lecture/slide presentations on her life and work here in the US at museums, universities, libraries, and book clubs. I have found enthusiastic response to my talk which runs for 45 minutes to an hour and includes slides of Maya archaeological sites and photos from the Proskouriakoff family dating back to Czarist Russia.

I will be visiting the UK for two weeks in September and am interested in giving a talk while there. If you wish more information on my book, (Tatiana Proskouriakoff: Interpreting the Ancient Maya, 2002, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, ISBN 0-8061-3445-3) you may check my website:

www.charsolomon.com as well as that of the University of Oklahoma Press. I

also have a press kit available and would be happy to mail it to you. I believe Tatiana's story holds interest for a number of disciplines: Mesoamerican Archaeology and Anthropology, Women's Studies, and Latin American Studies. I thank you for your help in trying to get something lined up.

Char Solomon, Teacher/Author, 26 Academy Ave. NW, Concord, NC USA
8025-4714, Tel:704-788-3619 www.charsolomon.com

MAD MARIA: A NEW MINI-SERIES FOR TV BASED ON THE MARCIO SOUZA NOVEL

O Globo, the leading Brazilian TV network, is to screen a mini-series based on the story of the Madeira-Mamoré Railway. The series, *'Mad Maria'*, is in the final stages of production and is due to be broadcast from the end of January 2005 onwards. The fictionalisation uses the Marcio Souza novel, *Mad Maria* (English translation by Thomas Colchie, Avon Books, New York, 1980). The screenplay has been written by Benedito Ruy Barbosa and the series is directed by Ricardo Waddington. Press reports in Brazil say the series has already been sold to 49

countries, including the USA, UK, Italy and Germany. A diary (in Portuguese) of the filming schedule can be found at the website <http://madmaria.globo.com/>

Ten kilometres of track were re-laid for filming near the town of Abunã, half-way between Porto Velho and Guajara-Mirim. The State Governor of Rondônia paid for the restoration and transport of a locomotive (Schwartzkopf 20) and four carriages to the film location 220 kms away by road. Estimates say the cost to state taxpayers was R\$ 500,000 (UK Pounds 100,000). Governor Ivo Cassol says his administration can recoup the money from increased tourist revenues in the wake of the TV series.

Madeira-Mamoré Railway Society, Newsletter 10, Feb/March 2005

Martin Cooper, President, M-MRS, [112 Aketon Road, Castleford, WF10 5DU, England](#) (tel) +44 (0)1977 515973 (e-mail) mmrs@efmm.net

The British Academy – New Funding Opportunities

The International Policy Committee at the British Academy has decided to develop its academic links with parts of the world with which it has traditionally been difficult to establish agreements because of the absence of partner academies. It has therefore decided to set up Area Panels to see how academic links may be developed with particular regions. The first two Panels to be established are for Latin America (to include the Caribbean) and Africa.

The Latin American Panel is seeking suggestions as to how academic (postdoctoral) links can be developed that will support UK scholars who work on the region, perhaps in collaboration with scholars in Latin America, as well as provide opportunities for scholars in the region to conduct research in the UK. The Panel is interested in supporting research collaborations that will foster research capacity building as well as promote academic excellence.

At present the British Academy has a number of grant schemes that support individual and collaborative research as well as conferences that are open to

scholars of Latin America. Unfortunately the numbers of Latin Americanists applying is low compared to scholars working on other regions. At present grant applications to work on Latin America account for less than 5 percent of the total number of applications to work on regions outside the UK. This is despite the fact that the success rate for applications is just under 80 per cent! There are currently two grant schemes: Small Research Grants under £7,500 and Larger Research Grants up to £20,000. Following discussions with the OST, the full economic costs (fec) of research under the Larger Research Grant scheme will be implemented from next year. Please do take advantage of these schemes to support your research.

One development is a new **Visiting Fellowship Scheme**, intended to provide grants for young scholars from outside the UK. The focus would be on scholars within five years of their PhD or with an equivalent professional qualification or experience. The aim would be for scholars to come for between two and four months. They could apply as individuals but would need to be attached to an academic department (this includes museums and galleries). The OST has agreed that these Fellowships should be financed at the full economic cost, so host Departments will receive overheads to support the visitors. **It is envisaged that five of these Visiting Fellowships will be earmarked for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.** The scheme will operate from April 2006 and application forms will be available in summer 2005, with a closing date for applications of 15 December 2005.

The Academy has also agreed to support two British Academy Visiting Professorships, one in humanities and one in social science. These will be prestigious positions where the incumbent will be required to give lectures and participate in a high-profile event for the general public.

At the same time the Latin American Panel is looking to develop other academic activities. One suggestion is a seminar series focused on a particular topic, which might consist of meetings held both sides of the Atlantic, to which scholars from Latin America and other regions would be invited. The Panel would welcome any suggestions of topics that might be a suitable focus for such a

series. It would also welcome any suggestions for developing other activities. In particular it would like to know whether there are any institutions in Latin America with whom it might be possible to develop links. As far as possible they should be national bodies rather than individual universities or institutes. The main restrictions are that any new scheme must support postdoctoral research and that it should not duplicate the grant and conference schemes already run by the British Academy.

The current members of the Panel, who are listed below, would very much welcome any suggestions you may have.

Linda Newson, Chair, Latin America and Caribbean Panel.

Dr. Ed Amann (Economics, Manchester)

Dr. Matthew Butler (History, Belfast)

Miss Francine Danaher (British Academy)

Professor James Dunkerley (Institute for the Study of the Americas)

Professor John King (Comparative American Studies, Warwick)

Ms. Jane Lyddon (British Academy)

Dr. Colin McEwan (British Museum)

Ms Susan Rawlinson (British Council)

Professor Peter Wade (Social Anthropology, Manchester)

Study Abroad in Antigua Guatemala

through the University of Arizona partnership program

with the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica (CIRMA)

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The course is organized and coordinated by CIRMA, one of Central America's premier social science research centers, in coordination with the University of Arizona. CIRMA is dedicated to creating a new culture of research and public dialogue on the challenges facing Central America today, preserving the region's historical memory, and fostering a new generation of social, cultural, and academic leaders. Proceeds from this program go to support CIRMA's library and historical archives.

Antigua, Guatemala today is one of the most popular sites in Central America. Founded in 1543 and only 45 minutes from Guatemala City, it is a vibrant cultural center filled with monumental Spanish colonial buildings. It is located in a region inhabited by people of diverse origins, over half of them Kakchikel-speaking indigenous people.

For a complete schedule of classes and registration information, please see CIRMA's website: <http://www.cirma.org.gt/study.html> For more information please contact: Office of Study Abroad and Student Exchange, The University of Arizona, <http://studyabroad.arizona.edu> or lrossman@email.arizona.edu, telephone 520-626-9211. You can also contact CIRMA at jescobedo@cirma.org.gt or by telephone from the US: 011-502-7832-8234. For Graduate Students: CIRMA also offers the possibility, for certain qualified graduate students, of learning one of the 22 Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala. For further information please contact Juan Carlos Escobedo at jescobedo@cirma.org.gt

Juan Carlos Escobedo Mendoza, Director Programa Study Abroad CIRMA

E-mail: jescobedo@cirma.org.gt Website: www.cirma.org.gt

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, Belfast BT7 1NN
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CONFERENCE:

'God's Revolution? Faith and Impiety in Revolutionary Mexico, 1910-1940'

This 2-day conference, supported by the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) and the British Academy, is to be held at Queen's University Belfast, 14-15 October 2005. The event brings together scholars from Mexico, the U.S., Europe, and the UK in order to disseminate recent research on religious aspects of Mexico's 1910 Revolution. Specifically, the conference will show that the Revolution was a period of genuine religious change as well as major social upheaval. For more information and the full conference programme, please visit the webpage: www.qub.ac.uk/mexico.

For more information contact Matthew Butler, Lecturer in Latin American Studies
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Belfast BT7 1NN, (028) 90335393, (028) 90335362

CEDLA

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tel: 020-5253498 fax:020-6255127 mail:dekker@cedla.uva.nl

web: www.cedla.uva.nl

Topical Publication in the Cuaderno del Cedla Series.

In light of **The UN Year of Microcredit**, Cedla is proud to bring to your attention that we published a volume in Spanish and English with recent results of research on microfinance. More information: Kathleen Willingham, CEDLA Amsterdam, willingham@cedla.uva.nl, Also, two other publications on the Brazilian Integralistas and the situation in Colombia.

CUADERNO DEL CEDLA No. 14. Pitou van Dijck, Hans Nusselder y Arie Sanders (comps.), *Microfinanzas en Nicaragua*, CEDLA con CDR-ULA (Costa Rica), 116 pp., agosto 2003, ISBN 90 70280 40-X.

Actualmente se estima que un 20 por ciento de la población en Nicaragua recibe atención de organizaciones no gubernamentales, cooperativas de ahorro y crédito, sociedades anónimas y sociedades financieras. Numerosas instituciones microfinancieras (IMFs), en also más de una década, han logrado una presencia significativa en términos de alcance, desempeño y solidez institucional, también al haberse organizado en el nivel nacional.

Este volumen consta de cinco estudios sobre las dimensiones del mercado de las microfinanzas, el arraigo del microcrédito en comunidades rurales, los paradigmas y estrategias con un enfoque de género, el impacto socioeconómico causado a los usuarios finales y los dilemas con respecto al nuevo marco legal que se espera para el sector. Estos estudios son el resultado de labores realizadas en el transcurso de 2002, en atención directa a las inquietudes de agencias de cooperación y proyectos de investigación académica.

Pitou van Dijck es Profesor Asociado del CEDLA, Ámsterdam, Países Bajos. Hans Nusselder y Arie Sanders son Consultor-investigadores del CDR-ULA, con sede en San José, Costa Rica. Quienes también contribuyeron a esta publicación son: Miguel Alemán, Johan Bastiaensen, Michelle Deugd y Ben d'Exelle.

CUADERNO DEL CEDLA No. 15. Pitou van Dijck, Hans Nusselder and Arie Sanders (eds), *Microfinance in Nicaragua*, CEDLA and CDR-ULA (Costa Rica), June 2004, 114 pp. ISBN 90 70280 50-7.

Today, it is estimated that 20 per cent of the population in Nicaragua are served by non-governmental organizations, savings and credit cooperations, public corporations, or financing houses. Microfinance institutions have gained significant presence in terms of outreach, impact, and institutional strength, and organized themselves at the national level. The volume contains five studies on: the market dimensions of the microfinance activities, how well these activities

have taken root in rural communities, the paradigms and strategies used when it comes to women, the socioeconomic impact on the end users, and the dilemmas in relation to the new legal framework the sector is waiting for.

Pitou van Dijck is Associate Professor of Economics at Cedla, Amsterdam. Hans Nusselder and Arie Sanders are Research Consultants at Cdr-Ula, San José, Costa Rica. Other contributors are: Miguel Alemán, Johan Bastiaensen, Michelle Deugd and Ben d'Exelle.

Cuaderno No. 16 Cruzando Fronteras en America Latina, by Guillermo O'Donnell, Cynthia Hewitt de Alcantara, and Arturo Escobar, november 2003, 69 pp., ISBN 90 70280604

Cruzando fronteras en America Latina fue el tema central del Tercer Congreso Europeo de Latinamericanistas, que tuvo lugar en Amsterdam el 3-6 de julio de 2002. El tema de fronteras e identidades constituye un pilar fundamental en todo intento dirigido a la comprensión de los procesos políticos contemporáneos, ya sea en Latinoamérica o en Europa. Las fronteras representan construcciones políticas e institucionales que repercuten fuertemente en el orden social, cultural y económico de las naciones. Las fronteras nos permiten detectar las muchas contradicciones que se dan entre lo institucional y lo individual, lo internacional y lo local, entre lo semejante y lo diferente, entre lo nuestro y lo ajeno. En este Cuaderno tenemos el placer de reproducir los textos de las tres charlas ministeriales que se presentan durante el Congreso. Trata de las ponencias de los Profesores O'Donnell, Hewitt de Alcantara y Escobar. Se trata de académicos de renombre mundial, no solo en el ámbito de los estudios latinoamericanos sino que además de los estudios del desarrollo en general.

Cuaderno No. 17 *Our Brazil Will Awake! The Acção Integralista Brasileira and the Failed Quest for a Fascist Order in the 1930s*, by Marcus Klein. CEDLA, August 2004, 109 pp., ISBN 90 70280 70-1

Far too long put in second place by scholars, the academic interest in the Latin American right markedly increased in recent years. One can say that it finally has received the attention it deserves because of the central role it played in and

the profound influence it had on the development of the subcontinent's nations during the twentieth century. The growing number of publications on, for example, traditional conservatives, fascists, and the New Right, attests to this trend.

The volume reflects this growing interest in the Latin American right, and more specifically the extreme right. It investigates the story and reconstructs the history of the *Acção Integralista Brasileira*, the dominant fascist movement in Brazil in the 1930s. Covering the period between its establishment in October 1932 and its demise in early 1938, it discusses the continuity and discontinuity of the integralista discourse as presented by its leading members; deals with its political strategies and explains how and why they were adapted over time; and looks into the *Acção Integralista Brasileira's* changing relationships with other political and social protagonists, namely Getúlio Vargas, the armed forces, the Catholic Church, and the German-Brazilian communities and the Third Reich.

Cuaderno No. 18 *Colombia from the Inside: Perspectives on Drugs, War and Peace*, by Michiel Baud and Donny Meertens (eds).

CEDLA, November 2004, 122 pp., ISBN: 90 702 80 69-8

Colombia is Latin America's linchpin. Located between Central and South America, it is a crucial geopolitical region. Unfortunately, today its strategic hemispheric position has turned from an asset into a serious liability. Civil war and an increasing narcotics industry have led to a fragmented political system, an uncontrollable economy and a vulnerable international position.

The volume, with contributions from seven eminent Colombian scholars, centres on this complex and often contradictory society, which has been dogged by violence, international controversy and uncontrolled military strife for decades. The text is largely based on a seminar on the Colombian Conflict in International Perspective, held at the third Congreso Europeo de Latinoamericanistas (CEISAL), in Amsterdam, and a meeting organized at the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, in 2002. During these events, Colombian scholars gave their views on the complex situation of their country. The principal aim of their analysis was to present a vision from within and share their views on

the current dynamics of conflict particularly in the context of North American anti-terrorist and anti-drugs measures with international academics and policy makers.

The contributors are: Alvaro Camacho (University of the Andes, Bogotá), Francisco Leal (University of the Andes, Bogotá), Alfredo Molano (political analyst and writer), Alfredo Rangel (Foundation for Security and Democracy, Bogotá), Mauricio Romero (Rosario University, Bogotá), Gonzalo Sánchez (National University of Colombia, Bogotá) and Ricardo Vargas (Transnational Institute and Andean Action Platform).

Series Editor of the Cuadernos: Marinella Wallis. Price of a single CUADERNO: €10.⁰⁰ Price does not include postage or handling. Please go for more information and orders to http://www.cedla.uva.nl/60_publications/index.html
Or mail to: cedlapublications@cedla.uva.nl.

European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The April 2005 issue of the *Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe/European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* has just been published by CEDLA in Amsterdam. Membership in SLAS includes a subscription to the European Review. For more information see: http://www.cedla.uva.nl/60_publications/european_review.html

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- **CLAS 92. Flavia Fiorucci and Marcus Klein (editors) . *The Argentine Crisis at the Turn of the Millennium: Causes, Consequences and Explanations***. CEDLA Latin America Studiess no 92, November 2004, pp.

208 € 25.00 ISBN 90 5260 166 6 Inquiries:
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In our renewed website www.cedla.uva.nl, we now have several links to SLAS, two on our links page: http://www.cedla.uva.nl/20_news/useful_links.html, one directly to SLAS, and one to the Related Links page: <http://www.slas.org.uk/links.shtml> and one on our page about our journal, the European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

http://www.cedla.uva.nl/60_publications/european_review.html

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Conference: Patagonia: Myths and Realities

2-4 September, 2005, Manchester UK

Organised by CLACS (Centre for Latin American Studies) at the University of Manchester with the support of IRCLAS (Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Exeter), Argentine Embassy, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia, Centro de Estudios Patagónicos and Instituto Cervantes.

Topics include early modern to twentieth-century European representations of Patagonia, indigenous populations, the Welsh Colony of the Chubut Valley, the travel writing tradition, and Patagonia in Chilean and Argentine literature and film, among others. Plenary and invited speakers include: Sylvia Iparraguirre (Universidad de Buenos Aires / CONICET) 'Patagonia: Historia y Ficción'; Jason Wilson (University College London) 'Plot and parable in some Patagonian travels' Peter Hulme (University of Essex) 'Abject in Patagonia: Stories from the Wager' Cristian Aliaga (Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco) 'El otro lado de los viajes: Europeos, aborígenes y "renegados" en la literatura sobre la Patagonia

Special Events: Poetry Reading by Cristian Aliaga and Dinosaurs in Patagonia by Phil Manning (University of Manchester). We are currently organising film screenings, a book fair, painting and photographic exhibitions all related to Patagonia. Registration fee: £55 (includes access to all sessions and activities, lunch and coffee)/ Subsidised rate: (£25 student/unwaged). For further information and a downloadable registration form visit:

<http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/Research/Conferences/> For further queries please contact Dr Fernanda Peñaloza, Lecturer in Latin American Cultural Studies, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, University of Manchester M13 9PL, Tel.: + 44 (0) 161 2753 543, Email: fernanda.penalaza@man.ac.uk

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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The Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies reports a very busy time, starting with the [Mexico Month/Mes de México](#) in September 2004. This included a superb conference on Indigenous Rights and Sub national Law Ten Years after Chiapas at which several faculty made major contributions. Please see the [Video Proceedings of Indigenous Rights Conference](#) as well as the [Keynote speech](#) by Cabinet Secretary for Indigenous Affairs, Xóchitl Galvéz Ruiz, in the Center's Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. On November 16 we welcomed Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbez, Secretary of Foreign Affairs (SRE) from Mexico. Also in November, we published the proceedings of the Death Penalty and US-Mexico Relations conference held here last April. To see the video proceedings and the [Memoria](#) visit the Center's Home Page at <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/lilas/centers/mexican/index.html> For more information on the work of the Centre, please contact Peter M. Ward, Ph.D, CB Smith Sr. Centennial Chair in US-Mexico Relations, Director, Mexican Center, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies.

PUBLIC LECTURE – EVERYONE WELCOME!

'Twenty Years of Neoliberalism: Where does Latin America go from here?' Duncan Green (Head of Research, Oxfam)

The Second SLAS Annual Lecture will take place on Friday 7th October 2005 at The University of Manchester. The speaker will be Duncan Green (Head of Research, Oxfam), and the title of the lecture is 'Twenty Years of Neoliberalism: Where does Latin America go from here?'

All SLAS members and non-members are welcome – Bring your friends, students and colleagues to this important and entertaining discussion!!

The SLAS Annual Lecture is a new initiative. It is free and needs your support! It aims to make a focus for SLAS which lies outside the usual conference and workshop arrangements, so all are welcome. It is proposed to be a public event, to provide interesting Latin American topics for lectures. In the future the SLAS Annual lecture is expected to be held in places which may not have established centres of Latin American studies, and everyone, SLAS member or non-SLAS member will be welcome. Your suggestions or offers for locations and speakers are warmly welcomed.

The first SLAS Annual Lecture was given by William I. Robinson on 29 October 2004 at Senate House, University of London, (with the Institute for the Study of the Americas) and was well attended. The lecture was followed by questions and comments, and a small reception at which the discussion continued. It is hoped that a similar pattern may be followed on this occasion. Another idea is that a bookstall and a craft stall may be available before and after the lecture. Further details will be circulated nearer the time go to the SLAS WebPage – www.slas.org.uk

**THE SECOND SLAS ANNUAL LECTURE – COME
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