

SLAS COMMITTEE 2006-2007

President: 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

Vice-President: Victoria Carpenter, DBS, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby DE22 1GB. Tel: 01332-591808. E-mail: V.Carpenter@derby.ac.uk

Past President: Peter Wade, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 0161-728-9149. Fax: 0161-275-4023. Email: Peter.Wade@man.ac.uk

Secretary: Adrian Pearce, University of Warwick, Warwick, Email: A.J.Pearce.2@warwick.ac.uk

Treasurer: John Fisher, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool, 88 Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 7WW. Tel: 0151-794-3079. Fax: 0151-794-3080. Email: fisher@liv.ac.uk

Elected Members:

Andrew Canessa, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ. Tel: 01206-873-410. Email: canessa@essex.ac.uk

Mo Hume, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool, 88 Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 7WW. Tel: 0151-794-3340 Email: mohume@liv.ac.uk

David Fox, Department of Geography, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL. Phone & fax (home): 01625-528000. Email: David.Fox@man.ac.uk

Peter Lambert, Department of Spanish, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY. Tel: 01225-826826 ext. 3272. Email: P.W.Lambert@bath.ac.uk

Patience Schell, Spanish and Portuguese Studies, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel: 0161-275-8042. Email: patience.a.schell@man.ac.uk

Paulo Drinot, University of Manchester, Email: Paulo.Drinot@manchester.ac.uk

Other SLAS Committee Members:

ACLAIIR Observer: Alison Hill, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB. Tel. 020 7412 7000; Email: alison.hill@bl.uk

Auditor: Rory Miller, University of Liverpool Management School, Chatham Street, Liverpool L69 7ZH. Email: rory@liv.ac.uk

BLAR Senior Editor: Nicola Miller, Department of History, University College, University of London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Email: ucranam@ucl.ac.uk

Co-opted Publicity Officer: Diego Sanchez Ancochea, Inst for the Study of the Americas, University of London, London WC1H 9HA. Email: diego.sanchez@sas.ac.uk

Co opted, James Dunkerley, Institute for the Study of the Americas, 31 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HA. Email: James.Dunkerley@sas.ac.uk

Co opted, Patricio Silva, Dept of Latin American Studies (TCLA), Leiden University, PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Email: silva@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

Conference 2006 Organiser, 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

IT Officer: Katie Willis, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX. Tel: 01784-443643.. Email: Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk

Latin American Bureau Observer: Marcela Lopez-Levy and Jean McNeil, LAB, 1 Arnwell Street, London EC1R 1UL. Tel: 020-7278-2829.. Email: info@lab.org.uk

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

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

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Dear SLAS Member,

As I finalise this issue, we are observing the build-up to the celebrations of the 80th birthday of Fidel, his sudden need for hospital treatment, and the tensions surrounding the succession of the leadership in Cuba. It is a remarkable anniversary and one that may still have surprises in store. Politics and leadership are full of unexpected twists and turns as we also see in the run-up to the elections in Brazil, with Lula maintaining a lead in the polls, but the contest still far from over. If Lula is re-elected, how will he relate to the new Congress?

On the home front, this issue of the SLAS Newsletter is replete with panel reports from the SLAS Annual conference held at Nottingham in April, representing a stimulating and varied programme enjoyed by many of the society's members. Along with reports from field study in Latin America, supported in part by SLAS grants, and the October Lecture to be held in October in Essex, these represent just some of the varied activities promoted by SLAS for its members.

An important matter in this issue relates to the new trial format of the SLAS Newsletter for the next two copies. I urge you all to read the details on the coloured centre spread which will affect each and every member of SLAS. This is the biggest change in the production of the SLAS Newsletter in recent years and I hope you will all feel that you can comment to me at any time about this, as well as in the proposed survey in June 2007.

I do apologise for the delay in sending out this copy of the SLAS Newsletter. The issue was held until the beginning of July, to include all the details of the new format. Then, a virus corrupted my computer (despite a virus checker in place), multiplying everything that I wrote by a thousand times! In the process of recovery, much material was lost, including this issue of the SLAS Newsletter that had to be redone.

Elizabeth Allen, Editor, SLAS Newsletter

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT!!

Deadline for material to be included in the October 2006 Issue of the *SLAS Newsletter*, Issue No. 85, will be midday on 12 September 2006.

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.



FUTURE OF THE SLAS NEWSLETTER

The SLAS Newsletter will go into electronic format for the next issue. This will be for a trial period of one year, and there will be two issues – one in November 2006 and another in June 2007.

IMPORTANT!! Please see the colourful centre page spread for details

THE THIRD SLAS ANNUAL LECTURE

**Richard Gott on 'Latin America as a White Settler Society'.
Friday 13 October, University of Essex.**

The third SLAS Annual Lecture will be given by Richard Gott on 'Latin America as a White Settler Society'. This will be given at the University of Essex on Friday 13 October, at 5.00p.m. SLAS Members, students, friends, non members, and all interested parties are warmly welcomed.

Richard Gott is a former journalist and commentator on Latin American politics (especially Cuba and Venezuela). For many years he was the correspondent for the *Guardian* in Latin America. In October 1967, he was present in Vallegrande, Bolivia, on the day that Che Guevara died and was the first journalist to make positive identification of his body.

Born in 1938, he was educated at Winchester and Corpus Christi, Oxford where he took a degree in history. From 1962 to 1965 he worked at the Royal Institute of International Affairs and for two years he was a leader writer on the *Guardian*. In January 1966, Richard stood as a parliamentary candidate at the North Hull by-election on an anti-Vietnam War ticket. During the 1970's he was the Editor of the Pelican Latin American Library which produced some

30 titles on contemporary Latin America. He has also been director and Editor of the *Latin American Newsletters*. More recently, Richard Gott has been the literary editor of the *Guardian*.

He is the author of a number of books related to Latin America, including: *Guerrilla movements in Latin America (1970)*; *Land without evil: utopian journeys across the South American watershed (1992)*; *An African dream (ed.) (2001)*; *In the shadow of the Liberator: Hugo Chavez and the transformation of Venezuela (2001)*; *Cuba: a new history (2004)* and *Hugo Chavez and the Bolivarian Revolution (2005)*. .

In 1967 he was research fellow at the International Studies Institute, Santiago, Chile. He is now Honorary Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of the Americas. For further details nearer the time, see the SLAS website.

THE NEXT SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2007: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE 13-15th April 2007.

The 2007 SLAS Conference will be held 13-15 April at the University of Newcastle. If you would like to organize a panel at the conference details are below. Please pay particular attention to the deadline and to the length of sessions, number of sessions per panel etc. Please check the SLAS website regularly for conference updates: <http://www.slas.org.uk>

We look forward to welcoming you to Newcastle! Local SLAS Conference Organisers: Claire Brewster, Keith Brewster, Rosaleen Howard, Patricia

SLAS Conference 2007: Call for Panels

Panels from all areas of the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and/or cross-disciplinary studies are invited. We hope to attract a wide range of

disciplinary, historical, and geographical perspectives, and all topics are welcome. We particularly encourage submissions in the following areas:

- Ecosystems, cultures, and society
- Urban landscapes
- Development and identity
- Migrations and Diaspora
- Trade agreements: Current debates and negotiations
- Arts and cultural production; popular culture.
- Memory, peace and reconciliation processes
- State-nation relations
- The changing political landscape
- Education policies and practices
- Decentralisation, local governance and participatory processes
- Literacy and information technologies
- Race and ethnicity
- Gender and sexuality
- Youth culture
- Rights and citizenship.

Submissions: Proposals should include the panel title, an abstract of 300 words (max.) outlining the topic and aims of the panel, and a contact name, address, and email. Names of presenters and paper titles should be included when possible. In order to include as diverse a range of topics as possible, please limit your panel submissions to a maximum of 2 sessions of 90 minutes. Recommended presentation time per paper 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

Please email your submissions to Allyna Ward at SLAS2007@ncl.ac.uk.

Deadline: 20th September 2006. Confirmation of acceptance of panels: 30 October 2006. Confirmation of acceptance of panels will be followed by a call for papers with a deadline of 30 December 2006. The call for papers will be put out from the SLAS website. Panel organisers will be responsible for convening their panels. Please check the SLAS website regularly for

conference updates: <http://www.slas.org.uk> We look forward to welcoming you to Newcastle! Local SLAS Conference Organisers: Claire Brewster, Keith Brewster, Patricia. Contact: Rosaleen Howard, Chair of Hispanic Studies/ Director of Postgraduate Studies, School of Modern Languages, University of Newcastle, Newcastle NE1 7RU, Tel. (00 44) (0)191 222 8328 Fax. (00 44) (0)191 222 3496 <http://www.vamosfestival.com> or at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/staff/profile/r.e.howard>

SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS, APRIL 2006, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Report on 2006 Conference

The 2006 Annual Conference at the University of Nottingham turned out to be a very successful event. Some 190 people attended over the 3 days; apart from the majority from the UK, participants came from Switzerland, the USA, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Israel, Spain, France, Argentina, Mexico, Chile (including one rector), Italy, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil.

Once again a gratifyingly high number of postgraduate participants and panel convenors were evident. 25 panels ran in all (including, unusually, 7 on the Sunday morning); this included one day-long session/workshop on '¿Hacia dónde va Chile?', which attracted a large number of participants throughout. The decision to limit the length of panels (apart from that one session) was welcomed and seemed to be successful, allowing a lot of movement between panels, and the convenors' cooperation with the edict that they should not change the order of panellists also ensured that participants could drop in and out of panels as they had planned.

The weather was also clement, typically 'SLAS Conference weather', a mixture of Spring sunshine and downpours, most of which happened during the indoor events; this was even more appreciated as the Conference arrangements and the sheer size of the campus meant that there was a substantial walk between Lenton & Wortley Hall (accommodation), the

Portland Building (the panels) and Willoughby Hall (the receptions), but no delegates were lost and only two got soaked.

The Plenary Lecture was given by Aline Helg of the University of Geneva, a well-established author of major books on race in Colombia and Cuba; it was titled '*Constitutions, Freedoms and Minority Rights: Colombia and Cuba since independence*', and traced the curious parallels between the processes of gradual constitutional recognition (and non-recognition) of black rights and identity in two countries, Colombia and Cuba, with very different historical experiences and political systems.

As Helg pointed out, the two societies, both with a significant black population for many decades (but with different tendencies towards ethnic self-definition), have historically tended to avoid the issue of black specificity (not least because of the historical memory of the shock posed by the 1791 Haitian rebellion), their founding constitutions (1821 and 1902 respectively) remaining silent on race. Helg also traced the ways in which the respective black minorities have used the little space which the successive constitutions have allowed them formally and which the accompanying laws and political culture have often restricted.

In Colombia this process was traced from the 1821 document, the mid-century Liberalism, through the 1886 centralising and conservative constitution (which *de facto* marginalised blacks) and its related 1890 laws on indigenous (but not black) rights, until the democratising 1991 constitution. On Cuba, Helg traced the process from 1902, through the early marginalisation and racism, the 1912 PIC political movement and subsequent massacre, and the progressive and specifically anti-discriminatory 1940 constitution, through the 1959-76 constitution-less Revolution of *de facto* equality but race silence, to the 1976 constitution and subsequent practice.

A key conclusion was that, regardless of progress, equality and political position, in neither country has a black identity been addressed constitutionally but in both black people have known steadily how to use the

little constitutional space available. It was in all a fascinating, eloquent and well-received (and well-attended) plenary.

The two receptions were hosted respectively by the University of Nottingham and the Nottingham-based Critical, Cultural and Communications Press (Friday), with Professor Diane Birch (PVC) addressing the gathering, and by Blackwells Publishing (Saturday).

At the AGM one new Committee member was elected (Diego Sánchez), replacing David Fox who was stepping down after about 3 decades of Committee membership in various guises; the AGM congratulated him warmly; two (Andrew Canessa and Peter Lambert) were re-elected, and the outgoing Auditor (Rory Miller) was thanked and replaced by Paul Henderson.

The AGM was informed of various developments in the SLAS Newsletter, in the British Academy and other areas where SLAS is active, and also of the 19 May 2006 BLAR 25th anniversary conference and celebration at ISA, London.

MINUTES OF THE SLAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

31 MARCH 2006, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tony Kapcia,

1: Membership: According to Blackwells' figures, SLAS had 310 UK-based members in 2005, with a further 50 in Europe outside the UK (plus 20 associate members via Netherlands Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies), 44 in the USA, and 31 in the rest of the world, a total of 435. This is a slight decline from the 2004 figure of 499, although the 2005 figure is likely to be higher in the end, due to late and misplaced subscriptions.

2: SLAS Committee: Details of SLAS Committee members elected in 2005 and 2006 are included separately below. I would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to four people, two of whom have served the

committee for many years and are withdrawing from active duty henceforth. The first is **David Fox** who has served on the Committee for at least three decades in many guises (President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary member); his decision to stand down and not seek re-election as Committee member means that a historic moment has come and we should mark it with a special mention and thanks for years of much appreciated and invaluable service. The second is **Rory Miller**, who, as well as having served in several capacities, stands down this year as Auditor; again special thanks are offered for this particular service in the last few years. He is replaced by Paul Henderson (Wolverhampton).

In addition, I wish to extend a special thanks to two people who have made my own task considerably easier this year, namely the new Secretary **Adrian Pearce** (whose newness to the task and whose parallel need to learn on the job has not prevented him from acting with impressive efficiency) and the Treasurer, John Fisher, whose experience has been invaluable in helping us both through that learning process.

3: Conferences:

2005: University of Derby, 8-10 April 2005: Some 190 people attended the conference, with some uncertainty about exact numbers because of the presence of a few non-paying interlopers. Beside the UK, participants came from Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the USA, Canada, South Korea, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. 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 postgraduate panel convenors.

Book displays were mounted by Latin America Bureau, Blackwells, 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, whose

celebratory volume was on display and sale. The Saturday plenary lecture was delivered by Neil Larsen, of University of California Davis, on 'Latin Americanism without Latin America: 'theory' as surrogate periphery in the metropolitan university'.

Social events included a reception given by the City of Derby, a reception sponsored by Latin America Bureau (to launch John Crabtree's new book on Bolivia, *Patterns of Protest*) and attended by the Vice-Chancellor of Derby, followed by a *BLAR*-sponsored conference dinner at the Derbyshire Cricket Club.

In all thanks go to Victoria Carpenter and her colleague Linda Marshall in the University of Derby Conference Office for the organisation of the event.

2006 Conference (Nottingham): 180 people attended over the two days; apart from the majority from the UK, participants came from Switzerland, the USA, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Italy, Israel, Argentina, Mexico, Chile (including one rector), Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil. Once again a gratifyingly high number of postgraduate participants and panel convenors were evident. 25 panels were organised across three sessions: Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning. The Plenary Lecture ('*Constitutions, Freedoms and Minority Rights: Colombia and Cuba since Independence*') was given by Aline Helg of the University of Geneva. Special thanks are due to Jane Kerrigan, the Administrator of the University of Nottingham Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies, whose unstinting work for several months was the mainstay of the event's organisation, and also to Bernard McGuirk, Warden of Willoughby Hall, for hosting the two receptions, the Friday reception being offered by the University of Nottingham and the Critical, Cultural and Communications Press, and the Saturday event being offered by Blackwells Publishing.

Exhibitions of books were organised by Blackwells, Latin America Bureau, Pathfinder Press and the Liverpool University Press.

2007 Conference: It is now confirmed that the 2007 Conference will be held in the University of Newcastle on 13-15 April 2007, organised by Keith Brewster and colleagues there.

Conference organisation in general: After the Leiden conference, the SLAS Committee took a decision to ensure that henceforth all the annual conferences should be organised in such a way that the pattern of day-long (or even two-day long) panels should be avoided, to allow the maximum of movement of participants between panels. We have endeavoured to follow this at both the Derby and Nottingham events and confirmed at the Committee meeting and also the AGM that we intend to continue to uphold this principle at the Newcastle event too.

4: Annual lecture: The second Lecture in the series was delivered by Duncan Green of Oxfam, on 7 October 2005, on 'Twenty Years of Neoliberalism: Where does Latin America go From Here?'. **There were some 150 people in attendance (many of them undergraduates) and the event was organised and hosted by the University of Manchester.**

The 2006 Annual Lecture will be given by Richard Gott, former journalist and commentator on Latin American politics (especially Cuba and Venezuela), now associated with the Institute for the Study of the Americas. The talk, on 'Latin America as a White Settler Society', will be given at the University of Essex on Friday 13 October, at 5.00 p.m.

5: The Harold Blakemore Prize: The 2006 competition produced 7 entries in all, the prize eventually being awarded, unanimously, to Gabriel Paquette, of Trinity College, University of Cambridge, for his essay on 'Consulados, Economic Societies and State-Society Synergy in the Spanish Empire, c.1760-1800'; the essay was judged to be outstanding in its originality, its use of sources and its argumentation.

6: SLAS Newsletter: SLAS has continued to produce 3 copies each year of what is now a bulletin covering over 60 pages; it is a service for which

members continue to offer their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Editor, Liz Allen (Glasgow), recognising the invaluable role which the SLAS Newsletter plays, especially for those who are unable to attend the Annual Conference.

However, the needs of speedy communication (not least for events which are advertised within the SLAS Newsletter, or for SLAS elections), as well as the sheer size of the task and the demands which this places on a largely personal commitment by the Editor, and the demands on the SLAS budget, have all led to the decisions firstly (October 2005) to move to two issues a year and, secondly (February 2006), to move to a web-based edition in the autumn.

The April issue will thus inform all members of this decision, but the following two issues will be produced (still by Liz Allen, as Editor) and made available on the SLAS Website. After that, a decision will be made on the best format, whether hard-copy or web-based, in terms of cost, accessibility, and usefulness, taking fully into account the members' views which the April issue will invite.

7: SLAS Website: The website (and the associated email network, also run by Katie Willis) continues to provide an increasingly useful service to members, especially in providing links to other Latin Americanist sites, information about the Society and its events and Conference, grants, etc. for postgraduates, and SLAS support for conferences. Thanks again go to Katie Willis for her speedy and willing work on this service.

8: Bulletin of Latin American Research (BLAR): The Editorial Board was reshaped in 2005-6, with Nicola Miller (UCL) taking over from Sarah Radcliffe as Senior Editor, David Howard (Edinburgh) replacing Sarah Radcliffe as ordinary member, and Anny Brooksbank-Jones (Sheffield) taking over from Jon Beasley-Murray. Jean Grugel (Sheffield) continues as a member. The transition has been handled extremely well. *BLAR* and Blackwells are organising a big 25th anniversary event on 19 May 2006, with Jean Franco as

a guest speaker. A new Editorial Assistant has been hired during the year, also with an apparently successful transition. Total institutional subscriptions to the journal have remained stable at 246, with 535 member subscriptions and 1,858 additional sites with Consortia access.

9: PILAS (Postgraduates in Latin American Studies): PILAS held their annual conference at the University of Portsmouth, on 2 February 2006, with 45 people attending. At that meeting, a new committee was elected, consisting of Daniel Huerta Conde (Liverpool), as President, Violeta Mayer (Liverpool) as Secretary, and the rest of the Committee being Helen Porter, Heinrich Kramarski, Gregorio Perez and Katinka Weber (all of Liverpool). PILAS have as usual organised a 3-hour workshop (this time, on publishing) at the Nottingham conference on 31 March.

10: UKCASA: SLAS has continued to belong to the recently reconstituted UK Council of Area Studies Associations, which is again making strenuous efforts to become a force in defence of area studies in the UK. At present some 18 societies are represented in the organisation, which, as part of its plan for a raised profile, is organising a conference on globalisation in 2006-7, to which SLAS members will be invited.

11: British Academy Panel on Latin America and the Caribbean: One of the most encouraging developments in the 2005-6 academic year has been the creation and growth of this Panel, on which the SLAS President serves, as well as several other SLAS members in their various capacities as leading Latin Americanists. It is encouraging because the Panel has been moving rapidly in the direction of seeking greater opportunities to fund research in Latin America, developing not only the Visiting Fellowship scheme but also, with the full cooperation of all the Panel members, the new Two-Way Seminar Scheme. At a time when British Government attention paid to Latin America seems to be in decline, this is an exciting and positive development.

An additional development in this respect has been the British Academy's consideration of the possibility of extending its current support for Learned

Societies; in February, it called for expressions of interest in such a scheme, and SLAS responded on members' behalf, in conjunction with the Standing Conference of Directors of Latin American Centres, to indicate its positive interest, both in participating through a possible £20-30,000 research support programme, and in sponsoring a collaborative project on diaspora studies in the region.

12: Constitutional issues: Over the past year it has become clear that aspects of the existing Constitution need clarifying and also that the question of SLAS rights to act on behalf of members has become contentious. On the former it has been agreed that officers will seek to draft and then propose amendments to address these anomalies (for ratification at the 2007 AGM) and, on the latter, the Committee has clarified its position and will seek to follow a pattern of action in accordance with the stipulations of Charity Commission recognition.

13: SLAS Grants and Bursaries: In 2005-6, SLAS committed itself to supporting financially 6 conferences and workshops; four have taken place before the AGM (at the University of London Institute for the Study of the Americas, Manchester, Stirling and Liverpool) and two are due in September 2007 (Manchester and Nottingham). Full details of these awards are included in the Secretary's report below.

14: Questions from members: There were no questions from members.

Tony Kapcia, President of SLAS, 31 March 2006

2) TREASURER'S REPORT: John Fisher

1. On the advice of the Independent Examiner of the accounts, Dr. Rory Miller, and in line with Charity Commission guidelines, I have drawn up the accounts in a different form this year, with the intention of presenting a clearer picture of income and expenditure.

2. Income totalled £63,800, of which half (£32,400) came from Blackwell, as the royalty payment due for sales of BLAR in 2004, and a contribution towards the cost of employing the journal's Editorial Assistant. Expenditure on BLAR totalled £13,500, thereby leaving the Society with a surplus of £19,000 for its general activities.

3. As noted in the circulated statement, all registration payments received for the 2005 Conference held at the University of Derby passed through the Society's accounts. Expenditure on the Conference exceeded income by £5,400, although this was largely accounted for by grants of £2,500 to 5 Latin American scholars and 9 postgraduate bursaries of £135 each. When these are discounted, the loss on the Conference falls to £1,625.

4. Bank interest received was £600 greater than in 2004, partly because the Conference income spent some time in the Society's bank account.

5. What I have described as 'Members Donations', totalling £1,500 represent the income received from individuals who have not cancelled their standing orders, despite the fact that since January 2001 the only way to join SLAS has been to subscribe through Blackwell to BLAR. As noted in the accounts the total received from this source in 2001-2005 (£9,409 minus refunds of 499 made by December 2005) has to be regarded as an implicit liability.

6. The principal item of 'Other' income was a refund from one of the editors of BLAR of funds advanced to her to attend the 2004 LASA Conference in Las Vegas.

7. Returning to the expenditure side, the SLAS Newsletter cost £3,351 (mainly for printing and postage) and a further £955 was outstanding in respect of the October 2005 issue.

8. There was a modest expenditure on updating the website (£121).

SLAS ACCOUNTS, 2005*

INCOME	2005	2004	EXPENDITURE	2005	2004
BLACKWELL	32434	29215	MEMBERS SERVICES		
MEMBERS' DONATIONS	1537	1641	Bulletin of Latin American Research	13496	10230
2005 CONFERENCE	26930	13681	Newsletter	3351	4385
INTEREST RECEIVED	2197	1553	Website	121	717
OTHER	706	700	Annual Lecture	1353	676
			CONFERENCE		
			Annual Conference 2005	32316	24966
			GRANTS AND PRIZES		
			Postgraduate travel & conf	7000	6900
			Grants to Conferences	3312	2972
			Latin America Bureau	1500	1500
			Blakemore Prize	800	400
			ADMINISTRATION		
			Committee expenses	1519	1707
			Postage	31	645
			REFUNDS	96	24
			SUBSCRIPTIONS		163
TOTAL	63804	46790	TOTAL	64896	56389
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				(1092)	

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2005	2004
Balance at 1 January	70456	
Net movements of funds during year	(1092)	
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	69364	70456
Represented by:		
Nat West	1672	
Abbey	42692	
Triodos	25000	

*** Notes to accounts:**

1. All registration payments and expenditure for the 2005 Conference passed through the SLAS accounts. For 2006 we are reverting to the normal practice that the host institution handles income/expenditure, with any surplus (or liability for a loss) being transferred to SLAS.
 2. Donations and refunds: as pointed out regularly in Treasurer's reports for the last 4 years, since 2001 the only way to be a member of SLAS has been by paying Blackwell for a subscription to BLAR. However, the Society continues to receive payments by standing order into the its current bank account from individuals. Occasionally, when they cancel, they request refunds. This creates an implicit liability for the Society of c.£9,000.
 3. Liabilities in the form of uncashed cheques issued in 2005 total £261.
Postage/printing/stationery charges for the October 2005 Newsletter – paid in January 2006 – totalled £955. Similarly, PILAS had not claimed the £600 allocated to it for 2005, and an invoice is outstanding for c.£600 from the University of Manchester for expenses associated with the SLAS lecture (2005). These liabilities total £2,400.
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9. The 'SLAS' lecture for 2005 cost £340 (speaker's fee and hospitality) – with an invoice for c.£600 outstanding – but the in-year cost was substantially higher (£1,353) because of the payments in January of the travel/accommodation costs of the 2004 lecturer.

10. Five postgraduate members received awards (totalling £2200) to assist them with the costs of giving papers at major conferences, and a further eight received awards of £600 each (total £4,800) towards the costs of fieldwork in Latin America.

11. Five grants totalling £3312 were made to four institutions organising conferences (Queen's University Belfast; ISA, London x 3; University of Manchester), normally to cover the costs of inviting named Latin American scholars.

12. As in 2004, a grant of £1,500 was made to the Latin American Bureau (a third, and final, payment will be made in 2006).

13. Two postgraduates were awarded the Blakemore prize (£400 each).

14. Committee expenses fell by £200 to £1,519, and expenditure on postage by £600 (basically because it was not necessary in 2005 to conduct a postal ballot for the election of Committee members).

J.R.Fisher, Treasurer of SLAS, 28 February 2006

Questions from members about the Treasurer's report

A member expressed amazement at the low recorded cost of the SLAS website, and asked whether the website receives any subsidy. The Treasurer responded that the only "subsidy" the website receives comes in the form of free labour by its administrator, Katie Willis.

Another member asked whether the Society should invest more of its income. The Treasurer noted that given the recent decision to move from a printed to an online SLAS Newsletter, money could be transferred from the Newsletter budget.

Another member noted the donation SLAS makes to the Latin America Bureau (LAB), and asked whether this was for the LAB website. The Treasurer responded that this was indeed the case, and noted that this is a three-year conditional arrangement, reviewed each year.

Another member noted the importance for members from Latin America of certificates of attendance, and asked whether these could be issued at the conference itself. The Secretary responded that this issue was under review.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Adrian Pearce.

1: Committee Meetings: Four Committee meetings were held throughout the year, on 17 June 2005 (University of Warwick), 7 October 2005 (University of Manchester), 10 February 2006 (University of Nottingham) – the latter meeting was postponed from January due to the Secretary's paternity leave – and 31 March 2006 (University of Nottingham).

2: Grants and bursaries: applications received and awards

The Society awards grants and bursaries under a number of headings: Conference Support Grants; Postgraduate Travel Grants and Postgraduate Conference Grants (to assist postgraduate students to undertake research or present papers at major international conferences); and SLAS Conference Travel Grants and Conference Bursaries (to assist foreign-based scholars and British postgraduates to attend the SLAS Annual Conference). In the past year the following grants were made:

Conference Support Grants: SLAS committed itself to supporting a total of six conferences and workshops this year. Four of these have already taken place, at the Institute for the Study of the Americas in London, and the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, and Stirling. Two will take place in September, at the Universities of Manchester and Nottingham. These applications were judged on their own merits by the full Committee at its meetings throughout the year.

The six awards meant that SLAS supported all of the conferences and workshops for which it received formal requests, although we have had two informal enquiries regarding conference since February – when the funds available for conference support were already exhausted. The total amount made available to support these events – which is not necessarily equal to the amount actually claimed – was £4,350.

The conferences supported or to be supported were:

- *“Patagonia: Myths and Realities”*, Univ. of Manchester, 2-4 September 2005;
- *“Colonial Worlds: Alternative Views on the History of Colonial Latin America”*, Institute for the Study of the Americas, 27 October 2005;
- *“Latin American Studies in Scotland: The State of the Question”*, University of Stirling, 10 March 2006;
- *“Rethinking the Iberian Atlantic”*, University of Liverpool, 20-22 April 2006;

- *“Emigraciones y exilios; inmigraciones e influencias: el impacto del flujo humano en la formación de Cuba”*, Univ. of Nottingham, 7-8 September 2006;
- *“Che’s América”*, University of Manchester, 14-15 September 2006.

Postgraduate Travel Grants: We received a total of 21 applications from postgraduates for travel grants to support their studies. Seven of these were disqualified, due to inadequate documentation or insufficient references. Applications were judged by a panel consisting of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary; the criteria were quality of project design, potential significance of the research, support from referees, and financial need. Eight postgraduate travel grants were made, of up to £600 each. The recipients were:

- Jairo Acuña-Alfaro (Oxford),
- Vincent Druliolle (Essex),
- Marco Hernández (Oxford),
- Chris Hull (Nottingham),
- Mollie Nelson (Leeds),
- Andrés Montes (UCL),
- Mikhail Mukhametdinov (Glasgow), and
- Claudia Robles (Essex).

Postgraduate Conference Grants: A total of 16 applications were received from postgraduates for grants to attend conferences – one by the September deadline, and fifteen by the February one. Seven of these applications were disqualified, due mainly to inadequate documentation – this was an unusually high proportion, which pointed up a slight confusion in the wording of the guidelines on the Website; action is now in hand to remedy this. Two postgraduate conference grants were awarded, for £500 each. The recipients were: Hugo Cerón Anaya (Essex) and Karem Roitman (Oxford).

2006 Conference Travel Grants: Four grants were awarded to support travel to the 2006 conference. These awards were of £600, plus £170 for fee reimbursement; except in one case, when – due to the particular circumstances involved – £400 plus £170 was awarded. These awards were

made on a first-come, first-served basis, and represented the only applications received by the deadline in February – although that itself pointed up an issue relating to how well-publicised that deadline was. Action has been taken to ensure the system works more satisfactorily next year. Scholars in receipt of 2006 Conference Travel Grants were: Lisette Aliaga Linares (NGO, Peru), Miryam Colacri (University of Rosario, Argentina), Luis Eduardo Medina Torres (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico), and Gerardo Munck (University of Southern California, USA).

2006 Conference Bursaries: Ten bursaries were awarded to post-graduate students, in each case of £140 (the “shared facilities” fee) plus £20 registration fee. Recipients were: José Luis Alvarez (Bath), Hugo Cerón Anaya (Essex), Par Engstrom (Oxford), María Fernanda García (Cambridge), Marco Larizza (Essex), Mikhael Mohammedinov (Glasgow), Silvia Montes (Birkbeck), Natalia Priego (Liverpool), Heike Schaumberg (Manchester), Ernesto Vivares (Sheffield).

4) ELECTIONS

General: Elected to the SLAS Committee as ordinary members in April 2005 were **Paulo Drinot, Mo Hume, and Patience Schell**. In early 2006, nominations were invited for candidates for the post of Treasurer and for three Ordinary Committee Members. Nominations were received and the following candidates took office unopposed: **John Fisher (Treasurer), Andrew Canessa, Peter Lambert, Diego Sánchez**. Diego Sánchez has stepped down as Publicity Officer.

Publicity Officer: The AGM was informed that the decision has been taken not to replace Diego Sánchez as Publicity Officer. The post will remain vacant, with the expectation that it will be abolished at next year’s AGM.

Auditor: Rory Miller is standing down as SLAS Auditor. He was thanked for all his hard work. Paul Henderson has agreed to replace Rory as Auditor.

5) AOB There was no other business

Adrian Pearce, SLAS Secretary.

SLAS CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA REPORTS, 2006

(Reports are included from all those sent to the Editor. Panels with no report may wish to send them for inclusion in the next issue of the SLAS Newsletter)

Panel 1. Latin American Press History: Convenor: Laura Llull, Univ. Nacional del Sur, Bahía Blanca, Argentina. llull@infovia.com.ar

Panel 2. Class Struggle and the State in Latin America: Reconsidering Brazil and Mexico. Convenor: Adam Morton, Nottingham. adam.norton@nottingham.ac.uk

This panel was associated with a series of panels setting out to critically assess dimensions of historical materialist analysis, the reproduction of neoliberalism, and the spatial praxis of resistance across Latin America (also see Panels 18 and 25). The panel consisted of three presentations on understanding the Mexican Revolution in relation to processes of primitive accumulation and Antonio Gramsci's theory of passive revolution (Adam Morton); the agenda of second generation neoliberalism in Mexico and the shortfalls of mainstream analysis (Greig Charnock); and the role of the Chilean Socialist Party in constructing neoliberal hegemony (Sara Motta). The debate covered a range of issues that were headlined by Paul Cammack carrying out the role of discussant.

On understanding the Mexican Revolution as passive revolution, these covered the extent to which the case of Mexico is regionally more analogous to the case of Jacobin revolutionary France, rather than the Risorgimento of Italian state formation, and thus whether 'Mexico' in Latin America was more like 'France' in Europe in propelling regional state transformations through uneven development. On second generation neoliberalism in Mexico, debate focused on how the separation of states and markets (politics and economics) reinforces discourses of social capital, the rule of law, citizenship and attenuated democratic rights in Mexico.

On the construction of neoliberal hegemony in Chile, similar debate focused on the depoliticisation elements of democracy and democratic transition within the concertación process and the imperative of constructing counter-hegemonic resistances amongst progressive forces. These issues were, indeed, carried through the linked panels arising in subsequent discussions on the nature of imperialism, the social foundations of revolution in Venezuela, the resistance of the Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados (MTD) in Argentina, liberation psychology in Guatemala, resistance in Colombia, and Latin American environmental movements.

Panel 3. The Latin American Short Story, Past and Present. Convenor: Astvaldur Astvaldsson (Liverpool), valdi@liv.ac.uk

The panel consisted of five papers, for one person, Mar LANGA PIZARRO (Universidad de Alicante), was unable to attend. The first paper, Angela ROMERO's (University of Liverpool), 'Una mirada al cuento centroamericano actual', addressed the notable increase in short story writing and publication in the Central America countries over the last twenty years or so. She showed that, while this up search is rooted in a long tradition, the "new" short story has its own thematic and stylistic characteristics, caused by the radical socio-political changes that the region has witnessed in the last few decades. She argued for the need to study the new and their work in detail in order to establish with more precision the essence of this new phenomena.

In his paper, 'The Development of the Short Story in El Salvador', James KNIGHT (University of Liverpool) argued that the Salvadoran Salarrué has often been wrongly labelled a *costumbrista* writer, and that this has prevented critics from seeing the subtle strand of social criticism in his best work, especially in his best know collection, *Cuentos de barro* (1933). Drawing on these stories, Knight illustrated not only the masterly economy, subtlety and narrative invention that make many of Salarrué's short stories true classics of Salvadoran letters but also how he presented marginalized social groups, in particular indigenous people, as the true representatives of Salvadoran culture under one of the most brutally repressive regimes in Central American history.

Hólmfríður GARÐARSDÓTTIR's (University of Iceland) paper, 'La experimentación conceptual al margen de lo prohibido en la narrativa de Jacinta Escudos', looked at how, in the face of social censorship, recent women writers employ a new language to describe both themselves and their world. The traditional image of the woman as weak, beautiful, passive, etc. has disappeared and instead women's literature is questioning stereotypical images of both men and women in the sexual context. For example, the main purpose of highly provocative recent texts by the Salvadoran writer Jacinta Escudos, *El desencanto* (2001), y *Felicidad doméstica y otras cosas aterradoras* (2002), is a search for a radical expression of what it means to be a sexually active female in a new age where women are claiming as their own this once exclusively masculine domain.

In 'Between Short Story and Novel: Fragmentation in Latin America narratives', Valdi ASTVALDSSON (University of Liverpool), addressing the issue of narrative fragmentation in Latin American literature, argued for the need look again at how the short story has been defined in literary criticism and, in particular, at the much debated relationship between the short story and the novel. Drawing on *La Tía Sofi y los otros Cuentos* (2000), by the Honduran writer Waldina Mejía, he showed how short story writers and novelists often use similar narrative techniques and the distinction between the two genres is frequently blurred when short story collections effectively read as fragmented novels. Hence, it is necessary to recognise that, while the concept of genre is useful, genres as fluid and it is impossible to define them in strict and unyielding ways.

Finally, in his 'El cuento y sus autores', Miguel Ángel SANCHEZ DE ARMAS (Xalapa, Veracruz) spoke about the importance for the short story in Latin American of the journal *El cuento*, established and published for over 30 years by the Mexican writer Edmundo Valadés. Over this 30-year period, the journal published short stories for 75 countries and became the best source of short fiction and criticism on the genre in the Hispanic world. Indeed, as important as the short stories themselves, are the editorials of the 145 issues,

**THE FUTURE OF THE SLAS
NEWSLETTER**

**SLAS NEWSLETTER
IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT**

**IMPORTANT NEWS
FOR ALL SLAS MEMBERS**

Please read these pages carefully!

THE FUTURE OF THE SLAS NEWSLETTER

A NEW ELECTRONIC FORMAT SLAS NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ALL SLAS MEMBERS

Always concerned with the benefit to the society's members, the format of the SLAS Newsletter has been discussed in some detail over the last eighteen months by the SLAS Committee. At the Committee meeting in March 2006 the Committee decided to change the format of the SLAS Newsletter for a one-year trial following the April 2006 edition. This trial was also notified to the SLAS AGM at the annual conference at Nottingham on 31st March 2006. At the most recent Committee meeting in Liverpool, at the end of June 2006, the final details were sorted out.

The new format will be electronic rather than paper and will appear twice a year instead of three times a year. Each issue will now be available, via the SLAS website, rather than as a hard-copy version. The two editions will come out in November 2006 and June 2007. The SLAS IT Officer, Katie Willis, will receive the SLAS Newsletter and email all SLAS members on the email circulation list that they may find the new issue on the SLAS website at www.slas.org.uk/news.shtml

TO RECEIVE YOUR SLAS NEWSLETTER: In order for SLAS members to be alerted to the electronic publication of the SLAS Newsletter, an up-to-date email address must be included in your membership information. The SLAS email list is also used by the SLAS IT Officer to inform members of forthcoming SLAS events and deadlines.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please contact Blackwell's Membership Services, who administer the SLAS membership, with your email address if you did not provide one when you last renewed your SLAS membership.

Email: membershipservices@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com. The SLAS IT Officer, Katie Willis, is happy to answer any queries: Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk

FEEDBACK AND SURVEY: The SLAS Newsletter Editor is always pleased to have comment from the members and welcomes any contribution on this change at any time. In addition, the committee has agreed that there will be a survey for the SLAS membership to complete and return in the June 2007 issue to gauge members' reactions to the experiment. This will help to inform the SLAS Committee before any decision is made whether to continue permanently with the new format or to return to the familiar paper version. If you prefer one format or another, please return the survey.

REASONS FOR THE NEW FORMAT:

There are several reasons to try out a new format.

- Firstly, the cost of running a hard-copy operation for three issues a year has steadily increased. This is the result of greater number of SLAS events to report in the SLAS Newsletter, rising postage costs, and an increase in membership. In the view of the Committee, this could tie up funds that may be better used in other ways, notably for more bursaries, grants, or SLAS-sponsored events. Whatever the costs of an electronic edition, they are bound to be considerably lower.

- Secondly, the timing of each edition is crucial, not least for the purposes of informing of seminars and advertising events. What has been apparent in recent years is that, despite the heroic efforts of the SLAS Newsletter Editor, Liz Allen, the task of collating and editing each edition has grown. The Editor has, single-handedly, managed to produce three editions each year with great self-sacrifice and commitment. Even so, the process has become unwieldy, leading to some delays in scheduled publication.

- Hence, the Committee felt that although an electronic version will be unable to avoid the same vagaries of neglect from contributors, virus infections, and of delays in publishing and posting copy, it is likely to be more up to date than has been possible in recent years. It is also hoped that it may be more relevant for overseas members whose reliance on the international mail systems has often meant further delays. **(P.T.O)**

- Thirdly, the Committee feels that it is time for SLAS as an organisation to take advantage of new (and not so new) and developing technology to streamline its operation and its service to members. An increasing number of other organisations are now sending electronic newsletters. So, for these reasons also, the SLAS Committee thought that it might be worthwhile to try using this format for the SLAS Newsletter

- Unfortunately, there is no alternative under the new system than to receive your copy of the SLAS Newsletter in this electronic format. The committee discussed this in some detail at the committee meeting in Liverpool at the end of June and finally had to reach this decision. This is an issue that may be discussed again as the result of the survey in June 2007.

- The basic outline of these proposed changes was notified to the AGM at Nottingham on 31st March 2006, and there were no further questions or discussion about them.

Tony Kapcia, Adrian Pearce, Katie Willis, and Elizabeth Allen
SLAS Sub-Committee on the SLAS Newsletter.

A footnote from the SLAS President

It would, of course, be remiss of the SLAS Committee at this stage not to thank Liz Allen, on behalf of all SLAS members, for all her work to date, without which the invaluable service which the SLAS Newsletter has continued to provide to members over the years would not have been possible.

Hence, the Committee is delighted, and all SLAS members will be relieved to learn, that Liz has willingly agreed to carry on with her editing role for the new experimental format. Quite simply, her expertise and experience are too valuable to lose, and we are all extremely grateful.

many written by famous writers, e.g., Cortázar, Alberto Moravia, Adolfo Bioy Casares, Borges and many others. Together, the editorials form a volume of their own, soon to be published by Sanchez de Armas, which provides an invaluable source of commentaries on literature and writing, generally, and the short story in particular.

Panel 4. Latin American Literature: Close Encounters. Convenor:
Victoria Carpenter, University of Derby. (v.carpenter@derby.ac.uk),

Panel 5. Changing national consciousness in revolution Convenor: Ana Souto (Nottingham). (asxams@nottingham.ac.uk),

Panel 6. El Salvador 15 Years After the Peace Accords. Co-Convenors:
Mo Hume, , University of Glasgow, Cath Collins, , University of London.
m.hume@socsci.gla.ac.uk or collins_cath@hotmail.com

This session of 5 papers provided an apparently eclectic series of presentations on different aspects of cultural, social and political life in present-day El Salvador. The panel was also notably international, with no two speakers hailing from the same country. Nonetheless in practice the papers and discussion found useful common reference points and motifs. Violence was, sadly, an ever-present thread: Luis Pérez-Simón discussed themes of death and individual conscience in the work of novelist Horacio Castellanos Moya, whose disturbed and disturbing cast of characters includes a journalist forced into exile by his work documenting massacres and a former death squad member recruited as an anti-narcotics 'enforcer'. Javier Martí described how attempts to repackage El Salvador as a tourist destination have chosen to include, rather than ignore, the theme of the civil war. Discussion centred around the moral implications of such developments, with a clear distinction to be drawn between 'turismo de lamentación' and 'turismo de la revolución'.

Gabriella Citroni discussed the legal framework of rights protection in El Salvador through the lens of the InterAmerican Commission and Court on Human Rights, analysing their action and pronouncements over notorious cases of past and present human rights abuse in the country. Cath Collins

complemented this presentation with a paper arguing that the failure to address past violations through the legal system has its roots in insufficient justice system change. The experience of El Salvador suggests that externally-catalysed 'democratic engineering' cannot orchestrate changes in political or legal culture. Mo Hume concluded the panel with a discussion of the much-commented phenomenon of gangs, arguing that while gangs constitute a real and significant threat to poor urban communities, who reject the gangs' pretensions to represent or speak for them, the construction of the 'violence problem' as a problem of youth gangs rather than of organised crime or corruption had allowed for a significant remilitarisation of internal security functions and political discourse in recent years. A lively general discussion centred on this wider phenomenon of the construction of the 'other' as a security threat requiring the overruling or suspension of democratic imperatives.

Panel 7. Individual, local and global perceptions of wellbeing in Peru and beyond. Convenors: James Copestake, University of Bath, BA2 7AY. j.g.copestake@bath.ac.uk & Teófilo Altamirano, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima. taltami@pucp.edu.pe.

The panel presented initial findings arising from collaboration between economists, anthropologists and psychologists at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú* and at the University of Bath, who are all members of the ESRC "Wellbeing in Developing Countries" (WeD) research group.¹ How usefully does talk of well-being add to existing discourse about development? James Copestake introduced the first session with an overview of work to date. He argued that the concept of well-being provides conceptual space within which the contested ontologies and priorities underpinning *income first*, *basic needs first* and *human rights first* perspectives on development can be analysed. He illustrated the point by showing the weak statistical correlation between different well-being indicators across seven research sites along a geographical corridor in central Peru. Jorge Yamamoto described how WeD is

¹ See www.welldev.org.uk for more information about WeD, or e-mail j.g.copestake@bath.ac.uk

measuring subjective well-being psychometrically as a product of perceived values, goals, resources and goal-satisfaction, with scales for each derived through an *emic* process of qualitative research in each site. Principal components analysis reveals two distinct factors underpinning goals within the Peru corridor: (a) having a good place to live, and (b) “neo-traditionalism” Satisfaction with achievement of these goals was *not* found to vary in a consistent way with degree of urbanisation.

Jose Luis Alvarez then used case studies from along the corridor to argue that collective action (including *fiestas*) affects both hedonic and eudaimonic well-being in ways that have been neglected by literatures based more narrowly on *homo economicus* or *homo sociologis* ontology. This was further illustrated by findings on the multiple and diverse well-being outcomes of the *Vaso de Leche* programme in the same research sites.

The second session started with a paper by Becky Lockley that explored motivations for migrating along the corridor and compared this with respondents’ reflections on the outcomes of migration. Teo Altamirano presented an ethnographic account of the experience of Peruvians working as shepherds in the USA, and Katie Wright-Revollo described ongoing research into livelihoods, well-being and identity of Peruvian migrants in London and Madrid.

Taken together the papers highlighted the importance of understanding how people themselves understand their own well-being, both as a goal in its own right and as a means to understanding how they respond to development problems, opportunities and interventions. The psychometric work suggests scope for constructing more universal theories of well-being (and thereby avoiding cultural relativism) through formal statistical analysis of such data, rather than through imposition of external categories or ideology.

Panel 8. Britain and Latin America Convenor: Will Fowler, wmf1@st-and.ac.uk

Panel 9. Institutional Design, Development and The Quality of Democracy: Conceptual Innovations and Empirical Challenges for Latin America. Convenors: Marco Larizza (Essex) (mlariz@essex.ac.uk) & Jairo Acuña-Alfaro (Oxford) (jairo.acuna@sant.ox.ac.uk)

Panel 10. Imagining the impossible: textual, aural and visual negotiations of the city in Latin America. Convenor: Niamh Thornton (University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus) n.thornton@ulster.ac.uk

Panel 11. Sport and identity in Latin America. Convenor: David Wood (Sheffield) David.wood@sheffield.ac.uk

‘La garra charrúa: Indians, Football and National Identity in Contemporary Uruguay.’ In this paper, Gustavo San Román (University of St. Andrews) used a combination of visual material from football matches and press coverage of recent events, interwoven with key moments from the history of Uruguay’s last indigenous inhabitants, to explore the expression “garra charrúa”, which has traditionally been used in Uruguayan football to denote the fighting spirit of the national team, especially when coming from behind to win matches. The term evokes the toughest and most uncompromising of the pre-Columbian inhabitants of Uruguay, the charrúas, and is associated with memorable sporting victories, such as Uruguay’s 2-1 victory over Brazil in the 1950 world cup at the Maracanã (a game in which the ‘charrúas’ had been losing 0-1). It is also associated with less glorious episodes, including the 1986 World Cup game against Scotland in which Uruguay had to play almost the whole match with 10 men when a forward was sent off after only 53 seconds. The last charrúas were all but eliminated by the first republican government, and the final four were given to a French entrepreneur to take to Paris where they were exhibited as exotic specimens of humanity. The return of the remains of Vaimaca Perú from Paris coincided with the unveiling of a statue of Pablo Bengoechea, one of the country’s footballing greats, and it would appear from the coverage of these events that while Uruguayan *garra* remains alive and well, the presence of the *charrúa* is merely symbolic.

'Golf in Mexico: Elites, identity, and power, 1900-2000.' Hugo Cerón Anaya (University of Essex) offered an analysis of the rise of golf in Mexico and linked the spectacular spread of the game among Mexican elites in the and early twentieth century to economic growth and the railway network. This 'popularization' of golf among the Mexican elites was the result not only of US economic expansion in Mexico, but also cultural and ideological factors, such as status, social hierarchy, or identity. The game's close associations with notions of modernity were also influential, and local attempts to produce equipment and develop technologies necessary to the sport largely failed as local elites preferred to maintain links with the US through the purchase of equipment from its northern neighbour. Hugo went on to consider how golf is a symptom of a long-term cultural change that has seen the gradual replacement of European values by US culture among broad sectors of the Mexican elites.

"For the good of the nation". The role of the Pentatlón Deportivo Universitaria Militar in Mexican society.' Keith Brewster (University of Newcastle) examined the rise of the Pentatlón Deportivo Universitaria Militar as an example of short-lived resistance on the part of Mexican elites to state-driven projects that were seen to be taking the country too far to the left. If the 1930s was a time of consolidation for the post-revolutionary Mexican state, then sport (particularly basketball and baseball) had been one of the elements of an educational drive that sought to take nationhood to rural Mexico and foster greater links between communities. Against this background, the Pentatlón Deportivo Universitaria Militar, formed in 1938, was a youth organisation that combined the rigours and discipline of the highly individualistic pentathlon with quasi-religious rituals and ceremonies. With some 1400 members recruited from the white Catholic elite nationwide, Keith's initial findings suggest that the Pentatlón was a right-wing movement created to counter the aims of more extreme *cardenistas*. Attempts to examine the Pentatlón's archives to take this research further have thus far been met with suspicion.

This session offered an excellent first step in establishing the study of sport as a subject at future conferences, where researchers from a range of disciplines can learn about the economic, social and cultural significance of different sporting practices across the region.

Panel 12. Workshop: '¿Hacia dónde va Chile? Change in society, politics, institutions, culture, management and the economy'.

Convenors: Gregorio Perez and David E. Hojman. : jl33@liverpool.ac.uk

Panel 13. Current politics in Latin America: impacts on development, integration and international relations Convenor: Gustavo Emmerich, gustavoernestoemmerich@yahoo.com (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Campus Iztapalapa, Mexico City)

Seven speakers of so many nationalities discussed various aspects of Latin American politics -in a broad sense of the word, involving ideologies, economics and international relations. Their names, national origins, affiliations and papers were as follows: -

Francisco Dominguez, Chile, Middlesex University: "Cuba and Venezuela's ALBA: the power of an idea" –

Mikhail Mohammedinov, Russia, University of Glasgow: "External Factors of European and South American Integration" –

Gustavo Emmerich, Argentina, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana (Mexico City): "The free-trade debate in the Americas after the Mar del Plata Summit" -

Luis Eduardo Medina Torres, Mexico, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana (Mexico City): "El nuevo mapa politico de America Latina" –

Andrea Marcondes, Brazil, UNESP-Assis (Sao Paulo): "Esquerda rosada no Mercosul versus direita militarista nos Estados Unidos: as tendencias de um novo modelo politico" –

Luis Fernando Angosto, Spain, Queen's University (Belfast): "Hacia la republica indigena: un examen de las relaciones entre la revolucion bolivariana y los pueblos indigenas en Venezuela" –

Nicola Scott, UK, University of Manchester: "US-Latin American relations and the development of a regional policy enabling environment to foster the creation and sale of GM crops"

The first session drew on alternative schemes for economic integration in the Americas: with, without, or against the United States of America (USA)?

Dominguez enthusiastically commented ALBA (Spanish acronym for “Alternativa Bolivariana para las Americas”, an initiative sponsored by Cuba and Venezuela that is currently being extended to Bolivia). According to the speaker, ALBA was designed both politically and economically “against” the USA, and intends to produce a direct impact on social conditions in Latin America through a variety of concrete actions (ranging from health and literacy programs to the supply of Venezuelan oil at subsidized prices). Mohammedinov examined Mercosur (a customs union whose full members are Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay) from a neo-realistic theoretical point of view. He pointed out that Mercosur (like the European Union) was designed as a “counter-hegemonic” response to the USA political and economical predominance. The fact of Argentina and Brazil having competitive rather than complementary economies hinders further integration within Mercosur.

Emmerich referred to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA, an initiative launched by the USA to include 34 countries in the Americas –all but Cuba). As the FTAA negotiating process has become stalled, a number of countries (particularly along the Pacific Coast of the Americas, from Canada to Chile) that support FTAA are relying on bilateral free-trade agreements with the USA. Other countries (those in Mercosur and the Caribbean ones) are demanding concessions from the USA prior to their endorsing of FTAA. Still some others (Venezuela, may be Bolivia) bluntly reject FTAA; this last group could widen depending on current political events. The second session drew on more purely political matters.

Medina Torres described several recent and upcoming electoral processes in Latin America. In some -but not all- of them the political left has won (or could win in the near future) presidential office. Once in office, he warned, the new leftist governments could find difficult to fulfil the many promises made during the electoral campaigns. Addressing the same subject, Marcondes

understood the emergence of a “pink” (for moderate) left in Mercosur as –in part- a reaction against the predominance of a conservative right in the USA. Angosto explained how Venezuela is trying to re-construct her national consciousness by emphasizing her indigenous roots (even if her indigenous population amounts to only 2.6% of the total).

Finally, Scott analyzed the USA policies for fostering the use in Latin America of genetically modified seeds that are produced mainly –but not solely- by USA corporations. Summing up, all the papers in the panel, as well as the ensuing discussion from the floor, were focused on development models, great political decisions, and electoral processes.

Note: SLAS generously supported this panel by awarding both a student bursary and a travel grant.

Panel 14. Street vending in Latin America: political organisation and the negotiation of public space Convenors: Lissette Aliaga Linares, University of Texas María Fernanda García Rincon, University of Cambridge. lissette@prc.utexas.edu or mfg22@cam.ac.uk

This panel was very international with scholars from Latin America, US, France, Netherlands and the U.K discussing issues around a somewhat specific in theme: markets, and street vending. It provided a group of scholars with the opportunity to exchange ideas on conceptual and theoretical frameworks. It had three sessions.

The first session: Upgrading downtown: case studies on the effects of public policy had three papers. Griet Steel (CEDLA) presented a paper entitled: Sweeping hawkers from the scene: tourism and itinerant street vending in Cusco, looking at public policies. She analyzed how tourism have shaped policies regarding street vending in the process of recovering historical sites. The second paper was given by Caroline Stamm (Marne-la-Vallée, France) on Comercio ambulante, politicas publicas y centro historico: Estudios de los casos de Mexico y Lima. She looked at the spatial effect of public policies in Mexico City and Lima. The third paper was presented by Mathilde Gauvian (EHESS, France) who discussed Public spaces and street vending in the

bolivarian Caracas.

The second session: Politics and economics of public space was a bit more conceptual with Sally Roever (University of Leiden) presenting a conceptual framework on strategies used to Negotiating Formality: Informal Sector Market, and State in Peru. The second paper was given by Lisette Aliaga Linares (University of Texas, Austin) on Socio-spatial implications of street market regulation policy in Santiago de Chile. Using GIS techniques, she presented how locational politics affects the capacity of regulation to control market access and how this regulation have shaped street vendors strategies in their political discourse .The third paper was then presented by Gregg W. Kettles (Mississippi College School of Law), Formal Versus Informal Allocation Of Land In A Commons: The Case Of The MacArthur Park Sidewalk Vendors in Los Angeles. He looked at how different formal and informal mechanisms are used in this park to allocate public space.

On Sunday morning we held the third session: Globalization, street markets and its organizational strategies. Jairo Lugo (University of Stirling) began the panel by presenting: E-informality in Venezuela: The 'Other Path' of Technology, looking at informal cyber establishments. He focused in explaining the role of informal street vendors in expanding technological services. Maria Fernanda García Rincón (University of Cambridge), then discussed how public space is traded in Caracas with a paper entitled: Appropriation of public space: politics of exchange and market transactions in Caracas, Venezuela.

Mariana Busso (University of Aix-Marseille/University of Buenos Aires) concluded the session with the paper: "Tensiones y conflictos identitarios en un espacio de trabajo particular: las ferias comerciales urbanas. Aportes a partir de un estudio de caso en la Argentina contemporánea" developing a conceptual framework to analyse identity of workers and how identity affects conflicts.

Panel 15. La negación de la nación: historia no oficial de un concepto**Convenor: Nick Morgan (Univ.of the Andes). nmorgan@uniandes.edu.co**

The point of departure of all the papers presented in the nation panel was a questioning the foundational myths of nationhood in each of the countries under discussion. All of the papers, however, sought to go beyond this by now conventional position and examine the specific ways in which the nation has been articulated in a variety of different contexts, as well as considering some of the precise effects of such articulations.

Margarita Serje's paper examined the importance of the historic division between the core of the Colombian nation (the altiplano) and its periphery, a division which continues to be significant today. Rather than focusing on the exclusion of the periphery, however, Margarita emphasised its role in nation building, not least in terms of its importance as the site of the illicit economy. Nick Morgan's paper dealt with research that has attempted to chart the ways in which Colombians and Venezuelans have received and rearticulated the nationalist discourse associated with both uribismo and chavismo. Gregory Lobo considered the importance of the relationship between the nation and democracy in Colombia, questioning the former's place as the basic imagined community, and emphasising the constitutive role of violence in the reproduction of the current social order.

In the second session Megan Rivers-Moore discussed the use of the nation within the discourse of the tourist industry in Costa Rica. The deployment of such tropes as the tame and the (still) wild, the civilised and the "primitive", the known and the exotically different was highlighted, with all that the construction of such dichotomies implies both about the hierarchy of domination within contemporary Costa Rican society and the equally stratified imaginary inhabited by many foreign tourists. Megan thereby afforded us a useful insight into the precise ways in which the nation's socio-racial divisions are reproduced.

Natalia Priego's paper on science and nation in Porfirio Diaz's Mexico (wrongly advertised in the programme as Nation and Science Fiction- apologies again, Natalia!) looked at the way in which local elites tried to appropriate a discourse of scientific erudition -or at least of admiration for such knowledge- in order to outline the sort of national development that was to be considered desirable. The establishment of such goals had much to say about who was and who was not to be considered truly "national", with socio-racial stratification again being a significant point of reference.

Both sessions were followed by lively discussion and debate and we would like to thank all those who came along and shared their views with us.

Panel 16. Bringing the Margins to the Forefront: Reasserting Latin American Borderlands as Rich Sites of Social Enquiry. Convenors: Catherine Grange, C.Grange@sheffield.ac.uk University of Sheffield Marie Woodling, mlw99@aber.ac.uk University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Marie Woodling (Wales, Aberystwyth) and I (Sheffield) organised Panel 16 - 'Bringing the margins to the forefront: reasserting Latin American borderlands as rich sites of social enquiry'. Both Marie and I gave a paper, as did our other panel participant Luis Pérez-Simón (La Sorbonne/Yale). Firstly, the paper by Catherine Grange addressed the interactions between governmental bodies and civil society organisations in the case of the murder of women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

This was complemented on several levels by Marie Woodling's paper, which examined how ideas of the indocumentado are produced and contested on the border. Although Luis's paper took a more literary angle, discussing citizenship at the margins in Cuba, it received much interest. Indeed, a theme of marginality and the subaltern ran through the three papers, as did the ideas of transculturation and the worth/value, or lack of it, of certain human beings. Marie's paper and the discussion that arose from it highlighted the disposable quality that both the murdered women and the indocumentado have been attributed with in the eyes of others. In general the panel raised interesting

questions about the creation of identities and the perception of those identities at the margins and at the border.

Panel 17. Visual culture in globalization. Convenor: Anny Brooksbank-Jones (Sheffield)

Panel 18. The Politics of Resistance in Latin America: Neoliberalism and Beyond? Convenors: Sara Motta (LSE) s.c.motta-mera@lse.ac.uk and Mario Novelli (Bristol) mario.novelli@bristol.ac.uk.

Meeting One: Neoliberalism and its (re)production? The papers were of an excellent standard discussing the more insidious ways in which neoliberalism is reproduced in Paraguay (Peter Lambert), Chile (César Guzmán), and Argentina (Ernesto Vivares). The colonisation of progressive language by 'traditional' elites and the disarticulation and/or co-optation of progressive forces by these elites, as a means to disorganise opposition to neoliberalism was a dominant theme in Peter's paper. The disarticulation of union movements, and cooptation of their leadership into a neoliberal historic bloc was discussed in Cesar's paper. The production of a series of structures that limit the ability of Argentina to develop a systemic challenge to neoliberalism was discussed in Ernesto's paper. The discussion revolved around exploring the forms in which neoliberal domination is articulated and the attempts to resist such domination.

Meeting Two: Re-thinking alternatives to neoliberalism. This panel presented the other side of the coin of neoliberalism - resistance to neoliberalism. Anita Schrader spoke about liberation psychology and its attempts to combine critical pedagogy with political praxis in Guatemala. Within this framework subjectivity becomes politicised as a practise in which domination is reproduced but also contested. Sara Motta discussed the Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados, arguing that place based movements that politicise social relations, subjectivities and the everyday build struggles that contest the market economy and liberal democracy. Whilst based in particular places they are not localised struggles but rather seek to build networks of global alternatives that challenge neoliberalism. Diane Raby discussed the

government of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, arguing that this national experiment had re-made the state and was in the process of creating a variety of forms of social production. This it was argued, constituted both a challenge to capitalism and also a challenge to Leninist versions of revolutionary change with its emphasis on plurality, process and popular participation. The discussion focused on the extent to which these alternatives were absorbable into neoliberalism.

Panel 19. Local-diasporas: created, lived and expressed. Convenors: Monica Moreno (Goldsmiths College,) so901mgf@gold.ac.uk and Rodney Reynolds (University College London,) rodney.reynolds@ucl.ac.uk

In this panel we had five brilliant papers and excellent discussions over two sessions. If there was something missing it was time for more discussions, although we did continue over coffee break and lunch time. Our aim when setting the panel was to engage with Gupta and Ferguson's (2001) suggestion that diaspora can be understood as a deterritorialized place that is constituted by a wide range of social and spatial relations. Applied to 'Latin America', a Latin American diaspora then emerges at the limit of how the self is associated with a particular nation or locale and identity. The panel wanted to encourage participants to question the ways in which Latin American identity(ies) are lived, recreated and/or (super)imposed within the migrant/diasporic experience. We asked about the sorts of narratives, representations and/or material practices that come into being in the interplay of notions of belonging and assimilation. Another question was how identities are made in a Latin America diaspora circumscribed by perceptions of what national or local identities should be.

In the first session, Adriana Jiménez-Cuen (London School of Economics), presented: '(Re)constructing the Zacatecano migrant identity: An analysis of the implications of the notion of bi-national residency implemented in the Mexican state of Zacatecas'. She discussed the 'migrant law' whereby Mexican migrants to the US are allowed to have bi-national residency which

among other things it allows migrants and their descendants to run for local elections and campaign abroad by claiming to live and interact in two different countries. Adriana focussed on how the notion of bi-national residency (re) shapes, in a contradictory and conflictive fashion, the Zacatecan migrant identity.

After Adriana, David Delgado-Montaldo (Universitat de Barcelona), presented: 'Is there a model of assimilation in Costa Rica? Rethinking the processes of migrants' integration'. He discussed the migrant situation of Costa Rica as a 'receiving' country where more than 10% of their resident population is immigrant, making of this country unique in Latin America in relative terms. David compared Costa Rica's migration model with the ones that operate in Europe and emphasised their similarities and differences pointing to the ways in which immigrants are constructed as *threatening others*. He also analysed the two main migrant groups, Nicaraguans and Colombians, looking at the predominant legal and/or invisible models of assimilation or integration of migrants in Costa Rica.

The second session of the panel saw three papers. Rodney Reynolds (University College London) presented 'The writing on the wall'. This paper was based on an ethnographic exploration of Latin/Hispanic London. Using the notion of diaspora as 'dwelling in displacement', Rodney focussed his presentation on his observations of an 'illegal' bar where migrants from Spain and Latin America come together. Although not exclusive of these groups, migrants from many different countries feel welcome and 'at home'. He analysed different conversations he gathered in the place about the meanings of the graffiti that covers the walls of this bar. After him, Layla Renshaw (University College London), presented 'Argentinean-Spanish Histories of Exile and the Republican Memory Movement'. She examines the relationships between Spain and Argentina regarding the ways in which both countries have dealt with their traumatic past and specifically the support and confrontation arising from such relationship.

Layla analysed the 'Memoria Histórica' campaign, which concentrates the efforts to investigate and publicly recognise the Spanish Republican experience of repression during the Spanish Civil War and subsequent dictatorship through the exhumation of Republican victims from mass graves throughout Spain. This campaign has implied the perception that Argentina's debate on human rights is more highly 'evolved' than that of Spain. She unravels complex family histories of political exile involving relocations from Spain to Argentina to Spain. Finally, Dr. Stephanie Koerner (University of Manchester), presented 'Iconoclash: Debates in Pre-Columbian and Latin American Art History'. She linked the theme of the panel into her course, Iconoclash, at the University of Manchester. She analysed what she describes as the 'crisis of representation' in humanities, human sciences and philosophy and pointed to the relationships between such crisis and the Europe-Latin America, Local –Global dichotomies.

Panel 20. Latin American International Relations: The bilateral and the multilateral Convenor: Laurence Allan (Queen Mary London).

laurieallan@yahoo.co.uk

In recent years the international relations of Latin America have taken place in an environment increasingly seen as blurring boundaries between the national and international, the local and the global. Our panel addressed these issues from a variety of perspectives. Papers from Par Engstrom and Claudia Iriarte blew away the Sunday morning cobwebs, the first looking at regional developments in promoting democracy and human rights through collective supranational efforts, noting the advanced stage of such processes in Latin America compared to the EU. The second paper focused on the impact of the local on the national and supranational, highlighting reconfigurations of the relationships between the three levels impelled by the development of indigenous rights in Peru. Our second session concerned itself with Argentina and Chile, with Jon Marco Church taking a fresh look at Argentine-Chilean rapprochement,

Laurence Allan assessing the impact of the Antarctic Treaty system on Antarctic politics for both countries and looking at new dynamics in both countries Antarctic politics. Miryam Colcrai finished with an examination of the developing weight of provincial inputs into Argentine international relations. Both sessions were well attended, with good input from the floor for both sessions.

Panel 21. Domesticity and the Practice of Everyday Life in Latin America

Convenor: Catherine Davis (Nottingham)

Catherine.davies@nottingham.ac.uk

The panel focused on the everyday practices of urban domestic life in Latin America from a notably interdisciplinary perspective. The first session opened with Daniel Nehring (Sociology, University of Essex) whose paper, 'Beyond Modernization: Cultural Constructions of Couple Relationships among Young Professionals and Academics in Mexico', provided a rigorous theoretical critique of the study of recent transformations of gender relations in Mexico. Nehring argued that predominant models of gender and social change in terms of socio-economic modernisation are insufficient for understanding the panorama of changes taking place. He offered conceptual alternatives for thinking about gender and culture, notably Swidler's formulation of culture as a repertoire of resources on which people may draw in certain circumstances. His conclusion was that the constitution of gender relations are best understood in terms of 'multiple modernities', long term processes of cultural globalisation and hybridisation.

The second paper in the session 'Dissident Domesticity: Patriot Pursuits within the Home during the Struggles for Spanish American Independence', by historian Claire Brewster (University of Nottingham/University of Newcastle), argued that despite the narrow confines of socially accepted behaviour in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Spanish American women were able to question their societies and to participate in moves to change the political system. The paper provided specific examples of the home providing an ideal cover for dissident meetings and clandestine activities during the

Independence period and showed how women were able to play important supporting roles in the patriot campaigns. This paper, and that of Catherine Davies (see below), arise from research undertaken on the AHRC research project 'Gendering Latin American Independence' (2001-06) held at Nottingham and Manchester Universities.

The third paper of the session was delivered by literary specialist Lloyd Davies (University of Swansea) on 'Domesticity and Deviance in Laura Restrepo's *La novia oscura*' and explored the ways in which the Colombian author posits prostitution as a kind of freedom from domestic enslavement. The protagonist of the novel, Sayonara, cannot find happiness as the domesticated Amanda and learns to curse the virtuous wife confined to the home. The novel was based on the testimonies of real prostitutes and Lloyd Davies's paper served to underscore the theme of dissidence or deviance central also to Claire Brewster's study.

In the second session Catherine Davies (Hispanic and Latin American Studies, University of Nottingham) in a paper entitled 'Patriotism and Marriage Duties: Josefa Acevedo's *Ensayo sobre los deberes de los casados* (Bogotá, 1845)' examined this self-help treatise from the point of view of prescriptive republican morality and republican motherhood. By instructing husbands and wives alike and in turn, the *Ensayo* sets out a programme of the rights and duties of the citizen in the social institution that is the good republican family. By the mid 1850s the sign of patriotism was no longer military conquest but the building of a strong marriage and a thrifty family which would ensure the virtue and prosperity of future citizens.

The final paper in the session was given by social anthropologist Kuldip Kaur (Goldsmiths College, University of London) and was entitled 'Intimate Relations and Differentiated Reciprocity: Domestic Workers in a Provincial Ladino Town'. It focused on the nature of intimate relations between live-in and live-out domestic workers in a small town in Guatemala. The younger generation preferred live-out domestic workers rather than establishing a more traditional, family oriented relationship with domestic helpers. The paper

argued that the live-ins fared better in the long run despite relations of dependency as upward mobility was made possible not by market conditions but by patronage and reciprocal exchange.

Each paper prompted several insightful and helpful questions and comments which enabled the panelists to draw together some empirically based general conclusions, despite (or because of) the chronological, theoretical and disciplinary scope.

Panel 25: Exploring the Spatial Praxis of Resistance to Neoliberalism

Meeting 1: The praxis and politics of space in neoliberalism. This panel problematised space and the politics of resistance. Heike Schaumberg discussed the territorialisation of politics that has occurred in Argentina in the last decade. She developed the concept of frontiers as a means of exploring the dynamic and often contradictory processes of class struggle and conflictual relationships between different subaltern movements. This will help to analyse the nature of, and extent to which, 'left' alternatives are forming in Argentina. Mario Novelli discussed a project that seeks to analyse and contribute to social movement struggles in Colombia. He talked of four Colombian social movements and their strategic interaction at local, national and transnational spatial levels. The discussion focused on the usefulness of the concept space for understanding power and resistance, and on the problems of theorising the local and global as discrete spaces of power.

Meeting 2: From popular nationalism to popular regionalism/internationalism

This panel discussed transnational capital flows in Latin America and the regionalisation of environmental struggle in Mercosur and NAFTA. John Smith (replacing Andy Higginbottom) spoke of the reproduction of imperialism and uneven and combined development in Latin America in relation to capital flows and FDI. Peter Newell discussed both the opportunities and limitations

HAROLD BLAKEMORE PRIZE 2007

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 2007, 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 2007. 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 Newcastle in April 2007.

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

of working within the limitations of Mercosur and NAFTA as a means of achieving environmental justice. He discussed movements that engaged with these institutions, illustrating how their intervention tended to be partial and

therefore easily absorbable into the neoliberal framework of development. He also discussed those movements that refused interaction with Mercosur and NAFTA, illustrating how they tended to have more systemic criticisms of neoliberalism and also more systemic ideas of environmental sustainability. The discussion focused on the use of the imperialism category in the contemporary period and on the complexities of power that social movements need to navigate in order to achieve and make visible their objectives and projects.

The series of panels provided a space for critical discussion about neoliberalism and its transformation. Our objective was to bring together intellectuals and activists committed to the production of critical theory and social justice. We hope to build upon this network in order to strengthen the struggle against neoliberalism in our workplaces and our research.

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, which aims 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 2005/06:

President::- Daniel Huerta Conde, e-mail: D.Huerta-Conde@liverpool.ac.uk

Secretary:- Violeta Mayer, e-mail: violeta.mayer@liverpool.ac.uk

Co-Directors & IT:- Helen Porter, e-mail: Helen.Porter@liverpool.ac.uk

Heinrich Kramarski, email: h.kramarski@liverpool.ac.uk

Gregorio Perez, e-mail: g.perez@liverpool.ac.uk and

Katinka Weber e-mail: katinka.weber@web.de

PILAS at the SLAS Annual conference: The first event on the SLAS Annual Conference on Friday 31 March 13:00-17:00 was the PILAS- run workshop on: "How to publish", held in the Library at Lenton and Wortley Hall. The speakers were Dr. Rory Miller and other editors of editorials related to Latin America and Europe. The opportunity was taken to introduce the new PILAS COMMITTEE and share ideas on the 2006-2007 agenda of the Postgraduates In Latin America UK Society.

PILAS webpage: the establishment of PILAS page on SLAS webpage was agreed. The PILAS information is available on <http://www.slas.org.uk> – including the applications forms and more details for the next PILAS Conference.

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 continues circulating information [and exchanging] with members through the mailing lists.

SLAS MEMBERS NEWS

Charlotte Williams is the SLAS Membership Secretary at Blackwells..

The contact for any Member that either wishes to join SLAS, or who has a query about their Membership should contact her 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

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:
.....
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Tel No: **Fax No:**.....
Email No:.....

CURRENT RESEARCH:

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS

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

Please continue on another sheet.

Bruce M. Wilson, (University of Central Florida). His paper on "Changing Dynamics: The Political Impact of Costa Rica's Constitutional Court" was selected as Runner Up for the LAPIS award for "Best Faculty Paper" presented at the LASA conference in Las Vegas

REPORT ON SLAS FUNDED RESEARCH TRIP TO PERU

With financial support provided through the SLAS travel grant I was able to spend 10 months in Peru between June 2005 and April 2006. During this period I completed the fieldwork for my PhD research on women in craft producer groups in Southern Peru. My research relates to the experiences of female craft producers that have organised themselves in order to jointly develop and market their products. The aim was to analyse how membership in such a group affects women's lives, combining economic and socio-cultural aspects.

During my stay in Peru I was affiliated to the Social Science Department of the Universidad Católica in Lima where I spent the first month searching for relevant publications and meeting Peruvian researchers as well as contacts at institutions that support craft producers. In July 05 I travelled to Puno at Lake Titicaca in order to start my fieldwork in the Aymara speaking zone of the Peruvian Andes. Craft production is an important livelihood activity for women in this region, particularly the knitting of Alpaca textiles for the local tourism market or as part of export production. The latter is generally group-based and tends to generate higher earnings for the women. However, intermediaries often reap more benefits than the actual producers. Some institutions therefore attempt to assist local producers by providing them with access to foreign markets. During my research I looked particularly at two national institutions – "CIAP", a membership organisations representing craft producer groups and "Movimiento Manuela Ramos", an NGO working mainly on gender-related issues.

During the following months I interviewed around 170 people; most of them were women active in a craft producer group. The interviews provided me with insights into their daily lives, household relations and their experiences as group members. I also talked to other household members in order to capture their perspectives. Of further interest to me were the issues of political participation and leadership. The elections held in Peru towards the end of my stay provided a good point of reference. The issue of leadership was also explored in a number of life histories conducted with women in leadership functions within different groups. Interviews with several individual producers allowed me to draw a comparison to the experiences of group members. In order to add to the data collected in my case study groups, I implemented a survey focusing on members of other craft producer groups in the Puno region.

Overall, my 10 months in Peru were a fruitful endeavour. I did not only collect a considerable amount of data that will form the basis of my PhD thesis but also learnt a lot that shaped my personal development. Interacting with women in the Peruvian Andes was a valuable experience that hopefully benefited both sides to a certain extent. I am now busy analysing my data and writing my thesis and hope to finish by autumn next year. Thanks again to SLAS for supporting my research.

Kathrin Forstner, School of Development Studies – University of East Anglia, k.forstner@uea.ac.uk

REPORT ON A SLAS FUNDED WORKSHOP

Colonial Worlds: Alternative Views of the History of Colonial Latin America

Institute for the Study of the Americas, on the 27 October 2005

Thanks to both the speakers who presented papers and the numerous audience, the workshop proved to be a lively and engaging forum. The papers addressed current developments and new approaches to Latin American

colonial history, transcending traditional boundaries, both thematically and geographically, and exploring various aspects of societies and cultures.

The day was opened by the first keynote speaker, Solange Alberro (El Colegio de México), with a stimulating reflection titled 'La historia como ciencia: una hermosa ilusión,' which invited the audience to rediscover the power of intuition and curiosity in historical research and writing.

The first panel was chaired by Professor John Elliott and dedicated to Mexico. Adrian Pearce (Nottingham Trent University), with 'The Spanish colonies and British trade, 1763-1808: new perspectives,' made a contribution to the methodologies for the analysis of this topic in the realm of economic and political colonial history. He was followed by Georgina Endfield (University of Nottingham), her paper, 'Climate, crisis and catastrophe: responding to extreme events in colonial Mexico,' studied the recurrence of certain climatic events and their repercussions on social networks, stressing some new developments in the field of historical geography.

Caroline Dodds (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University), presented 'Insights from the ancient world: the use of colonial alphabetic texts as sources for Aztec gender roles and relationships'; she suggested the need to use postconquest texts, in addition to archaeology and art history, to explore preconquest indigenous ideas and reality in terms of gender relations. Next, Eleanor Wake (Birkbeck College) talked about 'Reconstructing the sacred landscape: European landscape painting, Indo-Christian churches, and the native vision of geography in early colonial Mexico,' with some examples of how methodologies in art history can help us to better understand the persistence of prehispanic conceptions of sacred geography. The session ended with Caterina Pizzigoni's paper (Institute for the Study of the Americas), 'Testaments of Toluca: regional life in the Nahuatl world in the eighteenth century,' which presented the contribution of ethnohistory and philological analysis of documents in Nahuatl within the social history of indigenous peoples in colonial Mexico.

The second panel, which focused on the Andean regions, and especially on the early era of Spanish colonialism, was chaired by Professor David Brading. The session opened with Linda Newson and Susie Minchin (both of King's College, London), whose joint paper on 'Doctors and healers in early seventeenth-century Lima' presented fascinating new insights into medical practices and practitioners in colonial Peru. In 'The Potosí mita and the debate over freedom and slavery', Olivia Harris (London School of Economics/Institute for the Study of the Americas) examined the concept of 'libertad cristiana' (Christian liberty) in the context of early colonial debates over indigenous draft labour in Peru's principal silver mine.

The third paper, presented by Gabriela Ramos (University of Cambridge), explored the interconnections between the themes of indigenous material culture, time and memory in the colonial Andes. Presented by Heidi Scott (University of Wales, Aberystwyth), the next paper also focused on Peru, and took a critical look at the ways in which the Spanish colonisers have been portrayed in recent historical and literary studies.

The workshop was concluded with a keynote address delivered by Sabine MacCormack (Notre Dame University, Indiana). Entitled 'The worlds of José de Acosta', Professor MacCormack's paper examined the contested issues of language and conversion in early colonial Peru, discussing how indigenous and Catholic religious conceptions were transferred through vocabulary and images.

The organizers would like to thank the SLAS for providing the necessary funds to invite Solange Alberro, the Centre of Latin American Studies of Cambridge University for its contribution, and the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Leverhulme Trust for its generous support.

Caterina Pizzigoni, Heidi Scott, Gabriela Ramos

CALL FOR PAPERS

**WOMEN IN SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND LATIN-AMERICAN STUDIES
VII ANNUAL CONFERENCE: “LANGUAGE, GENDER, AND POWER”
October 13-14 2006, The University of Birmingham, Conference Park,
Hornton Grange, Edgbaston Park Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2RA**

WiSPS (Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American Studies) invite colleagues from across the Modern Languages to join us in reflecting on the past, present and future of women in Modern Languages. We welcome papers that consider, critique, and compare women's multiple and sometimes conflicting roles in the field – whether as objects of study or as active professionals. We positively encourage alternative paper formats such as work in progress, round tables, dialogues and reflections, and invite both individual contributions and partly or fully formed panels. Proposals (working on a basis of 20-minute blocks of time) should include a title, an abstract of about 300 words, and your full contact details (including an e-mail). Please send them, by **1 September 2006**, to either of the following: Patricia Odber de Baubeta, p_odber@btopenworld.com, or Susanne Meachem, susanne.meachem@btinternet.com, Department of Hispanic Studies, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT **Please check the WiSPS website for more information: www.wisps.org.uk**

JORGE PEREZ-LOPEZ STUDENT PRIZE

I like to request your assistance disseminating the Jorge Perez-Lopez Student Prize which I chair among your colleagues and students. We seek exemplary research from undergraduate and graduates students in any field or topics related to Cuba or Cuba in comparative perspective. All entries will be evaluated by a committee of academics from various disciplines. The prize is opened to studies from any perspective, methodology and research agenda.

In previous years, we have received entries from the United States and abroad. The prize had been awarded to students, regardless of nationality, from such universities as Princeton, Wake Forest, Dartmouth, Tulane, and Oxford among others. Students awarded the prize are expected to present their papers at the annual ASCE (the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy) conference in Miami during the first weeks of August. The organization also finances a student travel grant to defer the cost of attending the conference. The purpose of this prize is to promote the academic development of Cuban studies. For more information, you can contact me or visit the ASCE website at <http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/asce/>
Enrique S. Pumar,

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

University of Bristol

**Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and the Arts
Centre for the Study of Colonial and Post Colonial Societies,**

International Conference, on the subject: *After 'informal empire'? Commerce and culture outside Britain's formal empire in the long nineteenth-century*, 30-31 January, 2007.

Contact Matthew Brown at matthew.brown@bristol.ac.uk or the Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Univ.of Bristol. Information at http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/commerce_culture.html