

SLAS COMMITTEE 2007-2008

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SLAS representatives on the JISLAC Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean –

Management Committee:- Tony Kapcia (for three years)

Research Committee:- Pete Wade and **Cathy McIlwaine** (for two years)

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Dear SLAS Member,

In the currently widespread international debate over the environment, two generally accepted landmarks are the Rio Summit of '92 and the Kyoto Agreement, not least since they brought environmental issues to the attention of world leaders. The debate now continues, with the G8 meeting in Germany and a proposal for the United States to lead a parallel group of nations initiating ways to combat climate change. This is a complicated issue, and one hotly contested by leaders in Latin America. The essentially divisive nature of the US initiative under President Bush has provoked President Lula to argue that such policy formulation and enactment must take place at the international and global level, through the United Nations forum.

Given the importance of environmental issues today, it is notable that out of the wide ranging and stimulating panels (many reported in this issue) at the enjoyable and successful SLAS Annual Conference 2007, there were only two that directly related to the environment in Latin America. Maybe we have become 'bored' with the topic, or over-worked it on other occasions. On the other hand, perhaps it is one to which we may return with much greater concern and immediate relevance.

As a footnote on environmental research, I am sure that many SLAS members will be aware of the recent claim that scientists in Peru and Brazil have discovered that the River Amazon rises some 5,000 meters above sea level on Monte Mismi and that, contrary to long-standing assessment, is confirmed as the longest river in the world. Not only does the Amazon carry the greatest volume of water of any river but it exceeds the length of the River Nile by 91 kilometres. The continued study of the source and flow of the river, it is hoped, may aid the prevention of disasters. One such was the drought on the River Amazon in 2005: the worst for over 40 years in the eastern section and in the western section the worst for 103 years. It caused great fires, illness in the riverine population, and water contamination killing millions of fish.¹

However well we may think we know Latin America, it is always instructive to reconsider, reassess, and reformulate.

Elizabeth Allen, Editor, SLAS Newsletter

¹ JB ONLINE, 02-06-2007 Amazonas supera o Nilo como rio mais longo, dizem cientistas

<http://jbonline.terra.com.br/extra/2007/06/01/e010614976.htm>

BBC News 15 Oct 2005, Amazon drought emergency widens, <http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4344310.stm>

Environmental News Service, Amazon drought worst in 100years, <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2005/2005-10-24-05.asp>

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEADLINE
PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT!!**

Deadline for material to be included in the November 2007 Issue of the *SLAS Newsletter*, Issue No. 87, will be midday on 15th October 2007.

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.



**The Fourth SLAS Annual Lecture:
will be held at the University of Liverpool
on the 12th October 2007,**

Hugh O'Shaughnessy, author and journalist, will address the subject: -

“Are we keeping up with Latin America?”

This lecture will consider the general topic of the lacunae in knowledge about Latin America. This seems particularly acute in government and business, while there also seems to be a degree of blindness in the efforts of academia and the media in their approaches to such gaps. There are many enormous advances being pursued in the region, but are they being understood and appreciated here?

Hugh is one of Britain's foremost journalists, working for over 40 years on Latin America. He regularly wrote for the *Guardian* and the *Observer* and was one of those who inspired the highly successful Latin America Bureau when it started 30 years ago. This, it must be remembered, was at a time when most of Latin America was under military control, and LAB's series of scholarly but eminently readable books made an important contribution to the debate over social justice and the return to democracy.

Hugh is the author of a number of books, including those on oil in Latin America (1976), on the future for the Amerindians of South America (1977), on Grenada (1984), on *Latin Americans* (1988), and *Pinochet: the politics of torture*, Latin America Bureau, 1999. Most recently, he published, with Sue Branford, a book on *Chemical Warfare in Colombia: the costs of coca fumigation*, Latin America Bureau, October 2005.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy is an informed and entertaining speaker, talking, for example, recently on Progressives in Latin America, on Venezuela – democracy and social progress, and Chile – the

other September 11th. This is the fourth in a series of SLAS annual lectures and all members of SLAS and non-members all are very welcome to attend. For more details nearer the date of the event, please see the SLAS website.

THE NEXT SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL 28-30 March 2008.

The 2008 SLAS Annual Conference will take place at the University of Liverpool, on 28-30 March. Accommodation is booked in Derby and Rathbone Halls of Residence and the Organiser is Dr Steven Rubenstein. If you would like to organize a panel at the conference, or to present a paper, please contact Steven via email at steven.rubenstein@liverpool.ac.uk Steven can give you details of the relevant deadlines, the length of sessions, number of sessions per panel etc. You may also check the SLAS website conference updates: <http://www.slas.org.uk>

Further SLAS annual conferences will be held at:-

**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS 2009
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS 2010**

REPORTS FROM THE SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Report of the conference organisers

The Annual Conference of the Society for Latin American Studies took place in Newcastle from 13-15 April and proved to be a great academic success with close to 200 delegates attending from Europe, the United States, Canada, and Latin America. Reflecting a fundamental philosophy shared by Latin Americanists within the host university, the organisers of this year's conference wanted to foster an inter/multi-disciplinary ethos and the call for panel proposals included strong encouragement for

MEMBERS SURVEY ON THE SLAS NEWSLETTER

PLEASE RESPOND BY 20TH JUNE, FOR DISCUSSION
ON 22ND JUNE AT THE SLAS COMMITTEE MEETING!

Dear Member,

As you will be aware, in 2006 a decision was taken to experiment with an online version of the SLAS Newsletter, to replace the traditional hard-copy format issued up to that time. The SLAS Newsletter also passed from publication three times to twice a year. This experiment was to last for a year, with a final decision on the best format for the SLAS Newsletter to be taken at the end of that period, following consultation with members.

With the end of the trial period now approaching (the second online SLAS Newsletter will be posted shortly), we invite responses to the following questions:

1. Did you access the last SLAS Newsletter from the SLAS website? YES/NO
2. If no, why not? If yes, what did you think of this mode of delivery?
3. How would you like the SLAS Newsletter delivered? ELECTRONIC FORMAT/
HARD COPY (as in the past)/
OTHER (please specify)
4. How often would you like to receive a SLAS Newsletter?
TWICE A YEAR (as currently);
MONTHLY (as a bulletin-style email newsletter);
OTHER (please specify)
5. Do you have any other comments about the SLAS Newsletter or
SLAS communication channels in general?

Please respond by e-mail to me, Katie Willis, the SLAS IT Officer, on Email:

(Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk) by 20 June 2007. Many thanks and

Best wishes

Katie Willis

submissions on approaches and themes less often encountered at SLAS conferences. The response was magnificent. We received 50 panel proposals covering an unusually diverse range of topics and disciplines. Purely on the grounds of logistics, we finally settled on 34 panels that provided a full programme for the duration of the conference. All panels were well attended and the audience was treated to a wide range of high quality papers.

Notable examples of the inter/multi-disciplinary nature of the conference were panels on environmental justice, extractive activities, and social movements. These panels provided a space for interdisciplinary dialogue together with original and relevant political reflections comparing different countries. Historical studies included panels and papers on the history of science in Latin America, statistics and the State, and music in pre-Hispanic and colonial times. The inter-disciplinary spirit was also apparent in panels on education, inter-cultural relations, race and ethnicity. The relationship between human rights activism, visual representations, and research on historical memory was the central topic of a panel on "The Art of Truth-telling". The panel benefited from the contribution of the artist, human rights activist, and anthropologist, Edilberto Jimenez, and we thank the British Embassy in Peru for supporting his attendance.

Contemporary politics, development studies and migration maintained their popularity among SLAS members, while particular mention should be made of the three panels on various aspects of Latin American music. This is a topic that rarely makes an appearance at SLAS conferences, and for this year's conference to attract three panels of high quality was particularly pleasing.

The conference offered two plenary sessions and both were very stimulating and warmly received by the audience. Dr. Carlos Ivan Degregori, anthropologist, political analyst, and one of the twelve commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru. Drawing upon his own experience and close knowledge of Truth Commissions in the region, he presented an engaging reflection on the potential political affects of their work in different Latin American societies.

After presenting herself as probably the only person present to hold a complete collection of BLAR, Professor Fiona Wilson, from Roskilde University, delivered a very rich and insightful paper. Based on her work among school teachers in Peru, she explored the links between the struggle for an inclusive citizenship, race relations and the political role played by education, and particularly the expansion of the teaching profession to renegotiate political identities in the provincial middle classes in the Andes.

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.

While SLAS conferences always attract a healthy number of postgraduates, this year's organisers made a conscious effort to engage with undergraduate students from the region who might benefit from attending such a conference. Music at Friday night's evening meal was provided by undergraduate music students María Martínez (voice and piano) and Francesco Sologuren (percussion), who offered original arrangements from a selection of classic Latin American songs. The main conference meal was held at the Civic Centre and was preceded by a reception attended by the Lord Mayor. The highlight of the reception, however, was fourteen years old Jessica Lamb, who entertained delegates with a medley of traditional regional tunes played on the Northumbrian pipes.

An unusual feature of this year's conference was the parallel activities of the locally-based organisation "Vamos". Dedicated towards building stronger links between academics and the public, the organisers of "Vamos" and the SLAS conference liaised closely to provide a range of activities, including film viewings and Latin American music evenings. The programme began with Keith Brewster introducing the premier screening of Nick Higgins's film "Acteal: a Massacre Foretold". Undermining the image of the "frozen North" delegates at Newcastle were treated to a weekend of warm sunshine: ideal conditions for enjoying the delights of the beautiful city centre and quayside bars.

MINUTES OF THE SLAS AGM, FRIDAY 13 TH APRIL 2007, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

PRESENT: Hector Calleros, Victoria Carpenter, John Fisher, Jens Hentschke, Rosaleen Howard, Mo Hume, Tony Kaptcia, Peter Lambert, Nicola Miler, Rory Miller, Adrian Pearce, Steve Wilkinson, Katie Willis, Roberto Zepeda.

1) APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

2) MINUTES: 31 MARCH 2006

Minutes of the last AGM (31 March 2006, Nottingham) were accepted as an accurate record.

3) MATTERS ARISING: There were no Matters Arising.

4) PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006-7

- Membership ➤ SLAS had 436 UK-based members at the end of 2006 (an increase of one), with a further 30 in Europe outside the UK, 63 in the USA, and, with other members in the rest of the world, a total of 531, much the same as the 2005 figure of 535 (the slight decline being accounted for a fall in LASA-linked members in the United States).
- Members are also informed that the Committee has agreed to Blackwell's proposal to increase annual membership fees from £21 to £25, on the grounds that a) the £21 figure has been held at that level for 4 years and b) the new figures includes a copy of the annual book from the new Book Series, as well as the four issues each year of the *Bulletin*.

SLAS Committee

At the Nottingham Conference in April 2006, the following were elected:

- Treasurer:* John Fisher (Liverpool) – re-elected for 2006-8
- Ordinary Members:* Peter Lambert (Bath) re-elected for one further term (2006-8)
Andrew Canessa (Essex), re-elected for one further term (2006-8); Diego Sánchez (ISA London) (2006-8)

Subsequently, Paul Henderson (Wolverhampton) has confirmed his willingness to continue as auditor, for which we are grateful.

In addition to the AGM, the past year has seen four Committee meetings in June (Liverpool), October (Essex), January (Newcastle) and April (Newcastle).

Once again, as I complete my term as President, I would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to two people, who have once again made my own task considerably easier this year, namely the Secretary Adrian Pearce (who actually runs the Society all the year round, with increasing efficiency) and of course the Treasurer, John Fisher, the fount of all knowledge on things SLAS and as effective a Treasurer as we could hope to have.

SLAS Annual Conference 2006 Conference (Nottingham)

In what was generally felt to be a successful conference (from the point of view of activity, ambience and quality of papers), 180 people attended over the two days; 25 panels were organised across three sessions, Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning, and the Plenary Lecture was given by Aline Helg of the University of Geneva. The Committee's decision to limit the length of panels (to one morning or afternoon) seems to have worked well and been well received.

Special thanks are due to Jane Kerrigan, the Administrator of the University of Nottingham Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies, whose work was the mainstay of the event's organisation, and also 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.

Unfortunately, because of unforeseen extras in the rental of audio-visual equipment, the expected small profit turned out to be a substantial loss; thankfully, the Department of Hispanic & Latin American Studies covered the loss, so that SLAS did not have to.

2007 Conference

Early indications from the 2007 Conference (at the University of Newcastle), show that about 200 people are attending (an encouraging sign, given the distance from London, which usually puts off attendance), and, most impressively, 35 panels are being organised. Thanks for all this go to the local Organising Committee, but especially Keith and Clare Brewster, who have been the main contacts with the Committee.

We already know that the 2008 Conference will take place at the University of Liverpool, on 28-30 March (probably based in one of the Halls of Residence), and it is confirmed that the 2009 Conference will be in Leeds, and the 2010 event in St Andrews.

Annual Lecture SeriesThe third Annual Lecture (2006) was given by Richard Gott, on 'Latin America as a white settler society', at the University of Essex on Friday 13 October. It was a decidedly polemical talk (later published as a *Guardian* article) and was well received by the 100 or so present; the University of Essex hosted a reception and dinner as well as the event.

Harold Blakemore Essay PrizeThe 2007 competition seems to have produced a disappointing number of entries (2), two being rejected because they did not conform to the explicit instructions about the

HAROLD BLAKEMORE PRIZE 2008

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 2008, 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, Peter Lambert, (address and contact details at the front of the SLAS Newsletter) by February 2008.

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 Liverpool in April 2008.

OTHER SLAS DATES TO NOTE:

- **6-8 July 2007** Conference: 'Europe and the Others: Interperceptions past, present and future', University of St Andrews
- **14-15 June 2007** Conference: Central America: challenged transition? University of London
- **30 September 2007 and 28 February 2008** Deadline for applications for Slas Postgraduate Conference Grant
- **31 December 2007** Deadline for application for SLAS support for a Conference or Event organisation
- **15 February 2008** Deadline: application for SLAS Conference Postgraduate Bursaries
- **15 February 2008** Deadline for SLAS Conference 'Latin American Scholar' Grants.
- **28 February 2008** Deadline for application for SLAS Postgraduate Travel Grants
- **28-30 March 2008** Slas Annual Conference, University of Liverpool.

form or date of delivery; the decision is yet to be announced, the *BLAR* editors currently in the process of reading them.

SLAS NewsletterThe experimental year of electronic delivery of the SLAS Newsletter is still in process; the Committee has decided that the planned June edition will in fact come out in mid-May (to allow sufficient time for Conference panel organisers to get their reports in but in order to carry out the promised survey of members' opinions on the experiment, to be conducted through the email mailing list).

After members' returns are received (all members being urged to respond with their opinions), the Committee will, at its June meeting, take a decision on the long-term plans. At this stage, feedback would seem to indicate a positive response to the idea and already SLAS has noticed a considerable saving in the expenses of the SLAS Newsletter.

Special thanks are due to the three people who have carried this project forward: Elizabeth Allen, Adrian Pearce and Katie Willis.

SLAS WebsiteThe website (and the associated email network, also run by Katie Willis) continues to provide an increasingly useful service to members. Thanks again go to Katie for her speedy and willing work on this service, especially as, with the development of JISLAC, she will no longer be providing SLAS with this entirely voluntary service; SLAS has every reason to give her special thanks.

Bulletin of Latin American Research

BLAR and Blackwells organised the 25th anniversary event on 19 May 2006, with Jean Franco as a guest speaker, as one of the founders of Latin American studies in the UK. A well-attended event saw some 40 participants and a predictably high quality of papers.

The total institutional subscriptions to the journal have remained relatively stable at 239 (compared to 246 in 2005), but a greater uptake via the consortia scheme has led to a dramatic increase (of 26%) of institutions with access, from 1,858 to 2,345.

- NEW Book Series - 2008 Launch

The *Bulletin of Latin American Research* publishes original research of current interest on Latin America, the Caribbean, inter-American relations and the Latin American Diaspora from all academic disciplines within the social sciences, history and cultural studies. In addition to research articles, the journal also includes a Debates section, which carries 'state-of-the-art' reviews of work on particular topics by leading scholars in the field. The *Bulletin* also publishes a substantial section of book reviews, aiming to cover publications in English, Spanish and Portuguese, both recent works and classics of the past revisited.

From 2008, the *Bulletin* will also publish a book series, interdisciplinary in theme and complementing the wide scope of the *Bulletin* itself. We are looking to publish some of the most exciting, innovative work currently being undertaken on Latin America. We anticipate that many of the proposals will be for edited collections, but also welcome genuinely interdisciplinary single-authored or jointly-authored books. One book a year will be published in the first instance, but this is likely to expand in the future.

What to include in your proposal

Overview: outlining your rationale for the book, the central argument and how you see the book making a contribution not just within your own particular area of work, but also more generally to the advancement of interdisciplinary work. For edited collections, the overview should also indicate whether all contributors have been approached and have agreed (at least in principle) to write their chapter.

Summary of Contents: an outline of the book's structure and content, with a two paragraph summary of each chapter and of the introduction and conclusion. A draft introduction and two sample chapters should be submitted in full wherever possible. For edited collections, the summary should also include names and affiliations for all chapter authors.

Please note that book manuscripts should be no longer than 100,000 words *including* contents lists, references and other peripheral text. The proposal should confirm the expected length of the manuscript and the number and type of illustrations to be included.

Readership: who is the target readership for the book? The Editors would be particularly keen to know the extent to which the book will be of interest to those working in different areas of the social sciences, history and cultural studies with an interest in Latin America, the Caribbean, inter-American relations and the Latin American Diaspora.

Please send your proposal as an email attachment in Word to blar@liv.ac.uk and mail a paper copy to:

The Editorial Assistant, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*,
School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies,
University of Liverpool,
86 Bedford Street South,
Liverpool, L69 7WW



Proposals should arrive no later than 30th September 2007 for publication in 2009. Proposals will be evaluated by the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board. Authors will be notified of the outcome by 30th December 2007.

The most exciting development in this respect is the initiation of a Book Series, due to be launched at the 2008 Conference, with a planned single book each year in the first instance.

In September 2007, Nikki Miller is standing down as Coordinating Editor of the *Bulletin*; special thanks go to her for her service and the continuing success of the *Bulletin*, but also to the contacts at Blackwells.

PILAS (Postgraduates in Latin American Studies)

PILAS held their annual conference in February 2007 in Liverpool, with about 60 people attending. At that meeting, a new committee was elected, with Laura Lima (Aberystwyth) the new president. PILAS have as usual organised a workshop at the Newcastle conference.

UK Council of Area Studies Associations (UKCASA)

At present some 20 societies are represented in the organisation, which, as part of its plan for a raised profile, organised a successful conference on globalisation at the British Library Conference Centre in February 2007, at which SLAS was represented. There is every indication that the organisation is seeking to grow and become more relevant to the defence and furtherance of area studies, and that SLAS's membership of the organisation is worthwhile. SLAS was able to be represented at all the UKCAS meetings in the last year.

British Academy Panel on Latin America and the Caribbean

As in 2005-6, one of the most encouraging developments in which SLAS has been centrally involved has continued to be the growth and development of this Panel (the SLAS President being a member, as well as several other SLAS members in their various capacities as leading Latin Americanists). As a funding body which is still growing and seeking to find new ways of encouraging research and participation, this is an exciting development that can only help SLAS members and the SLAS national profile.

Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean

This was the eventual outcome of the successful collaborative bid (mentioned in the 2006 AGM), shared between SLAS, the Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS) and the ISA-based Standing Conference for Latin American Centres, to the British Academy's Learned Societies Programme.

The funding which is coming to the three 'societies' as a result (approximately £20,000 per annum to each society for five years, with the possibility of renewal if the experiment is deemed

successful by the Academy), is to cover: running costs (making SLAS more effective and saving on current expenditure), a national programme of regional seminars and a rolling programme of themed funding programmes. The first category importantly includes the appointment of a part-time Information Officer to staff and develop the JISLAC website and database, and also to take over the operation and enhancement of the SLAS website, as well as providing guidance and an increasing input into the electronic version of the SLAS Newsletter, if the membership decides to continue with this format.

The regional seminar programme has been agreed for the first two years of the funding: 2007-8 events being held in Portsmouth, Durham, Manchester, Birmingham, St Andrews, Belfast, Edinburgh and Bristol, and in 2008-9 events in Newcastle, York, Warwick, Manchester, Liverpool, Aberystwyth, Glasgow and Essex. The 2009-10 programme is still being developed, but it is likely that this round will include an event in the Netherlands. The applications for the first round of grants will be considered in May.

The SLAS Committee has agreed that, to keep continuity, I shall remain as the SLAS representative on the JISLAC Management Committee for three years. It also approved the nominations of Pete Wade and Cathy McIlwaine for the Research Committee (taking decisions on grant applications), the other members being Paul Sutton (SCS), Jeremy Hobbs (FCO) and the Management Committee. Membership from SLAS and SCS will change every two years.

Constitutional Issues

As announced at the Nottingham 2006 AGM, SLAS members at this AGM are being asked to vote on a series of relatively minor constitutional changes; these involve removing the post of Publicity Officer (now seen as redundant, with the development of both the web-based operation and JISLAC), correcting certain errors and, above all, setting up the procedure for future elections to be run electronically.

SLAS Grants and Bursaries

In 2006-7, SLAS committed itself to supporting financially 6 conferences and workshops; two have taken place before the AGM and two are due. The total commitment was £3,800.

- 8 Postgraduate Travel Grants (to Latin America) were awarded (out of 17 applications received) of up to £600 each.
- 4 Postgraduate Conference Grants (of each) were awarded out of 8 applications received, of £500 each.

- 11 Postgraduate Bursaries (of £150 each) to attend the 2007 Annual Conference were awarded (covering the costs of the event itself) and 6 grants to Latin Americans to attend the same event (a total of £3,100).

Other issues

A meeting was held in February with representatives of the Netherlands Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (NALACS) in Amsterdam, designed to find ways of increasing the cooperation between SLAS and NALACS; it was agreed that a greater exchange of information should be sought, together with the development of greater postgraduate links with PILAS, and also the possibility of either a JISLAC seminar being held in the Netherlands or the 2008 Annual Lecture. It is clear that NALACS considers SLAS as the senior organisation, from which it would like to learn.

Finally, I wish to remember especially Vanessa Knights who passed away recently to the great shock of all of us and especially of her colleagues. Many will have known her well, not least as one of the Newcastle Conference organising committee and, indeed, her name still appears on the Conference programme as a reminder. She is missed by all.

Tony Kapcia, 13 April 2007

Questions: There were no questions.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT 2006-7

1. Income totalled £36,579, of which 91% (£33,138) came from Blackwell: of this £28,857 represented the royalty payment due for sales of BLAR in 2005, £3,781 a contribution towards the cost of employing the Journal's Editorial Assistant, and £500 for a Silver Jubilee event. Expenditure on BLAR totalled £11,588, thereby leaving a surplus of £21,550 for the Society's general activities.
2. As noted in the circulated statement, the Society reverted in 2006 to the normal procedure for the funding of the Annual Conference, with all registration payments and expenditure (other than conference bursaries) being handled by the host institution. The Society's expenditure of £4,380 embraced £1,500 for p/g bursaries and £2,800 for 4 participants from Latin America.

SLAS Accounts 2006					
Income	2006	2005	Expenditure	2006	2005
Blackwell	33,138	32,434	MEMBERS SERVICES		
Interest Received	2,036	2,197	Bull. of L. Am. Research	11,588	13,496
Other	185	706	SLAS Newsletter	2,326	3,351
2006 Conference		26,930	Website	92	121
Membs' Donations	1,220	1,537	Annual Lecture	689	1,353
			CONFERENCES		
			Annual conference 2005	4,380	32,316
			PILAS conference 2006	592	
			GRANTS & PRIZES		
			Postgrad travel/conf	6,300	7,000
			Grants to conferences	3,100	3,312
			Latin America Bureau	1,500	1,500
			Blakemore Prize	400	800
			Committee Expenses	2,098	1,519
			Postage	18	31
			REFUNDS	500	96
			SUBSCRIPTIONS	100	
TOTAL	36,579	63,804	TOTAL	33,683	64,895
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				2,896	(1,092)
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
				2006	2005
Balance at 1 Jan				69,364	70,456
Net movement of funds during year				2,896	
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				72,260	
Represented by Natwest				1,776	
Represented by Abbey				45,546	
Represented by Triodos				25,000	

Note to accounts

1. The host institution for the 2006 Conference - the University of Nottingham – handled all registration payments and expenditure, and SLAS neither was required to cover any loss nor received any surplus. SLAS expenditure upon the Conference comprised £2,800 for Latin American scholars and £1,500 for postgraduate participants
2. Donations and refunds: a declining number of individuals continues to make payments by uncancelled standing orders. Net income (£1220 - £500 refund) of £720 increased the implicit net liability for the Society to c£9,600.
3. Liabilities in the form of uncashed cheques issued in 2006 total £168.

3. Bank interest was down by £161, partly because Conference moneys did not pass through the Society's accounts.
4. The principal item of other income was a long-delayed payment of a £135 registration fee from a participant in the 2005 Conference.
5. As noted in the attached statement net income from "Members' Donations" was £720.
6. Returning to the expenditure site, the SLAS Newsletter cost c. £1200 less than in 2005, primarily because there were no printing/postage charges for the November issue.
7. The maintenance of the website continues to be incredibly cheap (£92). Thanks are due to Katie Willis for her diligent care of this.
8. Actual expenditure on the 2006 SLAS lecture totalled £317 (the speaker's fee and overnight accommodation for the President), but a further £372 was paid to the
9. University of Manchester in respect of a late invoice for expenses arising from the 2005 lecture.
10. Three postgraduate members received awards (£500 each) to assist them with the costs of giving papers at overseas conferences (a fourth award was agreed for 2007), and a further eight received awards of £600 each (total £4,800) towards the costs of fieldwork in Latin America.
11. Four grants totalling £3,100 were made to universities organising conferences (Liverpool, Stirling, Manchester, Nottingham), in most cases to contribute to the costs of inviting named Latin American scholars.
12. As in 2004 and 2005, a third – and final – grant was made to the Latin America Bureau for development/maintenance of its website.
13. Committee expenses – essentially travel costs - were c. £500 greater than in 2005, in part because of the costs of representation (normally by the President) at meetings of other bodies (e.g. UKCASA, British Academy).
14. The Independent Examiner, Dr. Paul Henderson (University of Wolverhampton, having audited the accounts, has signed the necessary certificate for the Charity Commission, confirming that they accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 1993. I thank him for his work.

John Fisher, SLAS Treasurer, 27 March 2007

Questions: There were no questions.

6) SECRETARY'S REPORT 2006-7

1: Committee Meetings

Four Committee meetings were held throughout the year, on 23 June 2006 (University of Liverpool), 13 October 2006 (University of Essex), 26 January 2007 (University of Newcastle), and 13 April 2007 (University of Newcastle – today).

2: Grants and bursaries: applications received and awards

The Society awards grants and bursaries under five headings: Conference and Event Support Grants; Postgraduate Travel Grants; Postgraduate Conference Grants (to assist postgraduate students to undertake research or present papers at major international conferences); SLAS Conference 'Latin American Scholar' Grants; and SLAS Conference Postgraduate Bursaries. The guidelines governing these awards, posted on the SLAS Website, were substantially rewritten this year to improve their clarity, and are now felt to be more satisfactory.

In the past year the following grants were made under the above schemes:

➤ **Conference and Event Support Grants**

SLAS committed itself to supporting a total of six conferences and workshops this year (the same number as last year). Two of these have already taken place, while the remainder will take place between May and October this year. The six awards meant that SLAS supported all of the conferences and workshops for which it received applications before the deadline of 31 December 2006, although we have had several enquiries since the deadline. The total amount made available to support these events – which is not necessarily equal to the amount actually claimed – was £3,800.

Conferences and events supported or to be supported were:

- “After ‘Informal Empire’?: Commerce and Culture outside Britain’s Formal Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century”, University of Bristol, 30-31 Jan. 2007.
- “Urban Governance, Public Service Delivery and Participation: A Comparative Approach”, University of DeMontfort, 26 March 2007.
- “Conflict and Political Change in Contemporary Colombia and Venezuela”, University of Liverpool, 3-4 May 2007.
- “Central America: Challenged Transition?”, University of London, 14-15 June 2007.
- “Europe and its Others. Interperceptions Past, Present and Future”, University of St. Andrews, 6-8 July 2007.
- Annual Conference of WISPS (Women in Spanish, Latin American, and Lusophone Studies), University of Manchester, 12-13 October 2007).

➤ **Postgraduate Travel Grants**

We received a total of 17 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, Vice-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: Ana María Buller (LSHTM), Guiseppe Andrea Cicalo (Manchester), Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland (Bath), Juan Carlos Machado Puertas (Sussex), Leandro Rodríguez-Medina (Cambridge), Laura Morais Sales de Lima (Aberystwyth), Juan Carlos Ruiz Vásquez (Oxford), and Emily Wilkinson (UCL).

➤ **Postgraduate Conference Grants**

A total of 8 applications were received from postgraduates for grants to attend conferences – two by the September deadline, and six by the February one. Four postgraduate conference grants were awarded, of £500 each. The recipients were: Szilvia Simai (Birkbeck), Ricardo Camargo (Sheffield), Marco Larizza (Essex), and Ella McPherson (Cambridge).

➤ **SLAS Conference 'Latin American Scholar' grants**

Nine requests were received for support for travel to the 2007 conference by Latin American scholars or speakers. Nominations were judged by a panel consisting of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Six awards were made, four of £600, and two of £400 and £300 respectively. Speakers in receipt of 'Latin American Scholar' grants were: Luis Fernando Angosto (Venezuela), Sonia Lozano (Mexican coming from Paris), Carlos Noguera (Paraguay), Pablo Regalsky (Bolivia), Marcela Ternavasio (Argentina), and Andrés Vallejo (Ecuador).

➤ **2007 Conference Bursaries**

Eleven bursaries were awarded to post-graduate students, in each case of £150. Recipients were: Cristopher Ballinas-Valdés (Oxford), Ricardo Camargo (Sheffield), Mark Highfield (Aberdeen), Christopher Hull (Nottingham), Ella McPherson (Cambridge), Analia Meo (Warwick), Daniel Nehring (Essex), Cleonice Puggian (Cambridge), Karem Roitman (Oxford), Sonja Wolf (Aberystwyth), and Judith Walcott (Cambridge). All requests for bursaries received by the deadline were funded this year.

Questions: There were no questions.

7) CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The President referred the AGM to the revised versions of the SLAS Constitution and Standing Orders, included in conference packs. A 'tidying-up' exercise of these documents has taken place over the past year (as already noted in his report). He then took the AGM through the changes point by point, seeking the approval of members for the changes indicated. All changes were approved unanimously.

Rory Miller pointed out that SLAS will need to appoint a Returning Officer to receive ballots under the new web-based system for elections, since it is not acceptable to have the Secretary receive ballots for elections at which he or she might herself be standing. This point was well taken, and will be referred back to the Committee at its next meeting.

8) BLAR BOOK SERIES

Dr Nicola Miller informed the AGM of the forthcoming Latin American Studies book series to be published by *BLAR*. The remit of this series – with one volume to be published each year in the first instance – is interdisciplinary, since it was felt that this will make the series both unusual and relevant. The first volume, to be published in 2008, will publish papers presented at the Conference on “After ‘Informal Empire’?: Commerce and Culture outside Britain’s Formal Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century”, held at the University of Bristol on 27 Jan. 2007. The Editors of *BLAR* would welcome proposals from members for further volumes.

Questions:

Jens Hentschke asked whether a prize might be awarded for the best article published in *BLAR* each year? Dr Miller replied that the idea was an interesting one, and she would refer it back to the Editors for consideration.

8) ELECTIONS

The Secretary reported that elected to the SLAS Committee as ordinary members in March 2006 were

Andrew Canessa,
Peter Lambert, and
Diego Sánchez.

In early 2007, nominations were invited for candidates for the post of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and for three Ordinary Committee Members. Nominations were received as follows:

Name & position	Nomination	Secunder
Peter Lambert (President);	Tony Kapcia	John Fisher
Nicola Miller (Vice-President);	Tony Kapcia	Paul Henderson
Adrian Pearce (Secretary);	John Fisher	Lewis Taylor.
Victoria Carpenter (Ord. Member)	Tony Kapcia	Adrian Pearce
Jens Hentschke (Ord. Member)	Rosaleen Howard	Patricia Oliart
Lucy Taylor (Ordinary member);	Will Fowler	Sonja Wolf.

Since no further nominations received by the deadline of 5 March 2007, no Elections were held, and these candidates were to take office unopposed at the end of the AGM. The Committee expressed its thanks to Paulo Drinot, Mo Hume, and Patience Schell, for their sterling service as Ordinary members over the past two years.

Lastly, the President noted that the fact that Peter Lambert (elected Ordinary member last year) is to become President this year will leave a vacancy on the Committee as Ordinary Member. The Committee has mooted the idea of co-opting Dr Mo Hume onto the Committee as an Ordinary member for one year, until new Elections can be held in 2008. Dr Hume has indicated her willingness to be so co-opted. The final decision will rest with the new Committee after the AGM, however.

9) AOB There was no other business.

Date and Place of Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday 28 March 2008, at Liverpool University.

SLAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007 - PANEL REPORTS

Included below are all the panel reports received by the Editor of the SLAS Newsletter. If you still have a panel report you would like to submit, please send it to the Editor for the next issue.

- 1. Finanzas Públicas en Iberoamérica, siglos XIX y XX.** Panel Convener: Jesús Hernández Jaimes, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, jhjames@yahoo.com.mx

2. Modernity, Development and Identity: Science and Nation in Latin America during the Nineteenth Century and the First Half of the Twentieth Century.

Panel Convener: Professor John Fisher, Univ. of Liverpool (fisher@liv.ac.uk)

When Latin America secured its independence, its countries faced the difficult task of creating an identity which would provide them with both internal cohesion and an external image in the eyes of Europe and, to a lesser degree, the United States. This quest coincided with, and became an integral part of, the search for modernity. The aim of the symposium was to discuss the role of science in the construction and development of national identities, their convergence and differences. It attracted 10 high quality papers (see below for details of authors/titles) from scholars based in Argentina (1), Brazil (2), France (2), Mexico (2), the UK (2) and Venezuela (1). The papers will be published in a collection edited by two of the participants: Sonia Lozano and Natalia Priego. The papers presented were:-

- Nicola Coletta (University College London), *The role of degeneration theory in Spanish American public discourse at the fin de siècle*
- Ana Maria Talak (Universidad de Buenos Aires), *Progreso y degeneración en los abordajes científicos de la cuestión social en Argentina, 1830-1930*
- Sonia Lozano (Centre de Recherche Médecine, Sciences, Santé et Société, Paris), *Science et identité: biologie et anthropologie sociale au service de l'Etat Mexicain au XIX siècle*
- Angela Porto and Kaori Kodama (Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/Fiocruz, São Paulo), *Doença e raça nos periódicos e teses de medicina do século XIX no Brasil*
- Natalia Priego (School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies, University of Liverpool), *Science as a factor of modernity: Analysing the ideas of Porfirio Díaz and Lázaro Cárdenas about modernity in Mexico*
- Rosa Helena de Santana Girão de Moraes (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), *Da etiologia e dos tratamentos: as doenças tropicais na prática médica durante o século XIX*
- Martha Eugenia Rodríguez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), *La prensa mexicana del Siglo XIX. Un medio para difundir el progreso de la medicina*
- Yajaira Freitas (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Caracas), *Los discursos de la ciencia y la modernidad en Venezuela (1870-1959)*
- María de la Paz Ramos Lara (Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Ciencias y Humanidades, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), *Physics, engineering and modernity in Mexico in the nineteenth century*
- Claudia María Ribeiro Viscardi (Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais), *Mutual Societies in Brasil 1850-1934*

John Fisher,

3. Statistics, Mapping and Organograms: The Cognitive Capacity of the Public Administration in Latin America Panel convener: Jens Hentschke, Newcastle Univ.

J.R.Hentschke@ncl.ac.uk

4. Risk and Poverty - New Approaches of Risk Management

Panel Convener: Susan Steiner, GIGA Institute of Ibero-American Studies, Hamburg,
steiner@giga-hamburg.de

5, Mercado laboral y distribución del ingreso en América Latina

Panel Convener: Javier Lindenboim, UBA/CONICET, Argentina, lindenboim.uba@gmail.com

6. Latin American migration and development: transnational perspectives

Co-Conveners: Tanja Bastia, School of City and Regional Planning, University of Cardiff
BastiaT@Cardiff.ac.uk **Cathy McIlwaine Department of Geography Queen Mary,**
University of London c.j.mcilwaine@qmul.ac.uk

The aim of this two-session panel was to explore the relationships between migration and development in Latin America and in destination countries. The papers spanned geographical areas, from Latin America, North America and Europe and adopted a range of conceptual frameworks, from livelihoods, well-being to asset accumulation. The first paper given by Samantha Punch (Stirling University), Young Migrant Pathways and Rural Development in Bolivia, focused on young people's migration from rural Bolivia to Argentina and addressed some of the development-related impacts of this migration on the community of origin, such as improvements in basic services and infrastructure, and increased access to electricity. Yet this paper also indicated the fragile sustainability of the increased migration from rural areas in terms of the disarticulation between older and younger generations and the sadness felt by some elder residents at living in a community with few young people.

Cathy McIlwaine (Queen Mary, University of London) presented a paper on Displaced Livelihood Practices among Latin Americans in London. Using the concept of *displaced livelihood practices*, the paper addressed the under-researched topic of Latin American migration to the UK and argued that while the overall aim of migration for Latin Americans is economic betterment, there is a huge diversity in how migrants explain their presence in the UK. McIlwaine identified migrants' migration status, language (ability to speak English) and the creation of social capital as critical factors for the migrants' ability to successfully cope in London. Judith Hellman's (York University, Canada) paper The Competitive Advantage of

Mexican Migrants, is an excerpt from her forthcoming book *The Rock and the Hard Place: The World of Mexican Migrants* (to be published by The New Press, New York, in January 2008).

Hellman argued that Mexicans' competitive advantage is related to: (i) Jobs, because employers view them as not only cheap but also largely disposable; and (ii) Housing, because they are able to pay in cash and are also perceived as being submissive and quiet compared to other nationalities. Mexicans' advantage in getting access to cheap housing, on the other hand, puts them in direct opposition with other social groups who are also competing for access to the cheapest housing.

While the first session was quite diverse in terms of the types of migrations examined, the second session focused on migration from Latin America to Europe. It started with a paper by Katie Wright-Revollo (University of Bath) on *Constructing Wellbeing across Spatial Boundaries: the case of Peruvian migrants in London and Madrid*, and which adopted the concept of well-being to analyse (i) what international migration contributes to people's wellbeing and (ii) how the concept of wellbeing could contribute towards a fairer immigration policy. Wright-Revollo adopted Berry's cross-cultural approach to examine four areas of loss in terms of migrant's well-being: autonomy, enjoyment, relatedness and social status, concluding that one possible way of addressing the lack of social cohesion was by strengthening existing institutions to decrease isolation.

Caroline Moser's (Brookings Institution, Washington DC) paper, *The Gendered Dimension of Guayaquil, Ecuador*, built on her 26 year longitudinal study of a neighbourhood in Guayaquil and analysed asset accumulation and social change that has been brought about as a result of migration. The four themes covered included the role of remittances, role of family, agents or victims and gendered differences of asset accumulation, with Moser concluding that both men and women experience dramatic changes as a result of migration. Men experience changed levels of responsibilities and self-esteem, linked with their citizenship, while women experience higher levels of independence and increased wish to learn more about their rights. The final paper by Juan Cock (Queen Mary, University of London), *Transnational Practices of Colombian Migrants in London*, covered the historical trajectory of Colombian's migration to the UK, arguing that today their dominant labour market insertion is in low-skilled service jobs such as cleaning. For the Colombian community the 'shopping' is one of the central points for accessing goods and services, as they are usually organised as a mini-shopping mall with food shops, restaurants, money sending services, music/DVD shops, pharmacy, legal advice and package

sending services.

Both sessions were well attended with an audience of up to 25 people, with questions related to transnational practices, discrimination, racism, migrants* future plans, the role of political organisations, social cohesion, remittances, migrants* solidarity (or lack of) and the role of migration policies.

Tanja Bastia, School of City and Regional Planning, University of Cardiff

7. Extractive activities, territory and environment in Andean Countries

Conveners: Dr. Carlos Crespo Universidad de San Simón, Cochabamba Bolivia, Patricia Ocampo-Thomason, and Professor Nina Laurie, Newcastle University.

p.o.thomason@ncl.ac.uk

This panel consisted of two sessions (three papers per session, two people could not attend: Michael Kent and Dr Carlos Crespo). The first paper, Dr Andy Higginbottom (Kingston University), 'Accountability of Extractive Corporations in Colombia: New Strategies of Alternative Justice and International Solidarity' addressed the development in recent years of a range of strategies to counter the power of oil and mining corporations; Andy showed how socially oriented trade unions have formed a domestic alliance to form a permanent observatory on multinationals. He also presented an analysis of how this strategy raises new questions concerning the dynamics of solidarity initiatives, the issue of responsibility for challenging multinationals from within their national 'home' country, and the consideration of an appropriate normativity against which to judge corporate behaviour.

In her paper, 'Neo-indigenism, oil exploitation and indigenous organizations in the Ecuadorian Amazon', Paola Colleoni (International Development Studies - Department of Society and Globalisation - Roskilde University and Gtms- Ehes Paris), argued that due to the different political position on the issue of oil exploration, the Ecuadorian indigenous organisations in the Amazon are facing a fierce internal crisis. She examined the case of the Shuar Federation to show how this crisis is happening at the same time as neo-indigenist programs promoted by cooperation and conservation international agencies are endorsing an impressive number of projects; not only targeting, but especially involving indigenous organizations as partners for their execution. She focused her analysis on the tensions encountered in the processes of becoming (neo-liberal) subjects and resistances and the project of producing governable subjects.

In 'Indigenous territories and decentralization and autonomic process in Bolivia in the 2006 Constituency Assembly context' Pablo Regalsky (CENDA and Newcastle University) explored the conflict scenario reflected in the process of ethnic emergence combined with the struggle for control over the oil revenues. He examined the current Bolivia conflicts' map, the tensions between oil companies and the Indigenous territories and possible outcomes from the tensions between both territorial reconfiguration and political decentralization projects and showed how all five Bolivian Indigenous organizations achieved consensus for a constitutional text to be introduced to the Constituent Assembly. Their proposal declares Bolivia a Plurinational State and recognizes Indigenous Autonomies as the basis for a new form of State, it also proposes the creation of "intercultural urban autonomies" to serve as the foundation for the constitution of "Autonomic Intercultural Regions".

In the second session, Dr Leonith Hinojosa (IDPM - University of Manchester), in her paper 'Conflicts over the countryside: Civil society and the political ecology of rural development in the Andean region' looked at the new mining boom in Latin America and the social conflicts it is provoking. She argued that to understand conflicts and development effects produced by the expansion of extractive industries, research requires a multidisciplinary approach centred on understanding the political economy of neo-liberal development strategies and the geographies that they produce. Using case studies from Cajamarca-Yanacocha, Piura-Majaz and Cotacachi-Intag, she illustrated the role played by civil society actors in challenging political economies and the importance of analyzing local and global networks.

Dr Jessica Budd's (Geography Discipline, The Open University) paper 'Water and mining conflicts in the Peruvian Andes', examined some of the social and environmental outcomes of the expansions of mining in the Peruvian Andes through the lens of water. She argued that alongside land and energy, access to fresh water is a key requisite for mining and that water has become a central focus of conflicts over mining ventures, as mining companies take control over water, while communities protest about the reduction and pollution of local water sources. She employed a political ecology approach to analyse how both mines and communities access and use water resources, and how they form and mobilise different conceptualisations of water/nature to support their situated perspectives.

Finally, in her 'NGOs' representation versus local demands in mining conflicts', Jeannet Lingan (London School of Economics and Political Sciences) spoke about the escalation of conflicts involving communities and mining activities relating to environmental and social demands in Peru and how many of these demands have been made public by the work of NGOs and

grassroots organizations trying to influence the policy-making process and corporate policies. Using examples from Tambogrande, La Oroya and Cajamarca she argued that NGOs' representation in conflicts is being questioned and they face difficulties with previous assumptions of how to build local legitimacy. She finished her paper asking if these difficulties are shaped by how NGOs understood legitimacy at the beginning and what will be the basis of this legitimacy now? She also asked how we can establish the link between the micro and the macro in the context of divisions and pressures from government and companies.

As intended by the conveners the panel opened a dialogue across commercial sectors, ecosystems and different local communities in Andean countries and examined the different theoretical, methodological and political approaches to engagement with these issues.

8. Political Ecology in Latin America: the troubled interrelation between environmental and social justice. Panel Convener: Dr José Esteban Castro, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, J.E.Castro@ncl.ac.uk

This panel focused on the internal tensions characterizing debates on environmental and social justice in Latin America. These tensions can be identified both at the theoretical level, within the social sciences and between the social and the techno-scientific disciplines, and also at the levels of public policy and practical action. These issues were explored by six panelists covering a range of topics and disciplines that converge in the field of Political Ecology: The panel featured papers by:

- Dr. Patricia Oliart, a sociologist from the School of Modern Languages at Newcastle University on “Biodiversity as a development asset in neoliberal discourse: the Peruvian case”.
- Dr José Augusto Pádua, History Department, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, on “The political ecology of deforestation in colonial Brazil”.
- Prof. Erik Swyngedouw, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, “The political ecology of urbanization in Guayaquil, Ecuador.”
- Mr. Juan Carlos Dominguez (D.Phil Candidate), University of Oxford, Department of International Development, on “The Political Ecology of large infrastructure projects in Latin America”.
- Mr Philipp Terhorst (PhD Candidate), Loughborough University, on “Social struggles to keep water in public hands: experiences from Latin America”.
- And Dr José Esteban Castro, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, on “Political Ecology in Latin America: the troubled interrelation between environmental and social justice”

The panel presentations attracted much interest, with a very active participation of the audience.

9. Gendered Perspectives on Urban Living in Latin America. Panel Convener: Katie Willis, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX , Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk

This paper consisted of three papers addressing this issue from very different disciplinary perspectives. Daniel Nehring (University of Essex) drew on interviews with university graduates in Mexico City, as well as an analysis of the burgeoning 'self-help' literature in Mexico, to discuss narratives of heterosexual couple relationships. He drew out differing discourses around 'modern' and 'traditional' ways of 'being a couple', including the transnational flow of ideas and norms. The ways in which individuals and couples draw on these diverse discourses was fascinating, as was the ability to read some of the self-help books and magazines which Daniel had brought to illustrate his argument.

Kevin Guerrieri (University of San Diego) also focused on urban spaces in Mexico, but through an examination of the little known book *La Ciudad y Sus Silencios* by Alejandro Espinoza which was published in 2003. Kevin picked three of the vignettes from the book, concentrating on the urban spaces of the street, the maquiladora and the shopping centre. In all three, the protagonist is male, and the theme is one of alienation from locality and an absence of rootedness in a particular time.

The final paper was given by Polly Wilding (University of Leeds). She used research in Rio's *favelas* to consider the importance of considering women within the debates around gang violence, which is so often constructed as an issue primarily for young men. Focusing on the theme of gang punishments and rules, she provided insights into the ways in which the regulation of urban space by gangs affects women. This includes women's inability to access support from women's police stations that are located in a district controlled by another gang. Her paper demonstrated the impossibility of drawing a clear distinction between 'public' and 'private' spheres within this context of widespread violence.

Katie Willis, Royal Holloway, University of London

10. Ecuador: new spaces and politics of development. Panel Convener: Sarah Radcliffe, Geog. Department, Cambridge University sarah.radcliffe@geog.cam.ac.uk

Over recent years, Ecuador has provided an arena for unprecedented experiments in development interventions and socio-cultural processes. Combining a number of diverse trends, this small Andean country has seen debates around appropriate development for diverse

ethnocultural groups, has become the launch-pad for eradication programmes in Colombia, as well as experiencing the environmental and social impacts of mass emigration, continued petroleum extraction, and fluctuating tourism revenues. These diverse processes and projects occur in highly diverse and overlapping spaces that result from complex sociocultural patchworks, ecological and geophysical diversity, recent decentralization and ethnic autonomy legislation, and historically established regional and local power relations. This session explored the nature of these politics and spaces of development, with a lively and informative set of papers clustered around a number of key themes of current development issues.

The first set of papers discussed urban issues, starting with Kate Swanson's (University of Glasgow) paper on "Urban development and the spaces of displacement". In her paper, Kate explored how Ecuador's drive to modernise and sanitise urban cityscapes affects migrant indigenous women and children in the informal street sector. Focusing upon an 18 month case study of indigenous beggars, she revealed how urban restructuring displaces informal street workers. Not only do these policies push them back to the countryside where they have few means of earning cash income, but they also push them to become involved in more hazardous transnational migration to beg on the streets of Colombia.

This was followed by Emily Walmsley (University of Keele) talking about "Raising *criados*: childhood and ambiguous kinship in contemporary Ecuador." Many children in Ecuador are raised by adults who are not their biological parents. Some are sent away as young children, others given away at birth. The paper analysed this process of informal fostering by drawing on ethnographic material from the city of Esmeraldas. It considered how the practice, which has long existed, is being adapted in response to current social and economic pressures in Ecuador. Some *criados* become better integrated into their new families than others: their diverse experiences highlight clearly the roles played by race, class and gender in shaping the changing social environment of this underdeveloped coastal city.

Andres Vallejo (University of Cambridge) then discussed how family relationships are being reconfigured by transnational migration, in his paper " 'Not my family, nor my kids, no-one will witness my hardships': primitive capital accumulation and self-identity among transnational migrants." His paper comprises part of research on the ongoing reconfiguration of regimes of subject constitution and government in late modernity. The study focuses on the experience of recent Ecuadorean migrants to Spain. This experience is marked by the simultaneity of presence intrinsic in the transnational condition: being in two or more places at the same time. Drawing on Goffman's notion of "audience segregation" in performances of the self, the paper

presented instances where migrants assume different place-specific identities, arguing that this migrant subject split (namely, waged labourer abroad / incipient capitalist at “home”) not only solves conflicts deriving from otherwise incompatible ethical obligations. It also effects a crucial element in capital’s reproductive cycle, one which confers capital its seemingly magical properties: the concealment of labour.

The session after the break dealt with issues of development in the context of cultural diversity and ethno-racial difference. Judith Walcott (University of Cambridge) began this session with her paper “Border development in the Ecuadorian Andes: rethinking state, space, and citizenship.” Using in-depth case study and ethnography of Pusir Grande, an Afro-Ecuadorian village in the Chota Valley in Ecuador’s northern highlands, Judith showed how the presence and activities of national and international development agencies, church groups, and local and national government bodies, have mirrored the wider political landscape both in Ecuador and worldwide.

She mapped the presence of these groups and their projects in this small community over the past 5-10 years, along with the escalating conflict on the Ecuador-Colombia border, to show the relevance and strategic importance of the border in the villagers’ daily lives and in the actions of outside development agencies and the state. In doing so she also examined the meaning of citizenship within a marginalized ethnic group (Afro-Ecuadorians), in a marginalized geographic zone (the Chota Valley, near Ecuador’s border with Colombia), to show practical meanings of state, space, and citizenship in contemporary Ecuador.

Pilar Larreamendy (a social development expert at the World Bank, Quito) then offered the first of two papers concerned with indigenous populations, in her paper entitled “Petróleo, políticas públicas e indígenas: Se puede mejorar la gobernanza del sector?” In this paper, Pilar reviewed the processes that have led to high concentrations of poverty, especially among diverse indigenous populations, in the Amazon region, the governance of petroleum activities, and the possibilities for improvements in development policy and practice for Amazonian indigenous groups.

In the final paper, Sarah Radcliffe (University of Cambridge) presented on “Gender-aware and ethnically-appropriate development? Indigenous women and the new politics of development in Ecuador.” The paper presented a research agenda for the analysis of indigenous women’s experience of development interventions. Given that gender mainstreaming has been institutionalized by the Ecuadorian state, and “indigenous development” has been part of state,

NGO and multilateral interventions for a decade now, it could be expected that indigenous women's development agendas would be met. In reality however, indigenous women continue to be marginalized from decision-making agency within a number of distinctive development arenas, and at a number of scales.

The floor was then opened for discussion. It is hoped that the papers will be published as a special issue in an appropriate journal. Details will be posted in the SLAS Newsletter.

11. Re-visioning Glocal Ecuatorianidades. Panel Conveners: Juan G. Ramos (University of Massachusetts Amherst) jgramos@complit.umass.edu and Ernesto Capello (University of Vermont)

12. Landscapes of belief in (post)colonial Latin America. Convener: Heidi V. Scott. University of Wales, Aberystwyth; hvs@aber.ac.uk

The central purpose of this panel was to explore two themes – landscape and belief – and the ways in which they intersect in both colonial and postcolonial Latin America. The panel consisted of three papers: while the first (by Heidi Scott) focused on the colonial era, drawing on examples from 16th and 17th century Peru, the second and third (by Mark Lindley Highfield and Elizabeth Olson) focused on contemporary Mexico and Peru respectively. While Heidi's paper examined the role of religion in shaping colonial Spanish understandings of Peru's 'subterranean landscapes' of mines and burials, Mark's contribution explored the ways in which the Internet is providing Mexico's small Muslim community with a virtual space in which to shape a new religious landscape. Elizabeth's paper, meanwhile, examined the shaping of material and symbolic religious landscapes in two neighbouring communities in the highland province of Canas. More specifically, her paper illustrated how the popular myth of Evangelical 'development' in Peru is reflected in and reinforced by the landscape and the ways in which it is used.

Each paper, grounded in distinct temporal and geographical contexts, not only served as a reminder of the significant and ongoing changes that Latin America's religious landscapes have undergone since the colonial era, but also considered, in different ways, how the concept of 'landscape' might be understood. Heidi's paper suggested that approaches to landscape should pay greater attention to their "vertical third dimension" (an expression borrowed from Paul Carter), given that ideas about the underground realm often shape the ways in which 'surface landscapes' are viewed, valued and used. Mark, meanwhile, built on Tim Ingold's work on landscape to argue that the online religious community constructed by Muslims in Mexico

constitutes a landscape which they inhabit and shape. In Olson's paper, landscape referred not only to particular material formations and the ideas and stories that are attached to them, but also to the embodied practices of the two communities' inhabitants.

Although the approach to landscape in each paper was distinctive, the three contributions nevertheless revealed a clear point of mutual connection by favouring an understanding of landscape that is based above all on process and practice.

13. Modernity and Its Discontents: Class, Literature and Identity in the Americas. Panel

Convener: Sharae Deckard, University of Warwick, S.G.Deckard@warwick.ac.uk

14. (Re)reading History: Representations of History in Latin American Literature. Panel

convener: Victoria Carpenter, University of Derby, v.carpenter@derby.ac.uk

15. Music and Politics in Latin America Panel Convener: Hazel Marsh University of East Anglia, Norwich. hazel.marsh@uea.ac.uk

I'm told it's been many years since a panel on popular music has been convened at a SLAS conference. This year, in a total of three panels dedicated to musical forms, a fascinating and diverse range of papers stimulated lively debate and illuminated the (frequently overlooked) centrality of popular music (including song, dance and poetry) in the political life of the region.

Delphine Grouès ((University of Toulouse/King's College) began with a thought-provoking paper which explored the double and apparently paradoxical representation of the army in Chilean poetry and song. Hazel Marsh (University of East Anglia) followed with a paper on Venezuelan *nueva canción* artist Alí Primera (1942-85) who for many Venezuelans is a symbol of the struggle for social justice, and who Chávez frequently refers to in his discourse.

Henry Stobart (Royal Holloway) continued with a compelling presentation which explored a violent form of ritual combat from rural Bolivia, connected with music and dance, and a popular urban dance genre which parodies fighting. Fascinatingly, performances of this *tinku* dance are perceived by many urban Bolivians as the very embodiment of Andean identity. Peter Lambert (University of Bath) then gave a ground-breaking paper on the (very!) little-known *nuevo cancionero* of Paraguay, discussing the themes of resistance, hope and identity in the music of a number of Paraguayan artists, and the struggle against the dictatorship of General Stroessner as manifested in Paraguayan new song.

Finally, it was an honour to have with us Jan Fairley (University of Liverpool), the UK's foremost scholar of *nueva canción*, to present the last paper on this panel. The first to undertake research into *nueva canción chilena* in the 1970s (having experienced at first-hand the Popular Unity years of Salvador Allende's Chile), Jan's work has informed and inspired many scholars of Latin American popular music since then. In her powerfully moving paper, Jan explored the significance and legacy of *nueva canción* in the changing Latin America of the 21st century.

16. Music and the City in Latin America. Panel Convener: Geoff Baker Music Department, Royal Holloway, University of London, geoff.baker@rhul.ac.uk

17. Music in Latin America: Memory, Activism & Social Change Panel Conveners: Hazel Marsh , Univ. of East Anglia, Norwich. NR4 7TJ. hazel.marsh@uea.ac.uk Geoff Baker, Royal Holloway, University of London, geoff.baker@rhul.ac.uk

Natalie Kirschstein (Harvard University) began with a lively paper on the Uruguayan *murga*, a genre of carnival music which is a sung chronicle of the year and which provides a space to contest the status quo and comment on political and social issues. Laiz Chen Capra (University of Nottingham) continued with a revealing paper on the popular/oral poet *do povo*, Patativa do Assaré, whose political work amplifies the voices of the oppressed backlanders of Brazil's impoverished *nordeste*.

Finally, the paper that was to be presented by the late Vanessa Knights was given by Vanessa's friend and co-researcher at Newcastle University, Paul Attinello. Paul spoke about Vanessa's brilliant academic career, but also about the courageous and vibrant person he knew, before presenting some of Vanessa's research on AIDS and popular music in Latin America. Examples of songs which address the issue of AIDS ranged from the Chilean folkloric (by Illapu), to the Mexican heavy metal (by Brujería).

Finally, Paul played what he said was Vanessa's own personal favourite, *El gran varón* by Willie Colón, and the session ended with discussion of several interesting points raised by Vanessa and Paul's research.

18. Approaches to Brazilian Popular Culture: reflections and perspectives Panel

Conveners: Felipe Magalhães – Universidade do Estado da Bahia (UNEB)

felipesm1@hotmail.com Andrea Casanova – Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC-MG)

19. Cultures of the Lusophone Black Atlantic Panel Convener: David H. Treece, Centre for the Study of Brazilian Culture and Society King's College London, Strand :

david.treece@kcl.ac.uk

20. Latin American intellectuals in the twentieth century. Panel Convener. Michael Goebel, Univ. College London, t.goebel@ucl.ac.uk

This panel consisted of five papers that covered a wide range of themes and problems relating to the role that Latin American intellectuals played in their societies since approximately 1900. A repeated focus of the panel was how intellectuals acted as mediators both between different Latin American countries and with the outside world.

In her opening paper Nicola Miller argued that Latin American intellectuals cannot be classified according to two categories alone. With the examples of Juan B. Justo and José Carlos Mariátegui, among others, she showed that Latin American intellectuals were not merely followers of mimetic and imported understandings of modernity, nor did they simply stand for an anti-modern reaction against external models. Her argument that instead they have been distinctive in their 'capacity [...] to generate affirmative visions of modernity from within', then, was played out in different forms in the following presentations and discussions.

Examining the failure of German policymakers during the Weimar Republic to engage the Latin American intelligentsia on their side in the battles fought out in the Old World, my own paper supported the point that intellectual debates in Latin America were more than mere repercussions of overseas developments. However, as Corinne Pernet and Joanna Crow made clear, this did not mean that Latin American visions of identity and modernity were construed in isolation. On the contrary, Pernet's paper revealed the lively participation of Latin American intellectuals in the League of Nations, while Crow's contribution explored the international links that lay at the heart of an affirmative view of Chile's indigenous roots.

Finally, drawing on the example of Carlos Fuentes, Claire Brewster's paper showed that, in relation to politics and the state, it is equally difficult to capture the role of Latin American intellectuals with two categories alone. She argued that, while Fuentes was at times a strong

supporter of the Mexican revolutionary state, at other moments he was also ready to mobilise his prestige against this state.

The panel was well attended and discussion was lively, reaching a point where it was questioned altogether whether intellectual history was a useful exercise. No definite agreement could be reached on this point.

21. Modernity and the visual image in Latin America. Panel Conveners Luciana Martins, Birkbeck, University of London, l.martins@bbk.ac.uk Jens Andermann, Birkbeck, University of London, j.andermann@bbk.ac.uk

The participants in this panel were invited to explore the broad visual archive of Latin American countries from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century, when modern visual technologies played a key role in rendering Latin American peoples and places visible to European and North American audiences as well as to the vernacular urban public.

Jens Andermann (Birkbeck, University of London) opened the session with a compelling account of the participation of Argentina and Brazil in many of the universal expositions of the second half of the nineteenth century. Examining the 'processes of monumental translation', Andermann convincingly argued that in order to create coherent visual ensembles that could be inserted in the exposition's global spaces of equivalence without being judged inferior to those of the industrial core nations, Argentine and Brazilian exhibitors aimed to translate objects and images from their local contexts of production into the exhibition's planetary space, thus generating new representations of 'national identity'. The *Fin de Siècle* experience of modernity and mass society was also the focus of Luis Rebaza-Soraluz's (King's College London) paper.

Instead of the spectacular celebrations of the emergent imperial capitalist world, Rebaza-Soraluz drew our attention to late nineteenth-century periodicals' illustrations. In particular, he compared José Martí's chronicles on the 1886 Chicago Haymarket Riots to the texts and illustrations published in New York periodicals such as the *Daily Graphic* and *The Evening Sun*. Rebaza-Soraluz concluded that by moving among the realms of the English-speaking journalism, the literary and the Spanish-speaking journalism, Martí created a 'holographic' spatio-temporal form of visual representation of modernity.

Moving on to the experience of modernity in the early twentieth century, Luciana Martins (Birkbeck, University of London) examine the photographs produced by Mário de Andrade in the course of his travels to the Brazilian interior in the late 1920s. Martins explored particularly the

connections between this photographic experiment and a project of critical nationalism, which was later formalized in his proposal for the *Serviço do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (SPHAN)*.

With his camera in hand, Mário de Andrade was searching for ways of resensitizing his eyes to the physical presence of Brazil as an inhabited land, which the urbanized, modern elite culture of the country seemed to be increasingly distant from, or blind to. Questions of visibility and invisibility of geographical spaces were explored by Claudio Canaparo (University of Exeter) as well, who focused on the cinematographic representation of Patagonia between 1886 and 1950. Canaparo also addressed broader theoretical concerns about the ways in which thinking and cinema are related and the cultural consequences such entanglement might have within local spaces.

Overall, the papers offered a hint of the exciting paths to be opened from a comparative perspective between specific national cultures by investigating the visual fields of Latin American modernity.

Luciana Martins, Birkbeck, University of London

22. In Search of Stability: Constitutions and Political Culture in Nineteenth-Century Latin America. (Panel full) Panel Convener: Catherine Andrews, Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Universidad de Tamaulipas, candrews@uat.edu.mx

The panel examined the manner in which the newly independent Latin American countries set about establishing their governments in the nineteenth-century. It was particularly concerned with the assessing the role that written constitutions had in this process. Marcela Ternavasio (Universidad Nacional del Rosario, Argentina) began the panel with a paper analysing the principal questions faced by those drawing up the first constitutions for Río de la Plata: the search for legitimacy, the division territorial and the organisation of the government powers. She argued that the constitution provided a much needed fountain of legitimacy for the new governments following the disintegration of the Spanish monarchy in 1808.

Natalia Sobrevilla (Yale University, US) spoke about the Peruvian experience of constitution-writing in the nineteenth-century and suggested that the most successful constitutions were those that permitted their easy reform. She argued that since political leaders always sought to justify their actions by way of the constitution, it was constantly necessary to modify the constitutional text so it provided the necessary validation. Alejandro San Francisco (Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile) questioned the idea that Chile's constitutional experience was

exceptional in Latin America. He pointed out that, just like its neighbours, Chile experimented with various constitutions after independence before achieving a thirty-year period of stability with the 1833 Constitution and argued that during the nineteenth-century, Chile was not free from internal convulsions and political rebellions.

Matthew Brown (University of Bristol) undertook a case-study of the political career of one of New Granada's regional governors, Tomás Murría (born Thomas Murray) in the first thirty years of independence. This allowed him to demonstrate the importance of clientele relations for political advancement within the political culture of the time. Will Fowler (University of St. Andrews) considered how Mexico's different constitutions had regarded the role of the army in national life. He suggested that there was a discrepancy between the provisions of the constitutional texts and how the army was employed and regarded in practise. In his opinion, the constitutions did not reflect reality, but rather were an idealised account of how things should be.

Marco Landavazo (Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo) analysed the constitutional arrangements envisaged by the first Mexican state constitutions of the nineteenth-century. He argued that the different approaches adopted by the states had the same objective: to ensure that power was equally distributed between the different institutions of government. Catherine Andrews (Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, México) closed the panel with an examination of the political thought of Mexican politician Lucas Alamán in the 1830s. She suggested that Alamán believed Mexico's instability was due to the fact that it had copied the constitutional thinking of the French revolutionaries. He wished to see Mexico adapt the ideas of the British balanced constitution in order to guarantee more orderly government in the future.

23. Educational inequalities in Latin America: a critical analysis of policies and school practices. Panel organizer: Latin American Perspectives in Education Society. Institute of Education. University of London, lape@ioe.ac.uk

24. A new politics of children and youth in Latin America? Panel Conveners: Anne-Marie Smith, Univ of Liverpool (amsmith@liv.ac.uk) Mo Hume, University of Glasgow (m.hume@lbss.gla.ac.uk)

25. Commodifying indigenous knowledge? The question of Intellectual Property Rights and Indigenous Knowledge. Panel Convener: Sally Evans University of Liverpool S.Evans01@liverpool.ac.uk

The panel took place on Sunday at 11.30 am. There were two presentations: Serena Heckler from the University of Durham and Sally Evans, University of Liverpool. 'No regular nuestros conocimientos': Aspects of the protection of Amazonian indigenous medical knowledge. Sally Evans spoke about research among Kichwa indigenous people in the Ecuadorian Amazon on commodification of their medical knowledge and intellectual property rights, arguing that existing IPR are inadequate for indigenous medical knowledge in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Centred on energetic practices such as pajuyu, Sally Evans argued that such inalienable knowledges do not translate to existing intellectual property rights. However, some indigenous people want to benefit from commercialisation of aspects of their medical knowledge.

Serena Heckler spoke about Venezuelan rainforest indigenous people, the Wóthihã, and their reaction to requests to carry out botanical bioprospecting on their territory:- Just as they conquered our lands with weapons, now they destroy our knowledge with contracts': the Wóthihã perspective on commodification of indigenous knowledge. . Such was the anger about the requests that they called a meeting, at which there was the decision to create a moratorium on bioprospecting in Venezuela. The presentation illustrated the importance to indigenous people of the commodification of indigenous knowledge and its political implications, and that the path of research does not always run smoothly and that changes in direction are necessary

We had a discussion that ranged from questions about the Venezuelan case to ones about research ethics and access, especially the differences between countries' indigenous nationalities permitting research by outsiders. There was a comment about the ayahuasca patenting case in Ecuador with regard to the intangible and inalienable knowledge that ayahuasca ceremonies entail.

25. Language, Education and the Struggles for a Pluricultural Citizenship

Panel Conveners: Ariadna Acevedo. Departamento de Investigaciones Educativas, Cinvestav, Mexico City. aacevedo@cinvestav.mx Rosaleen Howard, University of Newcastle upon Tyne R.E.Howard@ncl.ac.uk

This panel offered two historical and two contemporary papers on indigenous education. The first two discussed the homogenising, nationalist period (ca. 1940-1970) in Mexico, while the second two looked at current developments in Peru and Bolivia, where policies and practices recognise cultural diversity.

The historical papers presented case studies of locations in which the *náhuatl* language gained new prestige in Mexico. Ariadna Acevedo spoke of a village in Puebla where relative socio-

economic isolation, school inefficiency and a strong local culture prevented mid-twentieth century schoolteachers from imposing a language shift to Spanish, ultimately leading to the development of a strong bilingualism. Paula López spoke of Milpa Alta, a rural sector near Mexico City, where residents in 1950-1980, influenced by linguists and anthropologists, argued that they were direct descendants of the Aztecs because of their 'pure' *náhuatl*, thus gaining a privileged place as Indians within a nationalism yet to confront claims of pluriculturalism. A discussion developed on the various forms that indigenous identities might take to find recognition, and the politically more than pedagogically oriented responses of governments.

Rosaleen Howard presented research on current proposals in Bolivia for an education reform based on ideological principles that contrast sharply with the 'neo-liberal' reform of the 1990s; she focused on the language used in both cases, and questioned how much the underlying politics has changed despite a change in discourse. Sheila Aikman followed on with a discussion of the philosophical and pedagogical principles at the heart of indigenous education in Peru, with special reference to the Harakmbut of Madre de Dios. In particular she explored the contrasting perspectives on 'quality of education' of the grassroots organisations and the NGOs, respectively. A general discussion followed which focused on the variable meanings of 'education reform' in different parts of Latin America, and the debatable relationship between 'reform', and 'quality' in the political context.

26. ¿Interculturalizando la Educación Superior? Universidades Indígenas en México.

Panel conveners: Rosa Guadalupe Mendoza Zuany, University of York / Universidad Veracruzana, lupitamendoza.zuany@gmail.com Gunther Dietz, Universidad de Granada, Dpto. de Antropología Social, Facultad de Ciencias de la Educación, gdietz@ugr.es

The panel took place under rather difficult circumstances. Only a few days before the SLAS conference took place, one of our invited panelists, the Coordinator General of the Mexican government institution in charge of officially promoting intercultural education, Sylvia Schmelkes del Valle, resigned from her post after failing to convince the new Secretary of Education of the necessity to back intercultural education projects such as this. Accordingly, neither Sylvia nor two other colleagues obtained the necessary support and funding for participating in our panel.

In a thus shortened version, nevertheless, our panel proved highly successful. Four presentations were given and discussed extensively and intensively. First, the panel organizers Guadalupe Mendoza Zuany and Gunther Dietz, gave a conceptual and comparative introduction on the emergence of so-called intercultural and/or indigenous universities in a particular phase of multiculturalist claims-making and of negotiations between indigenous organizations and

state institutions. Their presentation ended with thesis and questions posed to the following case studies.

Then, in his paper on "Indigenous Universities: actors, dreams and contexts", Genner de Jesús Llanes-Ortiz presented the Universidad del Oriente project in Yucatán as an example of a top-down creation of an intercultural higher education institution, in which community representatives have been often silenced and business and state-sponsored tourism promotion interests have prevailed until now. Llanes-Ortiz succeeded in comparing this particular case with other Mexican and Latin American initiatives, some of which are much more community oriented, but less officially recognized.

In contrast to this example of weak or even "failed" interculturalization, Adriana Ávila Pardo and Laura S. Mateos Cortés have analyzed the case of the first and until now only "intercultural university" created from within an already existing academic institution; in their paper on "The Intercultural Discourse in the Intercultural University of Veracruz", they have focused on the confluence of indigenous organization representatives, academic multiculturalism and NGO activists in the establishment of this initiative, which currently offers B.A. studies in "sustainable rural development" and in "intercultural management and promotion" through campuses in four indigenous regions.

Finally and complementarily to these initiatives of creating specific university programmes for indigenous students, Juan Carlos Barron-Pastor presented an in-depth evaluation of a pilot project aimed at empowering indigenous students who are involved in "normal" academic programmes of public universities. In his paper "¿Promoting Intercultural Relations? Some reflections about indigenous supporting programmes in Mexican higher education", he analyzed the conflicts, achievements and shortcomings of such a – U.S. inspired - programme of explicit affirmative action when being applied in the Mexican higher education context.

Both the case studies on intercultural universities and the evaluation of the first affirmative action programme for indigenous students raised a huge range of interesting questions, which shaped the following, long and rich debate. Issues regarding the "multiculturalization" of the indigenous discourse of autonomy, the community, academic and governmental actors involved in these projects, the impact on the participating students and regions, the kinds of university studies offered particularly for marginalized students and/or regions, the coincidence of this "intercultural turn" in higher education with trends towards the privatisation and outsourcing of public academic programmes through new "public-private" partnerships and an increasing NGO

involvement in educational programmes for indigenous peoples were vividly discussed with the panel presenters and colleagues in the audience.

We hope to publish the panel presentations - as well as other contributions - in a forthcoming issue of TRACE (*Travaux et Recherches Mexicains et Centraméricaines*, México, CEMCA), monographically dedicated to intercultural universities.

Gunther Dietz & Guadalupe Mendoza Zuany

27. Mestizaje: race, indigeneity and identity in Latin America today. Panel Conveners:

Luís Fernando Angosto, Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ciudad Bolívar)

l.angosto@qub.ac.uk **Monica Moreno Figueroa, University of Nottingham,**

monica.morenofigueroa@nottingham.ac.uk

In this panel we discussed the re-emergence and re-modelling of ideas of mestizaje in Latin America. The panel brought together recent research that looks at how notions such as mestizaje, indigeneity and creolization relate to complex national formations. Four papers were presented responding to this call.

Karem Roitman (University of Oxford) presented the paper 'The failure of the Ecuadorian Mestizo State'. She explored the racial and ethnic terminology used in everyday Ecuador and critically examined the construction of ethnicity in the 2001 Census. Natasha Adama (Ghent University) presented the paper 'The political exclusion of 'mestizaje' in Suriname: ethnicity and race as primary determinants for political populism'. Her analysis dived into the postcolonial formation of Suriname, the racial politics of the country and their reflection on national formal politics.

Luis Fernando Angosto (Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela) presented the paper 'Mestizaje and indigeneity: new ethnic paradigms in Venezuelan social movements'. Luis re-examined the concept of indigeneity and its relations with the ideology of the Bolivarian revolution and the Venezuelan state. Monica Moreno Figueroa (University of Nottingham), presented a paper entitled 'The raceless configuration of Mexican society and the omnipresent dimension of racism'. Mónica elaborated on the notion of 'racelessness' that operates in several levels of Mexican society, given way to racism and ethnic discrimination.

The panel had a good and responsive attendance. We had a very stimulating discussion where panellists and other colleagues brought together the four papers in dialogue. No one dared to

make a final definition of mestizaje, we must confess! But Luis and Monica intend to further this discussion in the 2008 SLAS conference at Liverpool!

28. The Art of Truthtelling: Narratives of Conflict and the (Im)possibility of Reconciliation.

Panel Conveners: Cath Collins, Chatham House, London, ccollins@chathamhouse.org.uk and Carlos Ivan Degregori, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos.

29. Cuban Exceptionalism Revisited Panel Conveners: Bert Hoffmann, Institute of Latin American Studies at GIGA German Institute of Global and Area hoffmann@giga-hamburg.de Lawrence Whitehead, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

This panel put newly to debate the thesis of "the end of Cuban exceptionalism" that Miguel Angel Centeno had presented in his keynote speech to SLAS two years ago. The convenors, Bert Hoffmann from the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg, Germany, and Laurence Whitehead from Nuffield College, Oxford University, argued that the persistence of the state-socialist system in Cuba indeed challenges much conventional wisdom of transition studies; Cuban exceptionalism has profound historical roots and may not end any time soon, even as the country is entering the post-Fidel era.

The panel brought together nine scholars with a range of different theoretical and political perspectives. After Laurence Whitehead introduced the motivation for re-debating Cuban exceptionalism - and for organizing the panel -, Emily Morris from the Economist Intelligence Unit sketched the important changes Cuba's economic policy underwent since the crisis of the 1990s, and which - with the appearance of new trading opportunities with Venezuela and China - resulted in a profound transformation of the country's economic structure.

Tony Kapcia (Nottingham) analyzed the political dynamics behind Cuba's "long anti-transition" arguing that the current succession to Fidel does not come as a surprise but rather has been subject of careful planning for a long time. Stephen Wilkinson (London) added the importance of the government's ideological as one of the key reasons to explain the resistance to Western-style transition, and David Penny (Oxford) explored the role of civil society, leading to a debate over the extent of pluralism - or "proto-pluralism" - enjoyed by societal actors on the island.

The discussion remained as lively in the panel's second session. Bert Hoffmann presented an analysis of the Cuban leadership succession and the unique way in which Fidel's charismatic leadership is followed by Raúl Castro's emphasis on the Communist Party, rather than any

individual, to lead the country, while at the same time Hugo Chávez is designed as Fidel's charismatic heir, but beyond the country's borders. Javier Corrales (Amherst) critically analyzed the "gatekeeper role" of the Cuban state that allowed the government to channel the benefits of economic opening to its loyal followers.

Christopher Hull (Nottingham) presented a look back in time to the exceptional case of U.S. support for British interests in Cuba in the 1930s, while Steve Ludlam (Sheffield) analyzed labor relations and the participation of the official trade unions in decisionmaking processes in present-day Cuba. Mike Erisman's paper on the Nonaligned Movement was made available in writing only, as a blizzard in Indiana disrupted air traffic to the point that the author could not make it to Newcastle in person. Five of the presenters at the panel are authors of an edited volume on "Debating Cuban Exceptionalism" (Palgrave, April 2007), edited by the panel convenors and presented at the SLAS meeting.

30. From Lagos to Bachelet: The Chilean Political Economy Model post-Pinochet (without Pinochet) Revisited. Panel Convener: Ricardo Camargo Britto, University of Sheffield, pop03rc@sheffield.ac.uk

This panel included four speakers who gathered to discuss what are the main features of the new scenario of the Chilean democracy "post-Pinochet without Pinochet", from Lagos to Bachelet. The section was opened by Professor Patricio Silva from Leiden University who spoke about "Suprapartidismo, Political Styles and Technocratic Orientation under the Lagos and Bachelet governments". Professor Silva first of all explored the technocratic profiles of both the governments of Ricardo Lagos and Michelle Bachelet. He then explained the paradoxical situation of Michelle Bachelet, who with a much more leftist orientation than his predecessor, finally constituted the most technocratic cabinet Chile has ever experienced. Professor Silva made finally the point that Chilean current democracy seems to be observed a shift of power from the so called "barones" or big bosses of political parties, particularly those from the Socialist Party, to the emergence of influential policy-oriented think-tanks, particularly the liberal *Expansiva* during Bachelet's government.

The second paper was presented by Dr Gerard van der Ree also from Leiden University who spoke about "From MOP-GATE to Caso-Publicam: accusations of corruption and political stability under the Lagos and Bachelet governments". Dr van der Ree argued that although Chile presents a low rate of corruption in an international scale the accusations of corruption and financial irregularities by political leaders have become a new and prominent political phenomenon in the country. He showed that it is not an issue localised on a particular political

sector because almost all sectors of the political spectre have encountered such accusations (Augusto Pinochet in the Riggs case; Ricardo Lagos in the MOP-GATE case, Jorge Schaulsohn in the Caso-Publicam, and Sebastián Piñera in the purchase of LAN-Chile stocks). However, for Dr van der Ree the important point to bear in mind here is that although the outcomes of these cases have been very different, they have become one of the key axes of political competition, both in the relations between the opposition and the government and in the intra-Concertación party relations.

Then we moved into a somewhat different paper presented by Dr Karen Bubber from the University of East Anglia who spoke on “Candidacy, lies and deceit: story of the attempted presidential candidacy by the Mapuche during the 2006-7 elections - Temuco to Santiago to Valparaiso” Dr Bubber presented a very well informed analysis of the Mapuche campaign for the 2006-7 Chilean presidency led by Aucan Huilcamá. Dr Bubber analysed the Cabalgata from Temuco to Santiago headed by Aucan that took a month with over 1500km covered on horseback, showing how the journey was affected with numerous events and difficulties where the state and its agencies constantly hindered progress.

Finally, Ricardo Camargo a PhD student from the University of Sheffield presented a paper on “The Consensus on the Chilean Political Economy Model post-Pinochet (with and without Pinochet) Revisited”. Mr. Camargo firstly argued that the debate about inequality has been very present in the Chilean political arena since the last presidential contest, which took place in December (first round) 2005 and January (second round) 2006. He then showed that this fact far from meaning a de-legitimation of the Chilean model it reveals the strength of the hegemonic model. He illustrated this point by showing different ways in which the issue of inequality has been domesticated by the political discourse of the Concertación's elites. He mostly focused on the analysis of the technocratic use of the “improving education” as a long way term to resolve inequality, presented it as something that we do not have to worry about too much in the daily political dispute - something that is better left to the experts.

Note: SLAS generously supported this panel by awarding Ricardo Camargo one of the SLAS Conference Postgraduate Bursary.

31. Institutions for Development: The Politics of Democracy, Regulation and Collective Action in Latin America. Panel Conveners: Cristopher Ballinas-Valdes, Hertford College, Oxford Univ. crisopher.ballinasvaldes@politics.ox.ac.uk Jairo Acuña-Alfaro, St. Antony's College, Oxford Univ. jairo.acuna@sant.ox.ac.uk

The main objective of this panel was to unpack different patterns of policymaking in Latin America in democratic systems by combining and complementing works on "political institutions". For this, the presentations focused on three key areas: (i) the importance of democracy for development; (ii) the role of regulation; and (iii) the impact of organized actors in economic policymaking. For that purpose, two sessions were organised, the first one dealing with the politics of democracy and the second on regulation and collective action.

The panel was introduced by Cristopher Ballinas-Valdes who gave an overview of the objectives and summarised the papers selected. The first session included two papers entitled (i) Democracy's Contribution to Human Development: A Paired-Comparison between Costa Rica and El Salvador and (ii) Labour Rights in the Dominican Republic. These two papers discussed the questions of why some societies with "proper" institutions are not able to reach a functional development and what affects the interactions between political institutions. The second session presented three different papers entitled (iii) The Politics of Agency Design in Mexico, (iv) The Peruvian Ombudsman: The Last Bastion of Universality? and (v) State and Financial Power in Argentina in the 1990s. These papers stressed on the role of different actors on the limits of institutions, and how both play important role across different arenas in Latin America.

Jairo Acuña-Alfaro from Oxford made the first presentation on the analysis of the contribution of democracy towards human development. The presentation focused on the identification of events that trigger changes in the direction of development paths to explain the relationship between democracy and human development in Costa Rica and El Salvador. The presentation explored how each of these factors have had an impact in boosting development indicators or indeed how have they evolved in detriment of improving living conditions.

Diane F. Frey from LSE on the other hand, presented the startling contrast between the rules defining labour rights and the reality of labour practices in the Dominican Republic, called the "rule-reality gap". The presentation explored the formal and informal Dominican institutions that complement and reinforce one another making the gap resistant to change, and provided evidence not only on the Dominican Republic, but also about Costa Rica and El Salvador. The presentation suggested that in order to be successful, interventions must be integrated, multiple

and mutually reinforcing, creating circumstances where actors adopt norm-based behaviours because they are internalized.

The third paper, presented by Cristopher Ballinas Valdes from Oxford, pointed out that according to modernization theory it is frequently taken for granted that the economic forces that liberal reforms unleash may push forward political changes, and vice versa. During this presentation, Cristopher exposed an important limitation in existing research on the political economy of development and the absence of a framework to explain the design of market governance institutions following democratic transitions. He presented some empirical evidence on the designing of concrete institutions in Mexico in the last decades.

Nicolas Caputo, from Strasbourg, went through a similar approach stressing how some particular communities of bureaucrats shaped economic policies. More precisely, he analysed how the political power of financial groups in Argentina from 1989 to 2001 shaped the financial decision of the country. The paper and the presentation stressed that the concept of power has been absent in many contemporary studies of political science in Argentina. Consequently, his research tries to re-introduce this concept to the political analysis.

Last but not least, Thomas Pegram from Oxford presented his research focused on the established of a democratic institution (the Ombudsman) in a non-democratic setting (Peru). The presentation depicted in terms of the institutional bridge between state and citizens played by the ombudsman, which offers an additional channel of institutionalised participation and oversight beyond the ballot box. With reference to the Peruvian Defensoría del Pueblo, the presentation developed the institutional 'bridging' function of the ombudsman and explored how the ombudsman can assist the state in satisfying an expectant public.

In summary the discussion and questions addressed point to the fact that policy stability and coherence depend on the mechanisms by which policies are discussed and implemented. The panel addressed the question of how the institutional mechanisms (formal and informal) can affect and eventually transform the quality and coherence of public policies. In this sense, it can be pointed out that Latin America has leveled the playing field in terms of political processes since democratic systems of government are now the norm.

Yet, development issues still remain unresolved: inequality has widened and poverty has increased in absolute numbers. If there is evidence to affirm that the absent of political liberties can make a setback in economic performance and vice-versa, it must be regarded in the

foundation of both liberties together, as many actors take advantage of the previous rule to push forward their own agenda. This connection is important since developing and transitional countries need the political and economic institutions that can guarantee their democracy and human development. The papers and presentation are available upon request. If you require further information, please contact the panel convenors by e-mail at cristopher.ballinasvaldes@politics.ox.ac.uk and jairo.acuna@sant.ox.ac.uk

32. Current Political Processes in Latin America. Panel Convener: Dr. Gustavo Emmerich, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa Campus, Mexico City, gustavoernestoemmerich@yahoo.com

33. Contemporary Latin American Media and their Interactions with Political Concepts and Institutions. Panel convener: Ella McPherson University of Cambridge, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Pembroke College, Cambridge, em310@cam.ac.uk

This panel, which ran for two sessions, consisted of an interesting variety of papers united by their focus on Latin American media and government. Participants hailed from several different countries - the UK, the US, Mexico, Colombia, and Germany - and several have worked as journalists in Latin America.

The first session began with a presentation by James Painter, who is currently a Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford and is on leave from the BBC World Service. James' paper, entitled "Telesur or Telechávez?," presented his findings based on content analysis of political news on the Venezuela-funded Telesur, one of many new 24-hour news channels springing up globally. He concluded that Telesur content is not "old-fashioned propaganda" but that it does follow a pro-Chávez, anti-Bush agenda and therefore is not "pursuing a public service role."

The next paper presented was that of Alexandra Fierro Morales and Christian Delgado Bejarano, who are candidates for Masters degrees in cultural studies at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. As they were unable to attend, their paper, entitled "Pensando la Legitimidad: Medios y Escándalos Políticos en Colombia," was read for them. They outlined a Colombian news magazine's investigation into the "para-políticos" scandal in Colombia and then presented several arguments for why, in the face of this media investigation, domestic public opinion of Colombia's president remained unchanged.

The third paper was Christian Baur's on "The Ambivalent Role of Media in the Struggle for Rule

of Law in a Highly Violent Context of Police Failure: The Case of Femicide in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico." Christian is a PhD candidate at the Free University of Berlin. His paper explored why the local media are not more critical of police corruption in Ciudad Juárez, given their history of aggressive coverage of the PRI when it held the state government. He presented several explanations, including the fact that crime beat reporters rely heavily on members of the police for information and are therefore reluctant to jeopardize these relationships.

The second session of the panel started with Ella McPherson's paper on "The Factors Influencing Mexican and Colombian Newspapers' Coverage of Human Rights." Ella is a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Her main conclusion is that human rights reporters face cultural and institutional constraints that affect human rights coverage by allowing the government a measure of control over this coverage. These constraints may be a structural legacy from the PRI regime in Mexico, while they seemed to be a more deliberate construction on the part of newspapers in Colombia who, though they may have decreased in partisanship, still often remain loyal to the government.

The next paper, read in her absence, was that of Gabriela Gomez Rodriguez, a professor at the University of Guadalajara, on "El Imaginario Social sobre Terrorismo en los Editoriales de Tres Diarios Locales de Guadalajara." Gabriela evaluated the editorials of these newspapers written about the 9/11 attacks and found that the social imaginaries constructed in these editorials as a way to bring the terrorist attacks closer to home reflect the conservative ideologies of these newspapers.

The last paper of the panel was that of Sallie Hughes, an associate professor at the University of Miami School of Communication. This paper was entitled, "The Rise (and Decline) of Citizen Focused Journalism in Latin America." Sallie presented a model she has developed, which is based on a combination of change agents and environmental factors, to understand the rise of what she calls civic journalism in Latin America. She has found that this civic journalism, very present during times of democratization, has declined when political parties sharing the ideological convictions of the civic newspapers come to power.

The discussions following the presentations were lively, with good audience participation, and allowed panelists to draw connections between their research. Topics included whether or not there is a media hegemony to which Telesur is a counter-hegemony, the personal relationships that journalists develop to obtain information and how these can hinder institutional change, the benefits and drawbacks of focusing research on print media in an increasingly digitalized world,

and the trend in direct-to-consumer human rights reporting by human rights NGOs. Thanks very much to the panelists and to the audience members

Ella McPherson, University of Cambridge

34. The new constellation of forces in Latin America: states and popular movements in relation to the alca/alba dichotomy. Panel Convenor: Diana Raby, ILAS, University of Liverpool, diana.raby@btinternet.com

The panel was designed to examine the new relationships arising out of the failure of the US-inspired ALCA proposal (FTAA, Free Trade Agreement of the Americas) and the rise of the Venezuelan-inspired counter-proposal of the ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas).

John Smith (University of Sheffield) kicked off the debate with a salutary reminder of the obstacles to any alternative project, with a paper on "Latin America's continuing debt bondage". He documented meticulously how, despite the success of several countries in paying off their debts to the IMF, private debt to foreign investors and internal public debt have continued to mushroom. Interest payments thus continue to be a major burden on most countries in the region.

Andy Higginbottom (Kingston University) focussed on the developing "Paragate" crisis in Colombia, the principal US ally in the region which has recently signed a bilateral free-trade agreement with the US. Despite the political successes of the recently re-elected President Uribe in imposing his "democratic security" and free-trade agenda, his government's ties to the right-wing paramilitary have recently begun to emerge publicly in the Colombian Congress and judicial system, threatening the stability of the regime and potentially the entire neoliberal agenda in the country. This raises interesting questions, first as to who or what is behind this new political development, and secondly as to whether or not it will further weaken the neoliberal agenda in Latin America.

Diana Raby (University of Liverpool) explained the origins and development of the ALBA project as part the "Bolivarian revolution" under Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. Five years ago no one took this project seriously, but now it has been formally adopted by Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia and Nicaragua, Ecuador looks set to join and other countries including Argentina have adopted ALBA-style bilateral agreements with Venezuela although without as yet signing up to the agreement as such. The project is clearly counter-hegemonic, based not on free trade but "fair trade", equitable exchange, sustainable development and social justice. The ALBA is not explicitly socialist but is implicitly anti-capitalist, and it remains to be seen exactly where it will lead.

There was a lively discussion from more than 20 people who turned out at 9 am on Sunday to participate, demonstrating the interest aroused by this fascinating new Latin American development.

Diana Raby

35. Democracy in the Making in the Andean Region: Decentralization, Democratic Innovation, Constitutional Changes and a New Emerging Notion of Citizenship. Panel convener: Martín Mendoza Botelho, University of Cambridge, mm540@cam.ac.uk

The panel presented five papers related to recent democratic changes in Latin America, which are believed to be contributing to a new notion of citizenship. The ongoing process of decentralisation was one of the topics discussed by the panel, referring to recent experiences in Bolivia, Guatemala and Mexico. Martín Mendoza-Botelho of the University of Cambridge presented decentralisation in Bolivia as a deep institutional reform that has also altered social structures, using the concept of social capital in an innovative way to observe this process.

Ady Carrera-Hernández of the Autonomous University of Mexico presented the results of a large survey carried out in that country. Some of the results show the difficulties in that country not only to consolidate the decentralisation process (paradoxically a nation under a federal model) but also the still limited participation of citizens at the local level. The paper of Salguero and Sah of Plan International (who were unable to attend) describes some of the advances of decentralisation in Guatemala and some of the interventions of their international NGO promoting human rights under this framework.

The other two papers were related to other democratic changes in Bolivia. The paper of Jennifer Cyr of Northwestern University (who also was unable to attend) explores the links between ethnic identity and political participation and the many definitions of "Nation" in a multi-ethnic country such as Bolivia. Some of her results show how elusive is the discourse of national identity in a country ethnic and geographically divided. Finally, Gustavo Bonifaz of the London School of Economics presented a paper related to the overlaps between the concepts of legality, legitimacy and deliberative democracy in Bolivia's recent institutional transition and how these concepts deeply affect the ongoing process of constitutional reforms.

36. The Crisis of Representation - Convenors: Lucy Taylor and Jasmine Gideon

This successful panel took place on Saturday morning and brought together contributions from across the region and from different methodological and disciplinary approaches, all focused on

the topic of representation. Two of our panellists were absent. We offer our congratulations to the first, Jasmine Gideon, who recently had a baby girl - here's wishing health and happiness to baby Lily and the family! We offer our commiserations to the second, Sara Dewachter, who was unable to catch her flight due to a Firefighters' strike in Belgium. We missed her paper on participation processes and Honduran NGOs - but we hope to see you next year Sara!

The first session drew together papers which analysed the relationship of social organisations to the formal political sphere. Jasmine Gideon's paper (delivered by Lucy Taylor) critically assessed the participatory process which took place during the drawing up of major health reforms in Chile, discussing the power relationships and institutional obstacles which condition relations between the state and NGOs. Sarah Bradshaw's paper elaborated on many of these themes in the context of the contemporary Nicaraguan women's movement, showing the complexities of dynamics within feminism and the wider social movement community, which variously reflected hostility, accommodation and pragmatic alliances. Our final panellist, Anthony Pereira discussed citizen input into policing policy in Recife, Brazil, revealing the inadequacies and possible opportunities for citizen representation presented by Community Councils and the Ombudsman.

The second session turned to focus on political parties. It opened with Lucy Taylor's analysis of forms of representation and her subsequent argument for the need to reinvigorate representation through political parties as a way of connecting political elites and ordinary people. Patricio Silva then analysed representation in Chile, contrasting the generally cautious approach of Chilean citizens to the street protests of the 'pinguinos' or secondary school students, and assessing the Bachelet government's subsequent response.

Ton Salman turned our attention to representation in Bolivia, examining how the contemporary political climate, which reflects the high expectations and bitter disillusionment conditioned by recent experiences of (mis-) representation, will impact on Evo Morales and his project. Juan Carlos Machado then presented an Andean overview of social cleavages and party structure, focusing particularly on the presence or absence of indigenous parties as ethnic representatives.

There were perhaps three core conclusions.

- Firstly, each panellist noted the important difference between formal representation and 'effective' representation, discussing the degree to which participatory mechanisms are mere window-dressing.

- Secondly, panellists addressed the importance of the institutional linkages between representors and representees and how the design of mechanisms can facilitate or impede meaningful representation.
- Thirdly, participants alluded (some explicitly, some implicitly) to the importance of feelings and emotion in the process of representation and participation, including disillusion, caution, passion, anger and fulfilment.

For me at least, this points once more to the importance of embedding the study of politics in the lived experience of the social world.

Lucy Taylor

SLAS EVENTS AND NEWS

1. Call for Papers for SLAS annual conference 2008, at the University of Liverpool: Last call for papers is January 2008.

2. JISLAC - Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean SEMINARS,

Saturday 23 June - Brazil in the Northwest: an interdisciplinary seminar, University of Manchester. Organiser: Lucia Sa (Lucia.Sa@manchester.ac.uk)

2. The SLAS email list and website

The SLAS email list and website is used only to distribute information about SLAS and SLAS-related activities. SLAS members and others who wish to publicise other events/ activities of interest to SLAS members are encouraged to do this through the SLAS Newsletter.

Katie Willis, SLAS IT Officer, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, Univ of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, Email: Katie.Willis@rhul.ac.uk

Tel: 01784-443643, Fax: 01784-472836, <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/willis/>

<http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/willis>

**SLAS POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT REPORT:
BI- ANUAL CONFERENCE OF THE “ASOCIACION CHILENA DE CIENCIA POLITIC”
SANTIAGO, CHILE.**

I would like to thank the Conference Grant of the Society for Latin American Studies which helped me to organize the panel '**Desigualdad en la Democracia Post-Pinochet: Aproximaciones Explicativas Desde la Teoría Crítica**' at the Bi- Annual Conference of the “Asociacion Chilena de Ciencia Politica” that was held at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, 15-17 November 2006. This panel congregated three speakers, inscribed within the tradition of the Critical Theory, who explored different approach to explain the permanent presence of inequality in the current Chilean democracy. The ‘inequality in Chile’ has been constantly studied from traditional and mainstreams perspectives with a very few relative success. Indeed, the persistence of inequality, in the late stage of the Chilean democracy, still dazes the most orthodox schools of thought. Inspired by such an unexpected result, this panel gathered critical theoretical conceptions that sought to expand the explicative framework of the phenomenon of the inequality in Chile.

Ricardo Camargo (University of Sheffield) presented the paper “Inequality, the ‘insupportable Real’ of the democracy post-Pinochet, or how do we understand the consensus on the Chilean economic model in a political generation past-revolutionary. Mr Camargo explored the answer to the question: what could it explain that a political generation, which in the past was involved in great political transformation projects such as “the Revolution in Freedom” and the “Chilean Road to Socialism”, seeking to overcome the inequality in Chile, that was then acknowledging without daintiness as ‘the great shame of the nation’, is now, after the long Dictatorship night, appeased in a soporific democracy, even though it confronts a similar but even more untied (unexplained) inequality?. His paper presented the results of a qualitative research, of deep interviews to more than 35 protagonists of the Chilean political process pre and post-Pinochet, which were made by following the theory of ideology formulated by Slavoj Zizek.

Alberto Mayol (Universidad de Chile) in his paper “La ética económica en el Chile post-Pinochet” presented the results of his qualitative research on the changes on the economics ethic of the Chilean society post- Pinochet. He showed that there is an ongoing transformation process, taking place on the field of the economics values of Chilean society. He illustrated this argument by showing the contradictory moral framework used by individual to justify the origin of the wealth in the country that is attributed to the social injustice on the one hand, and the cause of poverty that is explained by the lack of efforts of poor people, on the other.

Antonio Almendra (Universidad de Talca) presented the paper “El saber sociológico como oráculo de la transición política y sus implicancias en la calidad de nuestra democracia”. He showed how the discourse of the political transition permeated the hegemony of the Chilean post-Pinochet political practice, which ultimately defined the limits of the politics. From a critical discursive analysis he showed the implications that the limits and exclusions of such a discourse has had for the Chilean democracy.

This panel was inscribed within the activities promoted by the Circulo de Santiago (www.circulosantiago.cl) during the Conference

SLAS MEMBERS NEWS

CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS is **SLAS Membership Secretary at Blackwells**, and the contact for anyone wishing to join SLAS, or who has a membership query: Membership Services, Blackwell Publishing, PO Box 1269, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2ZE, Tel: +44 (0) 1865 778171, Email: membershipservices@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com

PAULA O’CONNOR is Marketing Manager at Blackwells Publishing Ltd. She deals with SLAS publicity and with the Bulletin of Latin American Research. Contacted her at: www.blackwellpublishing.com or Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, Tel: 01865 476300 Paula.O’Connor@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com

JENS R. HENTSCHE (Newcastle University) is completing his monograph 'Reconstructing the Brazilian Nation' on Getulio Vargas's educational reforms and their implementation in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Rio Grande do Sul. This ends a longer research cycle on the Vargas era polity and policies. From 2008, Jens will be working on a new research project on frontier modernisation in Latin America, starting with a pilot on Batlle's Uruguay. In December 2006 his edited volume 'Vargas and Brazil: New Perspectives' was published in the ISA-Palgrave series 'Studies of the Americas'. This unites scholars from Brazil, the U.S. and Latin America. Jens was promoted to a Personal Chair in Latin American History and Politics.

NEW CUBA INSTITUTE AT LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



A new multi-disciplinary International Institute for the Study of Cuba has been established at London Metropolitan University with the intention of providing an in-depth and holistic appraisal of the Cuban social experiment as it goes through another period of change.

Under the directorship of Professor Patrick Pietroni, a former Dean of General Practice at Westminster University, the IISC has a three-year development plan that will see four sub-units set up and functioning by 2010. These are: a Policy Unit, which will investigate and evaluate aspects of Cuban social and health policies; a Research Centre which will establish collaborative projects with Cuban counterparts; an Academic Unit that will provide undergraduate modules, taught Masters programmes and PhD supervision, and a Consultancy/partnership unit that will, among other revenue generating activities, develop specialised academic study tour programmes for universities and other educational bodies.

The first academic tour organised by the IISC is by a 17-strong group Masters in Business Administration students from Cranfield University School of Management who will look at aspects of the Cuban economy, foreign relations, education, environment, architecture and foreign business partnerships in a week-long programme starting on June 10th.

The Institute is negotiating with publishers to found a Journal of Cuban Studies that will launch in 2008. It is also planning a series of high profile seminars on aspects of Cuba and western policy towards Cuba starting in the autumn with a very special launch event on October 10th. The Institute is being funded in part from the proceeds of the Cuba Studies Trust, a charitable organisation especially founded for the purpose under the chairmanship of Mr David Ridgway, CMG OBE who was UK Ambassador to Cuba 1998-2001. All enquiries, including proposals for articles in the journal, can be directed to: **Dr Stephen Wilkinson**, Assistant Director, International Institute for the Study of Cuba Rm AB2-22, London Metropolitan University, Tower Building, 166-220 Holloway Road, London N7 8DB Tel: +44 (0)20 7133 2405 Home: +44 (0)20 8288 0333 Mob: +44 (0)7956 381640 website: www.cubastudies.org

SOCIETY FOR IRISH LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (SILAS).

The SILAS website www.irlandeses.org has been refurbished and includes new contents. In addition to the latest and previous issues of "Irish Migration Studies in Latin America", navigation is now easier and new pages have been added. Among them, "The Diary of Roberto Murphy, 1887-1934" is now available to all visitors. The Diary is a scanned version of forty-seven annual volumes, including daily entries written by a landowner of Lobos, Buenos Aires province.

Most of these entries include five to ten hand-written lines recording ranch business, family news, visits, local affairs, travel reports and remarks about the weather, market prices, movements of neighbours or political upheavals. Cash accounts close every year, and miscellaneous materials like press clippings or notes are occasionally inserted with some entries.

The digitisation and access system design were performed by Proyecto Patrimonio Historico, Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana "Dr. Emilio Ravignani" (Facultad de Filosofia y Letras), and Laboratorio de Sistemas Distribuidos Heterogeneos (Facultad de Ingenieria), of the University of Buenos Aires. Visit SILAS website at: www.irlandeses.org OR Contact information: Society for Irish Latin American Studies, contact@irlandeses.org
www.irlandeses.org

31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR CARIBBEAN STUDIES LONDON 4TH - 6TH JULY 2007

This year's Society for Caribbean Studies conference will be hosted at the Graduate Centre on Holloway Road, on the North Campus of the London Metropolitan University. Over sixty international speakers have been selected to present papers in nineteen panels that address current Caribbean research across the social sciences, arts and humanities. It is with great pleasure that the Society will present the Bridget Jones Award for 2007 to Kendel Hippolyte, the St Lucian poet, playwright, director and performer.

The conference programme and details of how to register (before 20th June 2007) are available online via the Society for Caribbean Studies website: <http://www.scsonline.freemove.co.uk>. The full cost of conference registration is £160, which includes all refreshments, meals and the Society's annual dinner. Concessionary and daily registration rates are also available. Online registration is now available directly via 'Registration' at <http://www.scsonline.freemove.co.uk/carib.htm>

The Society has reserved accommodation at central London locations in Bloomsbury, approximately 3km southwest of the conference venue. The conference venue is easily accessible by public transport. The Transport for London website provides a detailed range of travel options. If you have any queries about the conference, please contact the Society Administrator, Marjorie Davies via email: m.davies@warwick.ac.uk or tel: 02476 523443.

LACEA

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) is an international association of economists with common research interests in Latin America. It was formed in 1992 to facilitate the exchange of ideas among economists and policymakers.

Benefits exclusive to LACEA members:

1. Invitation to participate in LACEA's annual meeting where membership is required for paper submission. This year **The 2007 LACEA and LAMES Meeting** will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, on October 4-6, 2007. Electronic submissions will be accepted until May 18th, 2007 at <http://economia.uniandes.edu.co/lacealames2007.htm>
2. Biannual issues of LACEA's journal, *Economia*;
3. Periodic email updates about grant/funding opportunities and activities.
4. Starting on July 2007, LACEA membership will allow access with a password to JSTOR and other databases through the LACEA Regional Window, currently under construction with the aid of the Global Development Network.

We would like to invite you to be a LACEA member. Membership dues for calendar year 2007 are of \$60. Multi-year memberships (for 2007-2009) are \$160. Student memberships are also available for \$30 and are renewable once a year as long as students maintain their status. For

further information, please visit our web site www.lacea.org or reply to this e-mail address
Sincerely, LACEA Secretariat Calle 78 No. 9 - 91 Bogotá, Colombia Tel: (57-1) 2125300 -
Fax: (57-1) 2126073

FULLY-FUNDED RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

The School of Languages, Cultures and Area Studies at the University of Liverpool invites applications from candidates wishing to pursue PhD research within the framework of our project on Latin American Cyberculture and Cyberliterature. The project will be supervised by Dr Claire Taylor and Dr Marieke Riethof and aims to investigate the growing area of Latin American cyberculture and cyberliterature in its varying manifestations. Objects of study could include:

- performance art on the Internet
- blogs
- cyber-poetry
- hypertext narrative
- e-magazines
- other electronic communications.

The project will provide a sustained focus on a new and growing area of cultural production, and will investigate ways in which cyberculture is providing new configurations of subjects, narrative voices, and often political agency, for Latin Americans. You will be engaged in research which will lead to the consideration of issues such as:

- grass-roots computing
- formation of cybercommunities
- technical/aesthetic innovation

and how these are inflected in Latin American online practice.

We will give preference to candidates who hold, or expect to receive by **Autumn 2007**, an MA or equivalent qualification for a higher research degree. **More information** For more details about the Studentship, contact Dr Marieke Riethof (mriethof@liv.ac.uk).

IMMINENT CONFERENCES ON LATIN AMERICA SUPPORTED BY SLAS

1. Central America: Challenged Transition? 14-15 June, 2007, London.

This conference will explore the major challenges facing Central America's governments and citizens today. It will identify and analyse how processes of transition shaped the region's political, social and landscape, asking to what extent historic cleavages have been addressed

by the peace and transition processes and what lessons other regions might draw from Central America's recent experience. For further information and a registration form, see:

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

2. Europe & its Others. InterEurope & its Others. Interperceptions Past, Present & Future 6-8 July 2007, St Andrews.

This international conference focuses on literary and film studies, covering the main European languages (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish). For further information, see: <http://www.slas.org.uk/news.shtml>

JISLAC – JOINT INITIATIVE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

About JISLAC

JISLAC is a body made up of the membership of the [Society for Latin American Studies](#) (SLAS), the [Society for Caribbean Studies](#) (SCS) and the **Standing Conference of Centres of Latin American Studies** (SC). The purpose of JISLAC is to manage the activities of a jointly-held British Academy Learned Societies grant, which runs for five years, to support Latin American and Caribbean studies in the UK and Europe. JISLAC will support postdoctoral research, regional seminars, two conferences, a web portal to aid communication, and travel bursaries and prizes, details of which are outlined below. The work of the grant began in April 2007.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH GRANTS** JISLAC will award four research grants annually over the course of the project for research projects on one of five themes, listed below.
- **REGIONAL SEMINARS** [Eight seminars](#) will be held in regional locations throughout the UK each year. Further details are below.
- **2008 STATE OF PLAY CONFERENCE** The [2008 conference](#) will assess the current state of knowledge and stimulate a critique of Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the European context
- **2012 SHOWCASE CONFERENCE** This [conference in 2012](#) will showcase the results of the research undertaken on the five themes identified under [research grants](#)

- **WEB RESOURCES** Details about [web resources](#) to support the study of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **TRAVEL BURSARIES AND PRIZES** Details of [bursaries and prizes](#) offered by SLAS and the Society for Caribbean Studies with support from JISLAC

CONTACT JISLAC

All enquiries regarding JISLAC should be directed to Karen Perkins, email Karen.Perkins@sas.ac.uk, tel 020 7862 8875. Mailing address : JISLAC c/o ISA 31 Tavistock Square London WC1H 9HA

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Professor James Dunkerley (Chair of the Standing Conference)
 Dr David Howard (Chair, SCS), Professor Tony Kapcia (Past President of SLAS)
 Secretary & Treasurer: Karen Perkins

RESEARCH GRANTS

JISLAC is seeking to award four £4,000 research grants annually over the course of the project for research projects on one of five themes:

1. *Histories of migration from the Western hemisphere and patterns of settlement (2007-08)*
2. *The New Europe legal and political conditions of the Caribbean and Latin American diasporas in Europe (2008-09)*
3. *The political economy of the contemporary relations between Europe and the Caribbean and Latin America (2009-10)*
4. *Cultures and identities of the diasporic communities in transnational contexts (2010-11)*
5. *Strategic and short-term impacts of emigration on sending communities (2011-12)*

the [call for applications](#) for the first theme, which also includes the application form has now passed, and the following awards were made:

- **Simon Smith** and **Jonathan Finch**, *Tracing the Contours of Settlement: Slavery and the Landscape of St Vincent, 1775-1833*
- **Michael Goebel**, *Immigration and marriage patterns in urban and rural Uruguay, 1880-1930*
- **Matthew Brown**, *European Migrants in Colombia and Venezuela, 1829-1860*
- **Kenneth Morgan**, *British Transatlantic Slaving across National Boundaries: Volume and Distribution in the Americas, 1660-1807*

Grant recipients should report on their project using the [grant report template](#) by 30 March 2008.

REGIONAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Date	Seminar details
Friday 11 May 2007	An Interdisciplinary Research Seminar on the Caribbean and its Diaspora , University of Durham Organisers: Charles Gullick (c.j.m.r.gullick@durham.ac.uk) and Diana Paton (Diana.paton@ncl.ac.uk)
Wednesday 30 May 2007	Cultural Representations of Race, Gender and Class in Latin America and the Caribbean , University of Portsmouth Organisers: Ann Matear (ann.matear@port.ac.uk) and Deborah Shaw (deborah.shaw@port.ac.uk)
Friday 22 June 2007	Brazil in the Northwest: an interdisciplinary seminar , University of Manchester Organiser: Lucia Sa (Lucia.Sa@manchester.ac.uk)
Friday 5 - Saturday 6 October 2007	Latin America and the Caribbean: Writing, History and Identity , University of St Andrews Organisers: Tristan Platt (tp@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Mette Berg (mette.berg@st-andrews.ac.uk)
5 October 2007	Birmingham, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
Early Dec 2007	Queens, Belfast
January 2008	Central Lancashire , Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
February 2008	Bristol
April 2008	Newcastle
May 2008	Edinburgh, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
June/July 2008	Warwick
September 2008	York, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North (TBC)
October 2008	Liverpool
Nov/Dec2008	Aberystwyth
11-12 Dec 2008	JISLAC Conference
January 2009	Glasgow, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
March 2009	Essex
early May 2009	Leeds Metropolitan, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
late May 2009	Institute for the Study of the Americas
September 2009	Newcastle, Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North
October 2009	Cambridge

EIGHT SEMINARS on Latin America and/or the Caribbean will be held each year in various parts of the UK. The seminars are planned with the aim of fortifying Area Studies in our fields, especially when there exists limited or no strong institutional support structure and where

colleagues are often scattered across discipline-based departments. The aim is to achieve broad regional coverage, and applications to host a seminar are welcome. The general format for each seminar is three speakers and a dinner, and an allocation of £1500 is made to each event. So far, the following seminars have been scheduled:

Ideas for future seminar topics and locations are welcome.

1-12 December 2008 'STATE OF PLAY' CONFERENCE

The aim of the 2008 conference, which will be held in London, is to assess the current state of knowledge and to stimulate a critique of Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the European context. It will draw on current research output to assess contemporary scholarship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from both American and European transatlantic perspectives. Five keynote speakers from the Americas and Europe will be invited, with a specific effort made to attract specialists from across Europe. A programme and registration details will be available on this site closer to the event.

2012 SHOWCASE CONFERENCE

The 2012 conference will showcase the best of the JISLAC-funded work undertaken on the research themes listed above, and to identify future opportunities for innovative scholarship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. A programme will be available closer to the event.

WEB RESOURCES

Enhancement or development of a range of online resources, including:

- [Latin American and Caribbean Studies Research Portal](#)
- [SLAS website](#)
- [Society for Caribbean Studies website](#)
- [Directory of Latin American and Caribbean Library Resources in the UK](#)

TRAVEL BURSARIES AND PRIZES

A number of travel bursaries and prizes for postdoctoral researchers (or equivalent) will be supported by JISLAC through the Society for Latin American Studies and the Society for Caribbean Studies. Additional details will be posted here soon.