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Dear SLAS Member,

The end of 2006 leaves some interesting open questions in and for Latin America. Brazil has re-elected Lula for another term, but without the enthusiasm and high hopes of 2002. What he may be able to carry through is likely to be severely limited by restricted Congressional support, in what may prove to be an unmanageable coalition. Promises of creating jobs for the poor may only be achieved through determined efforts and a common unity to forge a more equal society. The aim to improve recent all too sluggish growth may be limited by inadequate infrastructure.

In Ecuador and Bolivia, the control and operation of petroleum reserves remains one of the central issues under debate by new leaders, struggling for a semblance of national direction. In Bolivia, strong control of Congress and the Senate by Evo Morales is creating determined opposition, while in Ecuador, Rafael Correa requires to establish that he is serious about radical reforms and of debt restructuring to ensure a workable level of political support.

Colombia, sadly, continues to be a country plagued by violence and conflict. Although Alvaro Uribe has approved a Plan Victoria, replacing Plan Patriota, there is doubt about its content and likely effectiveness to control either emerging armed groups or guerrillas. Violence has also focused attention on two other Latin American countries – Mexico and Brazil. The long-lasting rioting and passionate demonstration in the city of Oaxaca only belatedly involved federal forces, while the deaths of civilians and police in Rio de Janeiro, from demonstrations associated with prison reforms, speedily invoked national police to control the streets in the run-up to New Year and Carnival.

The death of Augusto Pinochet in Chile frustrated the lingering hopes of a trial among those whose family members and friends were killed under his appalling regime. On a more positive note, Argentina offers some hope for the future, as the economy promises to improve over the coming year. Latin America, for us all, with our varied and related interests both professional and human, provides much to focus on in 2007. In the SLAS Newsletter, I hope we can all look forward to sharing our experiences of working in and studying this region which offers so many challenges.

Elizabeth Allen, Editor, SLAS Newsletter

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT!!

Deadline for material to be included in the June 2007 Web Issue of the *SLAS Newsletter*, Issue No. 86, will be midday on 1st May 2007. The deadline for SLAS conference panel reports will be the same.

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.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR SLAS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007!!

Renew your membership of the Society for Latin American Studies NOW, if you wish to continue to receive the SLAS Newsletter and the Bulletin of Latin American Research, as well as receive a discount on your attendance to the SLAS Annual conference. You will also be required to be a member of SLAS if you want to apply for grants, bursaries, awards, prizes, or subsidies! Contact Paula O'Connor, Marketing Manager, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, Direct Tel: +44 (0)1865 476300 , Direct Fax: +44 (0)1865 471300,

Paula.O'Connor@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com or www.blackwellpublishing.com

Third SLAS Annual Lecture:

13 October 2006, University of Essex

Richard Gott: Latin America as a white settler society

Speaking to a full house (of some 50-60 people), Richard Gott delivered the third in the new series of Annual Lectures for SLAS, with his thoughts on the need to bring a serious consideration of race back into our readings of Latin American politics. As befits someone with such a long and distinguished history of writing on Latin America and with a prodigious breadth of knowledge of the region, Gott painted with a deliberately broad brush but did so with both an easy eloquence and with subtlety.

He began with three cases (of which he has had personal experience) where he saw political change generate a fundamentally racist reaction from a white elite seeing itself threatened by the rise of the largely non-white poor: Venezuela in 1999, Chile after 1970 (where the elite also hated Allende as a 'class traitor') and Cuba after 1959. Gott then reflected that these three experiences had led him to see parallels with often simultaneous processes in formerly white-ruled African societies, arguing that the classic 'white settler' patterns of exploitation, extermination, marginalisation and Europeanisation were all distinguishable in Latin America as well, although Latin

America's experience was unique perhaps in the oppression of two 'native' groups, namely the indigenous population and black slaves.

Gott suggested that, while conventional approaches to Latin American politics (including those from the Left) have tended to neglect race as a focus (preferring questions of class), the recent rise of the Andean indigenist movements has reminded us of the underlying racial reality; this is especially true of the election of Evo Morales in Bolivia, reflecting both the poor's rejection of inequality and the indigenous people's rejection of racist structures and oppression. In this respect, he saw Vargas Llosa's critique of a supposedly divisive movement as a classic 'white settler' reaction, echoing the old 'civilisation and barbarism' debates.

Provocatively arguing that, with a greater awareness now of the history of the indigenous and Afro-Latinamerican peoples, the time has perhaps come to develop 'white studies', to focus on and explain white settler resistance to change, Gott traced the early Republican neglect of the indigenous in the various nation-building projects through to the deliberate campaigns to develop white immigration. Here he suggested that Bolívar stood apart from the majority in recognising the tragedy implicit in Latin Americans' desire to imitate Europe and ignore indigenous roots, and in opposing such white immigration, something of an echo of his mentor Simón Rodríguez, whose radicalism (he argued for Latin America to be colonised by its own people and condemned mass European immigration as further colonial subjugation) led to his political marginalisation.

Gott argued that early Republican attitudes among whites reflected those visible in Africa and Australia, namely that indigenous areas were empty and available. Here, he took the audience through a fascinating passage on the difference between these attitudes and the policies espoused by the Iberian monarchs in the late colonial period, when both governments legislated in favour of indigenous rights, supported miscegenation, and developed inclusive projects for the colonies, only for these progressive moves to be halted and reversed by the newly independent white elites. The only exceptions to this latter pattern tended to come early on, from more radical elements among the former rebels, but also in Francia's Paraguay, where the *Supremo* explicitly extended indigenous rights and acted against the Spanish and Paraguayan elites, until that progress was undone by post-Francia rule and warfare.

Instead, what Gott called the 'counter-revolution' set in everywhere by the 1820s. Rivadavia's exclusivist and pro-immigration policies were the classic example, but in a

Cuba that was still Spanish the whites were even more open and energetic, not least the separatist Saco. By the mid-century, these campaigns and policies were in full swing.

Gott reflected that all of this coincided with a similar process in colonial Africa and Australia. Indeed, he reminded us that Sarmiento was himself inspired by what he saw in Algeria, and that the French settlers' awareness of the murderous effects on the indigenous population of their colonisation policies was shared by him and the other Latin American 'progressive', Positivist and 'reforming' politicians of the late-nineteenth century, especially as the various Indian wars from the 1830s had already begun the visible process of extermination. Here Gott drew interesting parallels between Argentina or Chile and the deliberate extermination of the aborigenes in Tasmania at the same time.

Gott therefore reflected that, although the various 'Europeanisation' campaigns of that period tend to be judged as failures (in terms of achieving stability or, indeed, a large-scale Europeanisation, as happened in Australia), in fact those campaigns and their effects continued well into the 20th century, to the extent that white rule remained the reality in all of Latin America. He ended, therefore, with a suggestion that we should see the supposed move to the left in Latin America in the last and current decades as a revival of the old radical traditions of people like Bolívar and Rodríguez and as a recognition of the significance of the issue of race.

SLAS EVENTS AND NEWS

1. Call for Papers for SLAS conference 2007

36 panel sessions have been approved for the 2007 SLAS Annual Conference to be held at The University of Newcastle, 13 – 15 April. The details of the panel topics are found on the Conference website: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/niassh/SLAS/papers.htm>

Please contact the panel convenor directly if you would like to propose a paper. The deadline for paper proposals is **15 January 2007**.

2. SLAS Support from the British Academy Learned Societies Programme

SLAS has recently learned that its joint bid for 3-year funding from the British Academy's Learned Societies Programme (prepared in conjunction with the Society for Caribbean Studies and the Standing Conference of Directors of Latin American Institutes and

Centres) has been successful. The funding consists of two elements, Core Funding (for the operation of the three organisations) and Research Funding (for specified research projects).

Core funding: (Year 1 £40,000; Year 2 £28,500; Year 3: £39,000)

IT Support: To enhance support for existing websites and fund a new post at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, to update the online *Latin American and Caribbean Studies Handbook* and, in conjunction with existing IT officers, help re-design and optimise the use of the current SCS and SLAS websites.

Support for general office expenses, travel expenses and Newsletters:

Regional seminars: Eight regional seminar-series and workshops per year, based on the model of Caribbean Research Seminar Series in the North, i.e. three or four papers, lasting forty minutes respectively. This means maintaining the existing three Caribbean Research Seminars in the North each year and adding a further five annual regional seminars for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (probably in the Midlands, the North-West, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland for 2007-2008), hosted by University departments, but also exploring alternative locations (e.g. Mitchell Library (Glasgow), Merseyside Maritime Museum and Bristol Maritime Heritage Centre) and, given both Societies' close links with colleagues in Leiden and Amsterdam, also exploring the idea of a joint seminar in the Netherlands.

Two core conferences: *Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe*

Two conferences (scheduled for 2008 and 2012), to explore past, contemporary and future connections between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. The core themes to correspond to the five strategic research themes of the Research Programme; they will incorporate leading scholarship on Latin America and Caribbean connections within Europe.

Inviting five keynote speakers from the Americas and Europe, especially those not usually integrated into UK-based meetings. The second conference will specifically highlight the output of the five strategic research projects outlined in the Research Programme, drawing together the best work conducted under each theme and identifying future opportunities.

Two edited books will be published by the Institute for the Study of the Americas from the two conferences, with all papers presented at each conference published initially online

via the Group website. Papers presented at the eight regional seminar series would also be published online. Digital recording of the conferences will also be explored in order to make them available online. Attempts will be made to involve policy-makers and public and private sector practitioners in conferences as keynote speakers and/or discussants, to assist in publicising the findings of the research and discussions.

Research Grants and Bursaries (£2,500 each year) Funds to develop grants and bursaries, probably at post-doctoral level (no details agreed yet).

Research Projects Programme: (£16,000 each year). Five themes will be offered:

- 1.) Histories of migration from the Western hemisphere and patterns of settlement (2007-8)
- 2.) The 'New Europe' – legal and political conditions of the Caribbean and Latin American diasporas in Europe (2008-2009)
- 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 (2010-2011)
- 5.) Strategic and short-term impacts of emigration on sending communities (2011-12)

Calls for bids for each theme will be announced annually, with four awards each year (£4,000 each), the research to be completed within 12 months, with at least one journal paper submitted for publication within 18 months of the initial award. The grants will be awarded for small research projects, which may stand alone or provide pump-priming for larger research funding applications. Two members of the SCS, SLAS and SC will form a committee to select the best bids and manage the awards.

Management: Three separate committees will be established:

- 1. A Management Committee** (one designated representative of each of the three organisations), meeting twice a year. This Committee will manage finances, publicity and publications and oversee the seminars, conferences and research applications.
- 2. An Organising Committee** (six or seven members) to organise the conferences, select research projects, ideally with one member coming from an appropriate government agency.
- 3. A multi-disciplinary international Advisory Board** to encourage the participation of Latin American and Caribbean scholars in shaping the final directions of the programme.

3. SLAS Financial Support for Conference & Event Organisation

For some years, SLAS has provided financial support for conferences and other events which are likely to be of interest to a range of SLAS members. Due to the increasing demands on these funds, the SLAS Committee has agreed to change the procedure for applying for SLAS financial support. Rather than a rolling deadline, there will now be only ONE deadline per year to submit applications for financial support. This deadline will be **31 December**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. For further details on the application procedure, please see:

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

4. 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.

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

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

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

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

SLAS Conference 2007: Call for Papers

We are pleased to publicise the panels that have been accepted for inclusion in the SLAS 2007 Conference programme. We hope you will agree that this is a varied and exciting programme, and we warmly invite you all to join us in Newcastle next April. If you would like to offer a paper, please contact the convener directly with the following information:

- An abstract of 100 words that provides a clear statement of your topic, aims and main points of the paper
- The abstract should be submitted on a standardised form, a copy of which can be obtained from the convener.
- Please note that papers may be delivered in English, Spanish or Portuguese

The deadline for submission of panel paper proposals is 15 January 2007.

A few points of explanation:

Conveners have been asked to restrict their panels to 2 sessions of 90 minutes. In general, we envisage that this will comprise 2 panels of 3 papers with time for discussion. However, conveners do have some flexibility. Where a panel has more than 6 papers, this will normally mean that less time is being given to each speaker. You will also note that some panels already appear to have their full quota of papers. We would, however, advise you to contact the convener if you wish to contribute to a panel that appears full: for a number of reasons, the details given in the list below may not be completely up to date.

List of panels

1. Finanzas Públicas en Iberoamérica, siglos XIX y XX.

Panel Convener: Jesús Hernández Jaimes, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, jhjaimes@yahoo.com.mx

El objetivo de este panel consiste en analizar algunos de los problemas centrales que enfrentaron los gobiernos nacionales iberoamericanos a lo largo del siglo XIX y principios del XX. Algunos de los tópicos concretos que podrían ser estudiados, por su relación con las finanzas públicas, son los trastornos en la esfera de la producción; la estructura político administrativa y constitucional; las relaciones entre los gobiernos centrales y los regionales, que en muchos casos se arrogaron prerrogativas fiscales que antes caían bajo la potestad de los gobiernos imperiales. De igual manera se podría prestar atención al peso del gasto militar en las finanzas públicas y de otros grupos de presión que también buscaban incidir en las decisiones fiscales relacionadas con sus intereses, por ejemplo los agiotistas, nacionales y extranjeros, después de todo la deuda

pública ha sido un asunto de no menor importancia en la historia financiera de Iberoamérica. El problema de la legitimidad fiscal también fue muy importante durante el siglo XIX y bien valdría la pena prestarle atención.

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)

The aim of this panel will be to discuss the role of science in the construction and development of national identities, their convergence and divergences.

When Latin America secured its independence, its countries faced the difficult task of creating an identity which would both provide internal cohesion and provide them with an external image in the eyes of Europe and to a lesser extent the United States. This quest coincided with, and became an integral part of, their quest to become “modern” countries, perhaps without a clear definition of the significance of this concept.

Additional papers will be accepted which relate to the study of scientific development in any Latin America country during the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

3. Statistics, Mapping and Organograms: The Cognitive Capacity of the Public Administration in Latin America (panel full)

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

The panel aims at presenting and discussing new insights to risk management of the poor in Latin America. Contributions may focus either on the relationship between risk and poverty or on risk management strategies of the poor and their impact on living conditions. Empirical work is strongly preferred. Social protection in the form of managing risk and reducing vulnerability has lately come to be accepted as an integral element of poverty reduction strategies, not least with the elaboration of the World Bank's Social Risk Management framework. Even though every individual – whether better or worse off – is exposed to a variety of risks, the poor are generally more vulnerable. They are often more exposed to risk; they are less able to prevent and mitigate risk; and in the case of shocks, they are less able to cope with the consequences. They are therefore more likely than the rich to experience a drop in welfare to unacceptable levels if a shock occurs.

Recent research has focused on the links between risk and poverty as well as on strategies of risk management. A number of new, often ex ante approaches of risk management, e.g. micro-insurance, have been promoted, which go far beyond traditional, mainly ex post instruments such as safety nets. However, it is increasingly recognised that the introduction of new mechanisms is not unconditionally desirable, as these might crowd out previously existent, generally informal ways of managing risk. It is therefore imperative to consider the likely impact of different risk management strategies on poverty and vulnerability.

5, Mercado laboral y distribución del ingreso en América Latina

Panel Convener: Javier Lindenboim, UBA/CONICET, Argentina,

lindenboim.uba@gmail.com

La gravedad de la polarización de los ingresos y los niveles extremos de pobreza e indigencia han motivado importantes estudios sobre estos aspectos en la región con variados enfoques y diversos resultados. Sin embargo, el último cuarto de siglo pareció haber dejado fuera del foco de atención a los elementos que ligan más estrechamente la relación laboral con la apropiación (satisfactoria o insatisfactoria) de los ingresos. Específicamente la apropiación factorial de los ingresos o distribución funcional no resultó un tema que haya atraído el interés ni de los especialistas ni de la mayor parte de los actores sociales. Adicionalmente, en gran parte de la región se interrumpió la producción de estadísticas oficiales sobre esta materia. Las bases de datos de la CEPAL, por ejemplo, evidencian la incompleta cobertura tanto geográfica como temporal sobre la participación de los salarios en la renta nacional. El propósito del panel es, precisamente, convocar a la recuperación del enfoque habida cuenta que es probablemente en el mundo laboral donde se “construyen” las pautas predominantes de la distribución de la renta. En tal sentido varios de los potenciales participantes han realizado investigaciones sobre algunos de los países del área (comparaciones entre Argentina, Chile y México; entre Brasil y Europa) o sobre casos individuales (análisis sobre Argentina; estudios sobre México, etc), además de consideraciones de índole teórica o conceptual.

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

This panel will explore the relationships between migration and development in Latin America and in destination countries. The first session seeks contributions that examine

migration and social development in Latin America, on how development (or lack of it) is spurring migration or how migration affects local and national development. Potential topics include the inequalities that spur the construction of transnational livelihoods, the relationship between gender and migration, and the role of home organisations. The second session of the panel will focus on the nature of migrant communities in host countries. Papers might include how communities function in relation to collective action and political mobilising, changing gender roles, survival and family strategies. Papers on the transnational linkages between source and destination countries are also welcomed.

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.

For an abstract of this panel please e-mail p.o.thomason@ncl.ac.uk

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 aims at exploring some of the nuances in reference to the contradictions between environmental and social justice in Latin America emerging from recent geographical, historical, and social science research. The contradictions characterizing the “environmental movement are part and parcel –some would say they are an expression– of more fundamental social confrontations. In the Latin American region, the defence of the environment often appears to be disconnected from, if not in open contradiction with, structural social and political struggles grounded on class, gender and ethnic cleavages. The clearest expression of this contradiction can be found perhaps in the social movements themselves, which are often irreconcilably divided between, broadly speaking, those emphasising environmental protection and those struggling for social justice. However, the contradiction can also be identified in the intellectual and political production, particularly in the social sciences, which continue to be tied by the conceptual straitjacket of binary oppositions such as nature-culture, mind-matter, human-non human, or environment-society.

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

Latin America is a predominantly urban region and because of this, there has been significant research on the lived experiences of urban residents. This panel seeks to examine these experiences from the less well-trodden path of a gendered perspective. While the amount of gender research in Latin America has grown rapidly since the 1980s, and much of this research has been based on investigations in urban locations, the 'city' and different urban spaces have often acted as a backdrop to the research, rather than being considered integral to it. The aim of the panel is not to consider cities as homogeneous entities in opposition to 'rural' areas, but rather to allow participants to consider the ways in which particular urban configurations provide possibilities and constraints for their populations. This panel welcomes papers on topics related to themes including, but not exclusively: Gender and urban politics, Sexuality in the city, Health, Urban masculinities Urban employment, Gender and class, Urban violence,

10. Ecuador: new spaces and politics of development (Panel full)

Panel Convener: Sarah Radcliffe, Geography Department, Cambridge University
sarah.radcliffe@geog.cam.ac.uk

The session aims to generate debates around the nature of development at the present time in Ecuador, and the political and social contexts for different development trajectories. Papers may be presented in English, Spanish or Portuguese. 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 explores the nature of these politics and spaces of development, starting with an historical analysis of the oil economy (Moreno). The remaining papers discuss recent development trends, focusing on urban development and transnational migration experiences; several papers in this section address issues of family, household and kin (Farrington, Swanson, Walmsley, Vallejo); development practices among Afro-Ecuadorians (Walcott); and project initiatives for indigenous populations (Larreamendy, Garcia, Radcliffe).

11. Re-visioning Glocal Ecuatorianidades

Panel Conveners: Juan G. Ramos (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

jgramos@complit.umass.edu and Ernesto Capello (University of Vermont)

This panel aims to critically engage in interdisciplinary dialogues about *Ecuatorianidades* and seeks to refocus the debates on subjectivities by attending to the complex processes whereby individual and collective identities, as well as mythscapes, have been impacted by the glocal over the past two centuries. We seek papers written in Spanish or English that interrogate the import of exile to pre-twentieth century political culture and historiography, reflect upon race and ethnicity in literary and aesthetic tropes, examine (consider) transnational identities and racialization amongst contemporary migrant populations, and the salience of Afrodescendant and Indigenous peoples in the (trans) national imaginaries. We invite papers that reflect on the pervasive tensions between global and local issues concerning Ecuador and their intimate relationships to race, class, gender, subjectivities and coloniality.

12. Landscapes of belief in (post)colonial Latin America

Convener: Heidi V. Scott. University of Wales, Aberystwyth; hvs@aber.ac.uk

The specific aim of this panel is to bring together studies of religious practice and belief in Latin America, from the colonial era to the present day, through the uniting theme of landscape. Contributors are invited to reflect critically on the interconnections between landscape and the expression, development and contestation of past or contemporary religious beliefs and practices in any area of Latin America. Contributions might address, for example: i) the role that particular material landscapes or landscape representations have played as agents of religious expression or change; ii) the ways in which religious practices and beliefs have influenced, and produced conflicts over, the experience, portrayal and use of particular landscapes; iii) how the study of changing religious practices and beliefs in past or contemporary Latin America might contribute to furthering, challenging or developing current understandings of 'landscape'. Paper proposals that focus on other aspects of the connections between landscape and religion in Latin America will also be considered.

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

This panel will examine three different perspectives from which writers in the Americas have engaged with modernity, (de)forming the tropes of the savage Other, the working-class 'mob,' wild Nature, and the autonomous individual. The papers interrogate the way

in which the circulation of discourses attendant upon modernity and the material frameworks that have structured its development have been historically entangled with national ideologies, in particular those bound to elite struggles for power. The writers discussed in this panel range from those enmeshed in these tropes to those who set out to critique them and propose alternatives.

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

Panel convener: Dr. Victoria Carpenter, The University of Derby,

v.carpenter@derby.ac.uk

This panel examines the representation of history in Latin American literature, from the Conquest to present day. It aims to study the connection between narrating history and (re)creating identities as a result of the changes in collective memory.

Of particular interest are the papers focussing on any of the following areas:

- representation of violence in historical context (colonisation, dictatorships, wars)
 - changes in collective memory (remembering and forgetting events)
 - links between historical events and self-perception of dominant and subaltern population groups
- It is hoped that both literary and testimonio narratives will be analysed.

15. Music and Politics in Latin America (panel full)

Panel Convener: Hazel Marsh University of East Anglia, Norwich.

hazel.marsh@uea.ac.uk

This panel seeks to address a gap in Latin American scholarship. There is a tendency for scholars studying politics to marginalise music, and for ethnomusicologists focussing on 'traditional' or other musical forms to marginalise politics. In a region where large sectors of the population are excluded from political and economic power, music is one of the most ubiquitous expressive forms available with which to collectively create a viable image of an alternative society and retain an identity which counters hegemonic cultural values.

This panel aims to explore the many ways in which music and song are used in Latin America to articulate the interests of the marginalised and oppressed, and as a mass communicator for social change. The panel defines the political in its broadest sense: *'Toda canción ... que sea instrumento para un mundo mejor es una canción política'*. It aims to include a wide range of genres, historical periods and geographical regions, as well as to bring together scholars from a range of disciplines who are interested in the links between music and politics.

16. Music and the City in Latin America (panel full)

Panel Convener: Geoff Baker Music Department, Royal Holloway, University of London, geoff.baker@rhul.ac.uk

This theme unites three key topics of the conference: urban landscapes, race and ethnicity, and arts and cultural production. The panel brings together studies from the fields of ethnomusicology, popular music studies, and historical musicology, exploring a variety of genres, styles, and historical contexts – from Aztec Mexico to contemporary Rio de Janeiro – unified by the theme of the city. My aim in encouraging such diversity, aside from its intrinsic interest, is to stimulate the development of concepts and methodologies that might be grouped under the banner of “urban musicology.” Much work remains to be done in exploring the connections between urban studies and musicology (in all its forms), despite a number of interesting – if scattered – efforts in this direction. By drawing together papers on disparate topics, this panel will encourage a broad comparative approach, aiming to consider such fundamental questions as: What is “urban music”? What part does music play in experiencing a city *qua* city? How is music implicated in the social construction of urban spaces?

17. Music in Latin America: Memory, Activism & Social Change

Panel Conveners: Hazel Marsh , University of East Anglia, Norwich. NR4 7TJ. hazel.marsh@uea.ac.uk Geoff Baker, Royal Holloway, University of London, geoff.baker@rhul.ac.uk

18. Approaches to Brazilian Popular Culture: reflections and perspectives (panel full) Panel Conveners: Felipe Magalhães – Universidade do Estado da Bahia (UNEB) felipesm1@hotmail.com Andrea Casanova – Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC-MG)

This panel has as an objective to propose a reflection upon some of the new proposed paths for the study of Brazilian popular culture. We are particularly interested in promoting the discussion of the following issues:

- The historiographical production about popular culture in Brazil;
- Culture and black music in Brazil during 1890 and 1930;
- The relationship between formal knowledge and popular knowledge;
- To analyze the production of memory in relation to popular culture;
- To reflect upon how films can create memories about popular culture;
- The relationship between folklore, memory and popular culture.

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

The panel (1, possibly 2 sessions) will present some of the findings of an AHRC-funded research project, "Cultures of the Lusophone Black Atlantic", based at the Centre for the Study of Brazilian Culture and Society, King's College London. The project has sought to apply to the field of Lusophone cultural studies the suggestion, made by Paul Gilroy (1993) in relation to Britain, the US and the Caribbean, that "cultural historians could take the Atlantic as one single, complex unit of analysis in their discussions of the modern world and use it to produce an explicitly transnational and intercultural perspective".

The Lusophone Black Atlantic triangle is examined both in terms of its distinctiveness as a dynamic field of cultural exchanges, and in its affinities with other transatlantic complexes connecting the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe. This focus on how two- or three-way cultural flows and dialogues have transformed ethnicities and cultures, not only in the Brazilian "New" World but also in the "Old" Worlds of Africa and Europe, demands new theoretical and analytical models more appropriate to their subject than concepts such as creolisation and syncretism, which are much cited but of limited analytical power.

20. Latin American intellectuals in the twentieth century

Panel Convener. Michael Goebel, Univ. College London, t.goebel@ucl.ac.uk

This panel invites papers that deal with the role that Latin American intellectuals played in their societies since approximately 1900. Trying to go beyond an inventory of "influential" ideas, the aim is to contextualise the symbolic production of intellectuals within broader economic, political and social developments and to analyse their relationship with a variety of problems, such as the nation, the state, modernity and modernisation, certain political projects or constellations or international developments in the realm of political and social thought. Possible themes for the panel would range from individual to collective experiences of intellectuals, always situating their production in a wider context that allows for broader conclusions to be drawn. Papers with a comparative and/or transnational perspective are particularly welcome.

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

This panel seeks 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. More precisely, the panel aims to provide a comparative perspective between specific national cultures by investigating the ways in which visual technologies were employed to expose to the gaze a modern world in expansion. We welcome papers based on photography, illustrated books and magazines, museums and exhibitions, film and other visual media that address but need not be limited to the following topics: Urban modernities; 'typical' landscapes: the Andes, the forest, the desert; Modernity, image making and aesthetics; visual practices of geographical exploration; Ethnographic survey; aesthetics of collecting and display

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

This panel aims to explore some aspects of constitutionalist thought in nineteenth-century Latin America; to follow its development; and chart the influences under which it fell. We also hope to discuss the political culture fostered by the dominance of liberal constitutionalist ideas, especially, but not uniquely, the new legitimating device of "public will" or "public opinion" as the proper foundation for any political action; since this developed on a par with liberalism and was an important factor in driving many constitutional reforms.

The new nations of nineteenth-century Latin America marked their establishment with the writing of a constitution. It was believed that this political document represented the founding moment in the creation of their statehood and most politicians hoped that its promulgation would usher in a new era of stability and economic development, as had occurred in the United States half a century earlier. The elites placed their faith in the dogmas of liberal constitutionalism: principally, representative government and the separation of powers. But, in general, the Latin American constitutions did not live up to the hopes of their founders; unfortunately, the nineteenth-century was one of social and political upheaval for the continent.

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

The aim of this panel is to discuss the production of and the resistance to educational inequalities in Latin America, analysing from either macro or micro perspectives certain initiatives, discourses and practices carried out in a group of Latin American countries.

A first group of papers will analyse educational policies and strategies carried out by Latin American governments and civil society organisations (including social movements) to tackle or to produce inequalities and marginalization within the educational systems.

The focus of a second group of papers will be the schools, and the ways in which school practices promote the production of educational and social inequalities in unexpected ways to those prefigured by educational policies at national and/or local level.

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)

This panel hopes to attract an interdisciplinary range of scholars to explore the cross-cutting issues facing the children and youth of Latin America. Possible topics for discussion include: researching children and youth; children's' rights and policy instruments, formal and non formal education, gender and youth, violence and crime, children/youth participation and voices, Latin American childhoods.

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

This panel will address and expand on the central issues with reference to Latin American studies which will extend the discourse on indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights. What can indigenous knowledge teach us? Why do we study it? Why is there academic interest in intellectual property rights of indigenous knowledge? There is an ongoing discourse by international bodies plus Latin American indigenous political organisations and academics about the desirability of protecting knowledge through intellectual property rights mechanisms.

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

Papers are invited on language and education programmes for and/or by indigenous sectors of the population across Latin America. Suggested approaches include: critical examination of the empirical evidence regarding language and education policies in place; the ideologies and struggles for citizenship underpinning such programmes and the responses of the target populations; the social and political contexts of the policies; and the roles and influence of the diverse actors involved.

Cultural diversity has become an increasingly prominent feature of the political landscape in many Latin American states, with indigenous movements having a key impact in groundbreaking shifts in the balance of power. Language and education policies have evolved in ways that respond to heightened demands from indigenous organisations for political and social recognition of diversity, while liberal-nationalist models of citizenship presuming cultural homogeneity yielded to new conceptions of citizenship, which seek to accommodate ethnic identities in a pluricultural state.

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

En este panel, los ponentes aportarán pioneros estudios de caso empíricos de los aún incipientes proyectos-piloto que están surgiendo en diversas regiones de México y que nos permitirán analizar de forma conjunta y contrastiva las experiencias de educación superior que se están obteniendo bajo premisas de auto-empoderamiento étnico y de transferencia hacia las comunidades indígenas (universidades indígenas, escuelas normales indígenas, bachilleratos comunitarios), de transversalización de la interculturalidad (universidades interculturales o programas interculturales de universidades existentes) así como de anti-discriminación de estudiantes indígenas (unidades de apoyo a estudiantes indígenas en universidades públicas). Este análisis contrastivo, centrado en casos mexicanos, no se limitará a un balance de corte académico, sino que desembocará en la discusión de propuestas alternativas destinadas a interculturalizar la educación superior en los países latinoamericanos.

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

We approach *mestizaje* with an interdisciplinary conviction and welcome contributions from any field of the social sciences and the humanities. Our enquiry relates to notions of *mestizaje*, *indigeneity* and *creolization* and the way they contribute to structure complex national formations. We particularly encourage contributions that tackle any of the following topics: Emergent definitions of *mestizo* identities; *Mestizaje* and *indigeneity*; *Mestizaje*, racism and social exclusion; *Mestizaje*, gender and class; National census and ethnic and racial categories; Education and public policies in relation to ethnic and racial categories; *Mestizaje* as a racial ideology of the state; National culture and ethnic identities; *Mestizaje*, emotions and the everyday

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.

El presente panel ofrece un conjunto de ponencias sobre el conflicto armado interno en diferentes partes de América Latina países en muchos casos semejantes en rasgos sociales y culturales, pero que encararon de modos diferentes los conflictos armados internos que vivieron en las postrimerías del S.XX, así como el período post-conflicto. Utilizando metodologías muy innovadoras (que incluyen mapas, documentos audiovisuales, obras de arte), y teniendo en cuenta la diversidad cultural, que incluye también formas alternativas de buscar y expresar la verdad, las ponencias buscan desafiar narrativas largo tiempo hegemónicas, así como también contribuir a procesos de micro-reconciliación social.

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 takes up the Plenary Lecture at the SLAS 2004 conference, in which Miguel Angel Centeno prominently diagnosed the "end of Cuban exceptionalism" and the island's "return to Latin America". In fact, the end of Cuban exceptionalism has been much announced since 1989. But a decade and a half later state socialism on the island is still enduring. Moreover, since transition studies have been criticized for focusing on

success stories, exploring the deviant case of Cuba's "non-transition" from a comparative social science perspective can shed light not only on the peculiarities of this case but, more importantly, test the general assumptions underlying post-1989 expectations of regime change in Cuba. Theories of path dependence and cumulative causation are particularly helpful when attempting to link Cuban current political exceptionalism with a more long-term historic perspective. Moreover, they suggest that interpretations of Cuba as simply a "belated" case of "third wave" democratization may prove erroneous, even when the health of Fidel Castro finally falters.

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, focusing on the Chilean government of Ricardo Lagos (2000-2006) and Michel Bachelet (2006-), will attempt to critically explore this new stage of the Chilean democracy in the 2000s, seeking to reveal the forms, strategies, gaps, contradictions and logic flaws of the political discourse that are at the root of the efforts for preserving (or rebuilding) the political stability of the "Chilean model" in the context of a discursive absence of Pinochet (real, symbolic and institutional). In particular, the panel intends to highlight the (new) ways in which the axis: political stability and huge income inequalities, are now resolved within the Chilean model. Although the panel is inscribed within the critical theory school, it retains a 'free' use of this theoretical tradition, particularly the emphasis on the study of political economy. The panel Conveners warmly welcome abstracts of no more than 100 words that, regarding the aforementioned topic, present a critical outlook from any particular or multi disciplinarian perspective. Papers may be delivered in English or Spanish.

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

The main objective of this panel is to unpack different patterns of policymaking in Latin America in democratic systems by combining and complementing works on "political institutions". For this, it will focus 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, the papers to be presented will combine quantitative and qualitative methods of research to determine the political and economic

factors affecting the quality of democracy, regulation and public policy. The panel addresses the question of how the institutional mechanisms (formal and informal) can affect and eventually transform the quality and coherence of public policies. In doing so, the selected papers will provide evidence from Latin America on: Why some societies with “proper” institutions are not able to reach a functional development? What affects the interactions between political institutions and market institutions? How are political interests organized and what is the role of special interest groups in economic reform, political institutional-building and regulation?

32. Current Political Processes in Latin America

Panel Convener: Dr. Gustavo Emmerich, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa Campus, Mexico City, gustavoernestoemmerich@yahoo.com

This will be the third year in a row that this panel is convened; previous participants are encouraged to attend. Papers may be written and delivered in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Those presented on this occasion will be eligible for refereed publication (in Spanish) in a 2008 issue of *Araucaria*, a journal of the University of Sevilla, Spain, dealing with the subject matter of the panel. In the last few years, several Latin American countries have elected left-leaning governments; some others, on the contrary, have chosen center or right-wing oriented ones. An active ideological contraposition is thus taking shape, both inside many Latin American nations and on the regional political map. This panel will welcome papers assessing current political processes that deal with issues such as:

- national political situations (including, particularly, of an electoral nature);
- cross-country comparative political analysis;
- hemispheric, regional, or sub-regional international relations and alliances.

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

The aims of this panel are twofold: first, to describe the development and the form of some of Latin America’s contemporary media institutions and types; and, second, to outline and explain some specific examples of the interaction of this contemporary media with Latin American political concepts and institutions. From the development of watchdog journalism in the Southern Cone to an increase in monopolization ownership in Central America to the rise of civic journalism in Mexico, contemporary Latin America media have evolved significantly in recent years. Some of these changes are distinct to

a medium and a country, but many are shared trends. In all cases, however, there is much speculation and some research about the relationship of this “fourth estate” with the other three, namely the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

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

This panel proposes to examine relations among and between the countries of what might be described as the “Bloc of Resistance” and those of the US client states, and the attitudes and interventions of popular movements in relation to these new developments. Some five years ago, when President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela first proposed the concept of the ALBA (Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas) as an alternative to the ALCA (the Spanish acronym for the Free Trade Area of the Americas), few took it seriously. But now, although Cuba is the only country so far to have signed up formally to the ALBA, Venezuela has signed numerous bilateral agreements with Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and other countries in the spirit of the ALBA, in other words of self-sufficient, “endogenous” development and mutual benefit.

Moreover the Mercosur has been revitalised through Venezuelan initiative and is beginning to assume aspects of social and political integration. With the triumph of Evo Morales in Bolivia the US has expressed alarm at the emergence of a “New Axis of Evil” (Cuba-Venezuela-Bolivia), and the prospect of Lula’s re-election in Brazil and Kirchner’s continued pursuit of unorthodox policies in Argentina appears to confirm the emergence, however tentative, of an anti-neoliberal bloc in much of Latin America. As against this, Uribe’s re-election in Colombia, Alan García’s victory in Peru, the PAN victory (even if disputed) in Mexico, and ratification of CAFTA in Central America, are indications that the US domination remains a reality in much of the region.

35. Democracy in the Making in the Andean Region: Decentralization, Democratic Innovation, Constitutional Changes and a New Emerging Notion of Citizenship.

Panel convenor: Martín Mendoza Botelho, University of Cambridge, mm540@cam.ac.uk

The panel will discuss recent political changes in the Andean region that are questioning the ability of democracy in this region to respond to social demands, political claims of different sectors/groups and changes of individual attitudes and the sense of citizenship. Although the session will be focused on the Andean region, the panel will also comment on the possibility that these changes are a reflection of a larger democratic structural

adjustment and institutional changes, particularly decentralization in Latin America. The panel will present evidence on current sociopolitical changes in the Andean region based on current research carried out in these countries. Topics to be analysed include decentralisation and democratisation, expected constitutional changes (and the progress made by constitutional assemblies in several countries) and social and political changes at both: the national and the local level.

HAROLD BLAKEMORE PRIZE 2007

The Society for Latin American Studies has an annual essay competition for current or recent (graduated in the year preceeding the submission date) post-graduate students of British universities.

The winning essay writer will receive a cash prize (recently, the winner has received a prize of £400). The subject of the essay should fall within the field of Latin American studies and the work should not have been published elsewhere.

Essays submitted in previous years should not be resubmitted, and former winners of the prize may not apply. The winning essay may be considered by the Editors for publication in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. For entry to the competition for 2007, TWO copies of the essay, which should be double spaced and no more than 8,000 words in length, should be submitted to the SLAS President by February 2007. A panel of judges for the prize will be appointed by the SLAS Committee. The winner should be announced at the SLAS Annual Conference in the University of Newcastle in April 2007.

Tony Kapcia, Department of Hispanic and Latin American Studies, The University of Nottingham, University Park,

Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 951 5801 Email: a.kapcia@nottingham.ac.uk

DISCOUNTS FOR SLAS MEMBERS

I am very keen to set up a permanent offer to all members of the SLAS which would entitle them to 30% discount on all books in the Liverpool Latin American Studies series.

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PILAS: Postgraduate Students in Latin American Studies

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

PILAS committee 2006/07:

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

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

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

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

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

PILAS at the SLAS Annual conference:

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

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

PILAS Mailing List PILAS also operates an Internet mailing list which is used to distribute information on upcoming events. If you are feeling ambitious you can also use the mailing list to organise events. The mailing list is also an ideal way of making initial contact with your fellow postgraduates. The PILAS Committee would like to update their mailing list to better serve the postgraduate community working on Latin America. To join the mailing list, we are asking postgraduates to email: mfg22@cam.ac.uk, with 'join pilas FIRST NAME LAST NAME' written in the subject line. Also, check the PILAS website to find out about the Forum, the List of Experts on Latin America and other creative initiatives. PILAS continues circulating information [and exchanging] with members through the mailing lists.

PILAS CONFERENCE 2007: UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY - CALL FOR PAPERS

The study of Latin America has been of interest to many scholars around the globe. An eclectic and vibrant region, Latin America has inspired research from various disciplines within the humanities, and social sciences. As the postgraduate division of SLAS (Society of Latin American Studies), the organisers of the 10th annual PILAS conference invite postgraduates from around the world to submit papers concerning Latin America. We welcome contributions from various academic disciplines and any country. We welcome papers in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. However, we encourage the use of English. Submissions should include: paper title, author's name, contact details, institution, and three keywords. Abstracts (150-300 words) should be sent to the following address: pilas2007@googlemail.com For more information please visit <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/pilas/>

PILAS Committee 2007

SLAS MEMBERS NEWS

Charlotte Williams is the SLAS Membership Secretary at Blackwells. The contact for any Member that either wishes to join SLAS, or who has a query about their Membership should contact her at: Membership Services, Blackwell Publishing, PO Box

1269, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2ZE, Tel: +44 (0) 1865 778171, Fax: +44 (0) 1865 471776 Email: membershipservices@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com

Paula O'Connor is the new Marketing Manager at Blackwell Publishing Ltd dealing with publicity for SLAS and the Bulletin of Latin American Research. She replaces Becky Wray and may be contacted at: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, Direct Tel: +44 (0)1865 476300 Direct Fax: +44 (0)1865 471300

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Gunther Dietz, previously at the University of Granada has a new address: Universidad Veracruzana, Instituto de Investigaciones en Educación, Río Vinazco no. 73-21, Fracc. Lomas del Tejar, 91065 Xalapa, Ver. Mexico Email: gdietz@uv.mx, gdietz@ugr.es

Anke Schmidt-Felzmann, is now at the Department of Politics, University of Glasgow, Adam Smith Building, 40 Bute Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QH

a_schmidtfelzmann@yahoo.se a_schmidtfelzmann@yahoo.se

Denilson Lopes will be moving to Rio de Janeiro to take up a new position at the School of Communication at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

REPORT ON SLAS FUNDED RESEARCH TRIP TO EL SALVADOR (1)

Fieldwork Report – Analyzing Democracy’s Contribution towards Human Development: The Case of El Salvador- Jairo Acuña-Alfaro

Methodology: From October 3 to 28 I traveled to El Salvador¹ for fieldwork thanks to a grant from the Carlos de Sola Wright Fund at the Latin American Centre and a travel grant from the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS). In San Salvador I held a series of in-depth interviews with key informants.

¹ With two interim trips to Costa Rica from 10-15 October to participate at the Arias Foundation and REDGOB Conference on Governance in San Jose; and from 22-28 October to Antigua, Guatemala to attend the X Central American Congress on Sociology and in particular to participate at the panel on “Mutaciones Democráticas en Centroamerica” organized by the Centro Frances de Estudios Mexicanos y Centroamericanos (CEMCA).

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:**.....
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CURRENT RESEARCH:

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS

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

Please continue on another sheet.

in the last 30 years, particularly the advances since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1992 how to understand democracy's contribution towards human development in El Salvador. The objective of the interviews was to discuss my research questions and aims, as well as to gain first-hand information on

The sample was initially taken from people previously identified and selected given their academic or policy-making roles, in order to later continue with a snowballing sampling technique. These interviews were useful to set the scene, identify key issues on El Salvador's democratic development and policy-making effectiveness, as well as for the identification of further contacts. In total 26 in-depth interviews were held with a variety of actors from the academia, policy-making, think-tanks, trade unions, journalists and business sectors (section D includes the list of persons interviewed, their affiliations and the date of the meetings). The interviews lasted between 45 minutes to two hours, depending on interviewee availability and the topics discussed. Interviewees were initially contacted via e-mail or telephone.

A semi-structured questionnaire was initially designed in order to guide and focus the discussion. This instrument was designed with the purpose to ask a few initial questions to trigger-off the discussion. At the same time the responses will be coded to do a comparative analysis. A number of questions were not coded, as they were thought not to be asked to every interviewee, but depending on the focus of the discussion and the interviewee experience. The interviews were structured to give interviewees certain amount of flexibility to enrich the perspectives and enlarge the points of view discussed.

In what follows I provide a brief overview of some issues what were frequently mentioned in the interviews and which will be given emphasis in the write-up stage of the case study. These findings are not exhaustive, but a preliminary indication of what was encountered in the interviews.

Preliminary findings and issues for further research

The literature search made during fieldwork suggests there is no single study that analyses the interconnections between democracy and development (neither human development) in El Salvador, and how democracy has contributed towards it in the last 3 decades (reference are made to studies on each of the two processes but separately). Neither reference was found to pair comparisons between Costa Rica and El Salvador on these themes.

When asked about the causality of the relationship between democracy and development, interviewees had difficulties in establishing a causality (even though earlier they had responded that there is a causal relationship). Most interviewees expressed that the causality runs both ways, where democracy is *sine qua non* for human development. One interviewee even said that “Democracy is a human development factor” (interview #23)

Interviewees also had problems in terms of their preference over democracy or economic development. Most of them responded that both processes are not antagonistic and should not be separated. Some interviewees went further to say that democracy can eventually bring about development.

Only one interviewee responded that economic development was preferable over democracy.

When asked what was the most important political problem that obstructs development responses varied widely. The main problems identified were the polarization between the two main political forces (FMLN and ARENA); electoral rules at the local level; lack of citizen participation; divorce between the private sector and ARENA (instead of government); violence and citizen security; corruption, among others.

For one interviewee it was evident where the problem in El Salvador was: “the dissatisfaction of the citizens with both democracy and the political system is the main risk to the viability of democracy” (interview #24).

For some interviewees the current level of polarization in the political system (El Salvador has been even catalogued as the most polarized system on Latin America) impedes any negotiation at the Legislative Assembly. Indeed, it is evident that *no legislation that requires 2/3 of the vote can be passed*, given the current paralysis. This includes the international loans the government requires to improve education and sanitation services, as well as the approval of USA’s Millennium Challenge Account donation of US\$460 million for the construction of the highway to the north of the country (interview #26).

In terms of development, citizen security and delinquency are seen as the most serious problems, affecting also the viability of democracy (USA Ambassador’s Conference in FUSADES, October 17). Indeed, for one interviewee “without citizen security there

cannot be development, and it also affects citizen perception on the functioning of institutions ... it affects the quality of democracy” (interview #10).

Corruption was seen as a problem in regards to development and a threat on the functioning of democracy (interviews #14, 15). For example, during my fieldwork a deputy of the Legislative Assembly was involved in a money laundering scandal (Roberto Silva from PCN). With great difficulty a Legislative Commission was set up to investigate the probes and determine whether immunity can be removed. Two weeks later another corruption scandal involving an ARENA deputy to PARLACEN was revealed. However, this time there was no consensus among political parties on whether an investigative process should be taken. Some arguments to this second case were that the Commission already had enough work!

Although political parties play a vital role in the definition of development agendas, El Salvador parties have not been able to modernize or strength their political bases. Indeed, they are seen as “electoral machineries”. This was a common response from interviewees when explaining the lack of political capacity to adopt and implement reforms. For one former President “political parties are disfiguring and obstructing democracy” as long as they do not promote participation, this is “the most serious problem of democracy in El Salvador” (interview #25).

Of the three attributes of democracy, the majority of interviewees responded that the procedural / institutional is the weakest in the country. It seems that the institutional constraints imposed by the political system are not allowing policy-makers to make decisions in an expedite way, as well as there are no articulations, neither representation channels in public institutions.

On the other two attributes (formal and substantive) respondents quickly mentioned they have consolidated after the 1992 Peace Accords. Although some expressed concerns regarding electoral rules at the local level and the lack of change in the Executive. At the substantive level, interviewees expressed that civil liberties and political rights can now be freely exercised, and indeed there has been an explosion of media programs (TV, radio and newspapers), where citizens can call and express whatever they want and feel needs to be addressed by the government and political parties.

On the general theme of democracy, one academic signaled the importance not to assume the political change has led to a fully fledge democracy. As per UNDP there is

electoral democracy in El Salvador (although some changes have had to be done), but there is a lack of rule of law in the country. And for the interviewee, what currently exist might be a “*civilian dictatorship*” or even a form of “*elites competitiveness*” (interview #11).

On the timeframe selected (1972-2002) some interviewees argued that 30 years is not enough to explain substantive changes in development and democracy and suggested to go back at least until 1932. In fact, one important comparative element in Central America is the post war period from 1944 to 1947, which meant a series of civic movements ended with the military dictatorships of generals Hernandez, Ubico and Carias in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, respectively. Along with the 1948 Civil War in Costa Rica. Of these democratization movements, only the latter was successful (see Torres-Rivas).

In the particular case of El Salvador, after the Peace Accords in 1992, it was suggested to scrutinize three periods: (i) 1992-1996: three attributes of democracy coincide, economic growth, high levels of international cooperation, remittances and migration; (ii) 1996-1999: transition period, economic growth reduces, poverty reduction decreases and conditions of political alternance; and (iii) 1999 onwards, economic growth collapses, diagnostics gaps, institutional erosion and political polarization. Though, preliminary statistics tend to show a tendency to high levels of economic growth in this year and the following two years.

One issue of concern relates to the availability of reliable statistics. Even though the country has been able to reduce poverty by 23%, increase 10 positions in the Human Development Index, increase per capita GDP by 19%, and reduce illiteracy by 28% since the signing of the Peace Accords, these achievements are not evident to the eye during a tour made to San Salvador, Soyapango and Ilopango. During the tour, widespread poverty, delinquency, lack of sanitation and poor housing conditions were evident in what seem to be three of the most developed municipalities.

On statistics availability interviewees expressed their reserves to the official statistics, some deficiencies relate to the fact that the last census was held in 1992 and the impact of migration, where estimates oscillate between 800,000 to 2.5 million Salvadorians living abroad. Also, the impact of the dollarization of the economy in 2001 and even some statistical “manipulation” (interviews #9 and 10).

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5. Former Cabinet Minister and Columnist La Prensa Grafica, 5 Octubre, 2006
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10. Member, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), 6 Octubre, 2006
11. Lecturer, Political Science, Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA), 6 Octubre, 2006
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13. Business Sector Representative, 9 Octubre, 2006
14. Researcher, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, (FLACSO), 9 Octubre, 2006
15. Researcher, Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo, (FUNDE), 16 Octubre, 2006
16. Researcher, Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo, (FUNDE), 16 Octubre, 2006
17. Public Official, Ministerio de Economía, 16 Octubre, 2006
18. Deputy, Cambio Democrático, Asamblea Legislativa, 17 Octubre, 2006
19. Member, Cámara de Comercio, 17 Octubre, 2006
20. Former Cabinet Minister and Signer of Peace Accords in 1992, 17 Octubre, 2006
21. Public Official, Secretaria Técnica de la Presidencia, Casa Presidencial, 18 Octubre, 2006
22. Presidential Commissioner, 18 Octubre, 2006
23. Researcher, Economic y Social Issues, FUSADES, 19 Octubre, 2006

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24. Member, FUNDAUNGO, 19 Octubre, 2006

25. Former President of the Republic, 20 Octubre, 2006

26. Member, Comisión Nacional de Desarrollo, CND, 20 Octubre, 2006

Jairo Acuña-Alfaro, Department of International Development / Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, jairo.acuna@sant.ox.ac.uk

REPORT ON SLAS-FUNDED FIELD TRIP TO EL SALVADOR (2) STATE AND NGO RESPONSES TO YOUTH GANGS – SONJA WOLFE

A SLAS travel grant, awarded to support my fieldwork in El Salvador, permitted me to spend eight months between January and September 2006 researching state and NGO responses to the youth gangs in this small Central American country. The youth gangs, or *maras* as they are often referred to, have been a very visible social problem since the early post-war period. The governmental position towards these groups has long been one of neglect. It was only in 2003 that a specific anti-gang policy was developed. This repressive *Mano Dura* approach, characterised by raids and mass detentions of tattooed youths, has prevailed ever since, despite recent official acknowledgements of the need for social prevention and rehabilitation.

My PhD research is concerned with the factors motivating the government's reactionary attitudes towards the youth gangs as well as the ways in which domestic NGOs seek to create space for alternative responses to this phenomenon. The thesis considers three specific civil society organisations that have been confronting the lack of comprehensive state initiatives in their very own way: an advocacy NGO that is committed to strengthening the rule of law in El Salvador and has been one of the foremost critics of the Salvadoran government's anti-gang policy; a Catholic Church-based agency and an entity founded by former gang members, both operating in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation.

The study of these NGOs and their activities was approached from an ethnographic perspective. In this sense, my extended fieldwork in El Salvador proved to be indispensable. It allowed me to spend considerable time with the organisations, getting to know their inner workings, attending meetings, speaking to staff members, and accompanying them to communities where the youth gangs are part of people's daily

reality. In addition, prisons were visited to enquire into gang dynamics in these places; official documents and other bibliographic material were collected; and more than 140 individuals were interviewed, including government representatives, members of the National Civilian Police, NGO staff, church representatives, journalists, academics, and youths participating in prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.

My time in El Salvador was extremely interesting and fruitful in a number of ways. Although government and police opposition to investigative efforts kept some doors closed, I met many helpful and inspiring individuals who were very generous with their time and knowledge, helping me to understand past and present experiences of their society. Faced with the harsh realities of this beautiful country, and the friendliness and hospitality of the Salvadoran people, these encounters were often heartbreaking, but at the same time insightful and stimulating. Thank you once again to SLAS for supporting this field research.

Sonja Wolf, Department of International Politics, University of Wales Aberystwyth (UWA), ssw04@aber.ac.uk

REPORT ON 2006 SLAS SUPPORTED POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL GRANT TO BRAZIL MERCOSUR - Mikayil Muhammetdin

I applied for a SLAS Postgraduate Travel Grant to make a trip to Montevideo or Brasilia to conduct interviews in the MERCOSUR Secretariat or the Brazilian Ministries of Economics/ International Affairs. Because of the nature of the questions I had to clarify for my research project, a trip to the MERCOSUR Secretariat in Montevideo would have been preferable. However, I failed to obtain an Uruguayan visa when I was in the US prior to my trip. Specifically, I made three trips from Boston to the Uruguayan Consulate in New York to obtain a visa, but the Consulate operated in a fashion that I eventually had to quit and decide to travel to Brazil.

I spent two weeks in Brasilia in May 2006 and I interviewed 10 medium-ranked diplomats in the Brazilian Ministry of International Affairs whose area of responsibility was MERCOSUR. Because of my previous expectations to travel to Uruguay and difficulties with the Uruguayan visa, I regret to report that the change in my travel plans happened late. If it were not for the uncertainties with the visa and if I had originally planned a trip to

Brazil, I could have arranged a greater number of interviews. Brazilian diplomats were not easily accessible. Nevertheless, the trip to Brasilia gave me a lot of useful insights for my thesis and confirmed some of my hypotheses derived from the analysis of secondary sources. I used the SLAS funds for my airfare, accommodation, and domestic travel in Brazil between São Paulo and Brasilia.

I am very thankful to the SLAS for the support of my trip. In 2005 and 2006 I received SLAS bursaries to present my papers at the Society's Annual Conferences, and I am very thankful for this support as well. The feedback I received at the Conferences helped me to improve and publish six papers. Let me express my gratitude for the financial support and my great appreciation of the Society once again.

Mikayil Muhammetdin, University of Glasgow,

SLAS POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE GRANT REPORT: LASA, Puerto Rico

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of SLAS I was able to attend the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The 2006 LASA conference brought together 4,868 scholars of 48 countries, in 924 panels, which included a large number of students (24% of the presenters were graduate students). This concentrated juxtaposition of individuals passionately interested on Latin America allowed numerous stimulating and challenging conversations to spark with Puerto Rico's sparkling ocean as an idyllic background. A frenzy of activity characterized the hotels where the location took place, as individuals rushed between rooms, attempting to maximize their opportunity to hear and question experts in their field.

I presented a short paper on the construction of the 'montubio' identity in the Coast of Ecuador in a panel headed by Dr. Peter Wade, a well-known writer on mestizaje and negritude in Colombia. Other exponents in my panel Erynn Masi de Casanova, Melissa Forbis, and Betsy Konefal engaged in a variety of interesting ways with the multifarious ethnic identities that permeate Latin America. Students of ethnicity were amply rewarded in this conference as critical papers with a variety of regional and theoretical orientations were presented throughout the four days.

We must be careful, however, not to allow the beauty and liveliness of the Conference from blinding us to some of the problems with scholarship which were made evident through it. As has been noted the conference was held in Puerto Rico. This brought out questions of identity: both of the scholars present and of Latin America at large. Puerto Rico in certain ways exemplifies the ambiguous identity of regions increasingly affected by the cultural imperialism of the United States.

Whatever stance one chooses to take on this respect, it is certainly the case that scholars on Latin America must be vigilant to watch that the voices of scholarship emerging from the continent are not silenced by a preponderance of English-speaking writings which, some might argue, risks homogenizing scholarly production. This point, of course, implies that scholarship on historically marginalized populations in Latin America should create and respect spaces for this populations to share their knowledge. In this respect the Ethnicity and Race and Indigenous Peoples section of LASA has decided to set aside 2USD of the 5USD membership fee for an Indigenous and Afro-Descendant collaborative research initiative. Intellectual creations are, like all other creations, deeply tied to the culture from which they come. We, therefore, stand to be enriched as scholars by allowing a variety of cultures to create scholarship. We must certainly strive for this within Latin American studies.

A more salient debate as to the interaction of scholarship and politics, and the effects of the latter on the first was evinced at LASA 2006 by the fact that Cuban scholars were denied a visa to the conference by the government of the United States of America. This is not an isolated occurrence. According to an open letter from LASA to President Bush "In March 2003, the Bush Administration denied entry to 45 Cuban scholars for participation in the Dallas Congress; in September 2004, 60 Cuban scholars were denied visas to participate in the Las Vegas Congress; in early March 2006, we received notice of another blanket denial of 58 Cuban scholars, scheduled to travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the March 2006 Congress". Visas were also denied to scholars from Bolivia, Nicaragua and Uruguay among other countries.

Given this troubling pattern, the Executive Council of LASA "has voted unanimously to make every effort to relocate the 2007 Congress, presently scheduled to take place in Boston, Massachusetts, to an alternative venue outside the United States...As long as the United States government's current visa policy with regard to our Latin American colleagues persists, we can no longer, in good conscience, hold our Congress inside the United States" (LASA Forum Vol. XXXVIII (2), Spring 2006).

Finally, I would like to comment on the intention of the participants. While I benefit tremendously from casual conversations which led the participants down surprisingly interesting paths involving many countries and eras, I was often taken aback by conversations which were of obvious market-intent. More than once young scholars mentioned that they would love to converse but, as they were 'on the market', they could only sustain the most superficial and short of interactions as they sought to exchange cards and 'become known' by as many of those with 'economic weight' in their field as possible. While I am not naïve to the fact that economic constraints affect the life of the scholar, I certainly regret that these concerns detract from such exquisite opportunity for intellectual enrichment as the LASA Conference. Is this perhaps too idealistic a view of academic conferences?

Karem Roitman – karem.roitman@stx.ox.ac.uk, D.Phil. Development Studies
Candidate, University of Oxford

POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT REPORT: CALACS, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, CANADA.

I would like to thank the Conference Grant of the Society for Latin American Studies which helped me to organize the panel 'Elites, Networks, and Power in Mexico', for the Conference of the Canadian Association of Latin American Studies (CALACS) that was held in the University of Calgary 28-30 September 2006. In this panel four scholars sought to address the issue of power; i.e. who controls it and how it has been reproduced in twentieth-century Mexico.

Amelia Kiddle (University of Arizona) uses a historical perspective to analyse the link between family and political and economic power. Her paper, "Elite Families in Twentieth Century Mexico", explores the importance family has as a category to analyse patterns of power reproduction. Samuel Scmith (Universidad de Ciudad Juárez) applies network analysis techniques to map power concentration within the political elite. His paper, "La red de poder en México", shows the role cliques have played in the Mexican political system. Andrea Maldonado (Brown University) explores gated communities in Mexico City from an anthropological stand point. Her paper, "The Meaning of Space and Community within Social Clubs in Mexico City", studies the process of identity formation and social exclusion in private sport clubs in Mexico City.

I use a sociological perspective to reflect upon the construction of status and social exclusion within private golf clubs in Mexico. My paper, "Pierre Bourdieu and Norbert Elias golfing together: Social Stratification and golf clubs in Mexico", borrows from Bourdieu his notion of capitals to explore upper sectors identity and exclusion practices.

I draw from Elias his concept of civilization to incorporate a global dimension into my analysis as well. The combination of these two authors' ideas helps me to deeply explore the impact of global transformations among Mexican upper-sectors. The stimulating debate which took place after the four presentations illustrated the relevance of these topics, and the quality of the papers presented.

Hugo Ceron Anaya, Department of Sociology, University of Essex

CALL FOR PAPERS

1. *Journal of Latin American Urban Studies*, JLAUS, CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The editors of the *Journal of Latin American Urban Studies* (JLAUS) invite authors from all disciplines to submit manuscripts that study the history of urbanization and that explore and interrogate contemporary urban issues in Latin America including citizenship, political and public policy shifts, globalization, economic development, information development and technologies, environmental change, gender relations, and class transformation. Manuscripts are also sought that examine the consequences of urbanization such as urban policy and planning, crime, education, state formation, community and cultural development, communication and media, religion, and identity. JLAUS seeks to showcase and highlight research in progress or specific elements of larger projects that address urbanization and the urban setting.

Manuscript length should be between 2,500 and 4,500 words of text in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Completed manuscripts with English abstracts (no more than 150 words) can be submitted by mail, accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient return postage should be sent to the address below, or electronically (kmitchel@monmouth.edu). Mailed manuscripts must be submitted in triplicate, with text and endnotes typewritten and double-spaced. All manuscripts must be prepared according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition. JLAUS is a peer-reviewed journal. Author's name(s) should appear only on a cover sheet and all identifiers in the text should be

masked or removed so that manuscripts can be reviewed anonymously. JLAUS reviews only unpublished manuscripts that are not under review for publication elsewhere.

DEADLINE: January 15, 2007 Submit manuscripts to Ken Mitchell, Co-editor JLAUS, kmitchel@monmouth.edu For more information, please visit the JLAUS homepage: <http://depts.washington.edu/jlaus/>

2. Aireando lo privado / Airing the Private

Postgraduate Conference, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, UCL Sat 16th June 2007

We invite proposals from postgraduate students in Hispanic Studies on the theme of Diaries. We live in a time when the boundaries between public and private lives have been redefined. Politicians publish their memoirs; weblogs tell intimate and trivial details of people's lives, directors keep diaries of making films and newspapers print fictional diaries of people's love lives.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to address some of the issues of the diary narrative. Topics might include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- The use of diaries as historical source
- Self-reflection, interior reality
- Diaries as micro history
- Issues in publishing diaries posthumously
- The boundaries of fiction and non-fiction
- Public figures-Private diaries

We welcome papers from students working in any of the following areas or beyond: Graphic novels, film, blogs, photo or video diaries, travel writing, fiction and non-fiction related to Spain or Latin America.

The keynote speaker will be the Spanish writer, Laura Freixas (www.laurafreixas.com). She will be joined for a roundtable discussion following the day's events by documentary-maker Monica Rovira, writer Lala Isla and other representatives from the different areas under review.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be e-mailed to the conference organisers at the address below by January 15th 2007. Papers should be no more than 20 minutes long and may be delivered in English or Spanish. Conference organisers: Sinéad Wall, PGconference07@ucl.ac.uk Maria-José Blanco

3. Invitation for SLAS Members: 'Workshop on Urban Governance, Public Service Delivery and Participation: a comparative approach'

The Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University and the Centre of Local Government, University of Warwick are glad to invite scholars and colleagues to the 'Workshop on Urban Governance, Public Service Delivery and Participation: a comparative approach'

The objective of this one-day workshop is to discuss the nature and extent of 'urban governance' in contexts beyond the Western European, by focusing on countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, South/East Asia and Latin America. The event will take place at De Montfort University, Leicester on 26th March 2007 (date to be confirmed). At the moment a call for papers is open, aiming to involve 9-12 speakers interested in presenting the perspectives of urban governance in different countries. Speakers are required to send an abstract or outline of their papers by December 2006. At the moment, Warwick and De Montfort Universities can only pay the travelling expenses of those participants residing in Britain, however, other possibilities are being considered in order to finance the travelling expenses of those speakers that might come from abroad. If you are interested in giving a paper or attending the event, please contact *Dr Valeria Guarneros* on (0116) 207 8736 or at vgm@dmu.ac.uk, she will be able to provide further details on the workshop's prospectus.

4. Call for Papers: ADVENTURERS, EMISSARIES AND SETTLERS: IRELAND AND LATIN AMERICA

Society for Irish Latin American Studies (SILAS) Conference in conjunction with the Fifth Galway Conference on Colonialism at the National University of Ireland, Galway, 27-30 June 2007. The Society for Irish Latin American Studies (SILAS, www.irlandeses.org) was founded in July 2003 to promote the study of relations between Ireland and Latin America. The range of interest of the Society spans the settlement, lives and achievements of Irish migrants to Latin America and their descendants, the contemporary presence of Ireland in the life and culture of Latin America and the presence of Latin Americans in Ireland.

From the mythical visit of Saint Brendan the Navigator to Mexico in the sixth century and the migration of tens of thousands of people from the Irish midlands to Buenos Aires province in the nineteenth, to the conviction of three Irishmen with alleged IRA connections in Colombia and the settlement of a community of Brazilians in South

County Galway in the twenty-first century, the pattern of relations between Ireland and Latin America has been heterogeneous, fragmentary, and erratic.

The Society invites papers on any aspect of the multitudinous connections between Latin America and Ireland from academics and the general public in disciplines such as history, geography, politics, literature and linguistics. The aim of the conference is to promote the exchange of views and research findings on a diverse range of issues and on an inter-disciplinary basis.

The SILAS conference will take place concurrently and in conjunction with the Fifth Galway Conference on Colonialism. For details on accommodation, please see www.corribvillage.com, or phone +353-(0)91-527112, for campus accommodation. Alternatively, see www.irelandwest.ie/accomodation.asp, or phone Ireland West Reservations Centre +353-(0)91-537777, for private accommodation in Galway City. Should you wish to attend the conference, please register by sending your details to the organisers by 1 April 2007. **Organisers: Oliver Marshall:** oliver.marshall@brazil.ox.ac.uk **Claire Healy:** clairedhealy@yahoo.com

5. GT Estéticas da Comunicação, atividade do XVI Encontro da Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação em Comunicação que aconteceu entre 13 e 16 de junho de 2007 na Universidade Tuiuti do Paraná, em Curitiba, Brasil.

Car@s Colegas, Gostaríamos de convidá-l@s a enviar propostas para o GT Estéticas da Comunicação, atividade do XVI Encontro da Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação em Comunicação que aconteceu entre 13 e 16 de junho de 2007 na Universidade Tuiuti do Paraná, em Curitiba, Brasil. A ementa do GT segue abaixo e os textos integrais deverão ser enviados ao site <http://www.compos.org.br> onde também podem ser encontrados as normas e regulamentos do encontro. O prazo final para a entrega dos papers para a seleção é no dia 15 de janeiro de 2007. Solicitamos o envio para colegas que estejam interessados no tema. Atenciosamente, Prof. Denilson Lopes – Coordenador (Universidade de Brasília) e Prof. César Guimarães – Vice-Coordenador (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais)

IT NEWS

1 **Brazilink: weekly news website**

This organisation has a weekly news website at <http://www.brazilink.org/brazilnews.asp>

2. The Complete Guide to Digital Photography from the Experts at National Geographic Published by greenstreet software for PC and MacOS.

This complete guide, based on the book “National Geographic Photography Field Guide” by Rob Sheppard, is the first step to first class photographs and covers every aspect of digital photography from cameras, memory cards and basic photography to creating truly exotic images using your home computer. Unlike a book each subject is supported by demonstrations, interactive examples, virtual cameras, narration and exercises. *Read more...* [Press release National Geographic & greenstreet software ltd.](#) [Newswire Software](#) [Image](#)

3 The First Post, magazine

As a fellow Latin Americanist, I thought you might be interested in our new online daily magazine *The First Post*. The website features a number of lively international news stories, with a strong focus on Latin America. Recently, Philip Jacobson, a veteran foreign correspondent reported on conflicts around the world for the *Times*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Sunday Telegraph* among others, reports on Daniel Ortega and the Nicaraguan election: <http://www.thefirstpost.co.uk/index.php?menuID=2&subID=1064> Do have a look around the website – www.thefirstpost.co.uk. Don't hesitate to contact me if you need any more information.

Edward King. Ed.king@thefirstpost.com

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

British Academy

British Academy Awards: This is the first year that two schemes have run with earmarked funding for research on Latin America. The schemes have attracted a lot of interest and will continue to run this year. In the **Latin America and Caribbean Link Programme** four rather than two seminar programmes were funded:

Dr. Tim Bergfelder (Southampton) With Professor J.L. Viera Universidade Fderal Fulminense, Brazil.

- Stardom in Brazilian cinema
- Intertextuality and media interdependence on Brazil

Professor Maxine Molyneux (Institute for the Study of the Americas) With Dr. J. Martinez Franzoni, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.

- Social policy and economic models: Latin America in comparative perspective
- Social policy and equality: searching for ways to secure welfare in Latin America and beyond.

Dr. Kate Quinn (Institute for the Study of the Americas) With Professor B. Meeks, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

- Internationalising Black Power
- Internationalising Black Power

Dr. Peter Wade (Manchester) With Professor F. Urrea Giraldo, Universidad del Valle, Colombia.

- Race, sexuality, citizenship and governance
- Race, sexuality and multiculturalism

The quality of the thirty-one applications received was extremely high and the Committee found great difficulty in selecting the recipients for an award. The scheme will run again this year with a deadline in **January 2007**. Forms will be available in early November.

You will be pleased to hear that the British Academy International Policy Committee awarded seven **Visiting Fellowships** to scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean. Five are earmarked for Latin American scholars, but because of the high quality of the applications, two additional awards were made from the general competition. Those receiving awards were:

Dr. EJ Acha (Instituto Bartolome de las Casas, Peru) 'Research violence, conflict resolution and reconciliation in multicultural societies: Towards "performative" social science methodology in the context of post-conflict Peru' Host: RE Malverde (University of Newcastle upon Tyne)

Dr. A Castillejo-Cuellar (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia) 'Compromising the future: Memory, post conflict and the prospect of peace in Colombia and contemporary South Africa.' Host: Dr. HG West (SOAS)

Dr. CO Crespo Flores (San Simon University, Bolivia) 'Water mercantilism and social resistance: The case of Aguas del Illimani-suez and the 'Second Water War' in Bolivia.'
Host: Professor N Laurie (University of Newcastle upon Tyne)

Dr. JL Giovannetti (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico) 'Black British Caribbean migrants in Cuba during the early twentieth century' Host: Professor J Stubbs (London Metropolitan University)

Dr. M Lissovsky (University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) 'New ways of framing: modern photography in the inter-war period in Britain and Brazil: a comparative investigation'
Host: Professor W W Rowe (Birkbeck, University of London)

Dr. CF Michelon (University of Rio Grande do Sul) 'Law as a relational kind'
Host: Professor Z Bankowski (University of Edinburgh)

Dr PF Sendon (CONICET, Argentina) 'Ethnology of the forms of social organization of the rural peoples of the Central Andes' Host: Mr. T. Platt (University of St. Andrews)

The deadline for the scheme for visits in 2007-2008 is **15th November 2006**. Five awards are set aside for scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean. The scheme is likely to run the following year also, so if you have missed this deadline think about it for next year.

Linda Newson, Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Panel, British Academy
Department of Geography, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7848 2364 Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7848 2287

**LAB – LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU,
1, AMWELL STREET, London ec1R 1UL**

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

LAB News: 'Future of Memory': Faces of Latin America Book Launch @ Chatham House We are pleased to announce that LAB launched the Third edition of the best-selling book 'Faces of Latin America' at Chatham House on Thursday 9th November. Speakers included Duncan Green (Author, and Oxfam GB), Professor Maxine Molyneux (Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London) and John Crabtree (LAB author and Research Associate,

University of Oxford). To order this book please contact mailorder@lab.org.uk
<<mailto:mailorder@lab.org.uk>>

Events related to Latin America & the Caribbean: For timings and venue details for the following events please see our website: <http://www.lab.org.uk>

LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Caribbean Studies Centre

Contact: David Howard, david.howard@ed.ac.uk>

The 31st Annual Conference of the Society for Caribbean Studies

Wednesday 4th July - Friday 6th July, 2007

The Society invites submissions of one-page abstracts and a short CV for research papers on the Hispanic, Francophone, Dutch and Anglophone Caribbean, and on Caribbean diasporas for this annual international conference. Papers are welcomed from all disciplines and can address the themes outlined below. We also welcome abstracts for papers or for full panel proposals that fall outside this list of topics. Those selected for the conference will be invited to give a 20-minute presentation and will be offered the opportunity to publish their work as part of the Society's online series of papers.

PROVISIONAL PANELS: The slave trade and its legacies; Life history and biography; Class in the Caribbean; Caribbean agriculture; Processes of decolonisation; Governance and civil society; Sexualities; Caribbean media; Caribbean cities; Transnational societies Intra-Caribbean relations; Creole languages; Literature, performance and visual culture Landscapes of the Caribbean; Housing, poverty and employment;

Suggestions for five-minute presentations to help frame roundtable discussions on the following themes are also welcome: London and the Caribbean; What is 'Caribbean Studies'? The Society will provide a limited number of bursaries to postgraduate presenters, which will contribute to registration and accommodation costs, but not to travel costs. Postgraduate presenters should indicate that they are seeking a bursary when they submit their abstracts.

To submit an abstract: please consult the Society website and click the 'submit abstract' link. The web address is: www.scsonline.freemove.co.uk/carib.htm. For any further

queries, or for alternative methods of abstract submission, please contact Christer Petley (c.petley@leedsmet.ac.uk). For more information on the Bridget Jones Travel Award, please contact Kate Quinn (kate.quinn@sas.ac.uk) or visit the Society website.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY WITH IBG

1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

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go@rgs.org <http://www.rgs.org/go>

1.) BS 8848: a new British Standard for the provision of adventurous activities, expeditions, visits and fieldwork, undertaken for educational, training or recreational purposes outside the UK

The RGS-IBG together with the British Standards Institution (BSI) and a wide range of other organisations - 'venture providers' – including schools and universities have spent the past nine months drafting a British Standard to benchmark good practice in safety management systems that will enable these activities to flourish.

We have now reached a stage of drafting that enables public consultation for a period of two months which will culminated in a gathering for interested parties at the RGS-IBG on **Thursday 26th October 2006**. It is anticipated that this will produce a number of observations that the BSI Technical Panel will then need to consider in producing the final version of the specification ready for launch as a Standard in early 2007.

A copy of the Draft standard known as BS 8848 is available for Public Consultation is attached and can also can be downloaded from **www.rgs.org/bsi** The first two pages are very important as they gives information about the period of validity of this draft; how comments should be submitted; to whom they should be sent; and the deadline for submission of comments.

If you are a provider of adventurous activities, fieldwork or expeditions to destinations outside the UK, or regularly take part in such activities, we would be most grateful if you could take the time to comment on this document. **[Mrs Shane Winsor, Geography Outdoors: the centre supporting field research, exploration and outdoor learning](#)** (formerly known as the RGS-IBG Expedition Advisory Centre), **[Royal Geographical Society with IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR](#)** , tel. +44 (0)20 7591 3030 fax. +44 (0)20 7591 3031 **go@rgs.org** **<http://www.rgs.org/go>**

2) RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2007: *Sustainability and Quality of Life* Date: 29 to 31 August 2007 at the RGS-IBG and Imperial College, London

· **Chair of conference:** Professor Angela Gurnell, King's College London

Call for **fieldtrips** – the planning committee is very interested in receiving submit proposals for fieldtrips for AC2007. These should be in the London area, accessible by public transport, for (half) a day, with a maximum entry fee of £20. A brief email outlining ideas should be sent to Kathryn Thomson, Professional Officer on AC2007@rgs.org by 30 January 2007.

· Expressions of interest to **host the Annual Conference 2008** (at a location not in London) - please contact Catherine Souch, Head of RHED at c.souch@rgs.org

Members of the geographical and related communities are invited to propose contributions for the 2007 Annual Conference (**AC2007**) of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) (RGS-IBG). The overall theme of the AC2007 conference is ***Sustainability and Quality of Life***

The enormous variability in the quality of life of humans across the globe is a central concern for all of us and is an inherently geographical problem. There are obvious frictions between ensuring sustainability whilst maintaining quality of lifestyles in any location but these frictions extend across space and time in complex ways. It is also clear that actions which support a good quality of life for humans often have adverse impacts, both directly and indirectly, on the quality of life of other organisms. Balancing all of these complex interactions requires improved multidisciplinary understanding, analyses that span multiple space and time scales, collaborations between social, political and environmental scientists and, above all, the development of innovative approaches to design, policy and management.

This is the exciting, complex and integrating backdrop to the 2007 conference, which has its roots firmly anchored in the discipline of geography. The conference theme has been chosen because it arguably represents our biggest challenge in the first half of the 21st century. It provides scope for specialised debates within different areas of geography. More importantly, it provides a setting for building connections between different areas of geography to address a number of themes of global importance such as '*Sustainable Cities*', '*Landscape Design*' and '*Development and Environment*'. The three themes highlighted above will be used on individual days, and proposals of sessions related to these themes are particularly encouraged.

Sessions can take a number of forms, for example: · Contributed papers · Poster sessions · Panel discussions · Practitioner forums · Keynote presentations. There will be four sessions each day (two in the morning; two in the afternoon) each 1h and 40 minutes in length. In early December, a call for papers will be issued. The deadline for submission of all abstracts will be 5 pm Wednesday 14 February 2007 Updates on the conference will be provided at the web site: www.rgs.org/AC2007 If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. Kathryn Thomson, Coordinator, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2007, [Research and Higher Education Division, Royal Geographical Society \(with Institute of British Geographers\), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR](#) T: +44 (0)20 7591 3027 F: +44 (0)20 7591 3001 E: k.thomson@rgs.org

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING.

School of Languages, Cultures and Religions & Dept. of English Studies

Room E26 (School of Languages, Cultures and Religions)

Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, Stirling

Contact: David Howard <david.howard@ed.ac.uk>

CARIBBEAN RESEARCH SEMINAR IN THE NORTH

Friday 2nd February 2007; 1.30 pm – 6.00 pm

An interdisciplinary research seminar on the Caribbean and its diaspora, in association with the Society for Caribbean Studies. Hosted by the School of Languages, Cultures and Religions and the Department of English Studies in association with the Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling.

1.30 Registration and welcome

2.00 Dr Rev Iain Whyte: 'An undervalued abolitionist - William Dickson of Moffat and Barbados'

3.15 Dr Par Kumaraswami and Professor Antoni Kapcia: 'Cultural democratisation, literature and readership in contemporary Cuba: challenges and possibilities'

4.30 Dr Angela Bruening: 'Black Britain, Black France: Migration and Cultural Identity in Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean Writing from the 1950s'

5.30 Concluding comments

A reservation will be made for dinner at a restaurant in Stirling for those who wish to join us after the seminar. Please contact Fiona Darroch (f.j.darroch@stir.ac.uk) or Gemma Robinson (gemma.robinson@stir.ac.uk) for further details or if you would like to reserve a place for dinner.