

SLAS 2024
CEDLA — University of Amsterdam, 1-3 July 2024

CONFERENCE REPORT



Amsterdam,
Monday 9 December, 2024.



A. Conference Finances & Participation Overview

1. Conference Fees (registration)

Please note all fees are in **euro**.

SLAS conference (1-3 July)	Conference fee
Student/ unwaged/ Latin America resident/ retired (SLAS member)	€190 -
Student/ unwaged/ Latin America resident/ retired (non-SLAS member)	€220 -
Regular (SLAS member)	€240 -
Regular (non-SLAS member)	€270 -
Optional	
Lunchbag, three days	€45 -
Conference dinner 2 July	€65 -

2. Income and Expenditure

Please note all income and expenditure are in **euro**.

INCOME		
A.	Fees received by UvA Congress Bureau	
A1	Registration fees minus transaction costs and reimbursements of cancelations	117.602,54
B.	Sponsors (book publishers)	
B1	Brill	700,00
B2	Liverpool University Press	250,00
B3	Iberoamericana Editorial Vervuert S.L.	400,00
B4	Combined Academic Publishers	150,00
B5	Tamesis	250,00
	Total income	119.352,54
EXPENDITURES		
C.	Expenditures made by UvA Congress Bureau	
C1	Domain website - 2 years (valid through 16-08-2025)	136
C2	Facility Services-Events (furniture, cleaning, security, back-up plan, BHV [mandatory first aid responders], etc.)	7.566,70
C3	Catering - Cirfood SLAS	31.463,61
C4	Catering - Cirfood PILAS Day	2.342,03
C5	Lieverdje - flowers	75

C6	Photographer	600
C7	Conference dinner at Tolhuistuin	13.826,84
C8	Hotel and flight keynote speaker Rachel Sieder	3.329,27
C9	Compensation reviewers	75
C10	T-shirts volunteers	542,69
C11	Conference banners	237,16
C12	Posters A1 size	176,37
C13	Venue rent FRINGE event Adiós Macondo	1.210
C14	Live music dinner + fringe event	1.000
C15	CirculCup 300ml (Haval) (567 cups; conference gift)	1.752,35
C16	Transport	574,54
C17	Volunteers – helper fees & Studijob	2.111,94
C18	Volunteers – travel reimbursements	226,10
	Total	67.245,60
D.	Honoraria UvA Congress Bureau & CEDLA	
D1	Hours CB	9.775,00
D2	Participant registration	9.760,50
D3	Abstracthandling (discount included)	9.930,00
D4	Office costs CB	488,75
D5	Organization by CEDLA (hours, coordination, reviewing, etc.)	14.800
	Total	44.754,25
	Total expenditures	111.999,85

3. Final Conference Profit:

INCOME €119.352,54 <i>minus</i> EXPENDITURE €111.999,85	+€7.352,69
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Given the current financial contexts and with a focus on the aims of the conference – promotion of Latin American Studies, community building and networking opportunities, showcasing current research in our diverse field – our goal was to break even on conference income/expenditure. We are therefore very happy with the result.

4. Registration Figures & Fees

In order to keep the registration fee as feasible as possible, we excluded the cost of the conference dinner and made lunches optional. We did provide fruit, snacks, coffee and tea throughout the conference to all delegates. We included the new category of 'Residents of Latin America' to the discounted fee rates and provided an additional two conference grants for Latin American scholars. Our aim was for this to promote networking and community building opportunities outside the regular conference hours. All conference fees also included the costs of the various amenities in each of the conference rooms.

We had 433 delegates from 34 different countries, spread over 75 panels and 9 roundtables.

433	100	34
ATTENDEES	UNIVERSITIES	COUNTRIES
75	383	9
PANELS	PRESENTATIONS	ROUNDTABLES

THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT TOPICS



B. Conference Planning & Organisation Overview

5. Conference Theme and Ethos

In line with previous conferences, SLAS2024 was an opportunity for explorations of any aspect of Latin American Studies, from any disciplinary and theoretical perspective. We had an optional conference theme that speakers were invited to address, which was:

In/Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean

The choice of theme comes from a need we feel to address persistent inequalities and struggles, but also successes, in the search for social justice amid an ongoing climate of antagonism and polarization. As a field, Latin American Studies has always been concerned with the societal crises of our times. We invited delegates to address in/justices from any disciplinary, theoretical or methodological vantage point. From gendered and racialized injustices, epistemic violence to climate change and political resistance, we aimed to bring together a variety of critical perspectives and practices. In addition to academic panels and a thought-provoking keynote lecture, the conference therefor also encouraged the submission of roundtables that combine academia with advocacy, activism or the arts.

This year the SLAS conference also included an additional day for postgraduates organised by PILAS (Postgraduates in Latin American Studies). The tracks for this year's conference were:

- History, Literature, Media & Cultural Studies
- Politics, Institutions, Identity & Social Movements
- Inequalities, Violence, Cities & Migration
- Ecologies, Economics & Natural Resources

Note that SLAS and PILAS are two separate events and the PILAS day is not discussed in this report. That being said, abstract handling, registration and room and catering reservations for PILAS did also go through the UvA Congress Bureau system, which is why they are included in the budget. PILAS had no registration fee and the PILAS committee itself was in charge of the day's program.

6. Keynote Speaker

Discretion in deciding the keynote is left to the local organizing committee. Given the conference theme, we were keen to invite an engaged scholar based in Latin America. We were extremely pleased to welcome Dr Rachel Sieder. We had an outstanding participation of 250 plus people attending the talk, including the UvA rector magnificus, making the event a memorable success. The talk title and abstract can be found below. You can also watch back the keynote lecture here: <https://www.cedla.nl/slas-2024>



Law's Ambiguity: Social movements, judicialization and lawfare in Latin America

Law has long been a recourse for social movements across Latin America. In this keynote lecture I ask to what extent the mobilization of human rights norms in sociolegal struggles continues to have emancipatory potential. Diverse social movements have judicialized their struggles to pursue transitional and post-transitional justice, fight for indigenous and afro descendant rights, combat gender-based violence and claim sexual and reproductive rights, resist extractive development and territorial dispossession, and challenge corruption. Important gains have been made and rightly celebrated.

But in a period when governments across the world increasingly disregard the global human rights system, Latin American elites too have begun capturing judicial institutions and weaponizing the law to criminalize activism. I will reflect on recent trends in scholarly analysis of law and society in Latin America with reference to my work on indigenous mobilization and law in Guatemala, and ask how we should understand the relationship between law and social transformation today.

About Rachel Sieder

Rachel Sieder is Senior Research Professor at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) in Mexico City. She is also a research associate at the Chr. Michelsen Institute and a global researcher at LawTransform, the Center for Law and Social Transformation, both in Bergen, Norway.

7. Call for Papers, Selection, Panel Organisation, and Final Programme

We issued a call for papers and panels well ahead of the conference, on 1 September 2023, with a deadline of 15 November 2023. We accepted both individual papers and fully-formed panels, and also encouraged alternative formats (workshops, networking sessions).

We received over 600 proposals. Aware that the Amsterdam conference would attract more proposals than usual, and also based on our previous organising experience during the COVID year of 2020, we had pre-organised review committees for each of the tracks to go through the abstracts in a timely manner. We also asked the UvA Congress Bureau to set up an abstract handling system. This wasn't the easiest system to work with in the end, but all abstracts were evaluated by at least 2 people before decisions were made. In the end, about 5% of the proposals were rejected, mainly based on quality or because people had submitted 2 proposals while instructions were only one paper presentation per delegate.

Proposal acceptance letters were sent out by 20 December 2023, to allow for enough time for delegates to make travel plans and secure funding. It was with both this and room

availability in mind that we scheduled the conference for the first week of July rather than mid-April (the usual SLAS timing).

Delegates were asked to register by March 2024. We then proceeded to draft the conference programme, which was circulated to all delegates in April 2024. We purposefully did not make a programme on the basis of acceptances alone, as previous experience taught us at least 20% of accepted people would not end up registering as delegates due to a variety of reasons, the main one being funding.

CEDLA made available three additional travel grants for Latin American scholars without institutional funding.

The timings of the programme were set in consultation with the CEDLA organizing committee and SLAS committee, who recommended the AGM take place during a lunch break. We broadly followed the same programme that operated in previous conferences, but due to the expected amount of participants, added an extra day and included an evening programme with the keynote and networking drinks (1 July), conference dinner (2 July) and fringe event (3 July). In the end, we had 9-10 simultaneous panels running Monday through Wednesday between 9.00-17.00. To ensure enough time for discussion and networking, we afforded panels 1.45hr slots, 30 minute coffee breaks and a 1 hour lunch break, all of which were much appreciated by delegates.



All photos by Luisa Machacón.

8. Sponsorship & Publishers' Fair

We secured sponsorships from various publishers, €1.750 total, who were present at the conference with book and information stands.

Take-up from publishers was however limited this year, in line with the changing contexts around how promotion of such materials, and measurement of the value of advertising/sales in this format, takes place.

9. Website & Social Media

The conference webpages were hosted by the UvA Congress Bureau with an own website at: <https://www.slasamsterdam2024.nl/> The website contained all information on the conference itself, registration, FAQs, as well as general information about the city (accommodation & travel). Post-conference memories, photos and videos can be found on CEDLA's very own, special SLAS2024 page: <https://www.cedla.nl/slas-2024>

10. Fringe/Special Events

Fringe event *Adiós Macondo*

On the Wednesday evening we organised the presentation of community theatre play *Adiós Macondo* at CC Amstel Theatre. *Adiós Macondo* is a visual political theatre play created by Nicaraguan refugee theatre group Lleca Teatro, spoken in Spanish and English. Located in the fictional Macondo, the actors share their experiences with violence and displacement amid a sensorial landscape of memories, looking back at the violent political systems they left behind, but can't seem escape. From behind their masks, they question what remains. Who has the right to remember? Whose truth matters? What can be told and what should remain unsaid? As they build altars, guilt, fear and denial slowly give way to expression and inversion. Live music and poetry. After the play, the décor remains as an installation that visitors can walk around in up close - invited to add a memory of your own. You can watch a [trailer](#) or a [mini-documentary](#) on Vimeo following the embedded links.

BLAR-ERLACS Publishing Workshop

This workshop organized on Wednesday afternoon was open to both SLAS and PILAS participants (PILAS took place on Thursday 4 July). Directed at postgraduates and early career scholars, it was organised by the editors of the Bulletin of Latin American Research and the European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, focusing on publishing tips & tricks in Latin American Studies. It was free to attend for both SLAS and PILAS delegates.