

Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



Number 10, Summer 2022



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After almost two years of working from home, it has been great to return to the LAC and be able to see colleagues, students and visitors in-person again. One of the positives to come out of the pandemic has been the shift to hybrid working. We now both split our time between the office and home so we have the best of both worlds!

Lucy and Elvira (and Ruby)



Meet the editorial team:

Horizontes, the newsletter of the Latin American Centre, is the product of a collective effort that relied upon the editorial planning of a team of LAC students and members of academic and administrative staff: Mario Carvajal Cabal, Andrea Moncada Carrera, Javier Escobar González, Tomás Medina Mora Pérez, Clorrie Yeomans, Rachel Watson, Timo Schaefer, Andreza de Souza, Lucy Driver and Eduardo Posada-Carbó. We thank Andrew Harvey for his super work in designing *Horizontes*.



Director's Report

David Doyle
Director, the Latin American Centre

I took over as Director of the LAC this academic year as the Centre slowly began to emerge from the shadow of the pandemic. The last three academic years have been a challenge for our community but I am proud to say that we have managed to remain resilient. I am hoping that by the start of next Michaelmas Term, life at the LAC will return to business as usual. We owe a big debt of gratitude to our former Director, Eduardo Posada-Carbó for his tireless efforts to keep our community active and together throughout the long terms of lockdowns and online activities. And I think it appropriate that my first note as LAC Director should be to thank Eduardo for his leadership over the last three years. I have no doubt that Eduardo never imagined he would spend most his time as LAC Director trying to keep the Centre going through nationwide lockdowns but he did a wonderful job keeping the LAC together. Thank you Eduardo.

COVID-19 has continued to present challenges this year but as each term has passed, we have taken incremental steps back towards pre-pandemic life in the LAC. Michaelmas Term began with in-person teaching and our Course Director, Andreza de Souza Santos, went to immense efforts to ensure a welcoming environment for our new cohort. A lot of our activities and seminars remained online, however. Nonetheless, we managed to welcome the new Ambassador of Mexico to the UK to the Centre, where she met with Mexican students from across the Social Science Division. We also welcomed the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UK to celebrate the launch of ten new scholarships for students of the Dominican Republic to study at Oxford.

And we have continued to celebrate the success of our faculty. Hilary Term ended with our first in-person seminar since the start of the pandemic and where we celebrated the launch of Diego Sánchez-Ancochea's new book, *The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: Lessons and Warning from the Rest of the World*. This



was a wonderful evening with discussion from Isabel Ruiz, Danny Dorling and Francis Darlington-Pollock of the Equality Trust.

We have other great news that we must celebrate at the LAC. The new book from Leigh Payne (with Laura Bernal-Bermúdez and Gabriel Pereira), *Economic Actors and the Limits of Transitional Justice: Truth and Justice for Business Complicity in Human Rights Violations*, was published this January and was celebrated as part of our main seminar series this Trinity Term. Andreza received a John Fell Fund award for her new project on "One Company Towns in Brazil". And Francesca Lessa, following her commendation from the judges of the O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards 2021, received, together with colleagues from Uruguay, Argentina and Chile, a grant from the University of Oxford's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and will see her new book, *The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America*, published at the end of this May. One of our Marie Curie Fellows, Julie Zulver, also saw the publication of a new book, *High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts*, based on her DPhil thesis which was supervised by Leigh. And of course, congratulations to Tim Power, who became

Head of the Social Sciences Division at the beginning of this academic year. This is only a small sample of the successes shared by our colleagues at the LAC - I don't have the space to do justice to the achievements of everybody but it is indicative of the intellectual activity and energy of the Centre, even in trying times.

This success, however, wouldn't be possible without the support of our alumni community through the Malcom Deas Fund. Or the support of entities like the Argentine Educational Trust, which for the third year in a row, has offered financial support to one of our students. Or the intellectual engagement with the Centre provided by visiting academics and recognised students. Thank you to you all.

This year is ending on a high note. Not only will we celebrate Leigh's new book but we will also host the Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Benigno López (following the successful visit of the IDB Principal Advisor, Andy Powell). We also had the Brazilian Studies Programme annual workshop, which culminated in a lively panel, to a packed in-person audience at St Hugh's College, on the upcoming Brazilian election. As the academic year draws to a close and exams finish, we are looking forward to celebrating with students, fellows and friend at the LAC garden party in June. Watch out for Tim on bass guitar.

The LAC is a wonderful place to work and a wonderful community. We have remained virtually vibrant throughout COVID-19 and I now look forward to putting the pandemic behind us and returning Church Walk to the vibrant place it once was.

David Doyle

The Argentine Ambassador to the UK visits Oxford

On 8 March 2022, the Argentine Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr Javier Esteban Figueroa, visited Oxford for an in-person talk on Argentina-UK relations. Ambassador Figueroa is a career diplomat, and has been a member of Argentina's Foreign Service since 1995. He has occupied several top diplomatic positions, such as Argentine Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba and to the Republic of South Africa, concurrent with Namibia and Botswana. Ambassador Figueroa was also Under-Secretary for Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina.

The talk was organised by two LAC students, Larissa Fontenelle (MSc in Latin American Studies) and Emilie Curryova (DPhil in Latin American Studies), as part of a series of events hosted by the Oxford Diplomatic Society (OxDiplo). The event was held at the Pavilion Room of St Antony's College. Oxford students reading for diverse degrees and from different departments attended the event to hear the Ambassador's perspective on the countries' bilateral relations. In his talk, the Ambassador highlighted the cultural affinities between Argentina and the UK. For instance, he mentioned that both countries are passionate about the same sports, such as football, rowing,

and rugby. According to the Ambassador, those cultural resemblances are due to close historical ties between the two countries dating back to the start of the twentieth century.

Ambassador Figueroa also emphasised the important commercial relations between Argentina and the UK and confirmed that diplomacy may play an important role in boosting import and export figures between the two countries. He said that Argentine wine imports to the UK peaked during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the end of his talk, the Ambassador

also gave advice to aspiring diplomats and shared his experience from across different diplomatic positions.

Larissa and Emily are event organisers of the OxDiplo and have coordinated several Latin American-focused events and visits to embassies throughout the 2021-22 academic year. In Michaelmas Term, they organised a talk on "Foreign Policy, Elections and Pandemic in Latin America" with Dr Christopher Sabatini, senior research fellow for Latin America at Chatham House.



Emilie Curryova (DPhil student), Ambassador Figueroa, and Larissa Fontenelle (MSc student)

Mexican Posada – Hosted by the Oxford University Mexican Society

At the end of Michaelmas term, just before the winter break, the Oxford University Mexican Society hosted a posada, a traditional Christian event that commemorates the trip Mary and Joseph made from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Members of the Mexican Society, past and present students of the LAC, Mexicans living and working in Oxford, and Oxford students from all over the world were present for the Christmas festivities.

In addition to three enormous pots of

pozole of varying levels of spice - white, green, and red - there was also plenty of Mexican hospitality and mezcal. And of course, no Mexican party would be complete without a piñata filled with dulces. Traditionally, the piñata is shaped as a star, which is said to have led the three wise men to the stable where Jesus was born.

It was a great evening filled with lively conversation that spilled late into the night. For a few short hours, without even

leaving Oxford, it felt as though I had returned to the country, people, and food that I had missed deeply since my time in Mexico City years ago.

It was great to see people of all cultures and backgrounds connecting and coming together to enjoy excellent food, conversation, and mezcal!

Rachel Watson
Sarah Phillips

RESEARCH NEWS FROM FRANCESCA LESSA



Expert testimony helps secure human rights verdict against Argentina

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has found Argentina responsible for the forced disappearance of two Uruguayan political exiles in the 1970s in a case that included evidence collected as part of her research by Departmental Lecturer Francesca Lessa. The verdict, released in December 2021, concluded that Argentina was responsible for the enforced disappearance of Mario Julien and Victoria Grisonas, whose rights to life, physical integrity, and personal freedom were violated. Mario and Victoria were living in exile in Buenos Aires with their two children when their house was attacked by Argentine and Uruguayan security officers as part of a military operation in September 1976. Mario was murdered on the spot, while Victoria and the children were imprisoned in a secret torture centre in Buenos Aires. After the abduction in Argentina, Uruguayan officers took the children to Montevideo in Uruguay, and two months later they abandoned them in a public square in Valparaiso, Chile. The fate of their mother, who was last seen badly tortured in the secret prison, is unknown.

Dr Lessa was an expert witness in the case, *Julien Grisonas and others vs Argentina*, in May 2021 and submitted a written statement to the Court through a sworn affidavit, which was included as part of the evidence in the case. The statement drew on her research into Operation Condor – a transnational campaign of political oppression in Latin America in the 1970s that sought to silence critical

voices in exile. That research includes a database she has compiled recording the cases of hundreds of victims of crimes that occurred between 1969 and 1981. The Court determined that Argentina had also breached the rights of the victims' two children, Anatole and Victoria, to judicial protection and guarantees, as well as their right to know the truth regarding their parents' fate and to locate their remains. The Court established that the crimes suffered by the family unfolded within the framework of Operation Condor. In the sentence, the Court cited Dr Lessa's statement several times and particularly to illustrate the following points: that Condor amounted to a system of cross-border repression of political opponents in South America; that Uruguayan nationals were the most persecuted within the framework of Operation Condor; that Argentina was the country where transnational repression of refugees operated most intensely, especially in the city and province of Buenos Aires; and that Condor's main objective was persecuting and eliminating political opponents to the military regimes in the Southern Cone.

Highly Commended awardees of the O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards 2021

In October 2021, Dr Francesca Lessa (ODID & LAC) was one of the Highly Commended awardees of the O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards 2021. Her research project "Operation Condor" was highly commended by the judges in the O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards 2021 for improving routes to justice for victims of transnational human rights violations in South America.

Francesca's project achieved significant impact because, from the start, it placed collaboration with relevant stakeholders – including judicial actors, policymakers, journalists, and civil society – at the heart of the research. Amongst the main achievements, the project contributed to shaping the results of domestic and international trials for transnational atrocities by innovatively systematising information on victims and judicialization in a novel database subsequently used by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; submitting an expert witness statement on behalf of victims in a

legal case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; and transmitting newly declassified documents to Italian lawyers who employed them to overturn acquittals and file new indictment requests about transnational crimes in South America. Further, Francesca helped expanding and enriching existing knowledge about Operation Condor by holding three knowledge exchange activities in South America with participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay and releasing two policy briefs; and through collaborating with Italian and British journalists to reach out to the public, engaging 350,000+ people regarding past atrocities in South America.

Dr Francesca Lessa and project partners in Uruguay, Chile, and Argentina secure impact grant from Oxford's ESRC IAA

In April 2022, ODID and LAC Departmental Lecturer Dr Francesca Lessa and her project partners in Uruguay (Sitios de Memoria, Pozo de Agua, and Observatorio Luz Ibarburu), Chile (Londres 38) and Argentina secured a grant from the University of Oxford's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) to carry out a project entitled 'From Terror to Justice: Promoting Accountability for Transnational Repression in South America'. The project aims to collate previously existing but scattered information about Plan Condor in a single and open-access website, compiling useful resources for researchers, academics, journalists, civil society activists, lawyers, and the public. New publications and materials will also be made available on the website, including two specifically developed audio-visual productions designed by the award-winning Uruguayan artist Sebastián Santana with Pozo de Agua productions, to narrate respectively the stories of one emblematic Condor victim and one historic Condor trial. Finally, reports and infographics based on Dr Lessa's research on the Condor trials and victims of transnational repression in South America (1969-1981) will be released as part of this new toolkit of resources.

Elections and political elites in Brazil – A report on the Brazilian Studies Programme Annual Conference

Amanda Domingos (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, LAC Recognised Student)

Marcus Torres (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, LAC Recognised Student)

Matheus Cunha (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, LAC Recognised Student)



Attendees of the Research Workshop “Political Elites in Brazil: Insights from the 9th Wave of the Legislative Brazilian Survey (2021).”

After two years of the pandemic, which moved all events online, the 2022 Brazilian Studies Programme Conference took place in May 20, 2022 at St Hugh’s College. For many participants, that was the first opportunity to attend an in-person only event since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. This atmosphere of reencounter and excitement was present for the whole conference and made the comeback to the “normality of academic life” even more pleasant. Organised by professor Timothy Power, the conference was divided into two main moments: a research workshop and a public roundtable, where almost 70 attendees gather together at the China Centre Dickson Poon Lecture Theatre to listen to the speakers talk about the 2022 Brazilian election.

The “Political Elites in Brazil” research workshop debated 5 draft papers based on data from the 9th wave of the Brazilian Legislative Survey. The papers leveraged unreleased data from the new iteration of the survey, which has been conducted for the past 32 years in every legislative session since

Brazil’s democratisation in 1980s. In total, the Brazilian Legislative Survey has received more than 1,400 responses from over than 1,100 members of Brazilian Congress (both Federal Deputies and Republic Senators) and has established itself as one of the main sources of knowledge about legislative behaviour in Brazil.

During the morning and afternoon, invited attendees discussed a plethora of themes, ranging from democracy, polarisation, portfolio allocation, political appointments and ambitions, civil-military relations, and institutional design. Scholars from different institutions were presenting their work and offering a glimpse of the findings of the survey. In addition to the principal investigators of the Brazilian Legislative Survey, also present were Mariana Batista (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco), Joaquim Meira (Harvard University), Victor Araújo (University of Zurich), Mallu Gatto (University College London), and Octávio Amorim Netto (Fundação Getulio Vargas). Dáwisson Belém Lopes (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais)

and Anna Petherick (Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford) were the lead discussants. Besides that, the principal investigators of the Brazilian Legislative Survey (BLS) presented an overview of its structure, main objectives, and foundations. In addition, they shared with the participants of the research workshop the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the impossibility, for the first time since the start of the survey, of applying the survey face-to-face at the Brazilian National Congress. According to Power and Zucco, the main findings of the new iteration of the survey can be summarized in three statements: (1) an increase in polarization between members of the parliament, (2) a reorganization of the distribution of ideology to the right of the spectrum, and (3) a greater comfort on the part of MPs in reporting satisfaction with the Brazilian institutional arrangement.

Late in the afternoon, the public roundtable intitled “The Brazilian Elections of 2022: Personalism and Polarisation” took place in the China Centre Dickson Poon Lecture Theatre,

at St. Hugh's College. Introduced by Andreza de Souza Santos (Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme) and David Doyle (Director of Latin American Centre), five speakers commented on their perspectives and predictions about the elections.

Starting the roundtable, Timothy Power presented data to show that incumbents historically do well in elections in Brazil. He argued that the fundamentals are bad for the incumbent president, since economic growth is low or negative, and unemployment and inflation rates remain high in addition to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Later, Francisco Ferreira (London School of Economics) wondered if this was a backward-looking election without new ideas. He looked at statistics on inequality, growth, and the minimum wage in Brazil, showing that in these areas the former president Lula had performed better than the current president. Ferreira argued that Lula's socio-economic achievements are remarkable and that, perhaps, this is a variable that matters for the decision of the 2022 election.

Daniela Campello (Fundação Getulio Vargas) discussed the elections from an economic perspective, since politics and economics are highly connected in Latin American countries. In this sense, she argued that the 2018 elections worked as a referendum for the PT administration, where there was a strong economic crisis and a weak PT candidate. Likewise, the 2022 elections will be a referendum for the Bolsonaro administration. Bolsonaro is now trying to use the benefits of incumbency to his advantage: giving out large social packages (such as the Covid-19 emergency aid) and trying to appeal to the economic vote. Despite this, he is not fortunate enough to count on a commodities boom.

Kathryn Hochstetler (London School of Economics) debated the Bolsonaro government and the environment. In her speech, she discussed the perspectives and policies adopted by the administration of the current president in relation to environmental policies and the protection of native communities. She also talked about the perception of the international community about the absence of

environmental policies in Brazil.

Finally, Octávio Amorim Neto (Fundação Getulio Vargas) discussed the possibilities of the opposition to form a grand "pro-democracy" coalition to defeat Bolsonaro. He argued that the first big step had been taken with the Lula-Alckmin alliance, which he classified as the most important political innovation made by democratic forces in Brazil since 2013. The special characteristic of that alliance arises from the union of two parties that are historically from different ideological fields and that spent decades competing for the presidential seat. However, the grand democratic coalition bumps into a main challenge: neither Lula's personality nor that of great opposition leaders (such as Ciro Gomes, for example) favour great democratic coalitions. Neto also emphasized the need for a civil-military coalition, as well as the achievement of democratization, to guarantee the separation of powers between politics and the army.



Member of the public roundtable "The Brazilian Elections of 2022: Personalism in a Polarised Pandemic". From left to right: Francisco Ferreira, Octávio Amorim Neto, Andreza de Souza Santos, Daniela Campello, Kathryn Hochstetler, and Timothy Power



Principal investigators of the Brazilian Legislative Survey, Cesar Zucco (left) and Timothy Power (right).

Latin American History Seminar

The Latin American History seminar began this academic year, on 21 October 2021, with a tertulia about Latin America's independence wars: in a conversation led by Pedro Rújula (Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain), Marcela Ternavasio (Universidad Nacional del Rosario, Argentina), talked about her recent book *Los juegos de la política: Las independencias hispanoamericanas frente a la contrarrevolución*. The seminar ended on 16 June 2022 with a presentation by Cary Aileen Garcia Yero (University of Toronto, Canada) about *Painting of Dissent: Race, Nation, and the Arts in Cuba, 1938-1959*. The two events showcase some of the breadth of the themes discussed in the seminar series this year, with talks ranging from political to cultural history, from Argentina to Cuba, and from the independence era to the Cold War. Once per term, furthermore, we leapt out of the modern era, as we joined forces with the Iberian History Group and welcomed speakers to share exciting new research on colonial Latin America.

The Oxford Latin American History seminar will soon celebrate the tenth year of its existence. Started in 2013 by Eduardo Posada-Carbó and Mark Petersen (then a DPhil student), and convened by Eduardo every year since, the seminar has attracted a faithful audience by dint of the quality and variety of its speakers but also, and perhaps not least, by dint of its sheer regularity. Almost without fail, during Michaelmas, Hilary, and Trinity Terms, it meets every Thursday at 5 pm in the main seminar room of the Latin American Centre. And almost without fail, attendants afterwards repair to a nearby location to continue the conversation over food and drink. For a long time that location was the Jericho restaurant Manos, which has now however reinvented itself as a take-out deli. In the last couple of months we have met for post-seminar refreshments either at the Royal Oak or in the St. Antony's College Dining Hall.

The pandemic of course did more than deprive the seminar of a favourite post-event refreshment place. For two years it impeded any in-person meeting of the seminar itself. The marvelous thing is that in those two years the seminar not only kept running, now in an online format, but that it actually grew, using

the enforced change of format as an opportunity to find a new audience, while keeping its old one. During the pandemic the seminar reached not only Oxford or Oxford-adjacent students and academics but academics around the world, many in Latin America. Our roster of speakers also diversified, as more academics from Latin American and the US could now be invited to participate without having to be wrung through the mill of a (furthermore prohibitively expensive) trans-Atlantic journey.

This past term, my final one in Oxford, it has been particularly gratifying to co-convene the seminar with Eduardo. My very first impression of Oxford, and of the Latin American Centre, was at the Latin American History seminar in March 2019, when I had been invited to talk about my research. I remember well arriving at the LAC, as exhausted and sleep-deprived as I have ever been in my life, following not

only a near-sleepless night on a plane but a previous sleepless night lost to a nightshift at work. I was nevertheless buoyed enough not to sink during my talk – and to then sink into dumbness most slowly and contentedly during an hour or so of post-seminar sociability at Manos – by the friendly faces crowded around the seminar table and beyond. This Trinity Term, after two years of pandemic-enforced distance, we have finally been able to return to that lively, friendly atmosphere, even as we continue to also stream our seminars to our new and engaged global audience. And I hope and trust that in another ten-years time the seminar will be going as strong as ever and that every Thursday at 5 pm during term-time, I'll still be able to tune into the seminars, and perhaps, now and then, to visit Oxford and see them in person.

Timo Schaefer



Silke Hensel (right), guest speaker from the University of Cologne, at the informal dinner in St Antony's following her seminar. Also in the picture, from left, Graciela Iglesias-Rogers, Margaret Mitchell, Javier Escobar, Mario Carvajal, Luis Gabriel Galán, Andrea Barbato and Eduardo Posada-Carbó.

LAC Main Seminar Series

The LAC Main Seminar Series in the 2021-2022 academic year has brought experts from leading institutions around the world to the Latin American Centre in Oxford, either virtually or in person, to share their research on a wide variety of topics related to Latin America. The seminars have prompted some fascinating discussions on the issues affecting the region today. This year the seminars were convened by Professor David Doyle, Director of the Latin American Centre. Recently, it has finally been possible to hold the seminars in person again, something which staff, students, and speakers have all welcomed eagerly.

The seminar series was kicked off by Dr. Gwen Burnyeat, presenting her new book, *The Face of Peace*, and discussing 'peace pedagogy' in Colombia and the challenges faced by the Colombian government, particularly regarding disinformation and the disconnect between state and citizens, following the rejection of the peace agreement with the FARC guerrilla in the first referendum. Many of the following seminars looked at pertinent issues such as migration and the experience of women in post-conflict societies, with seminars on the violence and obstacles faced by women migrating from Colombia to Chile; policy preferences of Colombians in response to the large inflow of Venezuelans to their country; transformative gender justice and criminal justice for conflict related sexual violence in Peru and Guatemala; and grassroots women's organisations and high-risk feminism in Colombia. We finished the term with two very informative seminars: the first on hybrid governance by state and criminal actors and the paradoxes of management of urban violence and human insecurity in Medellín and the second looking at how political appointments can enhance bureaucratic accountability and effectiveness in Brazil.

We started the Hilary term with a highly important roundtable on Academic Freedom in Mexico, organised jointly with the Latin America at Warwick Network, with participants from Puebla, Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Warwick. Other seminars in Hilary term gave us an insight into cutting-edge research on the

design and implementation of Colombia's transitional justice system; regulating contracts and political fiscal cycles in Colombian elections; recentralisation in Colombia; the effect of receiving a basic income on voter turnout in Brazil; how migrant remittances affect fiscal policy attitudes; and normative evolutions across peace processes and the definition of a 'political crime' in the Colombian peace process. We finished Hilary term by celebrating the release of the Latin American Centre's Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea's new book, *The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: Lessons and Warnings for the Rest of the World*.

The Trinity term seminars began with a visit from Andrew Powell, Principal Advisor at the Inter-American Development Bank, to present the 2022 IDB Latin American and Caribbean

Macroeconomic Report. He provided us with an excellent analysis of the current economic situation in Latin America, particularly since the global economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. We look forward to many more fascinating seminars this term.

Whatever your specific sub-regional focus or academic field within Latin American Studies, the relevance of the seminars to current events in the region, topical academic debates, and the latest research, means that there is always something to take away from the seminar each week. Moreover, the interdisciplinarity of the seminars allows an insight into a multitude of different topics and can inspire a new way of approaching or viewing your own research.

Rachel Watson



LAC Wine and Book launch

Launching the LAC wine and Dr. Hugo Rojas's new book: *Past Human Rights Violations and the Question of Indifference: The Case of Chile*. Richard Wilkinson (MSc 2022) recorded a podcast interview with Dr Hugo Rojas and LAC emeritus fellow Alan Angell on Hugo Rojas's Oxford thesis and now book included in the St Antony's Palgrave Macmillan series on *Past Human Rights Violations and the Question of Indifference: The Case of Chile*. You can listen to that podcast here: <https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/about/news/new-podcast-past-human-rights-violations-and-question-indifference-case-chile>.

Latin America in the Ashmolean Museum

By Javier Andrés Escobar G



Ashmolean Review 2018/2019 pg. 24

In 2019, just before the pandemic began, there was great news for Latin America in Oxford. The Ashmolean Museum welcomed one of the Cuban cubist Mario Carreño's paintings. The untitled piece of art is exhibited at the Modern and Contemporary Art collection in the Lewin Gallery. Nowadays, this oil on canvas is the only piece made by a Latin American artist exhibited in the museum. Furthermore, the painting reflects how Carreño linked the traditional Latin American, mainly Cuban, folk aesthetic with modern abstraction. The picture was lent from the private collection of Liam Francis Gearon.

The Ashmolean Museum is widely recognised as the first modern and public museum in Britain, and it is also known as the world's first university museum, opening its doors in 1863. Currently, the museum is still considered one of the most important in the country. When you step into the museum's space, you can feel that you are in a place that has had a great relationship with power. You are saluted by Egyptian and Roman statues, which immediately drives you to think of all the debates around museums today. Nevertheless, these places have made knowledge and culture(s) available not only for scientists, researchers or students but also for everyone.

What is a bit curious about the Ashmolean Museum, and its more than three hundred years of history, is that there are not many objects related to Latin America. During my visit, I had

a long conversation with Angelo, a Mexican collaborator at the museum, with whom we agreed that there are very few items related to the region. Besides Carreño's painting, a few tiles can be found. Also, in the *Money* gallery, there is a paper note from Cuba with *Che Guevara's* face and a Venezuelan note portraying *Simón Bolívar*. Likewise, there are two silver coins with a fascinating story. The coins were made in Spanish Mexico during Charles III's reign but were found in China with several marks done by Chinese money changers when they proved the silver was real.



Picture by Javier Andrés Escobar G.

Due to the absence of Latin American art in the Ashmolean, Carreño's painting arrival is extraordinary. Through his canvas, made in New York in 1948, not only is he opening the door for other Latin American art and artists to be exhibited, but he is making Latin American narratives visible. Carreño's was part of Cuba's second generation of vanguard painters, including other important figures like René Portocarrero, Mariano Rodríguez and Cundo Bermúdez. All of them were interested in permeating international styles, like Picasso's primitivism, with aspects of their regional contexts.

In parallel, during these years, there was an emerging feeling of national identity built around notions of *afrocubanismo* that the mentioned artists also included in their paintings. Carreño usually had a dynamic and colourful style carrying a strong sense of musical rhythm. He uses the same technique in the exhibited artwork at the Ashmolean. On the other hand, Carreño is also renowned for a painting called *El Negro*. He reinterprets Afro-Cuban derived musical forms creating a new visual language asserting a distinct Caribbean or Cuban identity. The latter are the narratives made visible with this addition to the museum. Many elements of the Cuban national history are made present through this exhibition.

In the meantime, while we wait for more Latin American artists and art exhibited in the Ashmolean, through which many of the region's narratives are going to be visible, we can enjoy Carreño's vibrant painting. Do not miss it!

Where? Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St, Oxford OX1 2PH
Opening times: Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Javier Andrés Escobar G.

THE LAC, AREA STUDIES AND THE OX|BER PARTNERSHIP¹

The Oxford LAC has joined forces with the LAI (Institute for Latin American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin) to strengthen international academic collaboration and exchange. The various initiatives that bring these institutions together contribute to the larger research partnership between the University of Oxford and the Berlin University Alliance. The Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership was established in 2017, through a memorandum of understanding with the four Berlin institutions which form the Berlin University Alliance (BUA): the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. The academic director of the Partnership in Oxford is Professor Andrew Hurrell.²

In 2019, during his stay as an Academic Visitor at the LAC, Dr Markus Hochmüller applied for a seed grant from the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership together with then LAC Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Carlos A. Pérez Ricart. The application was successful, and eventually the Research Network ‘The Comeback of the Latin American Armed Forces’ was created. Markus, now a Researcher at Pembroke College’s Global Security Programme, and Carlos, now an Assistant

Professor in International Relations at CIDE (Mexico City), are co-directing the Network together with Professor Marianne Braig of Freie Universität Berlin’s Institute for Latin American Studies and LAC Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó. The Network explores the Latin American Armed Forces’ multifaceted current missions, with an emphasis on their roles in public security.

In February 2020, the Research Network was officially launched during a workshop held at the LAI, which has brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars working in the fields of political science, history, human geography, and sociology. In May 2020, the Network held an online workshop at the Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. In 2021, Carlos and Markus teamed up with former LAC Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Carlos Solar, now a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Essex, to coordinate a Special Issue on ‘Militarism and Militarization in Latin America’ that will be published in the International Relations journal *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*. In June 2022, the Special Issue authors and members of the Network met for a hybrid workshop (funded by the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership and the Malcolm Deas Fund and held at the LAC and over the

platform Zoom). Scholars from Latin America, the US, and Europe presented their research, which included case studies on Argentina, Brazil, Central America, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay.

In the context of the International Latin American Graduate Network (ILAGN), students have also built bridges. On 30 and 31 May 2022, the Latin American Centre hosted the ‘Oxford-Berlin Latin American Graduate Conference’. This event was co-organised by postgraduate students from the University of Oxford and the Freie Universität Berlin, with faculty support from both universities. The event was sponsored by the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership, the Malcolm Deas Fund, and the Antonian Fund. Its main objective was to promote the collaboration between Master and doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers in Oxford and Berlin who have academic interests in Latin America.

The two-day conference summoned representatives from both Berlin and Oxford to reflect on their experiences researching Latin America from the vantage point of European universities, as well as to identify opportunities for future collaborations. Each day of the graduate conference was devoted to workshops on different topics that reflect the activities of the Network. The workshop format was deliberately chosen to mirror the exploratory nature of these meetings. With contributions from graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and academic officers from Oxford and Berlin, the workshop ‘Latin American Studies in Germany and the United Kingdom’ addressed the institutional landscape, funding opportunities, and existing research infrastructures in both countries. The workshop also displayed the types of research on Latin America being carried out in UK and German universities, with presentations by Master students of social sciences and the humanities from Oxford and the Freie Universität.

On the second day of events, the workshop ‘The State in Latin America: An Interdisciplinary Exploration’ focused on a concept that has occupied a central place in the scholarship about the region



DPhil candidate in Area Studies, Andrés Guiot Isaac, presenting his paper on technocrats and the state in Latin America.

in the social sciences and humanities. By bringing contributions from students in history, sociology, political science, anthropology, international development, and area studies, this workshop aimed at stimulating the interdisciplinary dialogue about cutting-edge modes of enquiry for approaching 'the state' in Latin America.

Another form of collaboration has been through the LAC History Seminar, convened by Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó, and the LAI Coloquio de Historia de América Latina, convened by Professor Stefan Rinke. On 30 November 2021, Andrés M. Guiot-Isaac, (Oxford DPhil candidate in Area Studies, Latin America), presented the paper "Technocratising' the State: Planning Tools, Development Aid and Economic Experts in Colombia, 1958-1970' at the LAI's Coloquio. Based on his doctoral thesis, Andrés' paper explored the history of economics, the rise of experts, and the transformations of the Colombian state in a context of an increasingly connected global system. On 24 February 2022, Ian Merkel (Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Freie Universität Berlin's department of history, the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut) presented at the LAC History Seminar - co-convened by Dr Timo Schaefer - on 'Brazilian Intellectuals and the French Social Sciences, 1934-1964', revealing little known relations between Latin America and the French academy, especially the influence of Brazilian intellectuals.

During the second semester of the year, Laura Cucchi, from Berlin, presented at the LAC's History Seminar a paper entitled '¿Repúblicas fuertes o repúblicas democráticas? Polémicas en Argentina y ecos sudamericanos, 1860-1880'. Laura Cucchi is Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET). Currently, she is a Visiting Researcher at the Freie Universität Berlin with the support of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation where she is working on a project focused on the transnational circulation of ideas about democracy in South America between 1860 and 1880. From Oxford, DPhil Candidate in History Juan I. Neves-Sarriegui is undertaking an academic exchange as a Visiting Doctoral Student in Berlin between March and

September 2022. With the support of the DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service), Juan is a member of the LAI's Coloquio and of the Ibero-American Institute (Berlin), while working on his doctoral thesis on the political culture and periodical press of the Rio de la Plata during the Wars of Independence.

In the wider context of collaboration, the goal of the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership is to enhance existing links between Oxford and the Berlin universities and research institutes. This includes the creation of an environment for taking forward new projects, covering all areas of academic research as well as initiatives involving the museums and libraries in both Oxford and Berlin. It seeks to foster and support cutting-edge research, including cross-cutting thematic and inter-disciplinary work; knowledge exchange and public engagement; and fostering the professional development of early-career researchers and doctoral students. It builds on the strength and range of research in Oxford and Berlin, supporting academics in addressing global challenges and developing their European and global academic links, including in the Global South.

The Partnership offers regular rounds of flexible funding to support workshops and joint projects; it has built up a programme of visiting fellows; and is currently developing a range of other activities. The initiative is primarily a research partnership and does not intend to establish large-scale student mobility or joint degrees. However, flexible funding has directly benefitted graduate student workshops, including those organised by the students themselves; there have been several examples of shared graduate classes (facilitated by the expansion of online teaching); and many of the research projects supported by the Partnership encompass graduate involvement and training (for example via summer schools), seeking especially to foster discussions and debates around cutting edge theoretical issues and shared methodologies.

On the Oxford side, María del Pilar Blanco (Associate Professor of Spanish American Literature) is the Academic Champion for Networks, Programmes,

and International Partnerships at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) from 2021 to 2023. In this capacity, one of her roles has been to advocate for Humanities representation in the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership. Together with Oxford Professor Karen Leeder, they are partaking in ongoing conversations with representatives from different divisions and disciplines across Oxford and the Berlin University Alliance. Their role is to offer guidance on how best to support diverse collaborations amongst colleagues in Oxford and Berlin. Maria stated, 'We've been able to advise on grant schemes and on ways of making the programme open and appealing to all disciplines. It's been a very interesting process and we look forward to further developments and collaborations.'

To conclude this year's Oxford-Berlin activities at the LAC, there was a South American wine reception at St Hugh's College on 31 May. The theme of the event was 'Latin America in the UK and Germany', and it was a chance for our partners in Berlin to meet students and academics from the LAC. The LAC also invited some special guests from outside the academic sphere who are involved in building connections between the UK and Latin America. This included the Head of the Commercial Section of the Argentine Embassy in the UK, Pedro Sonderguer, representatives of the Association of Argentine Professionals in the UK (APARU), and members of the Canning Club. To close the event, everybody raised their glasses to further international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Markus Hochmüller
Clorrie Yeomans
Andrés M. Guiot-Isaac
Juan I. Neves-Sarriegui

1 We wish to thank Andrew Hurrell and María del Pilar Blanco for their contribution to this piece in relation to the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership.

2 For further information on the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership see <https://oib.web.ox.ac.uk/>



THE LAC, AREA STUDIES AND THE OX|BER PARTNERSHIP

Professor David Doyle, Director of the Latin American Centre in Oxford, opened the conference that took place on 30 – 31 May, welcoming the students of the Latin American Graduate Network and the students from the Freie Universität Berlin. These are excerpts from his opening remarks:

This workshop very much embodies the purpose and mission of the Latin American Centre here in Oxford. Founded in 1964 to promote the study of Latin America in the United Kingdom, the LAC was initially part of St Antony's College but now is one of the units of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA). As an inter-disciplinary centre for the study of the region, I would like to think the LAC serves as the fulcrum or the key place for those studying Latin America, through any academic lens, at the University of Oxford. It also serves as a point of contact for all those from the region working and collaborating with the University in a myriad of disciplines and subjects, and not necessarily focused on the region. Our regular seminars and workshops serve to act as the focus of intellectual life and debate about the region. That is why we are very happy to work closely with the Oxford Latin American Graduate Network, and to host this event. The programme is full of LAC students, or those completing DPhils while under the supervision of LAC Fellows. They are regular visitors to the LAC and I would think that the LAC serves as something of an intellectual home for them in Oxford. I hope you will all feel that way and become part of our welcoming and open LAC community.

This two-day workshop is a great example of the best type of initiatives that we can undertake as part of the OX|BER Partnership. The purpose of the OX|BER

Partnership is to foster and encourage academic collaboration between Oxford and the four partner institutions of the Berlin Alliance. As participants in this workshop you join more than 1,000 scientists from all fields and disciplines, junior researchers, students, and university administration staff have already been involved in the partnership programmes.

But this workshop also serves to emphasise the importance of Latin American Studies here in Oxford and area studies more generally. Area studies has been somewhat threatened by the turn to disciplines. In social science terms, the new institutionalism and the behavioural and quantitative turn of the 1950s and 1960s, placed an emphasis on deductive theorising, wide applicability and generalisability and the importance of maximising your n. But events of recent years, have challenged some of these dominant disciplinary norms. Unexpected shocks like COVID-19, or Russia's invasion of Ukraine, render it very difficult to engage in deductive models. The importance of context, institutions and local norms in how countries have responded to the pandemic has, I think, challenged some of our assumptions about generalisability. The importance of in-depth contextual knowledge has returned to the fore. Area studies, and the often semi-inductive nature of work in this vein, has never been more important in solving puzzles, understanding exemptions. And from there, we can build more deductive

and generalizable models. Area studies is not divorced from the more disciplinary social sciences – it can help inform and underpin them. I think I am a better political scientist because of my work on Latin America, not in spite of it.

And so it is very apposite for this group of young scholars to hold this workshop for those working on Latin America. And particularly apposite for the second day to be focused on the state in the region. The pandemic has highlighted to us the very real threats and weaknesses of many Latin American states. And the heterogeneity of state capacity. In seminars all year long, sitting in this centre (and online), we have discussed the challenges facing the state across the region: huge debt burdens, stagnant demand for Latin American commodities; the over-reliance on the export of these commodities; the lack of a sustainable fiscal model; the weakening social contract; the difficulties of taxing progressively; the lack of trust in the institutions of the region; the potential for social unrest; and the endogenous circle of weak state capacity. So it is important that the next generation of scholars tackle these big questions about the state in Latin America. I hope that a workshop like this, bringing students together from different disciplines and universities, will help foster future collaborations and help address some very real, and very pressing problems.



The 'Latin America in the UK and Germany' wine reception with special guests from the Argentine Embassy, Canning Club, APARU, and Anglo-Argentine Society

Maternity and Academia

Dr Andreza Aruska De Souza Santos and Clorrie Yeomans

MPhil student, Clorrie Yeomans, interviews Course Director and Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme, Dr Andreza Aruska De Souza Santos, about breaking the taboos surrounding maternity and academia.

C: Why have you chosen, Andreza, to discuss the issue of maternity and academia for this edition of Horizontes?

A: Yesterday, I attended a talk on development and one marker for developed countries is maternal age. So, countries that have a lot of teenage pregnancies are undeveloped and the higher the maternal age, the better the conditions of development. This is an indicator of labour inclusion, education of women, etc. But this is an incomplete marker because if the maternal age gets too high, that's also a sign of weak policy. What is happening so that women cannot take time off from their careers? Are these educated women now having to make a choice between education, work, or maternity? Is this a sign of development? Or is this a sign of subdevelopment due to policies? What are the security aspects that prevent a lot of women from stepping out to have children without harming their careers or their studies? That's why, I think, we should talk about this issue in the U.K. The U.K. has a very high maternal age which, again, is a sign that women are educated and included in the labour force. But they don't see a way of conciliating family life while remaining a dedicated

professional. And this issue is very serious in academia.

C: Why is this issue particularly pronounced in academia compared to other professions?

A: Firstly, I don't want to dismiss the challenges of women in other professions. I will talk about academia because this is the reality that I know best. I'm not sure how particular academia is. But in academia our performance is very individualised. So, if you step out and stop producing articles and publishing and so on, it's not your field that is taking the burden. It's you as an individual who has a different level of performance. You're no longer on social media or in interviews or showing your publications and proving your track record and so on.

Having a child is still one of the points that you can deduce in some academic markers. So, for example, you are still eligible for certain grants for five years after the Ph.D. or if you have two children, you can compete for seven years after the doctorate. They try to compensate but even though you still can enter some competitions, it doesn't mean that you're going to win them. That said, there are, of

course, a whole host of other life problems that you cannot even explain like going through a divorce or losing a family member. These experiences can have very intense personal impacts on one's career.

Even though parenting can stretch your time a little with grant applications and you can take maternity or paternity leave, it is still difficult. If a Ph.D. student takes paternity or maternity leave, his or her scholarship is potentially interrupted. This is a struggle for many students. As an academic, you have maternity leave and, of course, you are a worker, but there are many academics on casual contracts meaning that they earn only if they work. Usually, you are in casual contracts at the beginning of your career and that's also the time when you're the most fertile. Physically, the best time to have children for most people is during the Ph.D. and the first years after the Ph.D. Considering the normal education time frame without gaps, you're talking about the early thirties here. That's a period when it's unlikely that you've already secured a permanent professorship or a more stable lectureship. Stepping out then can be financially and professionally very costly.

Frida Kahlo's *Roots Self Portrait* (photograph: fridakahlo.org)



C: Another aspect of academic life is that you travel a lot. So, I suppose that many academics cannot rely on their family network for childcare.

A: You receive a research allowance that covers only you, but if you're travelling with children or with your partner to help you with childcare, you have extra costs that will not count as work expenses. However, at the University, there are also many evening events that take place outside of schooling hours, so that adds a financial burden on parents to look for babysitters. Some individuals have a partner at home who doesn't have an academic job and who can take care of the child or children. That's not always the case. There are single parents and sometimes the other parent is an academic or has evening events. So, how do you reconcile academia with this timeframe so that it doesn't exclude those with caring responsibilities?

Obviously, we are talking about a fraction of people because Oxford is a university that has a lot of students but not a lot of consolidated careers. To become a professor at Oxford, you usually already held a professorship somewhere else. So you end up having two defined age groups that are very young or already past the 'toddler stage.' There are a lot of early career academics who fall into this 'toddler stage.' They often have very young children. But those are also the most disenfranchised at the University: they're neither students nor full professors. So, that fight is sometimes very difficult for them to take. You are not based on principles of inclusion if you just say, "let's see what the majority thinks." For many students and professors, evening events and high tables might be very good. So, who are we excluding and why should that matter? This is also about creating examples for our students and saying that it's possible to conciliate career and families. I've not seen many pregnant women at Oxford University and we don't see children in the areas that we circulate. This is out of our sight in our discussions.

C: Maybe this exerts the reverse pressure on male academics to attend events outside of school time, to the detriment of seeing their children.

A: I'm sure that giving up telling bedtime stories to your children and asking them about their school day is very painful for any parent. So, academia is a system that was originally not thought for both males and female parents. Universities usually grew from divinities: almost a religious devotion to knowledge through which people solely dedicated themselves to research without considering family life. This has, of course, changed, but not entirely. So, to whom do you delegate your children? This is an interesting aspect.

Another question is, when do you start trying for a baby? If you wait for the time when you have a very stable career, it may be too late. So, what we need to fight for now is not: how do we increase the maternal age? Or how do we gain access to fertility treatment? This is not the fight. The fight is instead: how do you make a quality of life that assumes that there are ideal physical times to bear children? And how do we ensure women do not need to make this choice between education, labour, and family? It's a very unfair choice there. We can, and must, have it all. We are not asking for too much.

C: So, what can we do to improve this situation?

A: There are some places that are child-friendly and seminars where the organisers invite you to bring your children. But this presents other challenges. For example, which places have a ramp for prams or pushchairs? What does the child do during the seminar? They can get bored or there are no highchairs, etc. So, even when you try to be child-friendly and inclusive, this presents physical challenges. Also, it creates an embarrassment that you bring a child who may cry or you need to change their nappy to an environment that is mainly thought for adults. Once, I tried to organise a conference providing childcare so that scholars could travel with their children. It was so impossible to even discuss that: which room would we use? Who would be qualified to look after the children? You need a safe and child-friendly environment and staff with training. Basically, for single parents or students where both partners may be going through the same situation, there is a lot of giving up on certain things. However, there are a lot of steps that the institution can take. For example, daytime events instead of evening events are already much more inclusive.

C: How do you view the family-friendly measures taken by certain colleges, especially Wolfson?

A: Wolfson attracts a lot of families because they are very couple friendly. Students who come to Oxford with a partner usually go to Wolfson because they have a lot more accommodation for couples and families compared to many other colleges, proportionally speaking. They also are very child-friendly: they have their own nursery. It's one of the few colleges to my knowledge where there are highchairs in the hall. Also, when you go to the common rooms, there are children playing. However, this perpetuates a cycle where everybody who has children tries to be at Wolfson. Other colleges could do the same so that it's not only Wolfson College that is attractive to people who

have a partner or children when they begin their studies. Kellogg College has also built The Hub: a new cafeteria that is open to everyone with very subsidised refreshments. Their bathrooms have nappy-changing facilities, which is very rare in Oxford. These are some of the practical measures that I'd like to see. Besides that, talks and discussions are also very important to bring awareness about which options are available, which funds are open, which routes one can take to plan a family and have an academic career. I think we need to have these discussions in different ways by understanding the body and fertility, and infertility, better. At school, we learn a lot about how babies are made and how to avoid them. We don't talk a lot about infertility issues and how to pay attention to the signs: both male and female. So, we have this idealised 35 years of age as a cut-off point, as if this is true that everybody who is under 35 has the biological capacity to have children. The sooner fertility issues are discovered, the better. But you are often pushed to the end of the 45 minutes of the second half of the football game to start trying for a baby only to discover that you have a problem but you don't have time to treat it. Fertility clinics in the U.K. are full: it's an extremely expensive route. It's full of academics as well. Childcare is also absurdly expensive, costing more than renting a house, which also pushes up the maternity age. We need a lot more.

C: What would you encourage members of our community to do if they are affected by these issues?

A: They need to look into the available options. If they are a member of staff, I would encourage them to speak to Human Resources. If they are students, they should reach out to their College Advisors. Try to make use of everything that exists, including grants for returning parents. Even using these tools, we are still lagging, and there is only so much that the current University policies can do.

Regarding fertility age, infertility, and choices, there is a lack of information and conversation about it. The same applies to menopause at work. These issues are being discussed over social media and documentaries rather than in the workplace. These problems are often very naturalised and we are told to just deal with them. However, we know that talking about it, learning about it, preparing for it can be extremely important. So, bringing these topics closer to us and breaking taboos and being open about periods, endometriosis, and many problems that can affect people with reproductive capacities will create more policies, encourage awareness, introduce more coping mechanisms, and generate a better environment for everyone.

Life at St. Antony's College



The college system is one of the defining features of Oxford University. There are a total of 39 Oxford colleges and each one has its own personality, traditions, and community. Staff and students at the LAC are affiliated to a number of different colleges including Brasenose, Jesus, Kellogg, Linacre, St. Antony's, St. Cross, St. Hugh's, St. Peter's, and Wadham.

St. Antony's college, which I have called home for the last three terms, is unique in many ways. It is the only Oxford college which exclusively accepts students studying in the Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions and it is home to seven research centres, each focused on a different regional area, including the Latin American Centre, making it a particularly dynamic and inspiring place

for students of regional studies. There are regular talks and seminars from leading experts, politicians, researchers, and members of a variety of NGOs, think tanks, businesses, and international organisations, meaning there is something for everyone, no matter how niche your niche!

As a small graduate college, St Antony's has a very strong community feeling. For the duration of my time here, college really has become my home and its members have become my family. The sense of community is one of the greatest benefits of the college experience and the community at St. Antony's is one of the most international in the whole university, both in its student body and its staff. The chance to meet and become

friends with people from every corner of the world is something that I have really enjoyed about life at St. Antony's. The mixing of cultures, viewpoints, and experiences always makes for fascinating discussions, and events are regularly held to celebrate different traditions and festivals from around the world.

The famous Hilda Besse building, which houses both our dining hall and bar, is the heart of all social activities at St. Antony's. St. Antony's is well-known amongst Oxford colleges for its bops, which normally take place once or twice a term. Arguably the best bop this year was the carnival themed bop which featured performances by acrobats and DJs as well as some fantastic costumes, and was attended by LAC students from many different colleges. Formal dinners are, in my opinion, one of the highlights of the college experience, providing an excellent excuse to dress up in your finest attire and spend an evening eating, drinking, and talking with friends about issues of geopolitics, economics, or where to find the best Colombian food in Oxford (shout-out to the arepa van outside Christ Church). Formals at St. Antony's are a relatively relaxed affair, with no high table, and they always somehow migrate from the dining room to the college bar below. The dining hall is also a great place to catch up over a more casual dinner with friends or grab lunch with your supervisor to discuss the latest developments with your dissertation. The relaxed atmosphere around college means it's always easy to ask a friend or tutor for help or advice, no matter how big or small the problem, or even just stop a professor for a chat about a class you found interesting or an article you just read.

There is a huge range of different societies at college, so you're sure to find something that fits your interests. One of the newest additions at St. Antony's college is the salsa society, which has given me the opportunity to brush up on my (very rusty) salsa skills. Rowing has been another important part of my Oxford and college experience. If you had told me last year that I would be regularly

Global and Area Studies

getting up before 6 am to go out and exercise in the freezing cold I would have said you were crazy. And yet learning to row has been one of the most enjoyable activities of my time here. Nevertheless, I have to admit it has been a lot easier going on outings on long, warm summer days when I can feel my hands and it's light enough to see where I'm going. St. Antony's boat club is a very friendly and welcoming group, no matter what your level of skill with an oar. As well as having great team spirit we've also had great success on the river this year.

Living in college has meant that all of these events and facilities, as well as my community of friends and colleagues, are, quite literally, on my doorstep. Additionally, being just around the corner from North Parade and Jericho means there are always plenty of options for places to grab a coffee, a pint, and a slice of cake or pizza. The greenery of University Parks is also just a few minutes walk away. However, perhaps the biggest benefit of living in St. Antony's has been my extremely short commute to the LAC, which I can see through my window, meaning I managed to be on time for every single class this year - something that, for me, is an impressive feat.

I have also really enjoyed the opportunity to experience some of the other colleges: getting to know my course mates at the LAC has inevitably meant getting to know their colleges, communities, and traditions. LAC students can often be found in the libraries (and bars) of different colleges around Oxford and we recently had a picnic in the beautiful gardens at St. Hugh's. Having such a friendly departmental community means you're welcomed with open arms into everyone's college community too. Overall, my college experience has massively enhanced my time at Oxford, both academically and socially, and even after I leave Oxford I know I'll always remain an Antonian.

Rachel Watson



The new MPhil in Global and Area Studies emphasises the importance of comparative study of so-called world 'areas'. We are encouraged to look closely at how different disciplines and processes have developed and continue to develop within and between different areas, and this is reinforced by the compulsory 'area specific' components of the course.

I chose to specialise in Latin American Studies by taking the modules Human Rights in Latin America and Sociology of Latin America, both run by Professor Leigh Payne (and the former being co-run with Dr. Francesca Lessa). Studying at the Latin American Centre has been a great fit for my thesis, which explores environmental personhood legislation. Environmental personhood describes the declaration of an environment as a legal 'person', with guardians or spokespeople often appointed to represent the best interests of the environment in a judicial setting.

Whilst my thesis centres on New Zealand, the Human Rights in Latin America module introduced me to the 'Rights of Nature' precedent set by the LAC region. A notable example is the Ecuadorian constitution of 2008, which was the first constitution of a modern nation-state to recognise

Pachama ("Mother Earth") as a subject of rights. More recently, the highest court in Colombia granted legal 'personhood' to the Colombian portion of the Amazon tropical rainforest in 2018. Studying the conditions which enabled these transformative decisions in Latin American societies has provided context to my research on more recent cases of environmental personhood, both in the LAC region and beyond.

I've thoroughly enjoyed taking modules at the LAC - I've had the opportunity to be taught by women who are experts in their field and who take the time to check in on their students, facilitating a great learning environment. I've come away from the modules with a greater understanding of the disciplines of human rights and sociology, as well as how Latin American scholarship and practices have shaped these disciplines further afield.

Florence Lappin



MSc Students

2021-2022



Harriet Allan

I am from the UK, and I studied International Relations and Spanish at the University of St Andrews, with a semester at the University of Santiago de Compostela. My undergraduate dissertation focused on the use of enforced disappearance as a tool of repression in Chile and Argentina during the Cold War. I travelled to Peru during my studies to complete an internship at the Women's Emergency Centre in San Jerónimo in Cusco, Peru, helping women and children who had suffered domestic abuse to access free legal, financial, and psychological support.



Andrea Barbato

Born and raised in Italy, I grew up listening to stories of my great-grandfather who, as many other Italians, emigrated to the then almost depopulated Argentina to seek a better future (away from Fascism). Nevertheless, it was the direct contact with the Latin American region that made me feel the urge to know more and more about it. Thus I decided to undertake a BA in International Relations and Spanish (University of Sussex), and to spend my Year Abroad in Cádiz (Universidad de Cádiz), where I could focus on my favourite topics such as the Chavist Revolution in Venezuela, the phenomenon of Messianism, the conquest of México-Tenochtitlan (especially the figure of La Malinche), and the relationship between Pinochet's dictatorship and Italian Neo-Fascist groups. I am also particularly interested in the Global Politics of Food, which I really hope to explore further in relation to the region.



Mario Carvajal Cabal

Born in Cali, Colombia, Mario Carvajal is a graduate of International Relations, with an emphasis on Security Studies, from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, D.C., Colombia. Before joining the LAC, Mario was one of the founders of the student movement Javerianos por La Paz that supported the peace agreement between the FARC and the Colombian government. He then was one of the co-founders of the Tejiendo País Colombia foundation, which sought to promote the active participation of young people from different perspectives and scenarios in the construction of peace in Colombia. Mario is also an adherent member of Sucursal, a non-profit organization that seeks to contribute to the social and economic development of Colombia through fostering access to education and opportunities. Mario also worked as a contributor, mainly in the Latin America team, for Greenmantle, a macroeconomic and geopolitical advisory firm. He also writes a bi-monthly column for El País de Cali and is the founder and one of the panelists of La Causa Joven, a weekly debating program that deals with national and international political news.



Maddy Copley

I grew up in the US and studied History and Spanish at Durham University, with a semester studying Contemporary History at the University of Alcalá and an internship at the National Historic Museum of Uruguay. I also did a Laidlaw Scholarship project on British informal empire in Uruguay and wrote my dissertation on journalism in Argentina during the Dirty War.



Nicolas De Rhodes Lozano

I am Colombian with a mixed background. Before coming to Oxford to study at the LAC, I completed a bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in History from NYU, as well as an MSc in Development Studies at the LSE. My main academic interests are political economy and history, and in my free time I enjoy listening to music and cooking.



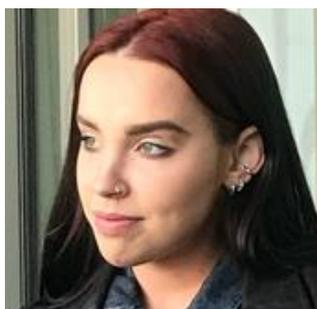
Javier Escobar González

Formerly Colombia's Tourism Viceminister Communications advisor. MA in Political Communication from City University of London, where I focused my investigation on political scandals and media coverage. Cum Laude in Political Science from Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Also, I have complementary studies in journalism from the Centre of Journalism Studies (CEPER) from the same university. Passionate about Colombia and Latin America and always keen on working for the region's development.



Larissa Fontenelle De Mendonca Barbosa

Larissa holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Electoral Law (PUC-Minas), a Bachelor of Laws (UniCeub) and a BSc in Sociology (Universidade de Brasilia). Larissa was born and raised in Brasilia, Brazil, and moved to Oxford in 2017. Prior to her Master's, she worked as an analyst for a consulting firm headquartered in Oxford, where she conducted due diligence work aiming to bring transparency for clients doing business in several countries in Africa. Her research interests are comparative politics and electoral systems.



Holly Haynes

I was born in Chicago to a South African father, descended from Irish migrants, and an English mother. Growing up in the US to immigrant parents has shaped my interest in migration and I believe that Latin America is a particularly fascinating region in this regard. I hold a BA in Spanish & Portuguese from King's College London and a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Development from SOAS, University of London. For my SOAS dissertation I conducted a comparative study of the nikkeijin communities in Brazil and Peru. I investigated how race and identity are often conflated with the goal of provoking a contemplation of how migrants are compartmentalised, often through Western preconceptions.

I finished two years volunteering for the Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation in London. I worked in three departments, but it was through doing immigration casework that I was able to gain first-hand insight into some of the root causes of migration from Latin America as well as the difficulties faced by migrants from the region in the UK. Alongside my MSc, I am interning at the Latin American News Digest, a publication based in Washington D.C. that aims to propagate news from the region in Anglophone communities.



Katie Jones

I was born and raised in the United Kingdom. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Politics from the University of Warwick, where I specialized in Latin America in my final year. There, I investigated educational inequalities in Costa Rica and Nicaragua in my undergraduate dissertation.

After graduating from Warwick, I worked and lived in Mexico's state of Puebla and then Costa Rica. I taught English in both countries. During my time in the region, I also interned for C-SPOC – an NGO focused on providing self-sustaining solutions in education, health and enterprise for communities - for whom I completed a research project on how to achieve education for all in Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica, I was an active member of a local NGO called Club A, which strove to provide children from an underprivileged neighbourhood with basic education, food, and clean water. I also got involved in a number of other initiatives there, in my capacity as Ambassador for Central America and Mexico for the International Fellowship of Rotarian Educators.

More recently, I worked as an investigator for InSight Crime, a foundation dedicated to the study of organized crime and citizen insecurity in the Americas. I wrote for the organization's website on a range of issues – from human smuggling in Central America to wildlife trafficking in Brazil. Alongside that, I was involved in a project that aimed to study environmental crime across the Amazon Basin. I also write for the Latin American Bureau, and am currently working on a book about Costa Rica for the organization.



Tom Kynaston

My name is Tom and I'm from Brighton in the UK. I graduated from the University of Leeds last year having studied Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, a course which took me on both a term abroad to Granada, Spain and a year abroad to Lisbon, Portugal. I have always had a keen interest in languages, cultures and societies and I was first attracted to Latin America when travelling around South America for four months before starting university in 2016. I relished the opportunity to get to know some of the cultures first-hand, spending prolonged periods of time in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

More recently, I completed my Final Year Project in Leeds examining Brazilian President Bolsonaro's speeches, focusing particularly on his use of populist discourse in his 2019 UN General Assembly speech and how his speeches were covered by the media outside of Brazil and Latin America. During my time at the Latin American Centre, I hope to deepen my understanding of the area and build on my previous research interests through the interdisciplinary study offered on the course.



Andrea Moncada Carrera

I am a journalist and political scientist from Lima, Peru. Prior to coming to Oxford I worked as the Opinion coordinator for El Comercio, Peru's oldest and largest newspaper; before that, I was a political and economic reporter for the magazine Semana Económica. I was also a part time lecturer of Politics and International Relations at ESAN University in Lima. Currently, I am a contributing columnist for Americas Quarterly, a US publication that focuses on Latin America. I also hold an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics. My academic interest lies in Peru's democratic consolidation and the factors that have helped or hindered this process, mainly the role of our economic elites in institution building. In my free time I love to swim and enjoy cooking and trying out new recipes.



Stuart McLoughlin

Before studying for the MSc in Latin American Studies at the LAC, I studied History at the University of Oxford, which is where I discovered my interest in the region. Starting with an interest in the Mexican Revolution and its enigmatic leaders, on which I wrote my undergraduate thesis, my research has since expanded across the region and across academic disciplines. My research at the LAC has focused on foreign intervention and the Cold War in Latin America and my thesis has re-examined the origins of the U.S invasion of Panama.



MSc Students

2021-2022



Clizia Mongelli

I am originally from Rome and Moscow. I currently hold a BA in Modern Languages (Spanish and Russian) from UCL, where I discovered my interest in Latin America. At BA level I have had the opportunity to learn about some of the region's most interesting social, political, and cultural features, mainly from the point of view of literature, such as indigenous tribes in Colombia and Paraguay and their protection, the plague of social and political violence in Central America, drug cartels in Colombia, and organised crime in Mexico.



Olivia Phillips

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area of California and became particularly interested in Latin America after teaching in Panama and working in Mexico City writing for *Sentido Común*. My articles covered current events, the economy, and regional politics. While in the capital, I also studied human rights issues and the adverse impact that the United States has on the welfare of Mexican citizens. My course work at the University of St Andrews focused on International Relations and Spanish in order to deepen my understanding of these issues. My undergraduate dissertation assessed the degree to which Subcomandante Marcos, the leader of the Zapatista National Liberation Army, embraced and furthered a feminist agenda. I also contributed articles for *Protocol Magazine*, a University publication focused on human rights issues.



Eugenia Sanchez

I am originally from Caracas, Venezuela, but have spent most of my life living in New York. I completed my undergraduate study at Columbia University, graduating with a B.A. in Political Science & Government. After graduating, I worked with public and private sector firms in the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina, exploring potential pathways for expanding financial inclusion in the region through the application of emerging financial technologies. My research interests range from the history of U.S. intervention in the region to the politicisation of inequality and redistribution during the so-called Pink Tide at the start of the 21st century. I am also a devoted disciple of García Márquez, Borges, Cortázar, Neruda, and Bolaño.



Rachel Watson

My passion for Latin America started when I visited Cuba as a teenager. This trip had an enormous impact on me and I went on to study an MA in Spanish at the University of Edinburgh. During my undergraduate degree I spent a year studying in Mexico and Argentina and travelling around the region, which sparked an interest in the modern history and politics of Latin America. This led me to centre my dissertation around the concept of identity in relation to the Disappeared and their children in Argentinian literature and film on the 1976-1983 dictatorship. Before coming to Oxford, I also spent time teaching English in Gran Canaria, which showed me the huge variety of different cultural and historical links between Latin America and the rest of the world.



Richard Wilkinson

After studying languages and linguistics in France and briefly working as an English teacher in Chile, I returned to the UK to pursue an MSc in Social Research at Goldsmiths, University of London. Although my intention was to use this as a stepping-stone to doctoral research in interactional linguistics, I was unexpectedly captivated by the political sociology of Spanish-speaking South America. While in London, I learnt how to analyse survey data and explored some of the contemporary correlates of political legitimacy and participation across the region.



Zara Zapico

In 2019 I graduated from Warwick University majoring in Economics. I then worked in finance for 2 years, during which I became very interested in development and how various developmental theories can be related to Latin America. I applied for a Masters in Latin American Studies as it is a great opportunity to learn more about the region and to conduct in-depth research. I am particularly interested in the political economies of the region and its potential for sustainable development.



MPhil Students



**Sarah Phillips
(2021-23)**

Sarah is a postgraduate student at St. Antony's College, Oxford University. Born and raised in upstate New York, she holds a B.A. in Spanish and international relations from the State University of New York at Geneseo. After graduating, she taught English at the Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia in Pasto, Colombia, on a Fulbright teaching assistantship. Prior to Oxford, Sarah worked at the Inter-American Dialogue, a DC-based think tank focused on Western Hemisphere affairs. In that role she helped inform and shape policies to promote energy security and climate change mitigation in Latin America and the Caribbean.



**Clorrie Yeomans
(2020-22)**

I am a postgraduate student at St Antony's College. Born and raised in the UK, I hold a BA in Modern Languages and Cultures (French and Spanish) from Durham University. I also spent a year abroad completing internships in France, Spain and Argentina. Studying conference interpreting introduced me to discourse on international relations, public health and migration, and my arts background has sparked my interest in analysing trends across Latin America based on race, gender, and social class. Besides languages, my second passion is wine, and that has provided me with a gateway through which to explore the history, geography and culture of the region. While living in Mendoza, Argentina, I began my journey as an author at the South America Wine Guide.

My main area of interest is studying nomadic cultures since I am of Romani descent myself. For my undergraduate dissertation, I conducted online interviews with Argentinian gauchos which I then compared with portraits of gaucho identity in national myths. Besides studying, you can find me cooking and writing about wine.



**Tomás Medina Mora Perez
(2020-22)**

I was born in Mexico but spent most of my life wandering the immense triangle between London, Mexico City, and Washington DC. When I began my undergraduate studies in history at UCL, I quickly realised that the strangest, most compelling, and most interesting region also happened to be, conveniently, the region of my birth: Latin America. Since then, my research interests have remained firmly rooted in modern Mexican history, with my focus primarily geared towards post-revolutionary state and nation-building.



**Lauren Mauney
(2020-22)**

I completed my B.A. in Politics and International Affairs, alongside Economics coursework, at Wake Forest University. With a background in human rights and an interest in finance and corporate law, I am interested in the intersection between the two.



MPHIL THESES

From Scientific Racism to Indigenismo: Racial Thought and Paradigm Shifts in Mexico, 1890-1940

Tomás Medina Mora Perez (2020-22)

My thesis is concerned with changes in the racial ideas of leading Mexican thinkers between 1890 to 1940. It examines how Mexican racial thought went from being governed by scientific racism during the latter-half of the Porfiriato, to then being oriented by the cult of *mestizaje* in the Revolutionary period, to then finally being guided by the ideology of *indigenismo* in the post-Revolutionary aftermath. It focuses primarily on the works of Justo Sierra, Francisco Bulnes, Andrés Molina Enríquez, José Vasconcelos, Manuel Gamio, and Moisés Sáenz, aiming to establish how paradigm shifts in understandings of race can be seen in their works.

Baked into this approach are three underlying questions: 1. How did each thinker understand the idea of race? 2. Where did this understanding come from? 3. How did the state relate to these ideas? To this end, it adopts a contextualist approach to intellectual history that seeks to frame thinkers and texts as products of particular sets of circumstances, as well as discursive interventions in contemporary debates.



José Clemente Orozco's 1926 mural *Cortés y la malinche*



Participant observation with present-day gauchos in the pampas.

Between Tradition and Modernity: Who Owns the Identity of the Gaucho Ríoplatense in Argentina?

Clorrie Yeomans (2020-22)

This thesis peels back the layers of the gaucho's identity in Argentina from a historical, iconographic, and lived experience perspective drawing on historical and anthropological approaches. It decentres the gaucho's teleological progression from a living being, to a historic figure, to an icon naturalised through late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century literary productions that benchmarked gauchos against dichotomous pillars of tradition and modernity. By contrast, this thesis contends that gaucho identities have played a crucial role in shaping the shifting paradigms of tradition and modernity from the formation of the Argentine Republic to the present day.

The main body of this thesis is broken down into three chapters. The first shows how the formation of the historic gaucho occurred in parallel with the formation of the Argentine nation-state. It demonstrates how, through labour,

gauchos became drivers for the modernisation of Argentina, albeit to the detriment of their own frontier lifestyles. The second chapter explains the development of the gaucho's iconography according to two conceptual frameworks: creole nativism and commercial nationalism. The third chapter unlocks the lived experience of gauchos today by drawing on fieldwork in San Antonio de Areco, Argentina. It shows that, by rewriting their own history and iconography and leveraging this identity, gauchos can influence discussions of what tradition and modernity mean in present-day Argentina.

Carnival of Barranquilla, ¡Quien lo vive es quien lo goza!

The Oxford University Colombian Society organized an event during Hilary Term to show people in Oxford some of the country's customs through a cultural sample of the Carnival of Barranquilla. During the event, many people from the university, our Latin Americanist community, and other guests got to experience some of the joy spread by Barranquilla's Carnival. Several typical costumes were displayed, like the monococho, a mask that looks like a sort of monkey, and a vallenato group performance was held. The vallenato is a tri-ethnic rhythm from the Colombian Caribbean and a Colombian symbol usually present in every festivity in the region. Also, salsa, mainly from the famous Joe Arroyo, and cumbia genres, were played throughout the night.

¡Quien lo vive es quien lo goza! is the 'Carnaval de Barranquilla' slogan, inviting everyone in Colombia and worldwide to live it at least once. The carnival is one of the country's most important cultural and folkloric events. Also, it is part of Unesco's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and offers a varied repertoire of dances and musical expressions that have African, indigenous and European backgrounds. The carnival is always held the four days before Lent when the city completely stops to celebrate it. Even though the actual carnival is only four days, other events precede it.

During the pre-carnival time, some of the most interesting events are the 'Lectura del Bando' and the 'Guacherna'. The 'Lectura del Bando' is the official beginning of the pre-carnival, and during this event, the city's mayor hands the city's keys to the carnival queen. By giving his keys to the queen, he also passes on his 'power' for the time the carnival takes place. The queen reads the 'bando' or decree that invites people to be compromised with la gozadera or a happy state of mind throughout the pre-carnival and carnival. On the other hand, the 'Guacherna' is a night parade born at the beginning of the twentieth century in a popular neighbourhood in Barranquilla, Barrio Abajo.

During the official carnival days, several parades and events take place. The 'Batalla de Flores' or Flowers Battle is the opening event at the 'Via 40', one of the most important avenues in the city. The street

fills with floats, music, colours, costumes, and dances. The 'Batalla de Flores' is one of the oldest parades of the Carnival and was created to celebrate the end of the 'Guerra de los Mil Días'. The Carnival of Barranquilla finally ends Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, with the death of 'Joselito Carnival' who symbolizes the party and festivities.

The purpose of the Oxford University Colombian Society through this celebration was to invite people to know more about the Colombian culture and to invite everyone to this important cultural event. Probably, this was an appetizer for everyone to want to live this fantastic experience because ¡Quien lo vive es quien lo goza! (Those who live it are those who enjoy it!)



Javier Andrés Escobar González



RECOGNISED STUDENTS

Students registered for a PhD at another university conducting postgraduate research on Latin American Studies, who were based at the LAC while doing research for their theses in Oxford this academic year.



David Albuquerque

David Albuquerque is a senior year political science PhD Candidate at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE - Brazil), also holding a MA in political science and a BA in law from the same University. He investigates Brazilian foreign policy in Africa through the relationship between African non-Portuguese speaking countries and African Portuguese speaking countries (PALOP), focusing on the diffusion of Brazilian cooperation projects on the continent.



Matheus Cunha

Matheus Cunha is a Political Science PhD Student at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), having also obtained a MA and BA in Political Science at the same university. His research interests are blame avoidance and attribution, political corruption, and causal inference more generally. His thesis is about whether what elected representatives say (their presentational strategies) is effective at mitigating attributions of blame and improving public support.



Amanda Domingos

Amanda Domingos is a Political Science PhD Student at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Recife, Brazil), and holds an MA and BA in Political Science from the same university. Her research interests include public policy, subnational and distributive politics, and research transparency in the social sciences. In her thesis, she focuses on the role of budgetary amendments on the subnational unevenness of policy provision at the local level in Brazil.



Antonio Henrique Pires dos Santos

Antonio Henrique Pires dos Santos is a Political Science and International Relations PhD candidate at Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), and holds a BA in Law and an MA in Political Science and International Relations from the same university. In his thesis, he aims to describe how member states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) refer to intervention in international conflicts, applying a text-as-data approach to analyse their speeches.



Marcus Torres

Marcus Torres is a PhD student in Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco, and CAPES/Print and Fundação de Amparo a Ciência e Tecnologia (FACEPE) fellow. Previously, he was also a Max Planck/Sciences Po (MaxPo) Visiting Researcher.

His research interests are bureaucracy, non-state actors, public resource allocation, and political elites. His dissertation focuses on understanding the effects of political dynasties on federal transfers in Brazilian municipalities.



Miaomiao Yuan

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Faculty of History at Nankai University in China. I have been a Recognised Student at the Latin American Centre for three terms (Michaelmas 2021, Hilary 2022, Trinity 2022). I am interested in the political and international history of the Americas. More specifically, my research focuses on the relations between Britain and Latin America in the Nineteenth Century.



Fernanda Kagan Mallak

Fernanda Kagan Mallak is a Sociology PhD candidate at Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and CAPES Foundation fellow (Brazilian Ministry of Education). She holds a BA in Social Sciences from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP) and MA in Territory Planning and Management from the Federal University of ABC (UFABC). Since her undergraduate studies, the topics of land conflicts in urban areas and the right to housing permeate her academic research.



Juliana Lopes da Silva

Juliana Lopes da Silva is a Social Psychologist PhD candidate at the University of São Paulo – USP (São Paulo, Brazil), with an MA and BA in Psychology. In her doctoral research, she focuses on experiences of self-employed workers of different professional categories, using qualitative data.



Graziele Silotto

Graziele Silotto is a political science PhD candidate at the University of São Paulo (USP - Brazil), and holds a MA in political science and BA in social sciences from the same university. She is a São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and Brazilian Ministry of Education (Capes) fellow. In her thesis, she focuses on electoral competition and coordination strategies under open list proportional systems.

ACADEMIC VISITORS



Victor Araújo

Victor Araújo is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Institute for Political Science (IPZ) at the University of Zurich (UZH). His primary research agenda draws on experimental and quasi-experimental designs to identify the impact of social policies on electoral participation and political engagement. Victor's research has been published or is forthcoming with Comparative Political Studies, the British Journal of Political Science, Research & Politics, Latin American Research Review, and Brazilian Political Science Review. In 2019, Victor completed a Ph.D. in political science from the University of São Paulo (USP).



Juan Infante Amate

BSc in Business and Management (University of Jaen), MSc in Agroecology (International University of Andalusia), and PhD in History (Pablo de Olavide University). I taught Environmental and Contemporary History as a Lecturer at the University Pablo de Olavide until September 2020. Subsequently, I joined the Department of Economic Theory and Economic History at the University of Granada, where I am currently an Associate Professor and Vice-Head of the Department. My research focuses on the study of long term economic and environmental changes in Spain, Europe, and Latin America.



Dalson Figueiredo

Renata Barbosa is currently a researcher at Maastricht University, where she teaches and manages a research project. She holds a PhD in criminal law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, having defended her thesis in 2019. Her research focuses on the analysis of the concept of political crimes, and she has published articles on the topics of amnesty, transitional justice, and international criminal justice in both Brazilian and international journals. She is a member of the editorial team of Oxford Transitional Justice Research and of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Penal Law.



Juan Iglesias

Juan Iglesias is an Associate Professor of Sociology and International Migration at Comillas University of Madrid (Spain). He has been Director of the Forced Migration and Refugee Chair of Comillas University (Spain) and Director of the journal "Migraciones" (Q1 Scopus). He holds a PhD in Sociology from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM). He was awarded a postgraduate course in Development Economics from the Department of International Economics and development of UCM. His main areas of interest are contemporary international migration, social integration of Latin American immigrants, poverty, and class and race inequalities.



Ricardo Malca

Ricardo Malca is a Counsellor at the Diplomatic Service of Peru. He currently serves as the Head of Political and Cultural Affairs at the Peruvian Embassy in the United Kingdom and holds an MA in Political Management with a specialization in the organization of electoral campaigns from the George Washington University, Washington, DC (2012); an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Diplomatic Academy of Peru (2005); and a degree in Advanced Studies in Public Administration by the Diplomatic Academy of Peru (2018). While in Oxford, Ricardo has been working on a research related to Presidential elections in Peru between 2001 and 2021.



Ernani Rodrigues de Carvalho Neto

Ernani Carvalho is an associate professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of São Paulo (2005) and has been a Visiting Researcher at Coimbra University (2003-04) and Research Fellow at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2012-2013). Interested in Latin American Politics, Public Policy and Judicial Politics, Carvalho has several articles published in specialized journals.



Dawisson Belém Lopes

Dawisson Belém Lopes is a Professor of International and Comparative Politics at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and a Research Fellow of the National Council for Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) in Brazil. From 2018 to 2022, he served as UFMG's Deputy Dean for International Affairs. Having authored/edited ten books and dozens of peer-reviewed articles on topics related to Latin American politics, Brazilian foreign policy, and international institutions, Professor Lopes previously was a visiting researcher at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg, Germany (2013), visiting professor at the Catholic University of Louvain in Mons, Belgium (2016), Raisina Young Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, India (2017), and SUSI Scholar on Foreign Policy at the University of Delaware, USA (2021).



Jeffrey Hoelle

Jeffrey Hoelle is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research focuses on how non-indigenous Amazonians relate to nature along the frontiers of the Brazilian Amazon. He seeks to understand the on-the-ground logic of Amazonian deforestation from the perspective of diverse actors, including gold miners, cattle ranchers, colonists, rubber tappers, and urbanites. Hoelle's first book, *Rainforest Cowboys: The Rise of Ranching and Cattle Culture in Western Amazonia*, examined the cultural dimensions of the expanding livestock industry in the Brazilian Amazon, with a focus on the political-economic structures and cultural constructions that promote a cattle-centred vision of land use, popular culture, and rural identity. While at Oxford, Hoelle has been working on his second book, *The Cultivation of Land and Body Covers in the Brazilian Amazon*. The book seeks to understand a system of thought that guides how the people driving and inhabiting the Amazonian frontier conceptualize and act on nature.



Carla Tomazini

Carla Tomazini is currently a research member of Printemps, Université Paris-Saclay-CNRS and lecturer and academic coordinator at Sciences Po. She was previously an assistant professor (ATER) in the Department of Political Science at the University of Versailles (2016-2018). Carla earned her PhD in Political Science at the University of Paris Sorbonne-Nouvelle (France) and the University of Campinas (Brazil) in 2016. In her thesis, she explores the process of endogenous institutional changes through the example of conditional cash transfer programmes in Brazil and Mexico. Her primary research interests are in the field of comparative politics, with a focus on political institutions and the welfare state.

She is currently investigating the links between anti-gender politics and reforms in schooling (including the promotion of homeschooling) throughout Latin America. She was selected for residency at the Maison française d'Oxford (MFO) as part of the partnership with Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye.



Caio Pompeia

Caio Pompeia is a researcher at the Postdoctoral Program in Social Anthropology at the University of São Paulo. He obtained his PhD in Anthropology (2018) at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), with a collaborative period at Harvard University (2017). His first book, *Formação Política do Agronegócio*, was published in 2021. It examines the heterogeneity of the political field of food systems in Brazil, particularly in relation to environmental, food security and indigenous issues. His research interests are food systems, environment, food and nutrition security, indigenous territories, politics and power relations, policies and ethnography.

Interview with Professor of Spanish American Literature, Ben Bollig

MPhil candidate, Clorrie Yeomans, speaks to Professor of Spanish American Literature and fellow Argentina fanatic, Ben Bollig, about poetry, politics, and past collaborations between the Modern Languages Faculty and the Latin American Centre (LAC).



Could you introduce yourself to our readers?

I'm Ben Bollig and I'm a Professor of Spanish American Literature at the Modern Languages Faculty and a Fellow and Tutor in Spanish at St Catherine's, as well as looking after Spanish at St John's. I'm also a LAC Associate Member.

Could you tell us a little bit about the main themes of your own research?

I started working mostly on poetry and wrote a book called *Néstor Perlongher: The Poetic Search for an Argentine*

Marginal Voice (2008, University of Wales Press). The book is about an Argentine poet, activist, and anthropologist by the name of Néstor Perlongher. I became very interested in how poets take poetry off the page through performance, political activism, adaptations, and new versions of their work. Perlongher was one of the first poets to have his performances recorded and circulated on tape. I started looking at authors who were involved in the Slam poetry scene and graffiti poetry movement in Argentina.

In my last book, I went further by looking at film adaptations of poetry. This is how poetry appears on screen. We often hear people talk about 'poetic films' like *Cold Mountain* and, recently, *Drive My Car*. However, no two directors or no two critics agree on what that word 'poetic' means. What's often missing is any actual poetry. I was interested in what happens when people try to put poetry on screen, in how directors film poetry and the lives of poets and how poets write for the screen. There's an Argentine film directed by Papu Curroto called *Esteros* which I highly recommend and the screenplay was partially written by the poet Andi Nachon. Andi gave a reading at the LAC during one of the lockdown events. My interpretation is that, in order to understand how that film works, studying Andi's wonderful poetry is deeply important.



What are some interdisciplinary connections between your own literary studies and the work of some of the social scientists and historians in the LAC? I'm thinking particularly about your book, *Politics and Public Space in Contemporary Argentine Poetry: The Lyric and the State* (2016, Plgrave Macmillan US).

In my penultimate book, my subtitle was indeed 'The Lyric and the State'. Unpacking that a little bit, when we use the term 'lyric', we often talk about first-person poetry in which a voice talks through its emotion to us. It seems very much that it's something that would be at odds with politics and the state. However, over the history of poetry, that first-person expression of individual feelings has often had a very strong relation with the wider political context. In the case of Latin America, it's really interesting to look at a figure like Pablo Neruda. Perhaps his most memorable and renowned works are his love and nature poems. However, on the basis of his poetry, he had a political career, became a senator, and was frequently named as a potential future leader of the Chilean Republic. His support for Salvador Allende through his lyrical poetry was really instrumental. To give another example, Ernesto Cardenal was a poet but also a revolutionary and eventually a politician. He was also a key member of the Sandinista movement and its subsequent government.

Through the study of Argentina, I was interested in poets who, on the one hand, are experimenting with what that lyric voice sounds like and, on the other hand, are engaging with politics. Poets such as Juan Gelman, for example. Returning to Andi Nachon, Andi's poetry focuses on the way that the collective and public space is

privatised and how urban space has changed over time, alongside how that affects everyday life. One other salient example is a project called Yo No Fui, which means 'It Wasn't Me', although it's also a translation of Bart Simpson's famous catchphrase "I didn't do it". Yo No Fui is a prison poetry workshop that started in the women's jail in Ezeiza and it brings facilitators into the prison to help with literacy and run workshops in which those in jail talk about their experiences, write about their experiences, find a mode of self-expression, and, in some cases, address the situations of injustice and systemic violence that led to them being incarcerated. The organisers and participants highlighted that poetry is an excellent tool because it's very cheap. You only need a writing implement and something to write on. Yet it's such an incredibly effective tool for people to address their own personal position in a particular political context. Overall, I wanted to explore how poetry, which often is considered today as the least political of all literary genres, is actually eminently political.

Could you talk about some of the connections between your work and the Latin American Centre?

With the help of the Argentine Embassy in the UK, I co-organise the Argentine Cultural Forum, also known as 'Argentina Week', and we've worked with the LAC both in terms of publicity and events. The Argentine poet and essayist, Sergio Raimondi, gave a talk at the LAC about the work of Argentine poet Leopoldo Lugones within its cultural and political context. Furthermore, I was involved in the Global South Visiting Professors Scheme and we had Analía Gerbaudo from the Universidad Nacional del Litoral in Santa Fe, Argentina as a

Visiting Professor. She gave a talk at the LAC about publishing in Argentina. Analía runs a 'Cartonera': publishing companies that are collective social projects that make books out of recycled cardboard. They work with unofficial street recyclers, academics, artists, and writers to produce these very affordable books for wide circulation.

How can LAC students get involved in the Modern Languages Faculty and its research?

At the Modern Languages Faculty, we are very interested in collaborative and interdisciplinary work. María del Pilar Blanco's research is very closely intertwined with cultural history. Olivia Vázquez-Medina researches medical humanities. Guadalupe Gerardi is an Argentine researcher of among other things art history and cultural studies, to name just a few academics. So, there's a lot of overlap and interdisciplinary research going on. We also have regular seminars and events at the Modern Languages Faculty that are circulated in our email bulletins and via our social media.

One Year Later

By Louisa Wagner, Luis Gouveia, Fernando Ramirez Gaston Lecca, and Clorrie Yeomans

MPhil student, Clorrie Yeomans, catches up with some of her former classmates from last year's MSc and MPhil cohort to find out where their studies at the LAC have taken them. The latest members of our alumni community have pursued diverse routes from further studies, to academic research, to corporate ventures on three continents. However, they have still managed to cross paths in Mexico, Brazil, Brussels, Paraguay, and beyond... it is true that the LAC is a small world!

Louisa Wagner, former MPhil student (2019–2021)

What next? Far away and back again

After two incredibly insightful and great years at the LAC, our time came to an end with lovely events like graduation, presenting our theses to the cohort and department (of course including a mandatory pub visit afterwards), and spending some last days with course mates.

In September, I started a job as a Carlo Schmid fellow at UNDP Brazil's International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) where I worked on evaluating, designing, and researching social protection policy mainly in Latin America, but also around the world which included projects on Afghanistan, Jordan, and Tunisia. Working with organisations like ILO, FAO, and UNICEF, it was fun to finally be able to implement certain research methods in a "real world" context and, luckily, I was able to draw on quite a few lessons (especially on social policy and Latin American politics) that I took away from the LAC. Suddenly working on my own publications felt at the same time surreal but also actually not that different from student days (and I sadly also still sat at my desk at home).

Nevertheless, and after some COVID-induced delays, I finally managed to make my way to Brazil in late 2021 where I was welcomed by my friend and fellow former LAC student, Bella Bahia, and her family, who were wonderful helping me find my way around Rio and Brazil. During some holidays from work in March, I was also lucky enough to travel to Paraguay to visit Arlette Ayoroa Martinez from last year's cohort who took me on a road trip through the country which was fascinating (and very, very hot).

Like many of our cohort last year, I am now finding my way back to the UK where we will likely be founding a little LAC enclave in London and hopefully find frequent excuses for coming back to Oxford which we all really miss. The cohort spirit we built during the pandemic really bonded us as a group which I am so grateful to take away with me from Oxford.



Former MPhil student, Louisa (right), with former MSc student, Arlette (left) at Iguazu Falls

Former MPhil student, Louisa (right), with former MSc student, Bella (left), from last year's cohort in Rio de Janeiro.





Luis Gouveia Junior, former MSc student (2020-2021)

Fernando Ramirez Gaston Lecca, former MSc student (2020-2021)

Former MSc student Jan Minke Contreras (left) welcoming his former classmate Fernando Ramirez Gaston Lecca (right) to Brussels.

One year later... continuing my commitment to human rights on the ground

It is unbelievable that only one year ago I was completing my MSc in Latin American Studies at the LAC. Since then, I have increased my social activism. For a few years, I have been an activist at Amnesty International and my stay in Oxford opened new opportunities in this regard. Last month, we held an event in my city (Coimbra – Portugal) with Dr. Suraj Yengde. I first met Suraj in Oxford and in Coimbra he gave us a fascinating lecture on the Dalits' human rights in India. Currently, I am organizing a new *colectivo* called "Peço a Palavra" that aims to discuss participatory democracy and peace. Our first initiative will be a festival where different social movements will share their views about democracy, freedom of speech, and social mobilization.

Building a LAC community in Brussels

After studying at the LAC, I got posted as a diplomat at the Mission of Peru to the European Union, in Brussels, Belgium. There, I have been working in all the economic exchange affairs of Peru with the European Union, regarding exports, imports, new EU regulations, and so on.

Upon arrival, it was great to be welcomed by former LAC colleague Jan Minke Contreras, who lives in Brussels and is always willing to share a beer and rememorate our Oxford experiences!

The LAC library

Frank Egerton

At the end of April, the University moved to its Business Continuity Plan level 0 and this term LAC has gradually returned to the way things were before the pandemic started in 2020.

Of course, things can't be exactly the same. In 2020, for example, we didn't have a single ORLO reading list online. That all reading lists are now made available to our students on ORLO is a fantastic advance and is all down to Rebeca and Sam's hard work. If the pandemic hadn't brought forwards LAC's plans to move to ORLO, we would still have a year to wait for go-live. A silver lining!

The pandemic also meant that people from other faculties found out that there was a Bodleian library in North Oxford that they didn't know existed, when they had to book desk spaces. Post-pandemic we still get students studying other disciplines coming back to use the reading rooms as places to work. This is great news – it means we are contributing to the Bodleian's one-library ethos and making LAC a vibrant place once more.

Nevertheless, the pandemic has a legacy that means that shifts in perception and in ways of doing things that have become the norm over the last two years take a while to change back. It's sometimes felt like we are learning to do things that were second nature all over again.

What I valued so much when I first started working at LAC was how friendly a place it was. How welcoming. How alive. It is terrific that we are getting back to that place, and will continue to do so.

Not that everything this year has been positive... I was very shocked to find, last autumn, that water was rising up the walls in the Stacks. Water and collections definitely don't go together happily. My mind went into overdrive and I imagined disaster. Fortunately, with the help of St Antony's Maintenance and, importantly, the



Mexican Ambassador's visit, Oct 2022

Bodleian Libraries Conservation team, this was avoided. The same day colleagues from Conservation were at LAC, evaluating the damage to the grey literature boxes, installing devices that measured relative humidity and other key indicators, advising us on how to deal with the problems, what PPE to use in case of mould spores and how to protect the rest of the books. (PPE - how readily we know what that means now!)

We benefitted from being part of the Bodleian group of libraries and the expertise of Conservation and were able to rectify things without any damage to the contents of the boxes – the only damage being to the boxes themselves. Again, I would like to highlight the hard work done by Rebeca and Sam – this time, putting Conservation's advice into practice.

Outside the library, I want to highlight three events. The first was the visit of

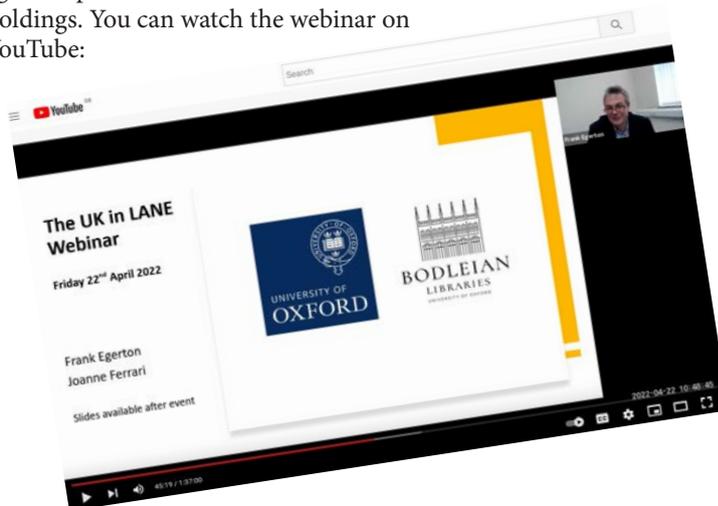


Mexican Ambassador's visit, Oct 2022

the Mexican Ambassador, Mme Josefa González-Blanco, in the autumn. It was great fun to contribute to the exhibition of books that was prepared for the Ambassador at the Weston Library, which was attended by colleagues from the Libraries and the Centre. Exhibits included both the Codex Mendoza and the Codex Selden. The exhibition was overseen by Virginia Lladó-Buisán, Head of Conservation and Collection Care. (See accompanying photographs.)

In February, I travelled to London to take part in a workshop run by PILAS, the group for post-grads in Latin American Studies. I spoke on Oxford collections in the subject area and how students from other universities can access them. Given that Latin American collections in the UK a relatively small in number, it was a pleasure to be able to contribute to an event that sought to help students see UK collections as a shared resource.

Lastly, I took part in a webinar in the spring which was run by the US Latin American librarians group SALALM and its North Eastern division LANE – again to promote UK Latin American holdings. You can watch the webinar on YouTube:



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgopC_bBh4Ob_mydU2qInwg/featured.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgopC_bBh4Ob_mydU2qInwg/featured)



Before signing off, I'd like to remind everyone who isn't leaving Oxford this summer that the University is moving to a new library management system in August. We will be upgrading from Aleph (the system that underpins SOLO and other platforms) to its new iteration Alma. Keep an eye on this page for more information:

[https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/service-updates#upgrade.](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/service-updates#upgrade)

And if you want to discuss anything related to the upgrade in greater detail over the summer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Frank Egerton, Librarian



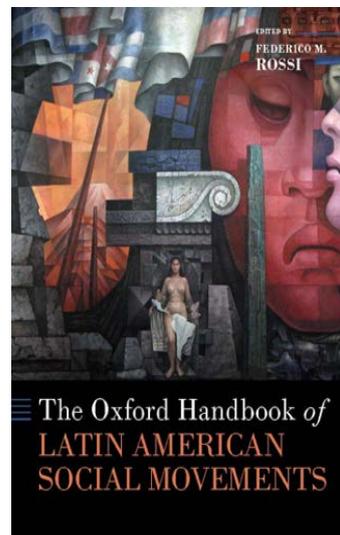
Maddy Copley, MSc student, and student representative on our committee (photo taken at the LAC end of the year party)

Publications

Selection of recent books and essays that reflect the work of members of the LAC community.

The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Social Movements

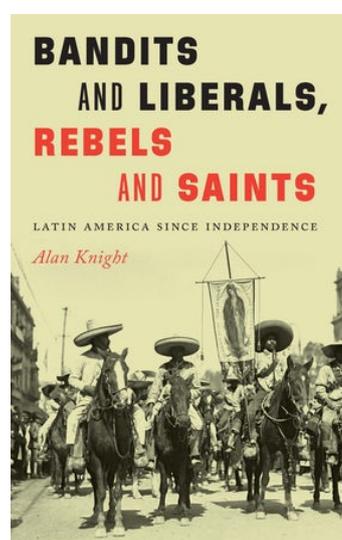
Leigh Payne



At the beginning of the pandemic, Leigh Payne was working on six books. All but one is out or accepted for publication. That work includes the project on economic actors and transitional justice (Cambridge University Press 2020; Oxford University Press 2022 -- with Gabriel Pereira and Laura Bernal-Bermúdez), the British Academy-Newton Project study on post-transition disappearances (Oxford University Press 2021 -- with Karina Ansolabehere and Barbara Frey), the British Academy-Newton Project study on understanding collaboration (Oxford University Press forthcoming with Juan Espindola), and a book on *The Right Against Rights in Latin America* (Oxford University Press forthcoming with Simón Escoffier and Julia Zulver). That last book began as an entry in Federico Rossi's *Oxford Handbook on Latin American Social Movements* and an even shorter version will be included in the *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social & Political Movements*. Leigh now begins her sabbatical with a clean slate to work on the sixth book on the impact of the armed revolutionary left's confessions to violence.

Bandits and Liberals, Rebels and Saints

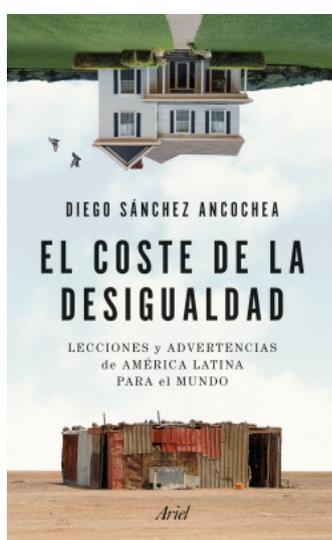
Alan Knight, *Bandits and Liberals, Rebels and Saints. Latin America since Independence* (University of Nebraska Press, 2022).



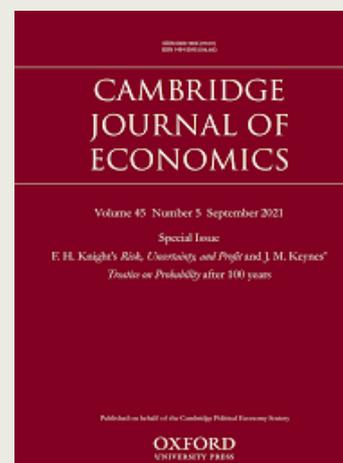
Bandits and Liberals, Rebels and Saints consists of seven substantial previously unpublished essays on Latin American history, roughly 1800-1950. The essays cover major themes, including banditry, liberalism, Church-State conflict, 'informal empire' and revolutions. Though each essay is self-contained, the whole offers a series of interpretations of the political economy of Latin America, the role of ideologies and political movements, and the region's relationship with Europe and the US. The book also contains - an anonymous reader correctly detected - a 'jaded take on academic fashions.'

The Costs of Inequality's translation into Spanish

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea



The book that Diego Sánchez-Ancochea published in English with Bloomsbury and which was considered one of the best books in Economics in 2020 by the Financial Times has just been translated to Spanish. The book uses the Latin American experience to illustrate the long-term negative impact of inequality in the economic, political and social arenas. *Los Costes de la Desigualdad* also contains a discussion on the positive lessons that Latin America brings to the fight against inequality, including exciting ideas (like those promoted by structuralist economists), social movements, and new policies. Diego Sanchez-Ancochea will present the Spanish version (published by Ariel) at the Hay Festival that will take place in Arequipa next November.



Co-authored paper in the Cambridge Journal of Economics

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea together with Gabriel Porcile from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean published the paper "Institutional change and political conflict in a structuralist model" in the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* last November. The paper builds on a structuralist macro-economic model to explore institutional change and democratic stability in the global South. Inspired by the Latin American experience, where political change is often linked to economic shocks at the international level, the paper illustrates the central role of the informal sector and commodity reliance in shaping political conflict. It calls for more active industrial and social policies if a vibrant democracy is going to be sustained over the long run.

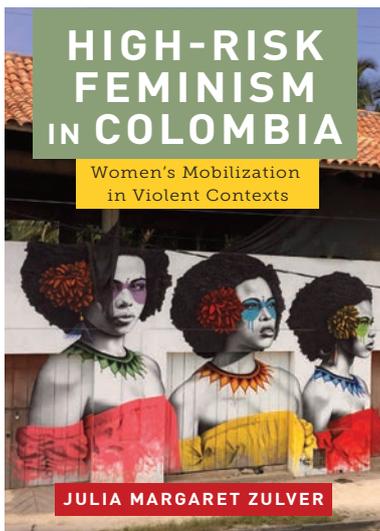
Full reference

Gabriel Porcile and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea (2021) "Institutional Change and Political Conflict in a Structuralist Model", *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 45(6): 1269–1296

Publications

High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts

Zulver, Julia. 2022. *High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts*. Rutgers University Press

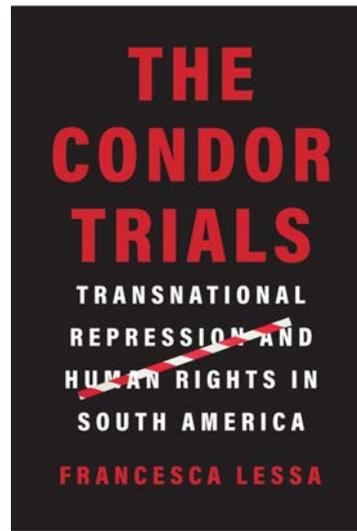


High-Risk Feminism documents the experiences of grassroots women's organisations that united to demand gender justice during and after Colombia's armed conflict. In doing so, it illustrates a little-studied phenomenon: women whose experiences with violence catalyse them to mobilize and resist as feminists, even in the face of grave danger. Despite a well-established tradition of studying women in war, we tend to focus on their roles as mothers or carers, as peacemakers, or sometimes as revolutionaries.

This book explains the gendered underpinnings of why women engage in feminist mobilisation, even when this takes place in a 'domain of losses' that exposes them to high levels of risk. It follows four women's organisations who break with traditional gender norms and defy armed groups' social and territorial control, exposing them to retributive punishment. It provides rich evidence to document how women are able to surmount the barriers to mobilisation when they frame their actions in terms of resistance, rather than fear.

The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America

Francesca Lessa, *The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America* (Yale University Press, May 2022).



Through the voices of survivors and witnesses, human rights activists, judicial actors, journalists, and historians, Francesca Lessa unravels the secrets of transnational repression masterminded by South American dictators between 1969 and 1981. Under Operation Condor, their violent and oppressive regimes kidnapped, tortured, and murdered hundreds of exiles, or forcibly returned them to the countries from which they had fled. South America became a zone of terror for those who were targeted, and of impunity for those who perpetuated the violence. Lessa shows how networks of justice seekers gradually materialised and effectively transcended national borders to achieve justice for the victims of these horrors. Based on extensive fieldwork, archival research, trial ethnography, and over one-hundred interviews, *The Condor Trials* explores South America's past and present and sheds light on ongoing struggles for justice as its societies come to terms with the atrocities of their not-so-distant pasts.

Childhood, Race and the Politics of Memory

Schaefer, Timo. "Growing Up Indio during the Mexican Miracle: Childhood, Race and the Politics of Memory." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 54/2 (2022): 181–202. doi:10.1017/S0022216X22000025.



The *Journal of Latin American Studies* has published Timo Schaefer's essay "Growing Up Indio during the Mexican Miracle: Childhood, Race and the Politics of Memory" in its May 2022 issue. The article explores the childhood of a Mexican Indigenous school teacher, poet, and activist, Raúl Javier Gatica Bautista, who was born in 1963 in the Oaxacan market town of Tlaxiaco and now lives in Canada as a political exile. Growing up in precarious circumstances, Gatica would become a leader in the social movements that between the 1980s and early 2000s pushed Mexico toward gradual democratic reform. The article seeks to describe what it was like to grow up poor and Indigenous at a time (later dubbed the Mexican Miracle) of impressive social and economic advances, and it asks how Gatica's childhood experiences came to inform his later political militancy.

Cuba and its Health Diplomacy

Laurence Whitehead and Bert Hoffmann, 'Tras las protestas y la pandemia: reevaluación del perfil internacional de la Cuba poscastrista', chapter in *Cuba y la Unión Europea: Cooperación Interregional e Inserción Global*, edited by Susanne Gratius and Reynier Pellón Azopardo (CIDOB Monografía, Barcelona, marzo 2022).

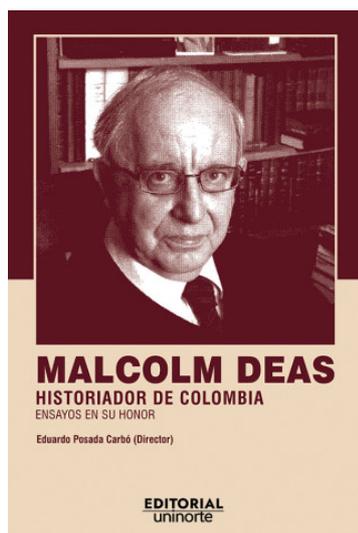


This publication is the third and final product of the Foro Europa-Cuba, which covers the island's external relations since its change of leadership. Whitehead and Hoffmann's concluding article assesses the divergent responses of Cuba's main international interlocutors following its health diplomacy, the July 2021 protests, and economic stresses that are partly associated with continuing US sanctions.

Laurence Whitehead also published (with Jacqueline Behrend), 'Mixed Messages about democratization in the many Mexicos', in the November 2021 special issue of *Latin American Policy*, (Vol 12, Issue 2) on "Subnational Variation: A comparative overview of strengths and weaknesses of democracy in Mexican states". The special issue contains articles on nine of Mexico's 32 states, together with four comparative articles. Behrend and Whitehead provided the framework for this exercise, which was sponsored by the Electoral Institute of the Federal District and the School of Government of the Tec de Monterrey. This article identifies a checklist of twelve areas for comparative investigation, and outlines the historical and societal as well as institutional dimensions of democratic performance at the state level.

Essays in honour of Malcolm Deas

Eduardo Posada-Carbó, ed., *Malcolm Deas, historiador de Colombia. Ensayos en su honor* (Barranquilla, Editorial Universidad del Norte, 2022).



Eleven essays form part of this collection, published by the Universidad del Norte in Colombia earlier this year, in honour of Malcolm Deas, Emeritus Fellow of the Latin American Centre. The essays were written by his former DPhil students in History at Oxford – about 60 students completed doctoral degrees in the university under his supervision. The collection covers a wide range of topics on political, economic, social, and cultural history, most of them on Colombia, but also on Argentina and Venezuela. The book closes with a piece by Malcolm where he reflects on the discipline of history while defending the need of pluralism and critical thinking, and with a list of his works – over 130 titles on Colombia and Latin America, published over a span of four decades.

Early Democracy In Spanish America

José Antonio Aguilar Rivera, Eduardo Posada-Carbó, Eduardo Zimmermann, 'Democracy in Spanish America: The Early Adoption of Universal Male Suffrage, 1810–1853', *Past & Present*, 2021; gtab028, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gtab028>



Universal manhood suffrage — the right to an equal vote for all adult males, regardless of racial, economic, or literacy conditions, as adopted by some Spanish American countries in the 1850s, at a time when very few countries in the Western world had done so — is the subject of this article. It considers in more detail the experience of New Granada (Colombia), with some comparative references, especially to Argentina and Mexico, in the wider context of the 1848 European revolutions. It offers a novel contribution to the wider historiography of suffrage while also contributing to a growing literature that seeks to decentre the history of democracy. Additionally, in as much as issues related to suffrage were central to the process of constitution-making, what we detail here has some bearing on the renewed interest in constitutional history. While this is above all an engagement with history, it is hoped that its findings will have relevance to theoretical discussions among social scientists on the expansion of suffrage.

Publications

Dr Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, LAC course director and director of the Brazilian Studies Programme, received a John Fell Fund for her project “One Company Towns in Brazil”



Below, a short interview to find out more about her new grant:

LAC: What are One-Company Towns?

Andreza: One-company towns refer to cities that are mainly run by one-company. This model used to include companies that build workers’ houses, that run local shops (pharmacy, bakeries, restaurant), in some cases, such companies also built infrastructure and local services such as schools and churches. Although this development model no longer exists in Brazil, the term is a provocation as in practice, some municipalities still mainly collect taxes from one single company, which is then responsible to finance the city. This means that although the government provides services, many of such public services as well as direct and indirect jobs depend on one-single company, some call these cities “monotowns”.

LAC: What are the main implications of having such model, is it common that one company is responsible for a great part of a city’s economy?

Andreza: When a great part of the GDP of a city comes from one single resource, this economy is generally unshielded. It is common that extractive industries, the focus of this work, are monopolistic and may also lead to a single-company model. When a town focusses on oil extraction, mining, or on the plantation of crops, the extension of activities in area and the economic impact of the production means that other activities satellite around this

main activity in the provision of housing and infrastructure to such profitable activity. In events of environmental disaster or economic downturns, the economy of extractive towns is vulnerable. Out-migration, collective episodes of job loss, school evasion, house abandonment, as well as decay of industrial areas follow.

LAC: What are the key objectives of your project?

Andreza: In this project, we look at major extractive cities in Brazil and investigate the activity of companies (competition, direct and indirect jobs offered) as well as the number of substances extracted. We are particularly interested in towns that have one company and one single substance with a great impact in the local economy. After a quantitative and mapping analysis, we will also run a qualitative investigation to see how such municipalities perceive their dependency, some may have diversifying activities in the radar, while others may rely on cycles of prosperity.

LAC: This is fascinating and impactful research, are there future plans to engage locally?

Andreza: This is a seed fund that will lead to future research. Such cities have a peculiar urban growth and migration patterns, usually connected to cycles of prosperity and decay. From city design, gender relations, to health and migration policies, we can look at the impact of extractive industries locally in Brazil. A local impact on economic diversification and sustainable development are major objectives of this programme.

You can learn more about the project here: <https://companytowns.web.ox.ac.uk/>

Informal Practices in Politics and Society in Brazil

Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos

The Journal Contemporary Social Science has published Andreza's paper "Informal Practices in Politics and Society in Brazil". This article explores how informal practices changed amid the Covid-19 pandemic. While informality has been discussed as a practice across different class and power scales, and the state as well as precarious workers are studied in their informal actions, with the pandemic there was a growing pressure to locate informal earners for cash transfer policies. The heterogeneity of informality, the complexity in addressing people and places as informal, the stigmatization or inclusion that comes with terminologies, are all discussed in this article. The paper was published open access and can be downloaded in this link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21582041.2022.2042588>

This paper also opens the Special Issue: "The prism of Brazil: informal practices in politics and society", with contributions from authors discussing informal justice and trials, informal political practices during campaigns and beyond, informal housing, and the history of informality.

You can find the full list of articles here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/doiSearch?AllField=The+prism+of+Brazil%3A+Informal+Practices+in+Politics+and+Society&SeriesKey=rsoc21>

Contributors for the Special Issue are: Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, University of Oxford (Editor) Brodwyn Fischer, University of Chicago Marie Kolling, Danish Institute for International Studies Victor Albert, HSE University Corentin Cohen, University of Oxford Martijn Koster and Flavio Eiro, Radboud University Matthew Aaron Richmond, LSE Debora Quintela and Flavia Biroli, University of Brasilia

New Publication about grassroots politics in Brazil

Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos

In Brazil, urban social movements are largely connected to the growth of urban peripheries. The lack of public service provision in these areas led residents to mobilise to claim for such deliveries. A grievance agenda is certainly an engine for mobilisation, and Brazilian peripheries were never short of demands. However, poverty is also a form of political oppression, and it compromises the capacity and duration of mobilisation.

What this chapter shows is that economic affluence can increase political exposure. Publicly voicing interests, such as demanding better public services in informal urban settlements, is balanced against fear of eviction. What do residents do when they lack economic affluence and political capital to protest in the face of political injustice? This question should be answered on a case-by-case basis; economic growth, employment stability, gender, race, and urban demography matter if we want to understand how indignation is expressed and why it is at times 'swallowed'.

We may indeed need to get used to studying silences in the Brazilian grassroots scene. Not only is economic dependency a great form of oppression, but the Brazilian army and police are also scarcely known for their listening skills – and their representation in the corridors of power is in the ascendant.

Book: A Horizon of (Im)possibilities: A Chronicle of Brazil's Conservative Turn, 2021. eds. K. Hatzikidi and E. Dullo (London, 2021)

Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, 'From participation to silence: Grassroots politics in contemporary Brazil', pp. 141–158.

Social and racial inequalities as contributing factors to COVID-19 in Brazil

Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos

New study by Brazil-UK CADDE Group, including Dr Andreza de Souza Santos, Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme - LAC and led by Sabrine Li, also from Oxford, School of Geography. Policy fragmentation and lack of coordination in social distancing policies is one of the traits of the pandemic in Brazil. However, another reason why Brazilians are not adhering to social distancing policies is related to precariousness/informality in labour and inequality.

In São Paulo, between April and July 2020, people from the poorest 40 per cent of census tracts had an 8 per cent higher risk of hospitalisation and were 60 per cent more likely to die from COVID-19. Black individuals were 37 per cent more likely to be hospitalised and Pardo (mixed ethnicity) individuals were 21 per cent more likely to be hospitalised. They were also more likely to die from COVID-19 relative to White individuals. Furthermore, patients in public hospitals were 40 per cent more likely to die from COVID-19 than those in private hospitals.

Black and Pardo populations, as well as those with low educational attainment, have higher prevalence of multiple comorbidities, including chronic respiratory and heart conditions known to aggravate COVID-19 severity. These populations are also more likely to have no access to social security and to be employed in precarious job positions that require working in person, thus hindering their ability to follow social isolation recommendations. Vulnerability to COVID-19 is strongly influenced by pre-existing health inequities, comorbidities, access to health care and socioeconomic conditions.

Celebrating together, once again

The LAC's end-of-year summer party brought together students, professors, and other members of the community of the Latin American Center to celebrate the end of a very fruitful academic year. Earlier that day, students had received their exam and dissertation results, so much celebration was in the air, giving the party a fun atmosphere after the stress of examinations.

For many students, it was a great chance to see the year's cohort one last time before everyone parted ways, and for some members of the 2020-2021 cohort to reunite with their friends after being unable to say goodbye in person due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some students from this year were even meeting for the very first time in nine months, as they had not taken the same modules during the program.

The party had a true Latin American flavor thanks to The Mambo Panthers, the band led by Pancho Vera (and joined by Professor Tim Power), which played Cuban boleros, salsa, and rock classics, inspiring some to take to the dance floor and show off their best moves. There were also a variety of treats to enjoy, sandwiches, quiches, and cakes, as well as wine to get all attendees in a merry mood.

Further congratulations were in order after Professor David Doyle announced the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Crawley Prize winners for best MPhil and MSc dissertations of the year. The 2020-2021 prize winners were Clement Bourg (MPhil thesis), who attended virtually, and Jack Fenwick (MSc dissertation), who received his prize to much applause. The 2021-2022 winner was Andrea Moncada (MSc dissertation). All three were extremely pleased with the recognition of their hard work.

However, the true star of the party was Ruby, Elvira Ryan's companion dog. She was petted to her heart's content and demanded lots of belly rubs from everyone around her. Ruby was also very cheeky and did not waste her chance to try and steal a few treats here and there!

It was a lovely summer afternoon, and students and professors shared their plans for the rest of the year, hoping to see each other soon. Some students did not want the party to end, and so carried on celebrating at a local pub, enjoying what was left of their time together. It was just the right party to mark a wonderful year full of learning and making new friends.

Andrea Moncada Carrera



David Doyle, LAC's Director, closes our academic year.



Roy Allison, Diego Sánchez Ancochea, Miles Larmer, Tim Power, Dave Doyle and Jeffrey Hoelle



Mario C
Jamie S



Thanking our Course Director, Andreza de Souza



The Mambo Panthers, led by Pancho Vera



Arvajal, Zara Zapico, Larissa Fontanelle, Ben and Francesca Lessa



Clorrie Yeomans, Andrea Moncada, Tomás Medina, Ben Rymer, Jack Fenwick and Stuart McLoughlin



Judith Condor-Vidal, John Crabtree, Steve Meili, Leigh Payne and Timo Schaefer



Thanking our external examiner, Fiona Macaulay.

Student life outside the LAC

As well as many hours spent in the University's libraries, the students of the Latin American Centre have taken part in many extracurricular activities. Here are some photos of the students enjoying themselves.



Enjoying Mezcal at the Mexican Posada



Mario Carvajal Cabal and Rachel Watson with a late-night meal



Mario Carvajal Cabal and the St. Antony's College Basketball Team



Holly Haynes Playing Lacrosse for Oxford



St. Antony's Students outside the Radcliffe Camera after their Matriculation



Oxford University Mexican Society Hosted a Mexican Posada



Sarah Phillips and Nicolas de Rhodes Lozano



Zara Zapico, Javier Escobar Gonzalez, Rachel Watson, Sarah Phillips, Mario Carvajal Cabal and Andrea Barbato



LAC students at the St Antony's Bop

Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



Markus Hochmuller, Carlos Pérez Ricart, Francesca Lessa and Carlos Solar after a coffee break in the conference "The Comeback of the Latin American Armed Forces."



Students presenting at the Oxford-Berlin Latin American Graduate Conference



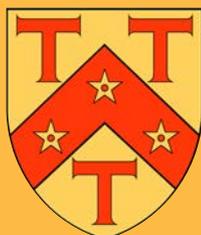
Matriculation day



The Comeback of the Latin American Armed Forces' Workshop organised by the Oxford-Berlin Research Network.



Wine reception after the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership workshop.



Latin American Centre

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