

# Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



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Lucy Driver, LAC Administrator



I joined the LAC in February 2016, and even though I have only been here a short time, I am really enjoying the friendly atmosphere. It's a vibrant Centre with lots of interesting events taking place. My role is quite varied as I am involved in organising events, student administration and finance, all of which keeps me busy!

I studied Spanish at university and I spent part of my childhood in Spain so being at the LAC is a great opportunity to use my Spanish again. I am also very interested in East Asia and I have previously worked in the English Language Centre at XJTLU in Suzhou, China, and in administrative roles at the University of Oxford China Centre and SOAS, University of London.

Photo: Jonas von Hoffmann



Maria Elvira Ryan

Having been at LAC for 27 years, I know the history and development of the centre inside out – if you want to know why something is the way it is, I can probably give you the answer! My role has changed a lot over the years but the constant has always been the enjoyment of working with so many notable academics and interesting students. I work with the help of my adorable and trusty guide dog, Tex, who, when not helping me out, likes to read up on Latin America!

**Cover:**

Salt evaporation ponds at Maras, 40km north of Cuzco, Peru. The whole complex is run as a cooperative, with one local family owning each of about 3,000 terraced ponds, on a system believed to be established in Incan times. Taken during a family trip, the first time the photographer's 61-year old Peruvian father visited Cuzco.

Photo taken by Nathalie Alegre

## CONTENTS

- 1 Director's Report
- 2 LAC Seminars: 50 Years and Counting
- 4 LAC 50 Years Anniversary Seminars, Student Perspectives
- 7 Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture
- 8 Latin American History Seminar
- 9 Bolivian Ministerial Visit
- 10 Another Successful Year in the Collaboration CAF – LAC
- 12 Corruption, Contraction and Crisis in Brazil
- 13 Touring the Region with the Latin American DPhil Network
- 16 MSc Students
- 17 MPhil Students
- 18 Graduating MPhil Students
- 19 News from the LAC Library
- 20 Raymond Carr
- 22 Hermínio Martins
- 23 Torcuato Di Tella
- 23 Studying James Bryce's interests in Latin America
- 24 Life after Oxford
- 26 Oxford Peruvian Society
- 27 Oxford in LASA
- 27 Never Underestimate a LAC Student!
- 28 Students in Action

16 – 18  
Students Profiles



# Director's Report

This was another great year for the Latin American Centre. Beginning with the celebration of the 50th anniversary, we had successful conferences and seminars, new publications, grants and prizes and another fantastic group of students.



Our celebrations of the 50th anniversary in September brought together a large number of alumni from different generations. Students from the 1980s and 1990s mingled with more recent graduates. All had fond memories of interesting seminars, intense class discussions and stressful exams. Energetically organised by our previous director, Leigh Payne, the weekend had the right combination of academic engagement and fun, including salsa dancing! It was not only an opportunity to celebrate the past but also a fantastic beginning for our next 50 years.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary this year has given us a unique opportunity to build new ties with alumni across the world. We had meetings with former students in several Latin American countries: in March, Tim Power, David Doyle and I attended a dinner in Brasília with former visitors of the Brazilian Studies Program and past (and future!) students of our MSc. In May, Paula Meléndez (second year Mphil student) and I organised a panel where alumni shared their professional experiences; we hope to have similar events in the future. In May, I attended an alumni event at the residence of the UK Ambassador in Colombia and we will have another gathering of the St Antony's network in Peru in September. Former students are

our best ambassadors in the region and an increasingly important source of support and advice.

As you will see in the following pages, this was not only a year of commemorations but also of active discussion, research and teaching. Our regular seminar series included former and current fellows of the LAC during the first term and a number of international speakers in Hilary. The History Seminar—now fully consolidated in its third year—showcased the relevance of historical research on Latin America. Eduardo Posada-Carbó continues building new partnerships with other parts of the university and promoting multidisciplinary conversations (as you can read in Laurence Whitehead's contribution in this issue). The Di Tella lecture—made possible by generous funding from Nelly Di Tella—brought the former Finance Minister of Guatemala, and current Chair of the Board of Trustees of Oxfam International, Juan Alberto Fuentes Knight to discuss “state capture” in the region.

We also celebrated three major international conferences in Oxford and abroad. In February, Tim Power organised a one-day event titled “Corruption, Contraction and Crisis” as part of the Santander-funded activities on Brazil. Although the discussion was gloomy then, few predicted that the crisis would get so much worse in the subsequent months. We are already thinking about the next conference on Brazil after the impeachment for this upcoming year. In March, we had a conference on the challenges of social policy in Latin America in Brasília. Co-organised with IPEA and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America as part of the LAC-CAF program, the gathering evaluated the region's recent record and future challenges. The three CAF-LAC conferences we have organised in recent years in Lima, Bogotá and Brasília

have allowed us to “take the Centre to the region”—a direct engagement we hope to expand in the future. Finally, in May, our Research Associate, John Crabtree, organised a conference on the Andean countries as part of our long-term collaboration with the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar.

Without wanting to boast too much about my colleagues, this was also a year of research and publication successes. From winning Newton, Open Society and Fell Fund grants (Leigh Payne and Eduardo Posada-Carbó) to publishing articles in top journals like the *American Political Science Review* (David Doyle) and being named Distinguished Researcher in Spain (Tim Power), they were all recognised for world-class research in history and the social sciences. We remain one of the leading centres for the study of Latin America and are looking for creative ways to enhance our research projects and bring new post-doctoral researchers to our centre.

As the following pages clearly demonstrate, this was also a great year in teaching. We had an active cohort of students that organised events, worked hard in classes and wrote theses and extended essays. Under the coordination of Leigh Payne and Eduardo Posada-Carbó, our students Nathalie Alegre, Samuel Benstead, Julien Cartwright, Vanessa Chavez, Lorena De La Puente, Jack Ogden, James Otcenasek, Alison Walsh, and Andrés Zambrano helped to prepare this issue of *Horizontes*, which also benefited from Dave Doyle and Lucy Driver's support. Andrew Harvey once again helped us with the design of the magazine. Let me thus finish thanking them and wishing that you all visit the Latin American Centre soon.

**Diego Sánchez-Ancochea**



# LAC Seminars: 50 Years and Counting

Lorena De la Puente



**“The Seminars at LAC are a great opportunity to learn more about the recent work of scholars beyond your own speciality”**  
(Malu Gatto, “Womens in Politics” seminar 2016).

Every Friday afternoon, just before the library’s closing time, it would be normal to bump into our professors helping the administrator to carry chairs from one room to the other. In spite of appearing to be in a hurry, they would always be early in their duty: prepare the room for the weekly seminar.

For the next ten minutes, they would take care of the light and the windows, and make enough space for everyone to sit and still be able to see the front (and if they were brave enough, to sit at the roundtable) and finally, leave a couple of discrete but suggestive bottles of wine at the back of the room. After a quick makeover, the same place in which we would sit together (sometimes very closely together) to receive our classes would suddenly be transformed into a Seminar Room.

Despite the effort to make it look more formal, the cosiness of the LAC Seminar Room would remain as the guests start to sit. Due to its relaxing and welcoming environment, people would always feel comfortable, even if it is a former Minister, or member of the United Nations, sitting in front of them. As a result, the audience would always ask questions and then continue with the discussion once the discrete-not-so-discrete bottles in the back of the room had been opened to celebrate the event.

“Well, I’m very surprised and thankful to have such a crowd on a Friday evening!” This statement is a common expression among professors and researchers at the beginning of their presentations. The LAC seems a different place inside Oxford. Despite being a small and old centre, it continues to pursue an active life by constantly organizing high level, and diverse events, such as the Seminars.

This year was no exception. For sixteen weeks in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, the LAC offered a wide ranging programme, where a variety of issues were open to



**Mette Berg, senior lecturer at UCL, during her presentation at the LAC seminar on the Lenin School in Cuba**

discussion: contentious mobilization and its impact on identity in Chile; the capacity of entrepreneurship to produce social change; tourism and sustainability; science and religion in Latin America; conflict, crime and security in Colombia and the creation of identity in Cuba’s diaspora. For this, the LAC hosted graduate members from Oxford as well as guest speakers from Cambridge, Manchester College, Lata Foundation, University College London and Texas University, Austin. The 50 years anniversary continued to be commemorated with a series of interesting sessions discussing some of the key issues the region dealt with since the 1960s.

**“The experience at LAC allowed me to cover more areas and topics thanks of being in front of an interdisciplinary audience”**

(Susan Franceschet “Womens in Politics” seminar 2016)



## Rebeca Grynspan

An example of what the programme offered was the event with Rebeca Grynspan. Thanks to the initiative of our director, Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, the students got a unique opportunity to speak to the Secretary General of the Ibero-American Secretariat, a widely known academic and politician, who is an expert in Latin America’s economic development. For a whole afternoon we discussed the role of the middle class, declining commodity prices and other important challenges for the region.



On several occasions, the LAC also co-organized events with other centres and institutions. This year, the LAC’s Brazilian Studies Programme organized a round table event on “The Brazilian Crisis” with guests speakers from Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro and Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil). (See article by Sam Benstead on page 12)

The LAC engaged with centres and programmes from inside and outside Oxford, including the North American Studies Programme, Oxford Department of International Development, Oxford Centre of Global History, the Oxford Transitional Justice Research (OTJR), University of London and the Latin American and Caribbean Migration Network (MIGRALAC).

The roundtable discussion on “Women’s Political Representation in Latin America” is worth highlighting. The event saw valuable contributions from Susan Franceschet, Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary (Canada) and a worldwide expert in the field, Margarita C. Batlle (PhD in Political Science and an Ma in Latin American Studies from the Universidad de Salamanca and Assistant Professor at Universidad Externado de Colombia) and Malu A.C. Gatto (DPhil candidate in Politics and International Relations and MSc graduate in Politics Research, both in Oxford).



The event allowed specialists and non-specialists to discuss the problems and possibilities of gender quotas in the region. How are the quotas implemented? Where do female legislators come from? Is it necessary to be a woman to pursue a women’s agenda? Is the use of quotas a source of discrimination for politicians? What happens in rural areas? Through the cases of Chile, Colombia and Bolivia, the speakers emphasized the role of activists, social movements and party members in encouraging a female presence in politics. The process is not without contradictions. In some cases, laws have been approved but their implementation might do more harm than good. The difference between formal and substantive representation, the role of executive power, alliances inside the Congress and the incentives for women to get involved in politics, all condition the level of female political participation.

Finally, as we mentioned, the centre celebrated its 50th anniversary. During Michaelmas Term, the LAC hosted former professors and researchers to discuss some of the key topics that have been the centre of its academic preoccupation for half a century. The aim was to get together scholars from different generations to examine the ways the region has been, and continues, to be studied. Thanks to the initiative of Leigh Payne, a series of seminars were held to discuss important themes such as democracy, social mobilization, authoritarianism, violence and inequality, and which counted on the valuable contributions of Edmund Valpy Fitzgerald, Laurence Whitehead, Alan Angell, Rosemary Thorp, Jeremy Adelman, Andrew Hurrell, Joe Foweraker and Malcom Deas.



# LAC 50 Years

## Aniversary Seminars

## Students Perspectives

Five students from the Msc and Mphil programs at LAC wrote their impressions around the special seminars during Michaelmas Term in 2016. The goal of the present chronicles was to reflect over the history of LAC and its capacity to re-elaborate



### Joe Foweraker & Ezequiel Gonzalez: Social mobilization in Latin America: Perspectives on the last 50 years

By Andrés Zambrano Bravo, Msc Student.

“The first time I went to Brazil,” Joe Foweraker says as he begins his retrospective analysis of 50 years of social mobilization in Latin America, “I was a DPhil student here attempting to understand peasant revolt in southwest Brazil. It was 1970”. There was certain modesty to the way he began his presentation; it has, after all, and despite how hard it may be to quantify, been more than fifty years since the scholar began his seminal analyses of social movements in Latin America.

How have social movements changed over the fifty years then? From his research on revolts in Southwest Brazil in the 1950s, he recalls the important distinction between urban and rural social movements. The right to land was, of course, a key political issue, which led many peasants to become politicized. In 1965 however, a shift in social movements signalled a change to urban organizations, workers unions, syndicalists, and other social movements relating to industry, and moved the focus of politicization to what Castels would call a “surviving in the city”. Many of these social movements, as was certainly the case in Brazil and in Mexico, had an intimate interaction with the state, a tendency of the top-down corporatist model in attempting to integrate workers unions into the greater political process.

A wave of dictatorships in the southern cone was expected to severely limit social movements. As Foweraker recalls, however, even under bureaucratic-authoritarian regimes, social movements remained integral. Furthermore, they were also fundamental to democratic transformation: as O'Donnell argues, they contributed to a resurrection of civil society which not only brought the dictatorships down but even shaped elite choices in moments of transition.

Fifty years is a long time—as Foweraker joked, given his allotted time of 25 minutes, he would have had to cover two years per minute—and

the scholar's analysis was particularly insightful as it looked back at continuities in social movements throughout the fifty years. Though the 1990s was expected to be a drought for social movements, mobilization moved away from democratization toward issues of quality of democracy. Here, Foweraker elaborated on his work with Todd Landman in 1997, suggesting that social mobilization was categorized by learning the language of rights. Indeed, social movements learned from placing demands. Learning this “school of rights,” as Foweraker and Landman put it in their work, was crucial to the development of rhetoric in social movements in the 1990s, which has very much carried into the last decade all across South America.

If the 1990s saw only a further growth of social movements, then this decade has nonetheless seen a certain frustration in the lack of progress in certain goals advocated by social movements. Foweraker calls this “an imperfect process”. Oligarchic and elite interests, heavy bureaucratization of social movements, and private and partisan interests have delayed social movements. Does that take away from recent success of social movements, however? A lot of evidence can be found in many of the legal frameworks adopted by recent states to include indigenous and afro-Latino rights (Colombia, Bolivia, etc). The issue, however, is in the implementation.

The grand lesson to take away from the progression of social movements in the last fifty years is that, in many ways, they are still facing the same problems that they always have. Though social mobilization has radically transformed in content, they still face the same legal and bureaucratic opposition—compounded by the same elite opposition that has always been present in Latin American social structures.

If Foweraker's presentation looked at certain continuities in the landscape of social movements, Ezequiel Gonzalez Ocantos' presentation looked at different avenues of impacts that they've had on the judicial system in the southern cone. He coins this notion “legal mobilization”—the use of courts to advance social and political causes. This judicial

strategy has had a propitious effect on rights effectiveness for a whole variety of civil actors: NGOs, Social Movements, SMs, NGOs, and even private individuals. Through antagonizing and constraining political actors, courts, he argues, have become the protagonists like never before. His key examples range from transitional justice in Argentina to equal marriage rights in México—two cases that have reconfigured legal and judicial expectations of rights. Legal mobilization has the effect of courts ruling not for hierarchy of norms but integrating international and domestic laws for individual rights.

Why has this occurred in the last 20 years? Gonzalez Ocantos argues that three things have occurred: on the one hand, there has been a consolidation in several LA countries of liberal rights discourse after the Third Wave. Following Foweraker's idea of learning a school of rights, he argues that a certain narrative was framed through utilizing these rights. Secondly, there has been a large emphasis on the potential of ideational evolution within civil society. Permeability has worked to sensitize judges and manufacture receptivity, particularly within the national framework. And thirdly, international legal pressures have facilitated the spread of judicial channels: courts in these countries review not only domestic laws but also utilize external frameworks, like the American Convention of Human Rights, or the Inter-American Court statutes.

Whether this is to be seen as a universal trend in Latin America (Bolivia? Venezuela) is yet to be confirmed. Furthermore, do not a lot of human rights conventions emerge precisely from countries that have had transitional justice measures (Argentina?) These are questions that Gonzalez Ocantos took to heart, admitting that there was still much work to be done across the continent. Foweraker's and Gonzalez Ocantos' presentations may have seemed at odds with each other, but in many ways they were actually quite complimentary: if the former looked at obstacles that social movements continue today, the other looked at avenues by which social movements can begin to overcome them through legal channels. Though the history of social mobilization has both continuities and

ruptures over the last 50 years, one thing remains absolutely clear: that they are an integral part of politics in the Latin American region.

### John Crabtree & Rosemary Thorp: ‘Understanding Peru over the past 50 years: Politics and economics’

By Nathalie Alegre, Msc Student.

Rosemary Thorp and Dr John Crabtree presented a grim picture of Peru's political and institutional developments since the 1950s. The latter part of the twentieth century saw a left-wing military government take power in 1968, a tenuous transition to democracy in the 1980s, the rise of the authoritarian regime of Alberto Fujimori, and a period of consolidation of neoliberal economic policies since the Fujimori fall in 2000. While having benefitted from unprecedented economic growth in the last 10 years – buoyed primarily by mining revenues -- the country has not been able to resolve its severe democratic deficit or strengthen its feeble political institutions. Today, the country continues to undergo a severe crisis of legitimacy, with Peruvians particularly distrustful of political parties, and with mining-related social conflict a common occurrence.

Thorp and Crabtree point to the absence of a “pink tide,” the power of economic elites, and to the lack of what Julio Cotler calls ‘corte histórico’ – a moment in which society is able to reconstitute itself in new and different ways from the preceding period – to argue for Peruvian exceptionalism in the Latin American context. However, the question arises: Is Peru an exception or an extreme? To what extent have pink-tide governments in Latin American truly moved away from neoliberal economic structures? Can other Latin American countries say they have completely broken with previous social and political trends? And, in what Latin American countries are economic elites less of a factor determining public policies or political parties fully trusted?

Whatever the case, Peruvians' compounding cynicism deepened the crisis of legitimacy in politics and institutions, a point Rosemary Thorp made well. Reports of corruption and switch-and-bait governments like Fujimori's and Humala's reinforced the image of political leaders as lacking values and ideology, focused only on short-term, self-interested pragmatism. The regular failure of left government projects, most notably the left military coup of Velasco Alvarado and the disastrous first regime of then left-leaning Alan Garcia, and the unparalleled violence of the Shining Path discredited the left in the eyes of the Peruvian population. The economic crisis of the 1980s decimated unions and other social movements. In today's Peru, there is not a very strong or widespread tradition of social mobilization. On the other hand, there is a strong acceptance of authoritarianism, partially a remnant of the Fujimori period and its perceived success in economic terms. These trends, together with the volatility of Peruvian politics, led John Crabtree to not discount an authoritarian turn in Peru in the upcoming 2016 elections.

This assessment rings largely true, but there are other developments in the country that have received less attention by academia, and which merit a place in the analysis of the country's future. One of this is the nascent but ever increasing levels of political organization at the regional and local levels, a consequence of decentralization, and which happen largely outside the framework of political parties, but which have become crucial in organizing against allegedly polluting mining projects in the Andean highlands. The other is the development of urban youth organizations in Lima called Zonas, which have become the main participants and proponents of mobilizations in the capital city, and which were successful in defeating anti-labor legislation (the Ley Pulpín) in 2014. These and other developments, combined with the decrease in poverty and improvements in health and education, open the door for a more positive assessment of the future of legitimate governance in the country, even in the context of an always-unpredictable 2016 election season.

### Edmund Valpy Fitzgerald and Diego Sanchez Ancochea: “Taxing and spending in the context of income inequality: reflections on fifty years in Latin America”

By Jack Ogden, Msc Student.

Inequality needs no introduction as one of the most important challenges facing Latin American society, and this talk provided a comprehensive and thought-provoking overview of some of the most important political and economic challenges faced by Latin American states in combating income inequality. Worldwide, states have used the fiscal system to reduce income inequality; Profs. Fitzgerald and Sánchez Ancochea argued that over the last 50 years, Latin American states have failed to forge a ‘social contract’ of taxing and state spending, and consequently politics has struggled – and continues to struggle, even under democracy – to provide universal social services to promote social mobility and lessen economic inequality.

Valpy began with a wide view of trends in taxation in Latin America over the last fifty years: whilst indirect taxes (for example, on consumption) have increased and converged with OECD levels, direct taxation has remained at the 1965 level, about half of the OECD level. From the range of structural, technical and political explanations given for this regressive and limited development of taxation, one that stood out was the persistent political influence of elite groups and capital. The interests of what could loosely be called the ‘1%’ (a group that perhaps includes the richest 5-10%, as well as the super- and hyper-rich) has had a profound impact on the shape of the state as it is constrained by elite resistance – practically and politically – to attempts to tax high incomes, wealth, and foreign capital or investment. In this way, we can understand the politics of taxation in Latin America primarily in terms of the ‘race to the bottom,’ oriented towards attracting capital flows rather than increasing state provision of services. As both Valpy and Diego discussed, this raises important questions

about the nature of democratic representation more generally, as it represents a failure to forge a European-style social contract of taxing and spending. However, given that this social contract is under strain even in the UK, a country with a history of democracy and state spending on universal health and education provision, I would argue that Latin America might not be such an outlier.

Diego focused on this failure to establish universal social services, linking social spending to a segmented model of incorporation over the past 50 years, compared to the universal social-democratic model that developed in Europe after the Second World War. Fragmented social insurance schemes, funded by various groups of workers and employers as well as the state, achieved wide coverage in some areas from the 1950's onwards, but access and quality were both variable and limited as large sectors of the population – for example, those outside the city or outside the formal economy – were excluded. Transition to neoliberal democracy from the 1980's continued to privilege certain groups over others, so that even whilst emergency programs focused on the very poorest for the first time, other sectors of the population saw social insurance eroded by the expansion of markets in health and education. Social spending since 2000 is built on these uneven foundations; social spending on cash transfers has increased, with a corresponding decline in poverty and Gini coefficients, but as Diego argued, this has not breached social divides.

The greatest challenge for Latin America is therefore to achieve the greatest social impact, rather than just increase spending; to lessen income inequality by cash transfers is qualitatively different to lessening social inequalities by providing greater access to health and education. Due to the political and economic constraints discussed above, it is hard to imagine the development of universal social services in Latin America. The focus, therefore, must be on extending targeted spending to go beyond cash transfers, consolidating the progress made in poverty reduction but also extending public services to these newly incorporated groups to create real possibilities for social mobility.

### Laurence Whitehead & Leigh Payne: “Legacies of violence in Latin America”

James Otcenasek, MSc Student

Leigh Payne's and Laurence Whitehead's presentations dealt mainly with violence after transitions, and by proxy explored the legacies that violence of the past regimes left for those of the present. The seminar topic fitted well with the underlying premise of the series: the violences both professors were in dialogue with were those that occurred in the last 50 years, not before. Prof Payne presented on transitional justice after the democratic 3rd wave; Prof Whitehead first spoke on violence after transitions more generally, and then in El Salvador and Mexico specifically. In this way Prof Payne



explored how countries deal with violence of the past, while Prof Whitehead analysed how states deal with violence of the present. The two presentations represented two sides of the same coin, but had little overlap otherwise. I will therefore overview each separately.

In introduction, Prof Payne's presentation established Latin America as simultaneously the inventor, innovator, influencer, and overachiever when it comes to transitional justice (TJ). She presented the region as a stimulating laboratory for studying TJ mechanisms, and indeed noted that no big-N study has so far found TJ to have an impact in the region. Elaborating on the point: Argentina's CONADEP was the first truth commission ever established, setting precedent for further Latin American inventions. Colombia's attempts to implement some amount of TJ before an actual transition and court rulings on disappearances as "perpetual crime" - outside the scope of temporarily limited amnesties - have been some of the other major innovations that have enriched TJ proceedings and stemmed from Latin America. At the same time difficulty of acting within limits imposed by amnesties in Latin America has further influenced innovative litigation abroad. The idea of "universal jurisdiction" has been famously used to detain General Pinochet in London on a Spanish court order. The threat of facing justice abroad has since helped open up cases previously considered untouchable domestically.

Maximalist (trials), minimalist (amnesties), moderate (truth commissions), and holistic (the more the better) approaches form the four strands of TJ; as Prof Payne found with Olsen and Reiter, while TJ as a whole improves democracy and human rights (HR) regimes, none of the above approaches are sufficient solely by themselves. Overall, the best results are achieved through a combination of amnesties and trials. Perhaps perplexingly, truth commissions (TCs) have been found to influence democracy and HR regimes negatively - that is, when implemented in isolation and without a positive policy to follow-up. On the other hand, when complimented with judicial trials, TCs can lead to a "justice cascade" (a term coined by Kim and Sikkink). Prof Payne's own collaboration with Sikkink pressed the point: trials combined with large ("costly") TCs advance physical integrity rights, amnesties advance civil and political rights, and, interestingly, neither act to the detriment of the other.

The combination of different approaches to TJ clearly produces incremental results.

As an overachiever, Latin America has set up some 40% of all truth commissions (TCs) globally, filled 46% of global share

of amnesties, and 52% "non-compliant" amnesties (those incompatible with international legal obligations subscribed to by the countries at the time).

Nine out of fifteen Latin American countries combine TCs and judicial trials. A spectrum of accountability however measures the progress individual countries have made towards overturning their amnesty laws. From obstinate amnesties (in Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama), through an accountability impasse (in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Uruguay) and creative circumvention (in Chile and Peru), Argentina is the only country that has managed to democratically displace its amnesty laws towards full accountability. In consequence, despite the optimistic rhetoric of "justice cascades", TJ has yet to deal with past legacies effectively. A degree of success seems tainted by on going HR violations, and on going violence, within a culture of impunity. Prof Payne in particular highlighted that a positive peace dividend is yet lacking in Latin American societies - a situation sadly manifested in the fact that 23 out of 25 on going conflicts have in the past used some form of TJ. Ultimately, perhaps rethinking the framing of legislation from transitional towards transformative justice might bring better capacity to Latin American states to cope with their violent past.

Prof Whitehead's presentation began by questioning the two methods frequently used in academia to study violence: typologisation and quantification. In typologisation of violence, the boundary between different violences have always been permeable and fluid - looking back over the past 50 years, much of what scholars labelled political violence was equally criminal, and a lot of what is now considered criminal violence is so fundamentally entangled with the political system that such distinction becomes little more than analytical. On the point of quantification, Prof Whitehead likewise cautioned against setting too much store on homicide rates as indicators of violence, particularly given the indeterminate causal chain in any given homicide and the lacking methodological clarity of published figures. To illustrate the point, he mentioned road deaths as often included in homicide rates, but observed that while a death from loss of vehicle control seems irrelevant, a road accident involving an armoured SUV of a local drug dealer jumping the red light may be relevant to studies of violence. Additionally, some violences are strategically performed. In Mexico, a certain "numbing" has occurred in citizen perceptions of death. In consequence, high homicide rates exert less political power than before.

Mexico's violence now plays at citizen perceptions in new and brutal ways - a

head rolling down the street is perhaps one homicide, but the overt and gruesome violence produces a disproportionately effective political statement nonetheless.

It is a known fact that Prof Whitehead has always had a weakness for paired comparisons.

Comparing El Salvador and Mexico highlights differing approaches to armed forces policing. While the former saw an (almost) complete extrication of the military from policing, the latter has responded to organised crime with the heavy hand of the armed forces. A role has perhaps been played by the US and its greater proximity to Mexico, but another variable has been the labelling of "criminal" groups as "terrorist", or "criminals". This classification goes hand in hand with the level of organisation of principal violent actors in either state: drug cartels in Mexico and youth gangs in El Salvador. Regardless of severity of response however, securitisation has affected both states and disaffected citizens from their democracies (although support for the abstract concept has been growing). In view of the "violence problem", uncontested political areas lower the responsiveness of state policy to electoral change. Whether it comes to combating the drug cartels or policing the youth gangs, there are policies neither side of the political spectrum can contemplate. Yet despite securitisation, violence is on going, even increasing.

The two presentations provided a coherent overview of the issues Latin American countries face in coping with their violences - both of the present and of the past. A lively discussion followed, but its summary would probably require a whole separate article. A big thanks to the two professors for an engaging and enlightening seminar.

### Jeremy Adelman: 'What has changed in the 50 years of thinking about Argentina?'

By Vanessa Chavez. MPhil Latin American Studies

Professor Jeremy Adelman, in his presentation "What has changed in the 50 years of Thinking About Argentina?" took the audience on a tour through the most important events that have marked the history of this Latin American country enhancing the role of memorable figures and unforgettable moments.

The participation of women in politics and breakthrough in Argentinian society was discussed while remembering two very influential women of the past of this country: the Argentine first lady, María Eva Duarte de Perón (1946 – 1952), whose actions have been extensively discussed in the historical literature and Petrona C. de

Gandulfo, a less known figure but highly popular among locals. Doña Petrona was a popular television cook. In 1950, when the technology of television had just come to this country, Doña Petrona had a program to teach women how to prepare new foods but also to give them advice on house chores.

The most valuable aspect of this exhibition was that through the use of photography from that time, the experienced professor transported the audience to the scene of these events. The photographs in black and white, as well as the clothing in these images, were typical of 50 years ago.

An example of this resource is the famous picture taken in October 1983 during the closing campaign of presidential candidate, Raul Alfonsín, on Avenida 9 de Julio. These presidential elections are undoubtedly important in Argentina because Raul Alfonsín, who won the elections, had clearly made public his intentions of overseeing the transition from the dictatorship, known as the National Reorganization Process, to democracy.

Overall, Professor Adelman made us think critically about some decisions considered assertive regarding governments in the last 50 years in Argentina, as well as those not so positive decisions, especially in economic terms.

In the 1870's, this country was experimenting with relatively positive economic progress with the arrival of foreign capital and the growing influx of migrants, although their arrival also had adverse impacts on other aspects of society. The economic depression of Argentina in 2001 was also a crucial economic issue. In this financial crisis the economy shrank substantially, poverty increased, unemployment rose and the purchasing power of middle classes decreased, leading to riots that ultimately caused the fall of the Fernando de la Rúa government.

Additionally, the presenter helped the audience understand the political and social changes that occurred in Argentina during the Spanish Empire, from the initial state building process, until what could be called the modern republic, with its strengths and weaknesses.

To conclude, Professor Adelman, who has studied and researched largely on the legal and political foundations of Argentine capitalism, explained the relationship between the two sectors in the last 50 years in Argentina.



# Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture



**In 2013, the Latin American Centre inaugurated the Di Tella annual lecture series in memory of academic and former Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations (1991 to 1999) and LAC scholar, Guido Di Tella.**

In the early weeks of Trinity Term, the LAC was delighted to host Dr Juan Alberto Fuentes Knight, who gave the third annual Guido di Tella memorial lecture. Dr Fuentes Knight formerly served as Finance Minister of Guatemala, before taking up a position in the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and a professorship in International Economics at the Universidad Rafael Landívar in Guatemala. He is currently chair of Oxfam International. Dr Fuentes Knight's lecture focused on the captive state; in particular, he highlighted the asymmetrical power of business groups across the region and their ability to capture fiscal policy-making. Together with the pursuit of business cycles by populist and irresponsible politicians, this undermines the capacity of some Latin American states to enforce a meaningful social contract. With a superb grounding in the contemporary economic, sociological and political science literature, and interspersed with reflections based on his own personal experience while Finance Minister, Dr Fuentes Knight traced the

evolution of state capacity over time, not only in Guatemala, but comparatively across the Southern Cone, the Andes and Central America. The lecture, an event yearly organized by the LAC in memory of Guido di Tella, accomplished scholar and former Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations, was very well attended by students, current and emeritus fellows of the university, and friends of Guido and his family.



Lorena De la Puente



Lorena De la Puente



# Latin American History Seminar

The Latin American History Seminar runs regularly every Thursday of each academic term since it was launched three years ago. Thanks partly to several joint initiatives, the seminar has been a great success. In addition to those highlighted here in the notes by Laurence Whitehead, Jay Sexton and Juan Luis Ossa, in Trinity Term we launched the *Françoise-Xavier Guerra Seminar*, aimed at encouraging exchanges with France-based historians of Latin America, jointly organized with Professor Annick Lempérière of the University of Paris I, Pantheon Sorbonne, and with the support of the Maison Française in Oxford. Together with the RAI and the Global History Programme, supported by the History Faculty, we also hosted Professor José Moya (Columbia), who gave a special lecture on the distinctive features of the history of the Americas. Jointly organized with the Sub-Faculty of Spanish, Professor Gerard Aching (Cornell) gave a seminar on slavery, freedom and literature in Cuba.

## Interdisciplinary Dialogue Series

Ever since its foundation in the 1960s, the Latin American Centre has been a cockpit of interdisciplinarity. This was institutionalised through the Inter-faculty Committee, which governed the Centre's relations with the General Board, until it was abolished in 2000. As chair of that committee, I was happy to meet with Latin American inflected geographers, anthropologists and literature scholars as well as with historians, economist sociologists and (inevitably) students of politics (including international relations). I believe this was one of Oxford's great strengths in the field of Area Studies. During all that long period the core course we offered was a two-year MPhil in Latin American Studies, which enabled students from any of these disciplinary backgrounds to take optional courses in new subjects, and to write 30,000 word dissertations that often bridged disciplinary boundaries. All this was a casualty of divisionalisation of the university, and the subsequent reinforcement of disciplinary boundaries, accentuated by intensified stress on

methods training in narrowly demarcated specialist fields. Although the MPhil still survives, it no longer plays the same unifying role in the LAC, which has (under SAIS) become much more limited within particular areas of the social sciences. Of course change and specialisation are inherent in academic life, and the current dispensation also has its strengths, but the pre-2000 record of scholarly production, and intellectual excitement suggests that something valuable has been lost. Notably, we had been able to help very talented individuals from one background to learn about, exchange views with, and even migrate to, alternative ways of studying shared realities.

All this explains why LAC's recent initiative through its Latin American history seminar, to promote renewed dialogue between historians and practitioners of cognate disciplines was so valuable, and such a needed breath of fresh air. A key feature of this project

is that the seminar has recruited and encouraged participants on the basis that they should represent best practice in each of their own fields, while also reaching out to best practice in history. This is certainly not encouraging "dumbing down", or evasion of the tough demands for scholarship under each rubric. It is a raising of standards, not a relaxation of them, to promote work that communicates fresh insights about regional studies, at the same time that it speaks to alternative approaches, while also displaying firm control of each contributor's core expertise.

History is perhaps better suited to provide this unifying arena than some other disciplines, but it requires talent and determination to push the boundaries beyond one's comfort zone. This series addresses and pressing need, and shows great promise. It should be further developed.

Laurence Whitehead, Nuffield College

## Chilean historians in Oxford

For two consecutive years, the Centro de Estudios de Historia Política (CEHP), at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, has actively contributed to the Latin American History Seminar, held at the LAC, in what is proving to be a fruitful academic partnership. Two of our researchers have so far presented their work at the seminar: first, Francisca Rengifo, who in January 2015 gave a paper on "The Unequal Distribution of Social Security in Chile, 1920-1970"; and then Claudio Robles, who in January 2016 gave a talk on "Landowners and the politics of agrarian reform in southern Chile under the Popular Unity (1970-73)". Both Francisca and Claudio returned to Chile encouraged by their experience. Our third joint seminar will be hosting Susana Gazmuri, also a historian from the CEHP, who will be presenting a paper on "Classical Republican Models and the Independence Imaginary". At the Centro de Estudios de Historia Política, we value this partnership with the LAC History Seminar, as it offers historians based in Chile a unique opportunity to discuss their research with colleagues abroad. Our commitment is to continue strengthening the links between the two institutions and thus undertake new academic adventures, both in England and in Chile.

Juan Luis Ossa, Director, Centro de Estudios de Historia Política, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

## History of the Americas: Joint Seminar with the RAI

Recent years have witnessed a revival of pan-Americanism in Oxford. The Latin American Centre, looking to the South Atlantic and Caribbean, is mirrored in the north by the Rothermere American Institute, spanning the North Atlantic. Recent co-sponsored events have sought to dismantle the walls, which can constrain Hispanic and Anglophone perspectives. A series of joint seminars has addressed the Caribbean, where two worlds mingled, as well as topics and



Professor John Darwin introduces Professor José Moya (Columbia University), who gave a special lecture on the distinctiveness of the history of the Americas, jointly organized by the LAC, the Rothermere American Institute and the Oxford Centre for Global History on 9 June.



Over 110 people attended the talk by Andrea Wulf on her new book about Alexander von Humboldt, one of the successful joint events organized with the RAI this past academic year.

individuals common to both. Different forces drew people from one to the other. The diaspora scattered by the Haitian Revolution encompassed both Cuba and New Orleans, as Rebecca Scott (Michigan) showed last June. In February, a joint event hosted Andrea Wulf, winner of the 2015 Costa Biography Award. In *The Invention of Nature*, Wulf traces the life of Alexander von Humboldt, the compulsive traveller and scientist equally at home in the Amazon jungle and the White House. In March, historian and journalist Carrie Gibson explored the way in which Hispanic immigrants cast the history of the United States, while Andrew Robertson (CUNY) and Eduardo Posada-Carbó discussed revolutionary elections across the Americas. This year's Sir John Elliott Lecture in Atlantic History, at the RAI, also turned southwards, with Stuart Schwartz (Yale) addressing the social impact of a great leveller, the hurricane. Hurricanes and the lives of individuals do not respect a binary division of the Americas, and neither should seminars.

Jay Sexton, Director, Rothermere American Institute

## Bolivian ministerial visit



Photo: Jonas von Hoffmann

The Bolivian ministers of the Economy, Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, and of Planning, René Gonzalo Orellana Halkyer, visited the Latin American Centre on 10 June. They were accompanied by the Bolivian Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Roberto Calzadilla and by other officials from the ministers of the Economy, Planning and Foreign Affairs. They held an informal meeting at the LAC, organized by John Crabtree, LAC Research Associate, and chaired by our Director Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, attended by a group of Oxford fellows and students with whom they discussed the developments and prospects of the Bolivian economy under the Morales administration.



# Another successful year in the collaboration CAF – LAC



This was already the fourth year of our collaboration with CAF-Development Bank of Latin America. In addition to funding Lorena De La Puente and Marina Marandino in her studies and supporting a three-month visit by Andrés Solimano, we had a conference in Brasília on 14 March 2016. The conference, partly funded by the UK Embassy in Venezuela, was jointly organized by CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, Brazil's Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and us. The event aimed to evaluate the changes in social policy during the decade of the commodity boom and explore future challenges in a less auspicious environment. Held in the Ministry of Planning, Brasília, it gathered world-class researchers from universities and international institutions including Santiago Levy (IADB), León Fernández Bujanda (Central Bank of Venezuela), Christina Ewig (University of Wisconsin), Marta Arretche (Universidade de São Paulo), Daniela Campello (EBAPE/FGV, Rio de Janeiro), Juan Vargas (CAF) and José Pineda (University of British Columbia). David Doyle, Timothy Power and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea came from Oxford.

The conference constituted a unique opportunity to evaluate the impact, on poverty and inequality, of recent policy transformations, from the creation of conditional cash transfers to the reform of social security and the innovations in primary and secondary education. Some panels also explored the political determinants of the recent trajectory and speculated on the—difficult—future of expansionary policies. Our visit to Brazil was also a great opportunity to meet with some of our academic partners and explore future collaborations.

We are now enthusiastically preparing next year's agreement with CAF-Development Bank of Latin America. We are planning an international conference on the political economy of informality in Oxford on 4 November and hope to build closer links with our partners in the CAF network of European academic institutions.



## CAF Scholarship

Marina Marandino (Brazil) and Lorena De la Puente (Perú)

For the past four years the CAF Scholarship has made it possible for seven students to become part of Oxford University and the Latin American Centre. Coming from across the region, CAF students are expected to critically think about governance and policy development in the region. This year, Marina Marandino and I, found ourselves immersed in a stimulating process of academic learning. The chance to become part of a diverse group of students and staff, interested not only in interdisciplinary studies but also in the promotion of critical thinking about Latin America, has enriched us in many ways (during class, through discussions with our advisors, in seminars or just in stubborn conversations at the pub). Our respective works (on gun regulation and security in Brazil, and participatory governance of extractive industries in Peru and Bolivia) have stimulated a set of questions that will continue to inspire our careers beyond our experience as Oxford graduates. This would not have been possible without the LAC, and especially the CAF Scholarship.

Lorena De La Puente

## My experience as CAF Fellow

Andrés Solimano

I was invited last year, 2015, to spend the Michaelmas term as a Latin American CAF Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford University. I was based at the Latin American Centre, a most congenial place for an academic visitor to spend a few months. My visit was supported by the Andean Financial Corporation, CAF. The Center offers a really unique place to develop multi-disciplinary research on Latin American society. During my stay, I wrote a research piece on inequality in Latin American looking at different indicators of income and wealth disparities as well as the social structure of the region, known, somewhat sadly, for being one of the most unequal regions of the world. Certainly a fresh look at new data and evidence is needed to trace the complex impact of globalization, stabilization, growth and structural transformation on the endemic differences in living standards and wealth that affect the region. Oxford is a great city full of history, beautiful colleges and parks; nice cafes and walks along the rivers are

a must particularly in the early autumn when days are still long and pleasant. The academic system at Oxford is based on a multi-disciplinary approach. At a time of growing specialization and compartmentalization, which has permeated many universities and research centers around the world, this is a healthy and most appreciated approach. In the social sciences this fosters dialogue and exchange of knowledge among historians, sociologists, economists, political scientists and others. During the Michaelmas term, the Latin American Center continued the celebration of its 50th anniversary led by Leigh Payne and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea. This brought various speakers that had been connected with the Center in its different stages. The seminars encompassed a range of topics including the (developmental) welfare state and taxation in Latin America, the Argentinean elections, the history of ideas on development and politics in Latin America, Brazil since the

1960s and inequality of income and wealth (where I had the opportunity to summarize my own research). A special mention is deserved for the Latin American History Seminar. I much enjoyed a seminar that covered a diversity of topics ranging from German maps of Latin America during World War Two, the analytics of cross-country historical comparisons for political analysis, to the Colombian history of the 19th century. Unfailing, the History Seminar ended-up with a lively dinner at Manos Restaurant over on Walton Street. Life at the College was also entertained and enlightened by the High Table dinner held regularly on Tuesday and Friday often following various seminars and interesting visitors from other places. As the end the term comes very fast, the amount of knowledge generated and disseminated at the College is impressive and the social environments is really nice. What a great academic and human experience!





# Brazilian Studies Programme Workshop Corruption, Contraction and Crisis in Brazil

**On the day that Carnival celebrations officially began in Brazil, St Antony's college welcomed Oxford's Brazil-enthusiasts to a very different kind of party. *Corruption, Contraction and Crisis in Brazil* is certainly a foreboding title, but I doubt that any Brazilian in attendance expected the event's speakers to be quite so pessimistic about the state of Brazil's economy and institutions.**

The full-day conference, hosted by Timothy Power and supported by Santander Universities UK, sought to understand the current economic and political turmoil that Brazil is going through. The importance and timeliness of the event was clear: around 60 people packed St Antony's Pavilion Room at 9am for the event. The day was split into four separate sessions of panel discussions, keynotes addresses and Q&A periods, and welcomed academics from universities in Brazil, the United States and the UK.

Corruption was the theme of the first talk. Matthew M. Taylor of the American University delivered a lecture about the prevalence of corruption in Brazil and the capacity of Brazilian institutions to stamp it out. Both the Mensalão and

Petrobras scandals received due attention from Dr Taylor but he labelled these cases exceptions. Overall he declared himself "cautiously optimistic" about Brazil's power to tackle corruption and reduce impunity, citing incremental improvements to the Brazilian accountability process as positive signs of change. These concluding remarks from Dr Taylor may have given some momentary hope to the Brazilians sat around me. Unfortunately for them, Laurence Whitehead was on hand to provide a far more critical conclusion about the state of corruption in Brazil. In his comments on the address he declared that although these cases may be exceptions, they are so large in their value and broad in their scope that they must be treated as major breaches of Brazil's institutional arrangement.

The second on the morning's sessions gave a detailed analysis of the political system in Brazil and the voting patterns of citizens. Hosted by visiting professor Marcus Ianoni, the panel discussion explored the reasons behind the rise in non-partisan voters in Brazil, as well as the surge in voters explicitly against the governing PT. It prompted an insightful discussion into the causes behind the changes in voting patterns as a result of the Petrobras scandal and the economic challenges that Brazil is facing. Speculation was even made about whether the current political vacuum

in Brazil could trigger the formation of a new political party comparable to Podemos in Spain.

Economics, not politics, was the focus of the conference after the lunch-break. Edmund Amann of Manchester University began proceedings with a fascinating and penetrating overview of all that has gone wrong in Brazil. It made difficult listening for most in the room as Dr Amann dissected the Brazilian "horror story" that has led to today's crisis. The autopsy of the Brazilian economy continued through the afternoon covering debt, the commodity boom and institutional weakness, until the key question concerning Brazil's future was asked: "to what extent is the economic damage permanent?" The panel were reluctant to speculate on Brazil's future but they did agree on one thing: the road to recovery will be far smoother if Brazil acts quickly and decisively. That, however, depends on political stability, something that Brazil can only dream of right now.

The conference succeeded in breaking down the complex and worrying state of Brazil in 2016. The conclusions were sobering, but everyone left with a far greater understanding of the causes of the crisis and what needs to be done to escape it.

Written by Sam Benstead

# Touring the region with the Latin American DPhil Network

Juan D. Gutiérrez-Rodríguez, DPhil candidate in public policy, Blavatnik School of Government



In this academic year, the members of the Latin American DPhil Network have had the opportunity to take a real tour through some of the region's current challenges, guided by DPhil students from the University of Oxford. The journey started in the south of the continent, exploring collective action and identity struggles in Santiago de Chile's *poblaciones*, then moved on to study the responses of indigenous communities to oil projects in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and finally headed upwards to investigate the difficulties of teaching human rights in Mexico.



Ten DPhil students had the opportunity to present papers or chapters related to their doctoral research in three Latin American DPhil Seminar sessions that took place in Michaelmas Term 2015 and Hillary Term 2016 at the Latin American Centre. Each of the presentations was followed by a discussion led by an expert on the respective topic, which also included comments from the attendants. Professors from the LAC supported the seminars by acting as chairs and moderators of the sessions.

Besides covering a variety of subjects and countries, the seminar is also characterized by its multi-disciplinary approach. The students that presented were members of various departments of the University, such as Development, Government, Law, Politics and Sociology.

The Latin American DPhil Network currently groups over 50 graduate students in Social Sciences and Humanities from the University of Oxford. The purpose of the group is to bring together Oxford's DPhil and Doctoral Visiting students whose research is focused on Latin America. It aims to be a platform where students can receive constructive feedback on their work, learn from peers and build an academic community.

The Latin American DPhil Network welcomes your participation. For further information, please visit the DPhil Network's website: <http://www.lac.ox.ac.uk/dphil-network>.

## DPhil Programme, 2015-2016

### Michaelmas Term:

- Simon Escoffier: "Mobilisational Citizenship: Identity and Collective Action in Santiago de Chile's Poblaciones".
- Gabriela Martínez-Sainz (U. of Cambridge): "Teaching human rights in Mexico? The challenges of translating international policies into teaching practices".
- Juan D. Gutiérrez-Rodríguez: "Public finances, decentralization and the challenges of managing natural resource revenues in Colombia".
- Hayley Jones: "Young People's Schooling Trajectories and Social Transitions in Brazil's Bolsa Família Program".

### Hillary Term:

- Gerardo Caffera: "J. Bentham's influence in the formation of South American private law in the XIX century".
- Julie Dayot: "Beyond indigenous people's responses to oil extraction: The analysis of a struggle of valuation in the Ecuadorian Amazon".
- Alejandro Espinosa: "Institutional foundations of the provision of public goods: A Mexican subnational approach".
- Maryhen Jiménez: "Viable opposition in authoritarian regimes: Explaining opposition competitiveness in Latin America".
- Getulio Mattos: "The State of the States: Assessing Subnational Financial Governance in Brazil".
- Maria Eugenia Giraudo (U. of Warwick): "Tax, distribution and the soybean boom in the Southern Cone".

### Trinity Term:

- Anna Krausova, Department of Sociology: "Demands, political opportunities and protest outcomes: Indigenous protest events in 13 Latin American countries".
- Anneloes Hoff, Faculty of Law (Centre for Socio-Legal Studies): "Legal mobilisation and the judicialisation of mining resistance: The case of Colombia's *consultas populares*".
- Julia Zulver, Department of Sociology: "High Risk Feminism in Violent Contexts: Women's Mobilisation in Latin America".
- Marcos Calo Medina, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography: "We Meet and Mingle Together Separately: An Ethnographic Examination of Tseltal and Ladino Catholicism in Chilón, Chiapas (Mexico)".



# Academic Visitors 2015 - 2016

## Margarita Batlle



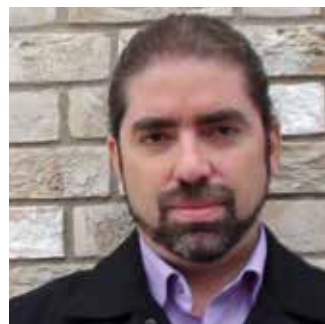
I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Catholic University of Chile. I have a PhD in Political Science and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of Salamanca. Short before starting my research stay at the LAC, I spent eight years as a professor and researcher at the Externado University of Colombia, where I was the head of the Public Policy research group.

My research and publications focus on political parties and subnational politics in the Andean Region with a special attention to Colombia and I am currently starting to work on women's political representation in Latin America.

During the two terms I spent at the LAC, I worked on my postdoctoral project "Women's representation in national congresses in Latin America: Institutional design, political parties and multilevel political careers" and had the chance to present the first steps of this research at the LAC Seminar. I also focused on finishing a book chapter on women's political representation in the subnational level in Colombia and an article on the Colombian 2014 legislative elections and the gender quota that will be published in the first semester of 2017.

## Aquiles Arrieta,

Assistant Judge, Constitutional Court of Colombia



The LAC was the final stage for a project that compares three constitutional jurisdictions, all transformative in the global south – Colombia, South Africa and India. Among the many benefits of my visits, I would like to highlight the following three. Firstly, the possibility of reflecting about my research from a regional and interdisciplinary perspective, in a rigorous environment of intense exchanges with some of the main experts in the field. Secondly, the possibility of exposing my work in debates, in both formal and informal occasions, that served to test my developing conclusions. Thirdly, I counted on a staff of great human qualities, ready to help on all fronts. Through the LAC I was able to reach other departments and faculties in Oxford, like other centres of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies. The latter was particularly crucial to my own research, as I could interact with colleagues at the South Asian and African Studies Centres. The regional view about Latin America in the LAC was very special as the LAC was celebrating its 50th anniversary, so I was exposed to its own assessment of 50 years of work on the region. What can I say: a visit to the LAC is just a pleasant academic adventure!

## Felipe Portocarrero Suárez,

Former Rector of the Universidad del Pacífico in Perú



To be back in Oxford after two and a half decades since my DPhil in sociology has been a privilege, a reencounter and a unique opportunity that I have tried to enjoy to the full. I have been able to devote myself to serious and concentrated intellectual work thanks to the prevailing atmosphere in the old city and its emblematic colleges, the human warmth felt in the Victorian house of the LAC in Church Walk, in the history seminar with its fascinating weekly presentations and thanks as well to the almost limitless bibliographical resources available to researchers in its libraries.

While in Oxford, I have been working on a book of essays, whose purpose is to re-examine the 'idea' of the 'university', in the light of its long historical past and the new contemporary realities that question its *raison d'être*. The heterogeneity of its functions, the disaggregation of knowledge in multiple disciplines, the national and regional diversity of its organizational structures, and its permanent institutional changes and adaptations have all produced distortions in the university's nature; values and goals. However, there are some of us who believe that these debates about the social function of the university in themselves show that its 'idea', rooted in ancient history, refuse to disappear. Thus my project to write about universities could not have had a better home and a better source of inspiration than the strong academic tradition of Oxford at the Latin American Centre.

## Mario Fuks



I am an Associate Professor of Political Science at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil. In January 2016, I started a one-year experience at the Latin American Centre as an academic visitor. It has been an interesting and rich experience. While conducting my research on political behaviour, I have learned a great deal by exchanging ideas with so many scholars with extensive and substantive knowledge about Latin America. What makes it more interesting working at LAC is that there are people studying the region from diverse disciplines, from history to economics, sociology and political science. In the weekly seminars, LAC provides a meeting place for the exchange of ideas on a wide range of topics, covering gender politics and voting history to economic development. My research at the Latin American Centre has also been stimulated by its impressive bibliographic resources and data about the region. Besides, LAC's competent staff at the library has made it much easier to carry out my research. So, these different traditions, themes, approaches and resources have provided me a wider understanding of the region and helped shape my research on Latin American political culture.

## Alessandra Aldé



Alessandra Aldé has been an academic visitor in 2015-16. She graduated in Journalism in 1991 at PUC-Rio (Pontifícia Universidade Católica of Rio de Janeiro), obtaining her masters degree (1995) and Ph. D. title (2001), both in Political Science, at IUPERJ, Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro. She has been professor and researcher at the Post-Graduate Program on Communication of the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) since 2003, teaching both graduate and post-graduate courses, as advisor for students of undergraduate and graduate level and academic supervisor at masters and doctorate levels.

During the past 20 years, Alessandra has studied many subjects in the political communication field, developing and coordinating research with students of PUC-Rio, UERJ and Iuperj. The main objects investigated are: citizens' political attitudes; democracy and the media; political propaganda and persuasion strategies; newspapers coverage of elections; political opinion and electoral behavior; social movements and television news; news-making and news-worth criteria; history of Brazilian media; internet and politics. From research on these themes, Alessandra has written and organized books and book chapters, as well as several articles published in specialized scientific journals, papers in Congress and Conference proceedings, both in Brazil and abroad. Is a member of the scientific associations IPSA, BRASA, ABCP, ANPOCS, Intercom. She has been founder and President (2013-2015) of the Brazilian Association of Political Communication Researchers (Compolitica), and is Editor of the *Compolitica Journal*. She directed, with Vicente Ferraz, the documentary *Arquitetos do Poder* (2010), on Brazilian media and politics.

## Marcus Ianoni



Marcus Ianoni is professor of Political Science at the Fluminense Federal University (UFF), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he is also vice-coordinator of the Post-Graduate Program in Political Science. His main research area is interdisciplinary, located in the interface between political science, political sociology and political economy. His main research topic is in explanative State Theory, above all the relationship between the State and the coalitions that support it, both socio-politically and institutionally. In this sense, he has been researching the political coalitions that support the developmental state, especially in Brazil, but also in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Besides this, he has worked on Brazilian political institutions and is weekly columnist of the Brazilian national newspaper, *Journal of Brazil*, in which he addresses interdisciplinary topics.

## Fabiano Santos

I am an Associate Professor of Political Science at Institute of Social and Political Studies at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (IESP-UERJ), with a PhD in Political Science from Rio de Janeiro's Graduate Research Institute, and Level 1 researcher of the National Council of Scientific Research (CNPq). During the period from 2008 to 2012 I served as president of Brazilian (Political Science Association (ABCP). I am member of the editorial board of *Journal of Politics in Latin America*. My main research interests are: legislative politics in Brazil, parties, elections and social democracy in Brazil and in a comparative perspective and I am currently working in a project on political institutions and the recent left turn in Latin America.

## Flavio Gaitán

I am an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Latin American Integration (UNILA), in Brazil. I receive my master degree in Social Policies from the University of Buenos Aires and my PhD in Political Science from the from Rio de Janeiro's Graduate Research Institute (IESP-UERJ). I am also associate researcher of the National Institute of Science and Technology on Public Policies, Strategies and Technology (INCT-PPED). My main research interests are: social policies, state-market-labor relations and coalitions for development. I am currently working in a project on role of coalitions on trajectories of development in a comparative perspective.



## Round table on the Pacific Alliance

The Pacific Alliance, an informal scheme of regional integration, was the subject of the round table organized by the students of the Blavatnik School of Government and the Oxford Latin American Society at the BSG on 3 June. The ambassadors in the UK of Colombia, Mexico, Chile, and Peru (the member countries of the Pacific alliance), Nestor Osorio, Diego Gomex, Rolando Drago and Claudio de la Puente, participated in the round table, chaired by Director of the LAC, which also counted on the contribution of Emily Jones, Associate Professor at the BSG. Other Oxford students societies – Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile – supported this successful event as well.

Photo: Jonas von Hoffmann



# MSc Students 2015-2016

*The Latin American Centre offers a one-year masters (MSc) course. These are the MSc students of 2015-2016. It has been a pleasure having them here for the past year. We wish them well and hope that they will stay in touch.*



**Mariana Montes de Oca**

I am a proud Mexican. I studied BA in International Relations and Politics in the University of Sheffield. Whilst growing up in Mexico, I witnessed the drug related issues of my country. Those experiences have motivated me to broaden my understanding of this issue. I am currently writing my dissertation on the consequences of narco-terrorism in Mexico and its counter terrorist strategies. I no longer want to witness and/or be remorseful towards it. I want to belong to the responsive society/institutions to counter it. In my free time I enjoy swimming and socialising. I would also love to become a pilot one day.



**Jack Ogden**

I graduated from the University of Cambridge in Spanish and French, having specialised in Latin American culture and history. During my undergraduate degree I spent a year in Chile, teaching English at the Universidad de Concepción: this was the real starting point of my interest in Latin American politics. I was in Concepción at a time of very active student mobilisation against the cost of higher education, and this year my extended essay will focus on the politics of university funding in Chile. Outside of my studies, I volunteer for the Oxford Microfinance Initiative, advising a Colombian social enterprise, and in my free time I enjoy rock climbing and mountaineering.



**Sam Benstead**

Londoner who's made the switch from the edgy sounds of Bristol to the edgy libraries of Oxford. I split my year abroad from my BA in Spanish and Portuguese between Mexico and Brazil and was instantly taken by the region. Working at an NGO in Mexico City and studying at UNICAMP in Brazil inspired me to apply for the Oxford MSc. My research interests include Mexico's relationship with the U.S., especially with regards to migration, and Brazil's economic relationship with China, on which I will be writing my dissertation. Outside of the classroom I'm a proud St Antony's footballer currently fighting a tough relegation battle, and one third of your exceptional *Horizontes* editorial team.



**Lorena De la Puente Burlando**

I was born and raised in Peru and I was convinced that I would become a sociologist before even knowing what sociology was. After graduating from PUCP, Lima, I became a researcher focused in the study of social conflicts, indigenous rights, environmental auction for extractive industries and participatory governance. Despite what you might expect, I find it hard to enjoy academic life if the knowledge gained is not transformed into tools for non-academic actors. For this reason, I want my extended essay to contribute to a better understanding of how and why Latin American states are involving citizen participation in the governance of extractive industries, and what this response implies for socio-environmental concerns.



**Marina Marandino Pinto**

I am from Brazil and I studied Law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. As an undergraduate, I worked with international commercial law and financial market law. I am especially interested in constitutional Law, Brazilian politics and international relations. I intend to write about Brazilian security and defence issues for my extended essay.



**James Otcenasek**

I'm from Prague, and have previously studied International Relations at St Andrews University. I'm generally interested in the process of democratic transitions, having written my undergraduate dissertation on the Czech Republic and Chile in comparative perspective. I am inspired to delve deeper into issues of peace and conflict in Latin America; what particularly interests me is the interaction of racial politics and internal wars in Guatemala, Peru, and Ecuador. In consequence, I expect to write my extended essay on the varying implementation of truth commission recommendations regarding the erasure of racial discrimination in these three countries. And for a fun fact? As of last year, I've spent more of my life abroad than at home.



**Julien Cartwright**

I am half-French, and half-English, but speak Spanish with a Mexican accent, go figure. I studied Hispanic Studies at King's College, London for my undergrad which allowed me to spend a year studying at the TEC de Monterrey, Querétaro Campus. There I developed my aforementioned Mexican accent, tequila drinking skills, and some knowledge about Mexico. As for nowadays, I am focusing on modern Mexican politics and, more in particular, on the legacy of Lázaro Cárdenas on politics in Mexico today. In my spare time, you can either find me in the Late Bar throwing some shapes or playing for St Anthony's Football team, which in true realist fashion is a team fighting for survival. I wouldn't have it any other way.



**Digby Ogston**

Having completed a BA in Modern Languages at Durham University, my initial main interest in evolutionary theory throughout French literature was slowly surpassed by an admiration for Cuban poetry, eventually proliferating into numerous topics on Latin America. Before arriving at the LAC I also worked for six months in Bogotá at a fast-moving consumer goods company. I have enjoyed moving into the disciplines of history and international relations where currently I am likely to write on constitutionalism in early twentieth-century Cuba for my extended essay.



**Isabella Abadia**

I graduated from York University where my BA was in Social Policy and my thesis was on the development of social housing in a region of Colombia during the last decade. Afterwards, I completed an MSc in European Politics and Government at LSE. And currently, I am doing the MSc in Latin American Studies where my dissertation will focus on the free social housing programme in Colombia. Once I complete my degree at Oxford I will return to Colombia to work on social policy issues. In my free time I enjoy visiting museums and historical monuments. Also, I love playing tennis



**Nathalie Alegre**

I came to the LAC after seven years working as a social justice campaign organizer in the United States. Originally from Lima, I graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies in 2008. My extended essay analyses the political origins of the transnational mining investment boom during the authoritarian regime of Alberto Fujimori in Peru. After Oxford, I hope to attend law school in the U.S. My goal is to help create international legal systems to hold multinational mining corporations accountable for environmental and human rights abuses they commit in Latin America.



**Yang Song**

Graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2015; I was a math and economics special major student. I studied Spanish as a minor and participated in the University of Valencia Hispanic Program in Valencia in my third year. Then I decided that I would pursue Latin American Studies for my masters since it would provide me with a mixture of studies, not only in economics, but also a well-rounded picture of the region. My research interests lie in the relationship and impact of China on the Mexican economy. Originally from China, I realize how the growth and strengthening of economic ties between China and Latin American nations have restructured the world economy. My hobbies are dancing, swimming, clothes designing and learning languages!

# MPhil Students 2015-2017



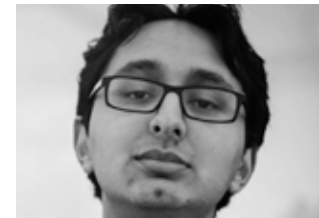
**Vanessa Chaves Rodríguez**

I was born in Costa Rica where I finished my studies in Journalism in 2008. My first steps as a reporter were in a financial newspaper. In 2011, I decided to continue my academic formation with a Master of Arts in the Role of the Media in International Conflicts at the University for Peace. Following this, I worked in a Central American television channel as a news producer and anchor. My research project at Oxford will be focused on media actors as key elements in shaping policies and consequently modifying democracies. Moreover, I am also highly interested in negotiation strategies surrounding disputes and therefore, conflict management and peace building methods in Latin American countries.



**Javier Amate Exposito**

Originally from Madrid, I came to the Latin American Centre after completing my undergraduate courses in History and Art History in the CEU San Pablo University. Although I find Latin America to be an amazing reality, I am particularly interested in Mexico, especially its contemporary history. My research is focused on the Mexican transition to democracy during the late 20th Century. After completing my studies, I expect to work in the field of the relations between Spain and Latin America.



**Andrés Zambrano Bravo**

Half Colombian, half Mexican, but born in New York, I came to the LAC after majoring in International Relations and Film at the University of St Andrews, in Scotland. Whilst there, I developed an interest in the dynamics of violence in Latin America, particularly right-wing violence in Colombia and counterrevolutionary violence in Guatemala. My current research focuses on the continuities of violence in Colombia. My spare time is driven by three passions: collecting records from around the world, Djing and playing music, and attempting to fend off a terrible cinema addiction.



**Alison Walsh**

I'm originally from Bury, north Manchester, and I studied French and Spanish as an undergraduate at St Anne's, Oxford (where I've stayed as a graduate). My interest in Latin America comes from six months spent volunteering and working in journalism in Bolivia and Peru in 2014 (and a lot longer than that reading Latin American literature), and my research is focused on the relative effectiveness of development projects in encouraging diversification from coca production in Bolivia. My hobbies include cross country running, coxing and triathlon, designing sound for theatre productions, and being defensive about the north of England.



## LAC Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Meeting

The LAC's Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) provides a forum for students and faculty to discuss ideas for improving the centre. This year's committee included LAC Director, Dr Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Director of Graduate Studies, Dr Tim Power, MSc students, Yang Song and Lorena de la Puente Burlando, second-year MPhils, Paula Meléndez Martínez and Aaron Watanabe, and LAC administrators, Stephen Minay and Lucy Driver. At its meetings in November and February, the committee addressed ongoing efforts to extend library hours at the LAC and introduce a merit classification. The committee also worked to unify the LAC's presence on Facebook and streamline the content of the Centre's public website. Students on the JCC also sought to encourage greater interaction between faculty, visitors, and students, particularly by arranging informal lunches for the Centre's researchers to share their work. The members of the JCC have also discussed how to increase diversity at the LAC in the backgrounds, approaches, and research interests of its members. As part of these discussions, the JCC encourages all members of the LAC community to contribute suggestions for speakers and fellows that the Centre could bring to represent the diversity of Latin America and those who study it. The JCC looks forward to continuing dialogue on these topics and others to strengthen the LAC in the future.

Aaron Watanabe

## Visiting Student



**Maurício Ebling**

I am a Brazilian from Porto Alegre, living in Brasília. My BA is in Law, and my Masters in Social Sciences. I am finishing my PhD at CEPAC, an interdisciplinary centre of comparative Latin American studies, at Universidade de Brasília. My thesis is about decision-making on industrial policies for oil and gas, comparing Brazil, Mexico and Norway. I was in Oxford for one year (2015) as a recognised student at the Latin American Centre, where I have improved my research due to the amazing structure offered by the University, and to decisive contributions I've got from professors and colleagues.





# Graduating MPhil Students

## Rodrigo Ferreira

I'm a Brazilian student, and my research at Oxford investigates the public discourse behind Brazil's ambitions to build a nuclear-powered submarine. I have been interested in politics and international relations ever since studying journalism in São Paulo. I arrived at the LAC after finishing an MSc in international relations at the University of Bristol, where I conducted research on the absence of policy learning in the US's 'War on Drugs'.

## Aaron Watanabe

A gringo from the States, I was born and raised in Vermont, as far from Latin America as you can get in the US without entering Canada. After studying government as an undergraduate, I came to Oxford interested in the politics of the Andes. I look forward to undertaking research in Peru this summer on the relationship between populism, social exclusion, and consumption while enjoying my fill of ceviche and lomo saltado.

## Gabriela Dale Leal

I'm half-Colombian, half-British and grew up in Latin America. After completing a BA in history and politics at Queen Mary University of London, and a short stint in student politics, I am writing my thesis on the way in which concepts of nationhood were conveyed through educational texts in nineteenth century Colombia. I hope to continue with doctoral studies and start a career in the development of education policy.

## Paula Meléndez

I am a Colombian-Swiss MPhil student and I studied History for my BA before coming to Oxford. My current research concerns diplomatic history and international relations, focusing on Colombia's relations with the League of Nations in the interwar period. After Oxford, I plan to attend law school and I hope to specialise in international law. In my free time I enjoy running, travelling and getting involved in social enterprise initiatives.

## Michal Glaznek

Born and raised in Slovakia, I became interested in Latin America through travelling and studying Spanish and Portuguese. Before commencing my MPhil at the LAC, I completed a BSc in politics and international relations, writing my undergraduate dissertation on the limits of regional integration in South America. My current research focuses on inter-regionalism between the European Union and South America, specifically the EU-MERCOSUR Association Agreement negotiations and their re-launch in 2010.

## MPhil Theses

### Rodrigo

Rodrigo is currently investigating the political process that led the Brazilian Government to recover the project to build a nuclear-powered submarine, which had been initiated by the Military Regime at the late 1970s. This nuclear programme had its budget continuously slashed since full re-democratization in 1990, until 2007, when the Lula administration decided to position it at the centre of the country's defence strategy. He examines changes at the international and domestic level in order to find what incentives were present to account for this decision.

### Paula

Paula's thesis aims to examine the Colombian government's relations and foreign policy towards the League of Nations from its accession as a member in 1920 to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, which effectively marked the end of the League's life. As well as being part of the significant cohort of Latin American members in the League, Colombia was one of the few countries to remain a member for the full duration of the League's existence, and as this thesis will demonstrate, an active member and user of the League's conflict resolution mechanism, exemplified by its submission of the 'Leticia dispute' with Peru in 1930. Using the League of Nations archives in Geneva, the Ministry of Foreign Relations papers from the Archivo General de la Nación and the personal papers of Eduardo Santos (President of Colombia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegate to the League), this thesis seeks to re-examine some long-standing tenets of Colombian diplomatic history (the overwhelming focus on the US in post-WW1 foreign relations, the focus on commercial relations and the idea that Colombia had a foreign 'non policy') and to posit new hypotheses for the development of Colombian foreign policy in the interwar period.

### Michal

Michal's work is looking to establish why there was an agreement, in 2010, to relaunch negotiation between the European Union and the Mercado Común del Sur. This is despite the fact that there had been a failure to reach an agreement between the two entities in 2004. Michal's central argument focuses on internal factors and pressures and takes an outside-in approach compared to the traditional inside-out approach adopted by other scholars within the field of interregionalism. Michal will also look at the impact of the Spanish accession to the EU presidency as well as Brazil's role using integration groups.

### Gaby

Educating the nation: portrayals of Colombia in textbooks (1870-1910)  
Gaby is looking at what textbooks in Colombia, through three key periods of Colombia's history, tell us about national identity. Her work also seeks to see if there was any change in the representation of national identity over time. Gaby's work looks at developments in education and, in particular, how textbooks impinged on ideas of nationhood in Colombia. Her work attempts to highlight the direct link between textbooks and politics as well as a measure of the evolution of education throughout this important forty-year period.

### Aaron

Aaron is looking at the reasons behind Alan García's victory in the 2006 election. He is also looking at why Humala did not get more votes and why people vote for populism. He begins by outlining the background to the 2006 elections and emphasises the lack of parties in Peru since the 1980s. His hypothesis resides in the argument that the wealthier the voters are, the less likely they are to vote for populism. He does this by identifying that Humala's loss is attributed to a poor performance on the Peruvian coast which became more affluent between 1990 and 2006.

# News from the LAC Library

Frank Egerton, LAC Librarian

Appropriately for the Centre's fiftieth anniversary year, 2015 saw the completion of a five year cataloguing project undertaken by my library colleagues Rebeca Otazua and Sam Truman. Now the contents of the rows of Country Boxes in the Stack can be found on SOLO for the first time. Simply type "LAC Box" into SOLO and browse: "LAC Chile Box 2" etc. On the catalogue record for each box the contents are listed and the individual items are searchable by author and title. The cataloguing method used is known as "box-level" and had not been seen in Oxford before Sam suggested it. Without this workaround, the boxes could not have been added to the catalogue, given all the other demands on staff time at the library. As readers will know, the Country Boxes contain a wealth of diverse material that has been donated to the library over the last fifty years by academics and students returning from field trips and by visiting academics and speakers. Though this type of material is known to librarians as "grey literature", as I said in my intro to the LAC 50th talks at the Weston, there is nothing grey about this literature.

As discussed in a previous library update, the Bodleian Libraries have been accepting legal deposit (copyright) books and journal articles electronically since 2013, as are the other five UK and Ireland copyright libraries. Publishers can elect to submit their output electronically rather than in print. Though controversial at first, the move to e-Legal Deposit (eLD) has seen a significant increase in the rate of deposit, as well as the deposit of material that should have come to us in print in previous years in the form of digital backfiles. eLD material can be viewed on the Reader PC in the reading room at LAC and copies of book chapters and journal articles can be printed – subject to copyright restrictions – via the Bodleian's networked PCAS system. We are now reaching the point where students are likely to need to access eLD material in larger quantities and it will be very interesting to get feedback from fellows and students on how well the new system works.

eLD and PCAS are a reminder that the LAC Library is part of the wider community of Bodleian Libraries and its services and initiatives. On this subject, the Libraries have played a lead role in raising awareness (through its Act on Acceptance campaign)

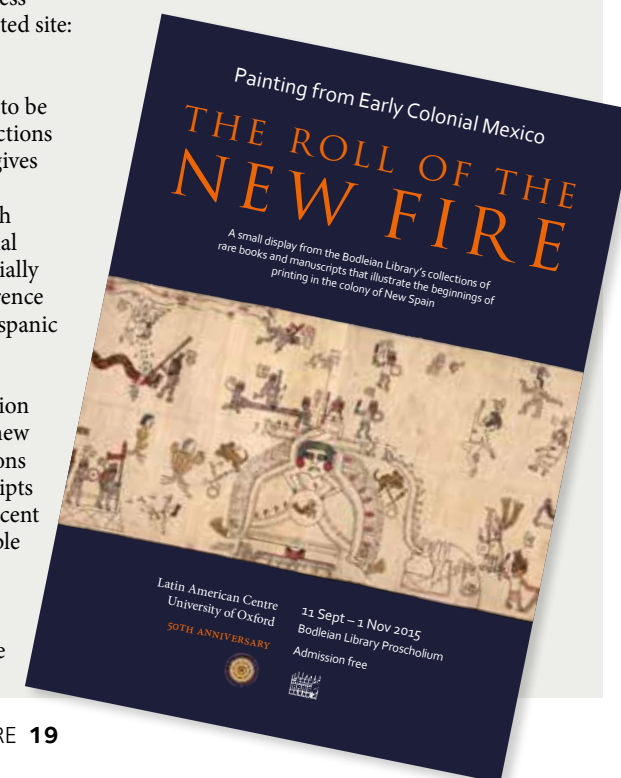


of HEFCE's Open Access policy that came into effect on 1st April this year in respect of academic journal articles and conference proceedings if they are to be included in the University's REF returns in 2020 (on which Government funding depends). At Oxford this means that articles must be deposited in the Oxford University Research Archive (ORA) within three months of their acceptance for publication. For further information on Open Access (OA) and the REF, together with broader Open Access issues, see this Bodleian Libraries-hosted site: <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>.

It is also the case that there continues to be great interest in Latin American collections across the Bodleian Libraries, which gives rise to events that offer LAC scholars enriching opportunities to engage with LA literature (at the Taylor) and Special Collections (at the Weston). An especially exciting event this summer is a conference focusing on the Bodleian's five pre-Hispanic and early Mesoamerican manuscripts, including the *Roll of the New Fire* (see illustration from the LAC 50th exhibition above): Mesoamerican manuscripts: new scientific approaches and interpretations (31st May–2nd June). All five manuscripts will be on display and the results of recent scientific analysis will be made available for the first time. The conference will include a workshop on how to read Mixtec manuscripts. The conference will be webcasted and podcasts will be

available later. (See <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/our-work/conservation/research-and-collaborations/mesoamerican-manuscripts-conference>.)

Finally, on this historical theme, it has been proposed that I take over the management of the Bodleian's LA History budget as from Michaelmas 2017 – something I shall write about at greater length in the next newsletter.





# Raymond Carr

Alan Angell and Malcolm Deas remembered aspects of the life and work of Sir Raymond Carr, Warden of St Antony's College and the first director of the Latin American Centre, at a memorial seminar held in the Nissan Lecture Theatre of St Antony's on 27 November 2015. The event also included presentations by his biographer, María Jesús González and the Spanish historian Juan Pablo Fusi.

**I am not an expert on Spanish history, nor was I taught by Raymond so this account will be personal.**

My education went through three stages – school, university and finally, the longest and in some ways the most rewarding was talking with Raymond.

I knew next to nothing about Oxford when I came here. I had never met anyone like Raymond – not that there were too many people like him anyway. At least not in South Wales or the LSE.

Raymond seemed to me to come from a totally different world. But his insatiable intellectual curiosity, high good spirits, complete lack of pomposity, his kindness and interest in so many things completely won me over and I owe him more than I can say. Indeed I came to Oxford thanks to a Ford Foundation grant, which Raymond obtained that - jointly with Chatham House - financed research projects on Latin America.

The phrase I most associated with him was 'have you read such and such a book'. It was delivered with such enthusiasm that you felt you would be letting him down – and failing to educate yourself – if you did not read it. And then you discussed it with him – a process that made you think hard about what you had read and if you had understood it correctly. The suggestions to read were far from exclusively on Spain or on history but ranged widely over a variety of topics and countries.

Raymond was only for a short time Director of the Latin American Centre but he brought to the centre a style of conducting the seminars, which I hope characterised our approach after he left. He enjoyed argument and disagreement, but he put the speakers at ease, and his good humour enlivened the seminars without deflecting from the academic issues under discussion.

Raymond was kind to speaker but kindness did not exclude critical judgement. He could deliver quite fundamental reservations about a seminar in a way that helped speakers to reframe their arguments without feeling that they had been defeated.

The seminars were kept informal and though arguments could at times be fierce, on the other hand humour was often in evidence – not least from Raymond himself. Quite a number of those attending were not specialists in Latin American studies but who enjoyed the kind of intellectual debate that took place.

Raymond read the manuscript of my first book. Though it was as far from his interests as can be imagined – the subject was the labour movement in Chile – he read it carefully and made numerous suggestions not only of substance but also of prose style. And though my subject 2 was politics, it is thanks to him that I came firmly to the belief that political science needed a firm understanding of historical context.

I spent a week in Argentina with Raymond where he had proceeded to have his brief case stolen at the airport. The national press regarded this as a major scandal and concluded that a Bolivian could only have committed such a shameless act. Travelling with Raymond was exhausting. His energy seemed unlimited and he was interested in everything. And he seemed indifferent to the fact that for most people a certain amount of sleep is needed.

I used to fly with him once or twice a year to the Ford Foundation in New York. I think my major function was to act as an interpreter between Raymond and various customs and immigration officials, taxi drivers, waiters and hotel staff. Sometime on arrival he would go off to a party or dinner but he told me that I was too young and innocent to accompany him. Raymond charmed the personnel at Ford and was adept in raising money for research in the UK and indeed for the construction of the Besse building.

Raymond's conduct of the Governing Body was a far cry from the highly organised proceedings of his successor, Ralf Dahrendorf. One never knew quite what was going to happen, which items would produce most argument, and often we were rather unclear as to what decisions had been taken. But they were very democratic and lively and indeed often great fun.

Raymond presided over the college at a time of considerable change in Oxford and in British higher education as a whole. The number of students of the college increased very substantially as did the number of courses. Raymond deserves a credit for presiding over this change while preserving the ethos of the college. When I served as Senior Tutor I was impressed by the rapport, which Raymond struck with the students, and he was undoubtedly liked and respected by them.

I had only one minor disagreement with Raymond when I proposed that smoking should be banned in Governing Body. Raymond denounced this as an act of Puritanical Totalitarianism. I am glad to say I won the vote, which Raymond accepted only on the condition that he should be allowed to bring his dogs into college.

When we met in the following days he would greet me with comments like 'Off to propose a ban on alcohol in GB are you now' or 'What about fox hunting then'. Incidentally, when we were moving the LAC to our new home in the former Nissan building, Malcolm found a letter from Raymond which said, I quote 'Angell is clearly the more mature of the two. But Deas is the more clever – at least in the Oxford sense'.

I well remember a prominent Spanish politician coming to St Antony's to give a talk on the transition in Spain. He started by expressing great admiration for Raymond's scholarship, for improving relations between Spain and the UK and for training many Spanish students who would return to important posts in Spain. But he ended by saying – 'above all though, you are a very nice man'. I could not have agreed more strongly.

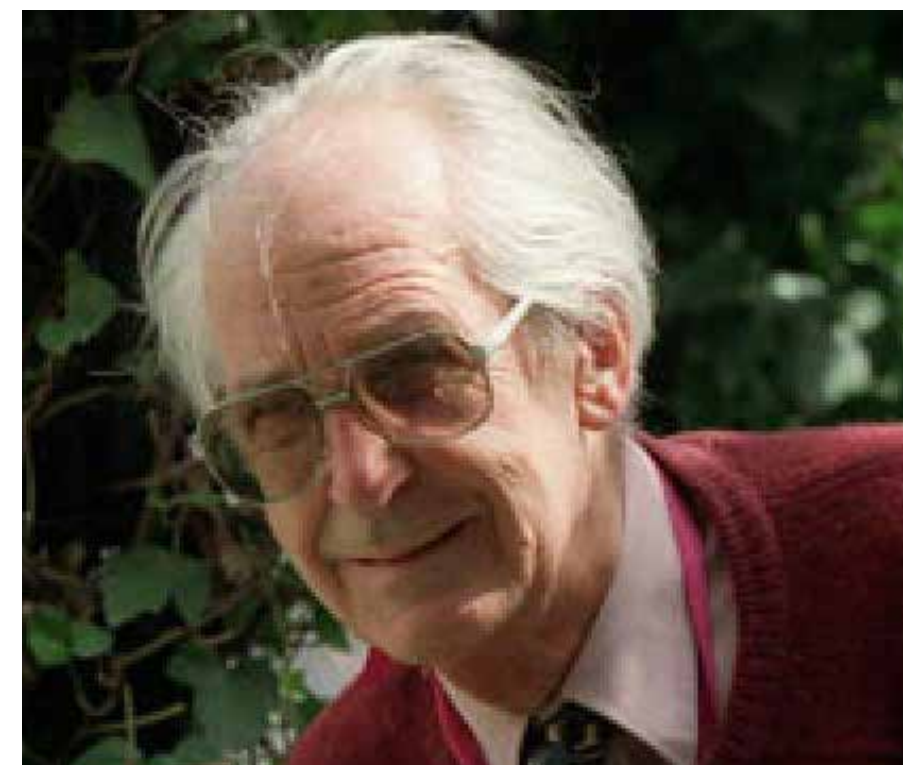
**Alan Angell, Emeritus Fellow, LAC, Oxford**

# Thoughts on Raymond

**Raymond wanted no memorial service, and no memorial meeting – though when sitting next to me at one of these last he did ask me to make sure that when he went there would be only the rites of the Church of England. So we disguised the meeting as an academic seminar. I have lost the notes of what I said – Raymond never taught us anything like method, order or methodology, whatever that may be – so what follows is from memory.**

I wanted to get away from the vivid recollection of his personality, common to all who knew him, to insist on his importance as a historian. I began all the same with my memories of him as a teacher. I was, at the end of the 1950s, an undergraduate reading history at New College. What made Raymond quite outstanding as a tutor was I think argument. The other tutors I had ranged from the competent to the utterly forgettable, from those who repeated their oft-repeated mantras - the Spanish phrase would be *discos rayados*, scratched records - to at least one that remained entirely silent apart from dishing out instructions for the next essay. Raymond took entirely seriously what one was reading out, interrupted frequently and argued the points, with no side at all, with no assumption of superiority, with little reliance on superior knowledge. Sometimes the tutorial went over its hour, sometimes he did not turn up and made up for it later, which somehow added to the experience, sharpening the appetite. I had certainly never been taken so seriously before. He changed my life, or at least determined its direction.

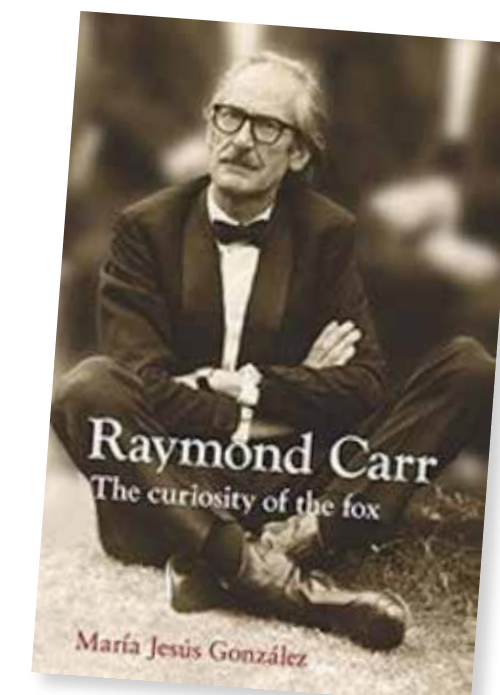
I think too that this quality of argument is the outstanding quality of his books. There is always argument present, and serious argument. Raymond was a very hard worker, who concentrated hard on the matter in hand. The books he read, if they were his or had been lent to him by some other careless owner, would show signs of this in page after maltreated page. And this engagement meant that he never left a subject as he found it. That is a sign of a great historian.



Raymond was a great historian of a foreign country, Spain. This is admirably recognized in the excellent biography of him written by Maria Jesus Gonzales. What other British historian has had his life written by a foreigner? I can think of none. His importance to Spanish historiography owed much to another of his qualities, his capacity to relate without prejudice to all sorts of persons. When I was an undergraduate I attempted to read Kierkegaard, and though I can remember nothing at all about *Fear and Trembling or Either/Or*, I do remember that the description of him relating to all sorts in his walks around Copenhagen, of him putting himself *en rapport* with the fishwives, reminded me of Raymond, and he could relate not only to all sorts of persons but to all sorts of circumstances. The years which Raymond spent studying and writing about Spain were the last years of Franco and those of the transition to democracy and its consolidation. The respect in which he came to be held reflects his more than academic importance. It was surely part of Spain's good fortune that one of the

country's principal interpreters and interlocutors in this critical period was a person of such great breadth of mind.

**Malcolm Deas, Emeritus Fellow, LAC, Oxford**





# Hermínio Martins

(1934–2015)



Hermínio Martins, Emeritus Fellow at St Antony's College, and former Fellow of the Latin American Centre, passed away on the 19th of August last year. He became a member of the LAC in 1971, when he was appointed Lecturer in Sociology, and he remained in his post until he retired in 2001. A specialist on Brazil, most recently he co-edited, with M Angela d'Incao, a book on the former Brazilian president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, *Democracia, Crise e Reforma* (2010). In her alumni reflections on the Latin American Centre's 50th Anniversary, Fiona Macaulay, now Senior Lecturer of Development Studies at Bradford University, recently noted that 'Hermínio Martins conducted the class on Brazil with passion and eccentricity, which made me determined to do research there'. In *The Independent's* obituary section, Luis Gomes remembered Hermínio's 'generous open invitation to welcome Portuguese-speaking colleagues and students to lunch at St Antony's College every Tuesday, at the celebrated Mesa Lusófona', while Bridget Fowler noted that his death was 'mourned by social scientists internationally, impressed by his extraordinary erudition and the subtlety of his irony'. In Trinity Term this year, Laurence Whitehead organized a lunch to commemorate Hermínio's life and work at Nuffield College, where his former co-author and former student, M Angela d'Incao, presented the book she edited in his honour *Domínio das tecnologias* (São Paulo, 2015). The lunch was attended by friends and colleagues, as well as by Hermínio's wife, Margaret.

## His former student, Maria Angela D'Incao, remembers here his extraordinary life and intellectual achievements:

Hermínio Martins was born on June 19th 1934, in the city then known as Lourenço Marques, today as Maputo, in Mozambique, where he went to school. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by an aunt and uncle. He was an early militant against the extended military dictatorship in Portugal, which made returning to Portugal impossible. So in 1952 he entered the London School of Economics, where he met Margaret, his wife. At the LSE he was fortunate with the quality of his professors: Karl Popper, Michael Oakeshott and Ernest Gellner, and graduated with first class honours in sociology. He taught at the universities of Leeds (1959-64), Essex (1964-71), Harvard (1966-67), Pennsylvania (1967-68) and Oxford (1971-2001), where his intellectual companions were John Rex, Bryan Wilson, Peter Nettl, Jerry Ravetz, Talcott Parsons, John Rawls, David Riesman and Imre Lakatos, among others. He was named emeritus Fellow of the University of Oxford in 2001 and then nominated as Honorary Fellow of the Instituto de Ciências Sociais of the University of Lisbon.

Hermínio Martins, a political exile for many years in Britain, spoke little in public but in his published work was eloquent and profound. Marked by the exclusion which every foreign political exile knows as an existential condition, but living in a culture where speaking and assuming public positions is associated with the role of a public intellectual, Martins was an exception. Omnivorous reading was the basis of his intellectual life, and his writings bear the marks of his critical, sometimes solitary erudition in his most English of universities. His theoretical writings in political science are as profound and as extensive as the many years of exile that formed them. His written work sounded almost as machine gun bursts in the long nights of exile, were it not for the generosity and elegance with which this cosmopolitan intellectual – Mozambican Portuguese, with his university career in Britain and an apprenticeship as a

young professor in the USA – treated his interlocutors. It is no exaggeration to say that his intellectual solitariness owed something to the breadth of his reading and influences, which was not shared by his peers in England, heirs to other intellectual traditions. His work is fascinating precisely because he deconstructed, through elucidating for his readers the theoretical intentions and preconceptions of analytical positions, the fallacies and theoretical underpinnings of philosophical positions and methodologies, which are too often taken as given, or assumed uncritically. His essays are exemplary in their philosophical and sociological clarity, especially in the historical moment in which they were produced, in which a radical break with previous modes of thinking encouraged the uncritical acceptance of the notion of globalization as something radically new, despite all its historical antecedents.

Thus we can only mourn his death on August 19th this year, in Oxford, with his wife Margaret Martins at his side, along with his son Paul, his wife Christine, his grandson Daniel and his partner Maria. His work will be his memorial, and testament to his love for humanity, and humanism. Hermínio will always be remembered as an early and trenchant critic of neoliberalism and its dehumanising philosophical underpinnings.



# Torcuato Di Tella

(1929–2016)

Torcuato Di Tella, sole surviving son of the man who built an industrial empire after he arrived in Argentina in 1905, was born in Buenos Aires in 1929, where he died on 7th June 2016. He was 86 and had only arrived back in Buenos Aires from Rome with his wife Tamara in December 2015. In 2010, he had been appointed as Argentine ambassador to Rome by the then President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. Although in his last year in Rome he had become increasingly frail, he never lost the features his friends will always remember him for: his sense of humour, the irresistible temptation to provoke in any intellectual discussion.

The author of many serious academic books on sociology, politics, and history (including *National popular politics in early independent Mexico, 1820-1847*), his public persona was that of the joker. At times it was difficult to tell if he was serious about some of the arguments he put forward, as when he dismissed the importance of culture after President Néstor Kirchner had appointed him Culture Secretary in 2003. He only lasted a year, following some offensive remarks about another member of the administration. His main academic legacy was his eclecticism, as revealed in the wide range of topics covered in his books. As his close friend and fellow

Sociologist Manolo Mora y Araujo has written, "it is not an exaggeration to say that without Torcuato's imprint, Sociology in Argentina would be very different from what it is".

In contrast to Guido, his younger brother, Torcuato never embraced Peronism and he proudly declared himself a socialist, even when socialism had fallen out of fashion in Argentina. Yet both brothers shared a passion for "changing the world": through politics, education, art and culture, as when in their 30s they set up the Instituto Di Tella in 1965, reviled by the retrograde military government of General Onganía, who closed it in 1970. Still today the Instituto Di Tella is remembered for its vanguardism, and as a beacon of Latin American culture. Indeed, the Di Tella name was ubiquitous in Argentina throughout the 20th century: immigrants, industrialists, political activists, exiled from dictatorship, their name will persist in the prestigious university Guido and Torcuato founded in the 1980s and which bears their father's name (also Torcuato).

Torcuato and Guido had both gone into exile after general Videla's coup on 26th March 1976. While Guido chose St Antony's, Torcuato stayed in London. But he was a frequent visitor to St Antony's, where I remember many

convivial dinners with Raymond Carr, the two Di Tella brothers, Ezequiel Gallo and Malcolm Deas. It was Torcuato who rang me from Buenos Aires in 2000 and suggested a young Mauricio Macri would benefit from a visit to the Latin American Centre, given his decision to embrace a career in politics. Torcuato's last visit to St Antony's was in 2015, when he attended the Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture organized by the Latin American Centre, delivered by Prof John King, author of a book on the golden years of the Instituto Di Tella.

Celia Szusterman



La Nación

## Studying James Bryce's interests in Latin America

Hector Domínguez, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Visiting Doctoral Student at the LAC

During the 2015 Trinity term, I had the opportunity to do research for my Ph.D. thesis at the University of Oxford's Latin American Centre and to pursue my interest in the intellectual links between British and Latin American political thinkers at the turn of the twentieth century. Having already studied at other European schools, I was immediately impressed by how well the University is organised, and especially by the importance given to the provision of academic resources for students.

As the term progressed, I also learnt to appreciate the crucial role that academic events such as seminars or lectures play in life at Oxford. They are considerably more important than at my home institution, where such occasions tend to be much more infrequent. A programme as stimulating as the Latin American History Seminar provides a perfect example of this academic culture. I attended all its sessions and was lucky enough to be invited to give a talk about my research during one of the sessions.

My research in Oxford dealt with James Bryce's writings on Latin America, whose papers at the Bodleian Library were of great help. Bryce is of course best known for his *American Commonwealth*, where he examined the US political system. His *South America: Observations and Impressions* (1912) has been overlooked in the academic debate, usually considered just a travel book. Bryce also wrote other pieces on the region, for example on the so-called Venezuelan question in the 1890s. In my research at the Bodleian Library, I was able to find other manuscripts and unpublished personal correspondence related to his South America book.

The fact that the weekly history seminar is always followed by an informal dinner encouraged visiting doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers from different countries and backgrounds, including myself, to get to know each other such that, by the end of the term, we seemed to be old friends rather than colleagues. However, this lively environment sometimes has its drawbacks: there are days on which one does not know which of several events to attend!

I was also amazed by the intense cultural life of the city of Oxford, apart from the University. There are some first class museums, a choice of live music events and recommendable antiquarian bookshops. I enjoyed my experience so much that I decided to return in Trinity 2016!



# Life after Oxford

## Alumni Profiles

### John Matheson

MSc Latin American Studies 2015



John Matheson started at the Latin American Centre under a different set of circumstances than most of his peers. Firstly, he came directly from the private sector, having spent a number of years working in Human Resources in London. Secondly, he had a very clear idea

of what he wanted to write about for his extended essay and where he wanted to be working after graduating. Finally, he was Canadian – something of a novelty at the LAC, and a factor that would come to shape his research at the Centre.

John wanted to research Canada's relations with Latin America, and in particular its relations with Brazil. His interest in foreign affairs and international relations had led him to question why Canadian-Brazilian relations were so poor, and why Canada's presence in Latin America was so weak. Due to the unorthodox nature of his interests and his curiosity about the department, he visited the LAC before submitting his application. Lunch with the professors convinced him that Oxford was the right place to fulfil his ambitions, and that his project would be welcomed and supported.

His time at St Antony's was fruitful. He found the diversity and brilliance of the students unmatched and the attention of the professors priceless in his academic development. Above all, essay tutorials trained him to "think critically and write in a succinct and purposeful way" – two skills that have proved indispensable since graduating. He carried through his pre-master's ambition of writing about Brazilian-Canadian relations.

John always wanted to transition into politics after completing his MSc. One month after graduating he secured a job working for the Canadian Liberal Party for the 2015 elections. He was a Digital

Project Manager, meaning that he worked on the production and publication of all the online content for Justin Trudeau's election campaign. Moreover, he worked closely with the chief digital strategist.

His greatest responsibility came during the foreign affairs televised debate. John took the lead in preparing the content that was to be published in real time during the event. Behind the scenes he made key, split-second decisions about which Facebook and Twitter communications would be sent according to what Trudeau said in the debate. He cited his time at the LAC as key in preparing him for the pressure of this placement and giving him the technical knowledge to be able to work so closely with Trudeau on foreign affairs. It was a success. Trudeau won the election easily and his digital campaign was a key factor behind this.

During my interview with John, his work ethic and dedication to international affairs was evident. For two months he worked eleven-hour weekdays, with no weekends off, to ensure that the Liberal Party's digital campaign was perfect. "Exhausting, but rewarding" probably doesn't do it justice.

Less than a year after leaving Oxford, John has been offered the position of Director of Policy for the Minister of Small Business and Tourism for the Government of Canada. He expects to spend between twelve and eighteen months in the role until the next cabinet reshuffle takes place. His ambitions lie in the foreign policy side of the party.

We turn to career advice as the interview draws to a close. His advice cuts through much of the haze surrounding job applications and CVs and delivers something concrete: develop and cultivate strong relations with those who make the decisions. Authentic relationships with people count more than anything else.

Written by Sam Benstead



### Mónica Pachón

MPhil Latin American Studies 2002



Mónica Pachón completed the MPhil in Latin America Studies in 2002 at St Antony's College under the supervision of Mr Malcolm Deas. She embraced the buzz of college life and was an active member of the Oxford Latin

American community: she played in a salsa band, and was a part of the Colombian Society with which she organised a very successful cumbia party. Oxford's rituals and curiosities left their mark on her – punting, sherry, and pubs were a formative part of her two years at the Latin American Centre.

Oxford allowed her to develop a passion for history and led her to discover many classical books. In her own words: "I learnt to understand the value of self-regulation and autonomy while in the process of learning and writing".

On graduating from Oxford she continued in academia, completing a PhD in political science at the University of California, San Diego in 2008. Her time at the LAC proved invaluable in making this transition. Mónica cited her fellow Oxford students as a constant source of knowledge and inspiration, as well as her professors who challenged her to think critically. Her MPhil thesis later formed part of her further research and eventually a number of book chapters on the behaviour of the Colombian Congress. Mónica is currently the Dean of the School of Political Science, Government and International Relations at the University of Rosario, Bogotá.

I asked her what her biggest career challenge has been: "right now, as Dean, my biggest challenge is to lead, persuade, and coordinate people around a common goal". Learning to manage one's own time efficiently as well as the precious time of others has been a key challenge for Mónica: academics are defensive of their time and so building up respect and understanding with colleagues has been an essential part of her career progression.

Looking back at her time at Oxford, Mónica singled out a lesson from Malcolm Deas that has served her faithfully in her career: "always think about the reader, make clear and simple statements, and search for historical analogies" – sound advice for any student and professional.

To current students her message is equally simple: "have friends from other disciplines and talk about your work; interdisciplinary debate is the most effective for getting new ideas and finding constructive criticism".

Finally, Mónica encourages me to go to the library not to study as such, but rather to soak up the intellectual atmosphere and explore Oxford's hidden bookshelves. She wishes that she could still do the same!

### Andrew Crawley

MPhil Latin American Studies 1982,  
DPhil Modern History 1984



Andrew Crawley was a veteran of the Latin American Centre and St Antony's College when he graduated in 1988. He spent a total of six years in the department, first completing the MPhil programme in Latin American Studies, and then a DPhil in Modern History, all under the watchful eye of Malcolm Deas, his academic supervisor for his entire time at Oxford.

When I spoke to Andy he recalled his time at the LAC fondly for its academic rigour and close-knit community. It gave him a "superb grounding in Latin America", but more importantly taught him the discipline of time management and how to think analytically, two skills that would later become "priceless" in his career. Above all, he remembered having to defend his essays in front of Malcolm Deas. Each week, he would have to read aloud his essays in their entirety, whilst Malcom listened in silence, and then argue his case against one of the most prominent historians of Latin America. This "training" would prove invaluable throughout his career.

On leaving St Antony's, Andy moved to Madrid to become a Senior Researcher at the Instituto de Relaciones Europeo-Latinoamericanas (IRELA), a post that he had already secured during the final year of his DPhil. His initial intention was to spend a couple of years in Spain before moving on to something new. However, the work proved fulfilling and enjoyable and he spent fourteen years in Madrid, becoming Deputy Director of the Institute.

Andy carried out policy analysis for EU institutions, most significantly for the European Commission and European Parliament, on political and social developments in Latin America, as well as researching Europe's relationship

with the region. When I asked Andy what his landmark achievement was during his time working for the EU, he didn't hesitate in answering. In 1996 he served as the Chief of Mission for the EU Electoral Observation Delegation for the Nicaraguan elections. He spent the second half of 1996 in Managua organising the EU operation, one of the first of its kind in Latin America and the largest to be conducted in the region. The project was successful, in spite of the geographical and security challenges and the EU's then limited experience in overseeing elections. Nicaragua was the subject of Andy's doctoral thesis, and so his time at the LAC gave him the specialist knowledge that he needed to do his job.

Andy then moved to Washington to take up a position at the Inter-American Development Bank where he worked for a number of years in the Integration and Regional Programs department. Here he worked on the Bank's operations with Latin American regional groups – Mercosur, CARICOM and the Andean Community – and ran the regional projects for CARICOM. Andy is now a consultant for various international institutions such as the World Bank and UN. He has worked from Barbados and Belize, and is now back in Washington for the foreseeable future.

His career has taken him across the world and given him real influence and responsibility in Latin American affairs. I asked him what advice he would give to current students and recent graduates who perhaps feel uncertain about what the future holds. His response: "don't worry, don't panic, the training at the LAC is so good that eventually you will find rewarding work." Comforting and positive words for any student going through exams or searching for a job. Andy's gratitude to the LAC is something that shone through again and again in our interview. He attributes much of his success to his time at Oxford and truly feels indebted to the Centre. The LAC established the Crawley Prize, an award for the best MSc dissertation and MPhil thesis each year. My last question to Andy is a simple one: what would you like to communicate with Horizontes readers? His answer is simple: "If you can trace your career success to the LAC, then try and give back to the Centre where you can."

Written by Sam Benstead



## Fernando F. Sánchez Campos

“The real adventure starts now.” This was Alan Angel’s departing message to me on my graduation day in 2004. Life after Oxford has proved him right.



Indeed, since then my professional career has developed in a rather unusual, unexpected, and quite frankly, quick manner. Right after my time at Oxford, specifically at the Latin

American Centre, I began working in a number of high-responsibility posts, both in the private and the public sector. It is absolutely clear to me that my education at Oxford was central not only in getting the posts, but also in achieving success while in them.

Shortly after the completion of my DPhil in Politics, I started a political campaign that ended in my election as a Member of Parliament (MP) for a 4-year mandate. I was 32 at the time and so became one of the youngest MPs in Costa Rican history. Thirteen laws and an unprecedented development of the infrastructure in my constituency—including the construction of the most modern hospital in Central America—are among my proudest achievements during my time as an MP. In 2010, I was appointed Ambassador of Costa Rica to the Holy See to the United Nations Organizations in Rome (namely FAO, IFAD, and WFP), and to the Sovereign Order of Malta. Again, aged 36, I was one of the youngest ambassadors in the diplomatic community, a fact that was even noted by His Holiness Pope Francis. Not only were the missions under my responsibility amongst the most active and effective ones according to Vatican and FAO officials; but also, in the words of President Laura Chinchilla, “in more than 160 years of diplomatic relations, never has our country built such a strong, mutually beneficial relationship with the Holy See than during the last four years, when Ambassador Sánchez led our mission.”

I finished my diplomatic duties in July 2014, and returned to Costa Rica with my family, with the intention of going back to full-time academia. The world of higher study was something that never lost its pull on me during my political roles; I had been able to do some academic work as Visiting Professor at the University of Salamanca and at the Catholic University of Valencia, and also published 8 books—including my doctoral thesis—between 1999 and 2015. About a year later, in October 2015, and after an interesting experience running the family business (agriculture and real estate development), I was able to fulfil this goal.

Nonetheless, I was really not expecting to be appointed Rector of the Catholic University of Costa Rica, with a unanimous vote by the Costa Rican Episcopal Conference. Thus, as I write these words, I am preparing my message and a strategic plan that will be announced on 27th of October 2015, when—aged 41—I will be sworn in as the youngest Rector in this University’s history. Being the highest authority at a University, where academic standards and human values are at the heart of the Institution’s Mission, is one of the greatest responsibilities I have undertaken in my life, and a privilege I take on with great expectation, but in peace. As in my previous posts; I am sure that, with God’s help, my time in Oxford will be invaluable in this new challenge.

Indeed, a quick look back to my time as a student leaves me in no doubt that the academic, social and cultural skills learnt at the University of Oxford, particularly at the Department of Politics and International Relations, at the Latin American Centre and at St Antony’s College, are at the base of my professional development. I feel a deep gratitude towards my supervisor, my professors and my fellow students when I look back at my time at Oxford. Clearly, being an Oxford graduate has not only opened doors that I never would have expected, but also prepared me for the challenges that these roles encompass. Eleven years after my graduation, “the adventure” keeps on getting more interesting. So, even if quite hectic, life after Oxford has been exceptionally good.

## OXFORD PERUVIAN SOCIETY



Earlier this academic year, over a dozen Peruvian students decided to create the Oxford Peruvian Society as a way to bring together University members and community residents with an interest in Peru, and to promote constructive debate about the country’s most relevant social, economic, and political developments. Our kick-off event, “Peru: Nice to Eat You!” was a resounding success! We offered a sampling of some of the best dishes in Peruvian cuisine as well as pisco sour, Peru’s traditional liquor. Society President Gustavo Quino Quispe, an accomplished charango player, and guest musician Dante Concha (from London) warmed up the night with beautiful Andean and Amazonian tunes. It soon became a great dance party. The Society plans to hold more events during Trinity Term, including a roundtable discussion with political scientist Martín Tanaka about Peru’s April 2016 national elections.

## Oxford in LASA



Over 60 members of the Oxford community (including current and former teachers, students and visiting fellows) attended the Latin American Studies Association in New York, on 26-31 May. The LAC offered a reception at the offices of Oxford University in New York, where the LAC’s Director and Professor Jeremy Adelman offered some welcoming remarks in what was an enjoyable reunion. Relaxing from the intense academic activities of LASA, in the picture, from the left, Julián López-Murcia (DPhil candidate), Max Lyssewski (MPhil European Politics), Kathryn Babineau (MPhil Latin American Studies), Julia Zulver (DPhil candidate), Francesa Lessa (Postdoctoral Research Office, LAC), Lorena Balardini (Universidad de Buenos Aires), and Alvaro Amaya (Universidad Javeriana and Fundación Ideas para la Paz).



## Never underestimate a LAC student!

SIAS – the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies – hosted a table decorating competition during Week One of Michaelmas term. The challenge was to deck out each department’s table with items that represented the region. The Russian and Eastern European Studies table had plenty of vodka for students to “sample”, the India Studies table had a Bollywood theme, including music, and the Chinese table, according to what they told us, had authentic, home-baked cakes shipped from Beijing by someone’s mother.

Our table, however, surpassed all in the competition. We stood out for – I believe – two key reasons. Firstly, we had by far the most expansive array of regional food and drink on offer. From salsa verde, to frijoles, guacamole and pisco, we offered high-quality and homemade goods from all corners of Latin America. Secondly, we served it all with a smile, a few twirls across our makeshift dance floor and importantly – a wink. The way we welcomed the competition and extended complements to their tables was as important as the decorations and food itself.

It goes without saying that we claimed first prize. Stephen, the LAC administrator at the time, delivered us a chest of chocolates and wine that were then stored and guarded by Gabriela and Paula, two second-year LAC students that managed to convince us new-arrivals that they knew the best way to care for wine and chocolate...

In short, it was a great bonding experience for the new generation of students, topped off perfectly by winning first prize.



# Students in Action

As well as spending copious hours in the various Oxford University libraries, the students of the Latin American Centre have enjoyed various extracurricular activities ranging from rock-climbing to rowing. Here are some photos of the students in action.



Above is a photo from the third race of Oxford's varsity match against Cambridge. Oxford ended up winning the series 4-2. Congratulations!



This year Javier rowed for St Hugh's College. This photo comes from their race against Pembroke College in Michaelmas term.

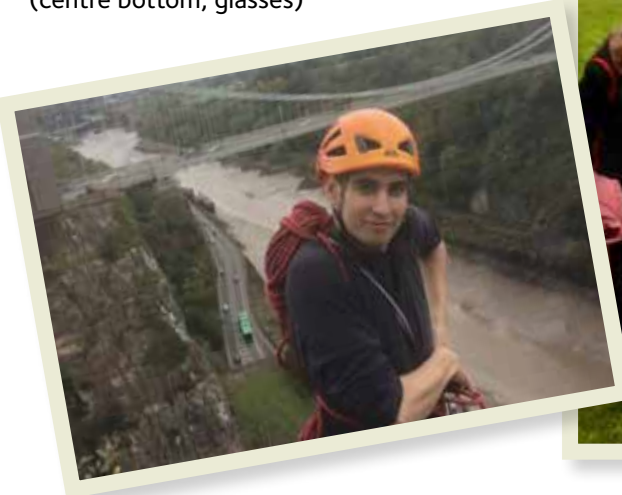
Andrés is the Latin American Centre's resident DJ. He has recently created a 2-hour set which is waiting to be played around Oxford and Cowley.



Above is a picture of Alison coxing for St Catherine's M1 boat. During the torpids her team went from 3rd to 7th.



Stefan (bottom left, hat) and Digby (centre bottom, glasses)



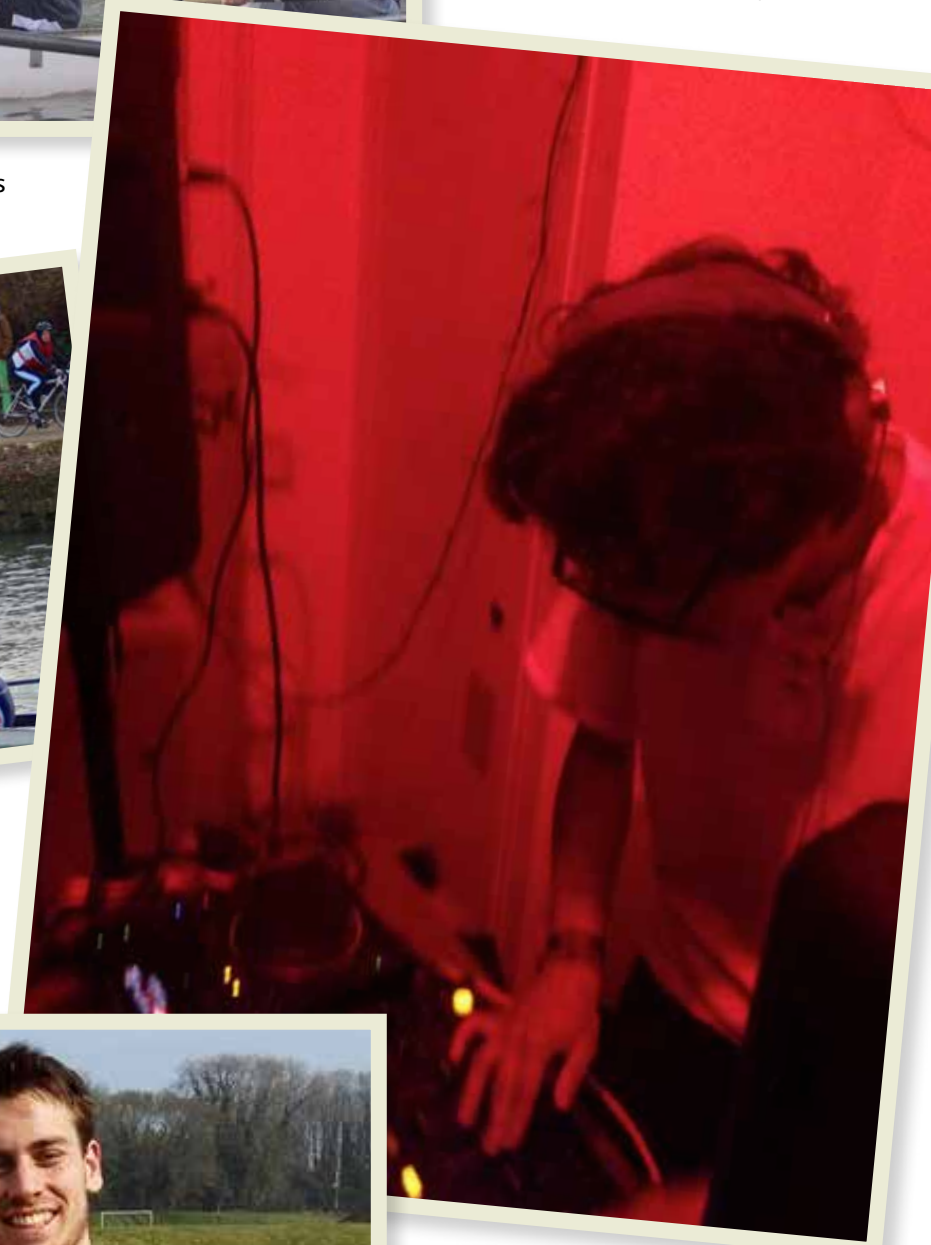
Jack is the Latin American Centre's very own master rock climber, this is a photo of him climbing in the Avon Gorge, near Bristol.



Gaby (bottom left), is St Antony's member of the Foxes team. This year the girls gained promotion to the first league. Congratulations!



Julien (left) and Sam (right) both play for St Antony's College Football team. This year was a tough one, but they managed to avoid relegation with a late flurry of good results





# Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



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