

Horizontes

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE



Number 2, Summer 2014



Director's Note

Professor Leigh Payne



We are pleased to be able to provide you with our second – 2014 – issue of Horizontes.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, in 2015 we will be celebrating 50 years of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford. In 1965, Oxford's Latin American Centre became an established UK Centre by the parliamentary Parry Commission.

Our Golden Jubilee, however, could have been this year. According to the biography of Raymond Carr (*Raymond Carr: The Curiosity of the Fox* by Maria Jesus Gonzalez, 2013, p.242), in 1964 the Ford Foundation began financing the creation of a Latin American Centre at Oxford. Looking at Oxford as part of a 'bulwark against "murderous ideologies"' in the region, Ford started a 'massive interdisciplinary' initiative (described in bawdier terms in the biography). Coupled with funding from the Astor Foundation, Raymond Carr moved from New College to St Antony's College to become the first director of the Latin American Centre. Sir Raymond Carr subsequently (in 1967) filled the first Chair of Latin American History. His writing about the importance of history for our understanding of the region continues to resonate: 'Without an historical understanding, the political economist cannot see clearly which forces can be manipulated and how. If the academician's narrative history is rejected by social scientists, the application of advanced techniques in the social sciences derived from advanced societies can produce its own brand of aridity and unreality. History alone can elucidate the semantics of politics in a continent which, though it may satisfy the statistical conditions of underdevelopment, has a long historical tradition' (Ibid, 252).

Flash forward 50 years. The Chair in Latin American History that Sir Raymond Carr once held was frozen by the History Department following the retirement in December 2013 of the last Chair holder (Alan Knight). We have been engaged since Professor Knight's retirement in fundraising efforts to endow that Chair. The Centre continues to value the underpinning of social science knowledge of the region with a strong Latin American history programme, embodied in Raymond Carr's words and in the establishment of the Chair in Latin American History, the only one of its kind in the UK.

This newsletter is dedicated to showcasing our accomplishments in that endeavour over the past 50 years and to look forward to innovations in the next 50 years. It highlights new initiatives built on the firm historical foundation of the Centre and the study of the region's history. In the past year, we held our first Guido Di Tella Memorial Seminar and History Seminar series. Our students initiated workshops and conferences on topical events at the Centre. Our library collection has continued to grow with books, journals, films, archives, and e-resources, complementing the treasures garnered in an earlier era. We have



From Left to right, top to bottom: David Doyle, Timothy Power, Valpy Fitzgerald, Christian Arnold, Svitlana Chernykh, John Crabtree, Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Halbert Jones, Francesca Lessa, Gilberto Estrada Harris, Leigh Payne and Eduardo Posada-Carbó.

enriched our teaching with new fellows (David Doyle) as retiring members of staff move on (Alan Knight and Edmund 'Valpy' Fitzgerald). Changes in staff have been dramatic over the past 50 years, but the quality remains high. The LAC was recognized by its students this year with the highest scores for teaching in the social sciences. Our well-established academic visitor and weekly seminar series, adds to our teaching and research programme, benefitting in the past two years from distinguished CAF Development Bank and Rio Branco fellows. LAC students, as ever, have achieved great successes both while at the LAC and beyond, recognized by the competitive scholarships, travel awards, prizes, internships, and posts they have won. Our academic staff has continued to receive recognition in the academy and for their policy-impact as they have in the past. All of these accomplishments would not be possible without the support from our perpetually cheerful administrative staff. The Centre's friends and their financial support have allowed us to maintain our strength, particularly crucial in an era of shrinking public resources.

The newsletter thus celebrates the survival of one of the longest standing Latin American Centres in the country, and the role it has played in the UK, in the region, and in the world since its official establishment.

**Our 50th anniversary
on 18-20 September
2015 endeavours to put
the next 50 years of the
Centre on the horizon.**

*We hope you
will join us.*



Remembering a True Intellectual:

The Latin America Centre Launches the Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture Series By Kathryn Babineau, 1st year MPhil

When Guido Di Tella, Argentine academic and public servant, died in 2002, there were articles on his life and accomplishments posted across the globe. Many such pieces discussed his years as Argentina's Foreign Minister after the fall of the military dictatorship and his foreign policy accomplishments, while others emphasized his family's contributions to Argentine higher education, particularly the Universidad Di Tella, an institution which would not have been possible without Guido Di Tella's support. When it came time for his colleagues at the LAC, with whom Di Tella and his family spent a number of years during their exile from Argentina after the 1976 coup, to decide how to best remember him, they focused on a different accomplishment: his passion for new intellectual and cultural pursuits, the kind that would engage the mind and create new modes of understanding. Thus, the Di Tella family and his LAC colleagues decided to create a memorial that would continue the academic discussion of Latin America that he ardently fomented in life. Each year, the LAC community would gather together to hear a discussion from a Latin Americanist of any origin, regional

focus, or academic discipline, with the aim of presenting a new set of ideas and provoking thoughtful discussion. With this aim in mind, Malcolm Deas presented the first Guido Di Tella Memorial lecture on October 23rd, 2013, during Oxford's Michaelmas term.

Deas, who first met Di Tella around the time of the Centre's founding in 1965, remembers him as a sharp academic with a passion for his country and a desire to engage with students, both in Argentina and at St. Antony's College. Deas also remembers Di Tella's interest in comparative history, an outgrowth of his expertise in economic history. It was this passion that led Deas to his chosen topic for this year's memorial lecture: a comparison between two figures, Argentine General, Lucio V. Mansilla, author of *Una excursión a los indios ranqueles* (An Expedition to the Ranquel Indians), and American, Francis Parkman, author of *The Oregon Trail: Sketches of Prairie and Rocky-Mountain Life*. Deas chose to discuss these two figures, whose autobiographical accounts chronicle encounters with indigenous populations in a frontier-like atmosphere, because of Mansilla's Argentine roots and the differences in the two contemporaries' approaches to their surroundings,

themes which he thought would illicit interesting discussion. Deas, who has provided the lecture series with a powerful start, favours the Centre's novel way of remembering Di Tella's legacy: 'The Latin American Centre hasn't had anything like this previously. It gives a focus for the year,' he notes. 'It seems much better than a plaque on the wall or a garden seat. Plus, of all the Latin Americans in the history of the Centre,...Guido was not only a benefactor of intellectuals and academics, but was very much one himself... He was very interested in talking to students at St. Antony's with other Latin American interests.'

Over the coming years, Professor Deas hopes that the series will continue to provide attendees with the opportunity to hear interesting lectures, with an emphasis on intellectualism and representing an array of views and backgrounds, and most especially academics trained and teaching in Latin America. As Deas states,

'The constant inflow of new ideas, even those we disagree with, is one of the greatest assets of the Latin American Centre.'

Malcolm Deas delivering the inaugural 2013-2014 Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture



Oxford Chair in the History of Latin America:

Copy of letter written by Professor Paulo Drinot, UCL, sent to Professor Andrew Hamilton, Vice Chancellor, University of Oxford on 15 February 2013

Dear Professor Andrew Hamilton,

It is with great concern that we learn that the Chair in the History of Latin America at the University of Oxford will not be advertised when Professor Alan Knight retires in 2013 and will be effectively frozen and possibly eliminated.

As you know, the Chair, by virtue of its history, its previous holders, which include some of the world's leading twentieth-century historians, such as Sir Raymond Carr and Professor Tulio Halperin Donghi, and the outstanding and greatly influential contributions of its incumbent to the history of Mexico and Latin America more generally, is the foremost post in the history of Latin America in the UK and arguably the foremost post in the field outside the Americas.

The loss of this post will impair the ability of Oxford to cover a key region of the world in the History Faculty, at a time when global history has become an important new priority, as well as the ability of the Latin American Centre at St Antony's College to maintain the central importance of history in its flourishing masters programmes in Latin American studies. More generally, it will impact negatively on Latin American history and Latin American studies in the UK.

It is difficult to understand this decision in light of the growing importance that the UK government is placing on UK-Latin American relations, both commercial and otherwise, and the growth in Latin American students choosing to undertake both undergraduate and graduate studies in the UK. The loss of this Chair sends very negative signals about how Oxford views and values Latin America, at a time when the region's global profile is increasingly prominent.

Just as important, it is difficult to understand how a history department in one of the world's leading universities could, by freezing this Chair, abandon the history of a region that is home to 600 million people, that contains some of the world's most dynamic economies, and that boasts a rich history and culture. Again, the loss of this Chair sends out the wrong message about how Oxford University, and its History Faculty in particular, view the discipline and the region.

We hope that you will reconsider this decision and that the Chair in the History of Latin America will be advertised when Professor Knight retires so that a new Chair can continue to play the key role that past holders have played in giving the history of Latin America the prominence that it deserves in Oxford but also within UK and world academia.

Sincerely,

Aaron Coy Moulton, graduate instructor, University of Arkansas
Aaron Pollack, Profesor-Investigador, Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José Luis Mora (Mexico)
Adam David Morton, Associate Professor of Political Economy, University of Nottingham
Adam Warren, Associate Professor of History, University of Washington
Adela Pineda Franco, Associate Professor of Spanish American Literature, Boston University
Adrián Gorelik, Director del Centro de Historia Intelectual, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina
Adrian Pearce, Lecturer in Latin American History, King's College London.
Alan Angell, Emeritus Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford
Alan Ware, Emeritus Fellow, Worcester College, Oxford and Department of Politics and Public Policy, UCL
Alberto Corsín Jiménez, Senior Scientist, Spanish National Research Council
Alejandra B. Osori, Associate Professor of History, Wellesley College
Alejandra Bronfman, Professor of History, University of British Columbia
Alejandra Irigoin, Lecturer in Economic History, LSE
Alejandra Serpente, PhD candidate, Institute of the Americas, UCL
Alexandra Stern, Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of American Culture, Department of History, University of Michigan
Alfonso Herranz Loncan, Professor – Vicedecano, Facultad de Económicas, Universidad de Barcelona
Aline Helg, Professeure ordinaire, Département d'histoire générale, Université de Geneve

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400+

Renowned academics from around the globe signed

The Inaugural Latin American History Seminar

By Mark Petersen



Ericka Beckman in Oxford for the History Seminar.
Photo by María del Pilar Blanco.

This academic year, the LAC has been the site of an exciting initiative. A new seminar, aimed at continuing the long-standing tradition of scholarship in and discussion of Latin American history at Oxford, has joined the LAC's diverse list of activities. With the Centre's Dr Eduardo Posada-Carbó and the History Faculty's Mark Petersen (a doctoral candidate) at the helm, the seminar has steered a decidedly inter-disciplinary course and has attracted speakers and attendees working on historical approaches in multiple fields such as economics, literature, international relations, politics, sociology, and migration studies. Adding to the diversity of perspectives, speakers have included established scholars and graduate students.

Through the generosity of the LAC and the History Faculty, the Seminar has brought to Oxford scholars from throughout the United Kingdom and France. It has also tapped into the fantastic resource of visiting academics at Oxford and other UK universities. As a result, each term's programme has showcased work at the forefront of research in the region's history. The range of topics has included constitutionalism, Latin American and Pan-American international law, human development, slavery, the wars of independence, popular science, Central American electoral practices, indigenous peoples, and economic history in the Latin American novel.

Yet the Seminar's mission extends beyond the discussion of innovative research to an ideal closer to the heart of a university: community. By providing a space for informal conversation and debate, the Seminar aims to foster a sense of community among those interested in the history of Latin America here in Oxford and further afield. With that goal in mind, each session ends not only with a show of gratitude to the speaker but also with the continuation of our conversations over a meal and glass of wine at a local restaurant in Oxford's nearby Jericho neighbourhood. A resounding success this year, the Seminar will hopefully remain a permanent addition to the LAC's calendar.

HISTORY SEMINAR PROGRAMME, ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14

Michaelmas Term 2013

Argentina's reception into 19th-Century International Society
Carsten Schulz, Nuffield College and DPIR, Oxford

La Restauración francesa y el descubrimiento de la América republicana: confrontación de una realidad intransigente (1815-1830)
Daniel Gutiérrez, Universidad Externado de Colombia and Paris University

Social Justice, the "Social Question", and Internationalism: an Examination of Southern Cone Foreign Policies, 1919-1936
Mark Petersen, Corpus Christi College and History Faculty, Oxford

Independence for Those Without Freedom: Slavery in Venezuela, 1821-1854
Sarah Washbrook, Oxford Centre for Global History

Prácticas electorales y la cultura política en la sociedad hondureña del siglo XIX, 1824-1894
Ethel García Buchard, Universidad de Costa Rica and the Latin American Centre, Oxford

'Un nouvel eldorado!' Michel Chevalier and France's Mexican mis-adventure, 1861-1867
Michael Drolet, History Faculty, Oxford

Hilary Term, 2014

Armed Groups and State Building in 19th and Early 20th Century Mexico: A Comparative Perspective
Esteban Ramírez, Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID), Geneva, Switzerland

European Mass Migration to Latin America: Old Topics and New Reflections
Blanca Sánchez-Alonso, Universidad San Pablo CEU, Spain

Provincializing International Law: Latin American Legal Practices in the Era of Pan-Americanism, 1890-1933
Juan Pablo Scarfi, University of Cambridge

Popular Science and Modern Utopia in José Joaquín Arriaga's La ciencia recreativa (1871)
Maria Blanco, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, and Trinity College, Oxford

The Armed Forces and State-building in Post-Colonial Peru 1800-1860
Natalia Sobrevilla, University of Kent

Wars and Independence in Spanish America
Anthony McFarlane, University of Warwick

Trinity Term 2014

The Founding Period of Latin American Constitutionalism
Roberto Gargarella, Universidad Torcuato di Tella and UCL

Human Development as Positive Freedom: Latin America in Historical Perspective
Leandro Prados de la Escosura, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid & London School of Economics

Rubber/Oil/Banana: Latin American Literature in the Global Commodity Order
Ericka Beckman, University of Illinois, Urbana – co-organized with the Sub-Faculty of Spanish

A Typical Latin American Country: the U.S.A.
Felipe Fernández-Armesto, University of Notre Dame

Civilising the Savage: Revolutionary State-Building and Indian Autonomy in the Mountains of Western Mexico, 1920-1929
Nat Morris, History Faculty and New College, Oxford.

Troubled Negotiations: The Mapuche and the Chilean State, 1810-1830
Jo Crow, University of Bristol



CAF-Development Bank of Latin America

By Diego Sánchez-Ancochea



The LAC-CAF partnership had another successful year. Although we did not celebrate an international conference in Oxford in 2013-14, we had two new CAF students and our second CAF professor, Mario Tello. The next few months will be particularly exciting for the programme, with a conference on institutions in Bogota jointly organized with FEDESARROLLO in July and our second international conference in Oxford on 31 October on the causes and consequences of the emergence of the new middle class in the region. In October we will also receive our third CAF professor, Carlos Caballero from the Universidad de los Andes.

Horizontes recently had the opportunity to interview Professor Tello about his experience in Oxford during Michaelmas 2012 and his current research agenda.

What was the research project you undertook while in Oxford?

The research was titled 'Inequality, Economic Growth and Structural Change: Theoretical Links and Evidence from Latin American Countries'. The paper I wrote while in Oxford analyzes the theoretical and empirical evidence on the links between inequality, growth, and structural change for a sample of twelve Latin American countries.

Inequality is an increasingly important topic not only in Latin America but all over the world. What do you think are the key issues for research on this topic in our region? Since the early 2000s, Latin America has been characterized by three major trends:

i) a liberalization process through regional/bilateral agreements, ii) increasing rates of economic growth, iii) decreasing poverty rates. Income distribution has also improved in the 2000s, although the trend is less clear when considering the evolution since the 1980s. In fact, in seven out of twelve Latin American countries (my research sample) the Gini coefficients were higher in 2011 than in 1980. The question is why, despite liberalization and growth, improvements in income distribution have not been very great in Latin America? In some countries poverty incidence is not considered 'a problem' simply because of the reduction in the poverty line. My conjecture is that aside from institutional and government failures factors, structural change and the size of the informal sector are the key factors that may speed up or slow down the improvement in income distribution in Latin America.

What was the highlight of your stay in Oxford?

There are many: the remarkable research facilities; the high level of the academic environment which yielded spillover over my own research; the immense supply of workshops -- more than 5 per week -- which widen the number of research topics to

investigate in the future; and the kind and friendly support from my hosts at the Latin American Centre and St Antony's College.

What did you accomplish while in Oxford? How did you benefit from your stay?

I finished and sent out for publication five papers: 'Inequality, Economic Growth and Structural Change: Theoretical Links and Evidence from Latin American Countries'; 'Poverty, Growth, Structural Change and Social Inclusion Programs: A Regional Analysis of Peru'; 'Structural Change A Regional Analysis for Peru, 2003-2011'; 'Firms' Innovation, Public Financial Support and Total Factor Productivity: The Case of Manufactures in Peru'; and 'Firms innovation and productivity in services and manufactures: the case of Peru'. I also presented the paper on poverty and social inclusion in Peru at the LAC, for which I received a lot of useful comments. The benefits of my stay as it is already described above were many in terms of research production (given I did not teach during the term) and infrastructure, and in terms of increasing the network of researchers.

The Launch of The LAC Working Papers in Political Economy

This new series is part of the collaboration between the Latin American Centre and CAF Development Bank of Latin America. The Latin American Centre aims to publish high quality work in progress that explores political economy issues in Latin America. We understand political economy quite broadly just like classical economists did: we aim to include research on economics and its interactions with politics and will particularly focus on issues regarding economic change, structural transformation, income distribution and public policy. The series will include a contribution from each year's CAF Visiting Fellow.

CAF Scholarship Recipients

María del Pilar Pinto Diaz arrived at the LAC to study for her MSc in Public Policy of Latin America after receiving training as an economist and working on social development issues in her native Perú. Reflecting on her experiences at the LAC she states:

This year at the LAC has allowed me to expand and deepen my knowledge of particular topics relevant to my professional career, such as the limited effectiveness of social policies in reducing inequality in developing countries. My research paid particular attention to the reasons behind the discontinuity of social policies in Peru and my analysis was framed around the electoral cycle. The programme gave me the opportunity to enrich my knowledge of relevant public policy issues in Latin America through motivating lectures and lively discussions. The structure of this programme allowed me to concentrate on my research and apply my previous working experience. I found two fundamental elements at LAC conducive to my study: an intellectually stimulating environment and a warm atmosphere created by students, professors and staff, which helped me overcome the distance from home. Studying at the University of Oxford has been a privilege made possible by the CAF-LAC scholarship and I am very grateful for that.

Manuel Méndez Huerta began his MSc in Latin America at the LAC after completing his BA at Kings College. He expresses his gratitude to the CAF-LAC scholarship for his year at the University of Oxford:

Thanks to the CAF scholarship I have had the great pleasure of spending the 2013-2014 academic year as a student in the MSc in Latin American Studies at the LAC. Studying at Oxford has without a doubt been a remarkable experience both academically and personally. Regarding the former, I have been able to further pursue my research into electoral quality in Mexican presidential elections and to deepen my knowledge of the key economic and political debates in Latin America. Moreover, I greatly enjoyed the teaching, found the weekly seminars intellectually stimulating, and the opportunity to engage with renowned academics unique. Outside my studies, I was also involved in numerous extracurricular activities during the year. For instance, as Vice-president of the Oxford Mexican Society I was heavily involved in the running of cultural events pertaining to Mexico and in the organisation of the visit by the Mexican ambassador to Oxford during Trinity term. Furthermore, I had the chance to frequently attend lectures from famous politicians, such as Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, and was able to visit a wide variety of museums and classical music events. I am immensely grateful to CAF for allowing me this opportunity.

Paulo Visentini

Rio Branco Chair in International Relations 2014

By Jonas von Hoffman, 1st year MPhil



Paulo Visentini and Andrew Hurrell at the LAC reception following the roundtable.

Paulo Visentini (University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre) has been the second Rio Branco Chair of International Relations held by the LAC and St Antony's College. During his stay over Hilary Term 2014, he conducted research on the emerging south-south relationships in Brazilian foreign policy, especially, Brazil's relationship with Africa.

On February 18th, Brazil's engagement in Africa was the topic of a roundtable discussion at the LAC organized by the Rio Branco chair. Andrew Hurrell (Oxford), Gerhard Seibert (ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon), Paulo Visentini (Oxford and Rio Grande do Sul) and Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (Oxford) came together to discuss 'Brazil and Africa: Historical Legacies, Contemporary Engagement'.

Horizontes caught up with Prof Visentini before he left Oxford to discuss a range of topics related to his research and his time at the LAC and St Antony's, condensed into a few short paragraphs below.

On the importance of the Rio Branco chair.

Oxford is an important place to produce knowledge and also to diffuse knowledge. It is a kind of intellectual hub. I think the Chair helps to put more information into the debate on Brazil. The Chair helps to reinforce the exchange with researchers in the UK and hopefully helps their work. It gives greater visibility to the people studying Brazil in the UK.

On Brazil's role in a changing world.

Brazil is a country that not only criticizes but proposes new ways to fight old problems such as poverty, war, and development.

On skewed perceptions of Brazil. The image of Brazil, unfortunately, is often wrong and Brazil is little understood. Many know only about Brazil from the media or even just the headlines, and not the country. At High Table one evening, I explained that I was working on Brazilian relations to Africa. The other guest asked with surprise, 'You have relations with Africa? Why?'

On Brazil and Africa.

Brazilian engagement with Africa is not just business or diplomacy. It is also internal, the improvement of the conditions of Afro-descendants: a



program of social development. What is new about the relationship between Brazil and Africa is the intensity, the diversity, and the way we are now asking questions about public policies towards Africa. Afro-Brazilian relations are at a point of no return. We are witnessing the beginning of strong links between Latin America and Africa.

On the Oxford experience.

Besides the rain? It is a very interesting place to be. A very different academic structure from what you have in Brazil. More informal. More private. I had the impression that each scholar is an island. In Brazil, we have more open and frequent discussions, maybe even too much.



Roundtable participants (from left to right): Andrew Hurrell, Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, Paulo Visentini and Gerhard Seibert.



LAC Post-Doctoral Fellows 2013-14

Horizontes seized an opportunity to interview the three post-doctoral fellows who have been at the LAC, participating in the teaching, research, and seminar programme for the last several years. Each of their grants and fellowships are about to come to an end. The LAC will miss them dearly!

Dr Svitlana Chernykh has been a post-doctoral research fellow on an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded project since she completed her doctoral degree at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 2011. She discussed with *Horizontes* the LAC post-doctoral project and her future plans.

“My main research project investigates the political determinants and consequences of post-election disputes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In the future, I plan to extend this project to include Africa and Asia.

In parallel, I am also engaged in two collaborative projects. First, with Paul Chaisty, Nic Cheeseman, and Timothy Power, I am currently coordinating the Coalitional Presidentialism Project (CPP), a 3-year ESRC-funded project that studies the dynamics of executive-legislative relations in Africa, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union. The project has two principal objectives: to identify the tools that presidents use to govern in concert with multiparty legislatures and to assess the effects of these tools on horizontal accountability in new democracies. Together with Zach Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton, I am involved in another collaborative project on comparative constitutional design as a part of the Comparative Constitutions Project (CCP), a long-term effort to code and analyse all constitutions written in the world since 1789. The project received the Lijphart, Przeworski and Verba Data Set award for best dataset in comparative politics from the American Political Science Association in 2013.”

Dr Christian Arnold discussed with *Horizontes* his current research and reflects on his last two years as the international relations of Latin America course provider, the quantitative and qualitative methods instructor, and the co-convenor of the LAC Hilary Term seminar series. Dr Arnold completed his doctoral degree in international relations ('Incorporation in Mercosur Member Countries') at Mannheim University in 2012.

“I have two large projects I am currently working on. Together with my LAC colleague, Dave Doyle, and Nina Wiesehomeier from the University of Swansea, we are analyzing the state-of-the-union speeches of Latin American presidents. Using tools from computational linguistics we explain why presidents choose to speak about certain topics and why they display certain political opinions. The other project is more firmly rooted in International Relations and a continuation of my PhD. The ratification of international treaties can follow different rules. I am explaining what effect these rules have on strategic behavior in international cooperation.

After two years at the LAC, I must say that this is truly a great place to study Latin America. Throughout my university career as a student I was always interested in the region, but never had the opportunity to have professors or colleagues working on the same region around me.”

Dr Francesca Lessa received her doctorate in international relations at the London School of Economics in 2010. She explained to *Horizontes* the research that she has been conducting at the LAC with a post-doctoral fellowship from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC-UK) and National Science Foundation (NSF-US). She has also co-taught the Human Rights in Latin America course and carried out her own new research project.

“I am currently working on two projects. First, with Professor Leigh Payne, we are completing the second phase of an AHRC-NSF collaborative project on 'Alternative Accountabilities for Past Human Rights Abuses'. This project adds 'alternative accountabilities' (i.e., civil trials, lustration and vetting, reparations and customary justice) to the existing database of transitional justice mechanisms of trials, truth commissions, and amnesties. The first phase of the project determined which mechanisms were successful in reducing human rights violations and strengthening democracy. The goal of the second phase is to examine whether alternative accountabilities substitute or complement other transitional justice mechanisms in strengthening human rights protections, democracy and peace. We presented our research findings in numerous academic and policy venues, including at Chatham House in October 2013.

Second, the John Fell Oxford University Press Research Fund awarded me a research grant for a project entitled 'Justice and Memory beyond Borders: The Plan Condor and Accountability in Argentina and Uruguay'. The project focuses on the crimes perpetrated against Uruguayan citizens that are currently being prosecuted at the Plan Condor trial, which began in Buenos Aires in March 2013. Plan Condor was the secret transnational network of intelligence and counterinsurgency operations set up in the 1970s dictatorships of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil, to target political opponents who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries, effectively establishing a border-less area of terror in South America. The main objectives of the project are to examine the impact of the Plan Condor trial, its origin and evolution as well as to recover the testimonies of Uruguayan victims. I plan to expand my research on Plan Condor beyond Argentina and Uruguay to encompass all the Plan Condor countries.”

Featuring a Book Launch by Scott Mainwaring
Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival and Fall

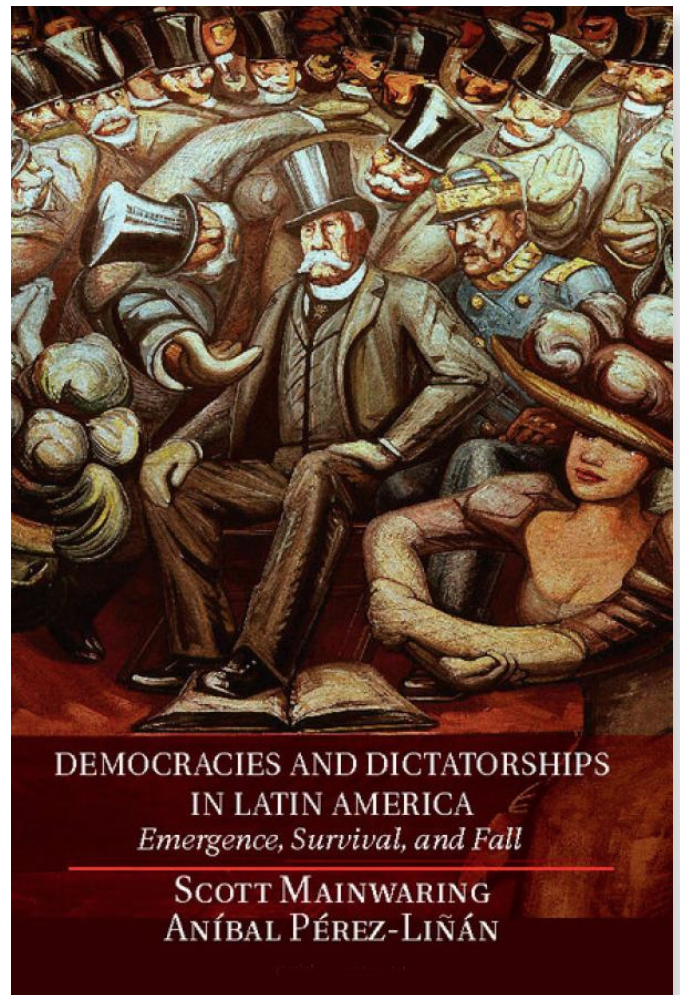
The Seminar Series at the Latin American Centre

By Kathryn Babineau, 1st year MPhil



Each term, the Latin American Centre convenes a seminar series bringing together the full LAC community of current and emeritus fellows, students, and participants within and outside Oxford, and featuring a wide variety of topics presented by top-notch scholars from all over the world. The 2013-2014 academic year was no exception to this impressive trend, with events ranging from a panel on the 40th Anniversary of the Pinochet coup in Chile, to a final lecture by retiring professor and premier Latin American Centre scholar, Alan Knight.

Among this list of distinguished lecturers is Scott Mainwaring, who came to the Centre to launch his newest book on democratization and regime change in Latin America, *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival and Fall*, co-authored with Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. Professor Mainwaring is a former Chair and former Director of Graduate Studies of the Political Science Department and a professor for 31 years at Notre Dame University. While at Notre Dame he also served for 13 years as the Director of the Kellogg Institute of International Studies, a scholarly centre known for its research on contemporary and historic Latin American issues. Mainwaring's work, which uses a comprehensive quantitative analysis of Latin America, posits a new actor-centric theory on democratization in the region. The book's theory claims that the main actors behind regime change are powerful national political operatives and organizations, whose policy preferences and normative preferences regarding the political regime best explain why and how regimes (democracy or non-democracy) change or persist. Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán consider that beliefs affect world views, which in turn influence national leaders' choices. The presentation, given to a packed house, was another successful event coming from a long-standing informal exchange of scholars between the Centre and Notre Dame University's Kellogg Institute. LAC professor and Brazilian Studies Programme director Tim Power trained for his doctorate under Professor Mainwaring at Notre Dame University. Scholars from both universities have co-authored a number of papers, chapters, and books. A number of LAC-based scholars also received fellowships from the Kellogg Institute, including Centre Director Leigh Payne (who co-edited a book with former Kellogg Director Ernest Bartell) and Director of Graduate Studies Eduardo Posada Carbó (who has co-authored work with other Kellogg Institute fellows). As Professor Mainwaring noted of the relationship: 'It's an important set of professional connections'. The LAC hopes to continue such a fruitful academic exchange in the future.



Launch of the LAC Podcast Series

Even if you are not in Oxford, our new Podcast series contributes to the dissemination of important research and inter-disciplinary debates on the region provided through the LAC Seminar series, Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture, and other special events. You can find (and share) the Latin American Centre podcasts at:
The LAC website <http://www.lac.ox.ac.uk/>
Directly at <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/units/latin-american-centre>
Or via the iTunes U service at <http://itunes.ox.ac.uk/> (requires the iTunes software).



Michaelmas Term

Roundtable: *40 Years After the Coup in Chile*, with presentations by **Alan Angell** (St Antony's), **Cath Collins** (University of Ulster), **Scott Mainwaring** (University of Notre Dame)

Malcolm Deas (St Antony's)
Frontiers and Cultures: Reflections on Lucio V. Mansilla and Francis Parkman
Guido Di Tella Memorial Lecture

Roundtable: *The Political Economy of Remittances in Latin America*, with presentations by **Faisal Ahmed** (Nuffield), **David Doyle** (LAC-St Hugh's), **Isabel Ruiz** (Harris Manchester), **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea** (LAC-St Antony's)

Mario Tello (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and CAF Visiting Fellow)
Poverty, Growth, Structural Change, and Social Inclusion Programs: a Regional Analysis for Peru, 2002-2010

Lunchtime Discussion: La Venezuela post-Chávez - Perspectivas económicas y políticas actuales with **Diego Urbaneja** (Universidad Central de Venezuela) and **José Manuel Puente** (IESA)

James McGuire (Wesleyan University)
Conditional Cash Transfers in Bolivia: Origins, Impact, and Universality

Bert Hoffmann (German Institute of Global and Area Studies)
Civil Society 2.0? How the Internet Changes Politics and the Public Sphere in Cuba

Irma Méndez de Hoyos (FLACSO Mexico)
The Quality of Elections in Latin America: Malpractices in Presidential Elections, 2006-2012

Conference: *The Colombian Peace Talks: A Challenge for Security and Democracy?*

Tasha Fairfield (LSE)
The Politics of Tax Policy in Latin America

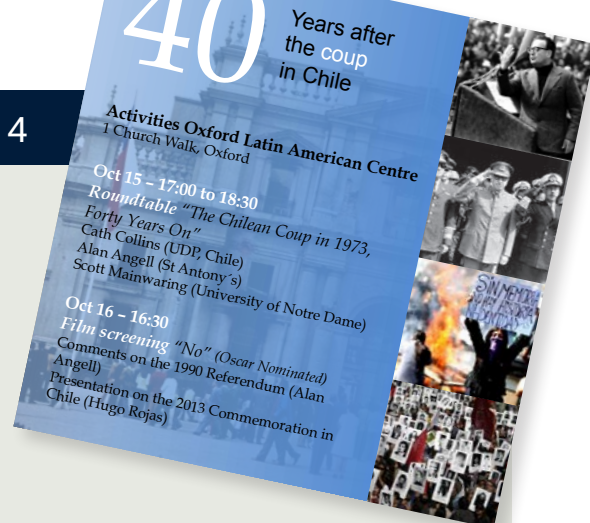
Alan Knight (LAC-St Antony's)
Challenging Frontiers: on the Making—and Unmaking?—of Latin American Nations (especially Mexico)

Hilary Term

George Meszaros (University of Warwick)
Social Movements, Law and the Politics of Land Reform: Lessons from Brazil

James Dunkerley (Queen Mary, University of London)
'Quiet' State-Builders of the Early American Republics: the Cases of Albert Gallatin and Andrés Bello
co-sponsored with The Rothermere American Institute

Scott Mainwaring (University of Notre Dame)
Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival, and Fall



Gian Luca Gardini (University of Bath)
Towards Modular Regionalism in Latin America?

Par Engstrom (University College London)
Brazilian Post-Transitional Justice and the Inter-American Human Rights System

Roddy Brett (University of St Andrews)
The Ríos Montt Trial and the Post-Conflict Legacy of Genocide in Guatemala

James Melton (University College London)
Writing Rights in Early Latin American Constitutions

Nicola Miller and Adam Smith (University College London)
Images of the United States in Latin America, 1850-1900
co-sponsored with The Rothermere American Institute

Sebastián Dellepiane (University of Strathclyde)
Political Economics in Hard Times: Revisiting the Argentine Crisis of 2001/2

II Graduate Conference on Latin American Law and Policy
Co-sponsored with the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies
Keynote Speakers: **Joaquim Falcão**, **Helena Alviar García** and **Roberto Gargarella**

Trinity Term

Conference: *Coalitional Presidentialism in Comparative Perspective: Dynamics of Executive-Legislative Relations in Africa, Latin America and the Former Soviet Union.*

Daniel Ortega (CAF-Development Bank)
Enhancing Productivity in Latin America: from Subsistence to Transformational Entrepreneurship

José Manuel Puente (IESA)
The Political Economy of Venezuela after Chavez: the End of the Revolution?

Ben Fallaw (Colby College.)
Between the Maya and the Mexican Revolution: Mestizo Politics and the New Peonage in Yucatán, 1920-33

Diego Pickering (Mexican Ambassador to the UK)
Rising Mexico
co-sponsored with Mexican Students Society

Conference: *Latin American & Caribbean Migration and Diasporas Culture, People, Places*
co-sponsored with the Latin American and Caribbean Migration Research network (MIGRALAC) and the International Migration Institute

Andrei Gómez-Suárez (University of Sussex)
The Santos-FARC Peace Talks and the Juridical Framework for Peace: Transitional Justice in Colombia?



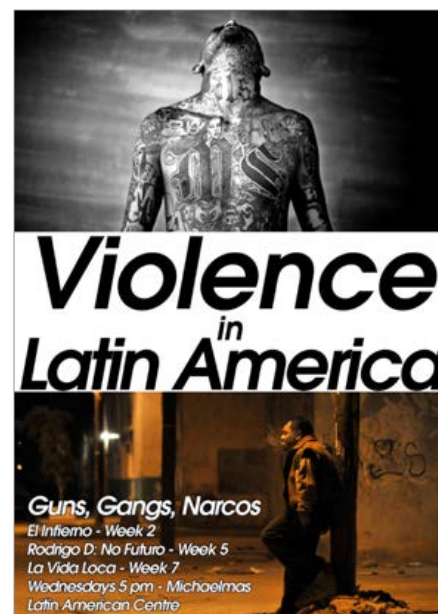
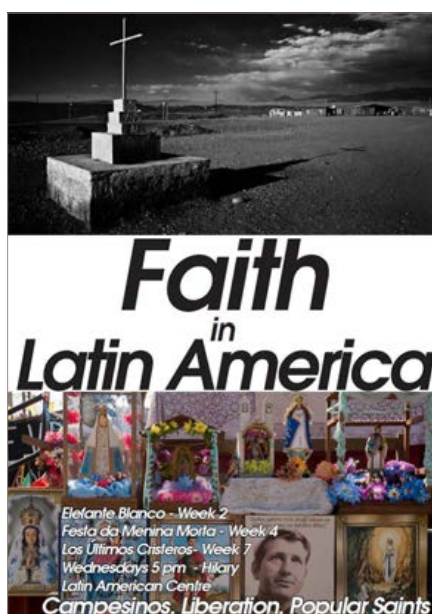
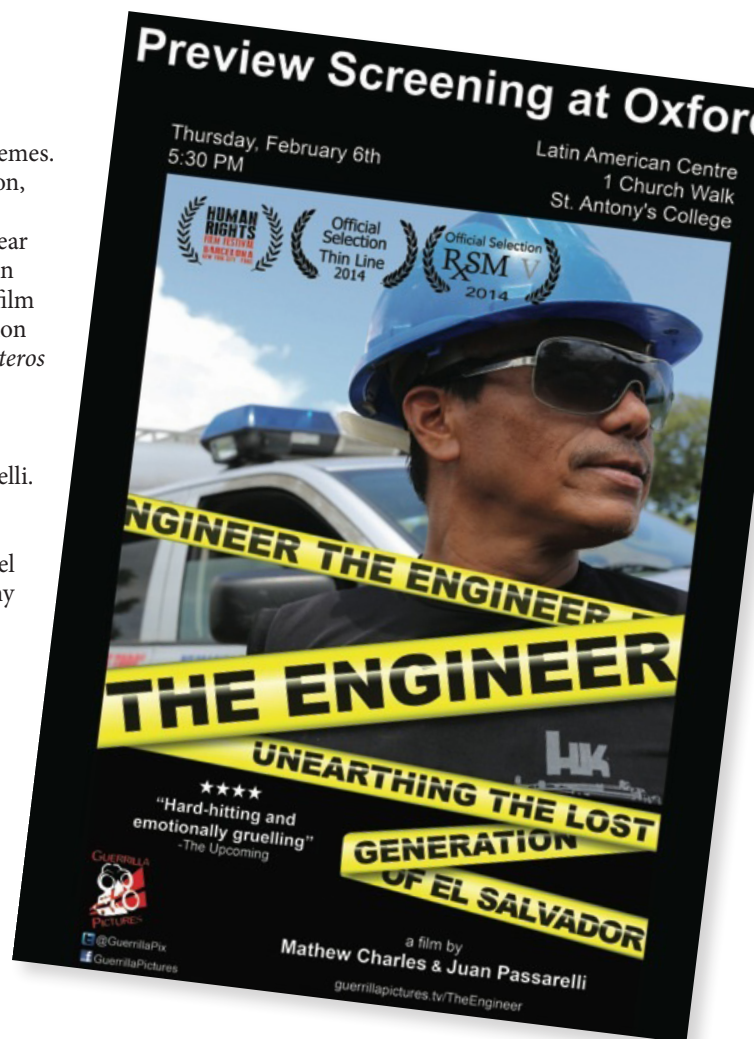
LAC Film Series

2013-14

By Rafael Gude and Julia Zulver, 2nd year MPhils

For the last three years, the LAC has run a film series with particular themes. The film series showcases contemporary and classic films from the region, expands understanding of the region to a broad Oxford audience, and complements students' academic studies at the Centre. The series this year has been a great success, showing three films per term, which focused on the topics of urban violence, religion and sport. As in prior years, each film was accompanied by a scholar who introduced the film and led discussion afterward. Memorably, Alan Knight presented the film *Los Últimos Cristeros* and facilitated a lively discussion about Mexican history.

As part of the Hilary Term film series, we arranged a special preview screening of *The Engineer*, directed by Mathew Charles and Juan Passarelli. The directors themselves presented the film at the LAC. The content of their documentary touched on topics developed in our own theses: violence, gangs, and impunity in El Salvador. The film itself follows Israel Ticas, the lone forensic criminologist in the country. Viewers accompany Ticas on his macabre rounds, watching as he carefully uncovers the bodies of missing people. Graphic and grotesque, the film was not easy for audience members to watch. Ticas, on the other hand, seemed calm and peaceful despite his gruesome work. The directors said that their motives behind making the film lay in wanting to create and project a different image of violence in El Salvador. Instead of focusing on the gun-warfare, *la vida loca*, or facial tattoo images that have become commonplace in media coverage, the directors paint an accurate and devastating portrait of the realities of what warfare leaves behind: sadness, confusion, and death. Following the film, the directors led a lively Q&A session that lasted so long that the group repaired to the pub. Having the directors present offered valuable insight into not only the film's content, but also the challenges surrounding its production. We wish them our congratulations for their recent success in having the film projected at the HotDocs Festival in Toronto.



LAC Visiting Research Associates 2013-2014



Joan Dassin

I arrived in Oxford at the end of September and stayed until the end of June 2014. I am coming from the Ford Foundation in New York, where I directed an international scholarship programme for social justice leaders from marginalized

communities in developing countries. Known as the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Programme (IFP), between 2000 and 2013, the programme supported post-graduate studies at universities worldwide for more than 4,300 recipients from 22 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. As a visiting researcher at the Centre for Latin American Studies and academic visitor at St Antony's, I am working on a study that will frame IFP's key propositions about access and equity in higher education within a broader context of poverty, social inequality and compensatory policies to reduce social exclusion. My principal focus is on educational pathways for indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Latin America. The study draws on the relevant regional development and policy literature as well as case histories of IFP fellows from the region to assess whether and in what ways access to higher education reduces long-standing patterns of marginalization and social exclusion for members of these groups.

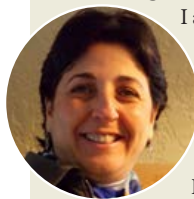


Irene Delgado

I am Associate Professor of Political Science at the National Distance Education University (UNED) where I teach electoral behaviour and political parties. I have also taught political science at the University of Salamanca

where I began my approach to Latin American politics. My main fields of research are political parties, political attitudes and elections. But I am also interested in epistemological and methodological issues in social science research. Currently I am a member of the research group on party-electorate linkages: congressional district activities in Chile, Peru, and Bolivia sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education. We will try to address the question of the kind of role the deputies' parties play on their electoral strategy. In particular, the question we are dealing with is how members of parliament understand their role as representatives and how this understanding affects the degree of citizen satisfaction with the democratic process.

Simone Diniz



I am a graduate in political science, Professor of Public Policy at the Universidade Federal do ABC and Associate Professor in the Graduate Programme in Political Science at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. I research

legislative studies and am currently engaged in a project on the decision-making process in foreign policy in the Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva governments. In 2014 my book *Foreign Policy and the Legislative Power in Brazil Post-Redemocratization* will be released by the Universidade Federal de São Carlos (EDUFSCAR) Press, including chapters on negotiation articles in the following areas of



Paulo Fagundes Visentini, BSP - Rio Branco Chair of International Relations 2014

I am Professor of International Relations at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, Director of our Doctoral Programme and Editor of *AUSTRAL: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations*. My academic research interests focus on emerging countries foreign policies, in particular South-South Cooperation and Brazil-Africa relations. At this time I have a research grant from the CNPq. A couple of years ago, with previous support from FUNAG/Ministry of Foreign Relations, I started with some colleagues and PhD students the Brazilian Centre for African Studies, which is the key focus for research, seminars and publications on the region. At Oxford, I hold the Rio Branco Chair of International Relations for 2014 at the LAC and St Antony's College. This has provided me with the opportunity to discuss my work with colleagues and finish my research on Brazil in Africa to be published in a book in English.



Ethel García Buchard

I have a PhD in history from the University of Costa Rica with a specialty in the political history of Central America. I am Professor at the University of Costa Rica and teach courses on the history of power and theories of history. I am also a researcher at the

University's Centre for research on Identity and Culture in Latin American (CIICLA). I currently conduct research on citizenship and electoral processes in Honduras during the 19th century. During my stay as an academic visitor at Oxford's LAC, I have discussed with my colleagues the results of my research, specifically my most recent publication on 'Policy and the State in Honduran Society of the 19th Century (1838-1872)'.



Irma Méndez

I am Professor at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Mexico (FLACSO Mexico). I am currently on sabbatical leave as a Visiting Research Associate at the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford. I did my PhD in Government

at the University of Essex. I teach courses on transitions to democracy, political parties, elections, electoral behaviour, and public policy in Mexico and Latin America at the post graduate level. My current research project is on electoral malpractice in presidential elections in Latin America, 2006-2012.



Débora Messenberg

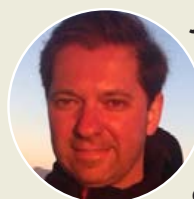
I am Professor at the University of Brasília. I have a PhD in Sociology from the University of São Paulo (2000) and a Post-Doctorate in Sociology from the University of Brasília (2006). I am currently conducting research on the motivations of students from University of Brasília to participate or not in politics.



Céli Pinto

I am Professor of History at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. I was a visiting research associate of the Brazilian Studies Programme during Hilary Term 2014, sponsored by CNPq. I specialize in feminist politics in Latin America

and worked at the LAC on the recruitment of women into subnational legislatures in Brazil. I completed a new paper on the recent wave of mass protests in Brazil that occurred in June 2013 that I presented in the Portuguese-language BSP research workshop. I have returned to Brazil and my work as a member of the state Truth Commission of Rio Grande do Sul (CEV-RS). I was appointed to the Commission in 2012 by Governor Tarso Genro.



José Manuel Puente

I am Professor of the Public Policy Centre at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) in Caracas. I did my BA in Economics at the Universidad Central de Venezuela and then

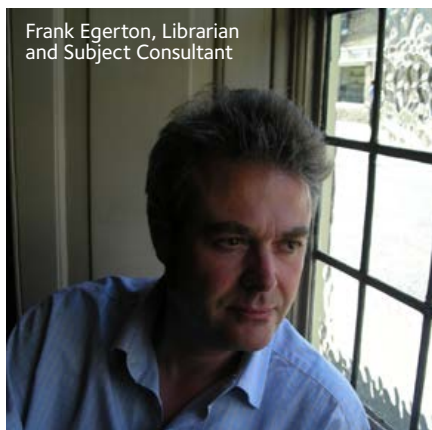
I completed a MSc at The London School of Economics, and a MSc and DPhil at the University of Oxford. Coming back to Oxford is in a way like coming back home. I love this little town, its cultural and intellectual life and the Oxford's LAC commitment to multidisciplinary studies. During this academic year in Oxford I will be working on two different projects: A Macroeconomic History of the Bolivarian Revolution and The Political Economy of Social Spending in Venezuela, 1974-2012.



Professor Mario D. Tello, CAF Fellow 2013

I hold a PhD in economics from the University of Toronto, Canada, an MA in economics from the University of Ottawa, Canada, and BA also in economics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica

del Perú. My areas of expertise are: economic development at the national and subnational levels, international aspects of economic development, issues of innovation, productivity, clusters and microenterprise development, sectoral policies and competitiveness. I have been a visiting researcher and professor in universities in the United States (USC, USM, Florida-State, and the University of Wisconsin), Puerto Rico (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras), Bolivia (Universidad Católica de la Paz), and during Michaelmas Term in 2013 at the LAC of the University of Oxford. I have written and published several books, chapters, and articles in international and national journals and publications. I have also served as a consultant on projects financed by international organizations, such as the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation, United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Development Programme.



Frank Egerton, Librarian
and Subject Consultant



Image from *Voyage Pittoresque dans le Brésil*, by Johann Moritz Rugendas (Paris 1835), Pl.3. Courtesy of the Taylor Institution Library (ARCH.FOL.LA.1827).

The Latin American Centre's Bodleian Library Collection

By Frank Egerton, Librarian

While there has been much debate in the Oxford library world of ebooks, electronic legal deposit, open access publishing and research data management, real-life books, printed on paper, remain at the heart of what the Bodleian Libraries do, perhaps stubbornly so.

At the LAC Library, we have bought some ebooks, focusing on our most popular titles, and have benefitted from a recent ebook package bought by Bodleian Libraries from Ebrary, which includes publishers with strong Latin American lists, such as Palgrave and Routledge. However, the lion's share of our so-called 'materials' budget goes on real books, which seems consistent with our readers' current preference. I am pleased to say in this context that our materials budget increased by more than inflation this year and will do so again in 2014-15. The recent changes in library funding within the University

mean that these increases reflect a strong endorsement of the Social Science libraries, including for the LAC, from the Division, which is much appreciated.

This year has also seen substantial inflows of real books from generous donors. In the autumn we received donations from Emeritus LAC fellow Alan Angell (consisting of titles on politics, mostly published in Chile over the last thirty years) and from recently retired LAC affiliate Valpy Fitzgerald, who gave us economics books in English and Spanish, covering a range of countries. This spring we received a wide-ranging donation from journalist Colin Harding, one of the first students to graduate from the Centre. Last month, we were given an extensive and very exciting, collection of mostly Venezuelan material from the Franco-Venezuelan economist and historian, Nikita Harwich. We are grateful to Emeritus LAC fellow Malcolm Deas for arranging this last donation.

Nevertheless, although real books remain the primary focus of the library, Bodleian Libraries and the LAC librarians are following the latest digital developments keenly. Electronic Legal Deposit (eLD) started last year, which means that publishers submitting copies of their journals and books under copyright legislation have the choice of doing so in digital form. Those who use the SOLO catalogue may have noticed the Electronic Legal Deposit tab via which eLD material is searched. eLD material can be viewed on the Reader PC in the Main Library and an eLD printing service will soon be offered at the Library Office. In addition, the Librarian has trained in Open Access and is part of the Research Data Management Priority Group. The demand for services in these areas might be low currently but as they become increasingly important, the Library will be there to support the changing needs of our readers.

The Bodleian Libraries may have one eye very much on the future but its uniqueness results from the breadth and depth of the collections developed since the seventeenth century, including those in the field of Latin American Studies. The Codex Mendoza is a headline part

of that collection but there are many, many more historic books held by Bodleian Special Collections and other Bodleian libraries that are readily available for LAC students and researchers to consult and which can enrich the experience of studying at Oxford so much. For those wishing to see where Latin American Studies material is held within Bodleian Libraries, I have prepared a list with hyperlinks to the library websites on the last page of my LAS Collection Policy, which you can access from my online guide: <http://ox.libguides.com/las>.

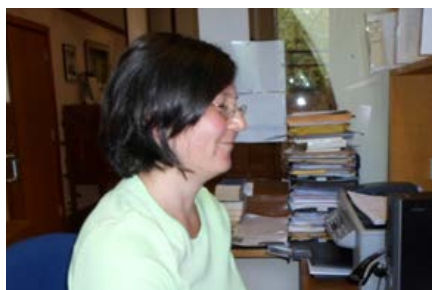
One of the best print guides to Oxford's Latin American holdings remains the catalogue written by Malcolm Deas and the late Robert McNeil that accompanied the 1980 exhibition 'Europeans in Latin America: Humboldt to Hudson'. The catalogue contains expert descriptions of some 150 items held by Bodleian Libraries from Alexander Von Humboldt's *Voyage aux Régions Équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent* (Paris 1814-25) to 'School room map of South America' by the Scottish School Book Association (1840s); from Jorge Juan and Antonio de Ulloa's *Relación Histórica del Viaje a la América Meridional Hecho* (Madrid 1748) to a fragment of Pizarro's flag that was first presented to the British Minister in Colombia by the director of the National Museum in 1856 before passing to the Earl of Clarendon and then to the Bodleian Library. Many of the books held by the Libraries are wonderfully illustrated, including the volume, *Voyage Pittoresque dans le Brésil* by Johann Moritz Rugendas (Paris 1835).

With the Centre celebrating its 50th anniversary next year, a special exhibition in its honour is planned in the Bodleian Proscholium for September and October 2015.

It will showcase some of the Latin American treasures from the Bodleian's collections. Also represented will be the Centre's Bevan Collection and a contemporary example of research fieldwork. The LAC Library is itself honoured to be playing its part in celebrating the Centre's first fifty years!



Rebeca Otazua, Senior Library Assistant,
in the Library stacks with Country Boxes



Sam Truman, Library Assistant, in the
Library Office.

Indira Lakshmanan



By Jaskiran Chohan, MSc

Currently a senior correspondent for Bloomberg News, USA, Indira Lakshmanan laid the foundations of a very successful journalistic career in Oxford. Her time at the Latin America Centre (LAC) shaped both her professional and personal life.

Ms Lakshmanan began higher education studying for her BA in the History of Art at Harvard University. The intention was to continue this subject at Oxford but a summer in Haiti covering two coups as a freelance journalist convinced her otherwise. That summer of intense political conflict was the experience that sparked a desire to know and explore Latin America more.

A meeting with Rosemary Thorp, then director of the LAC, ensured her move from the history of art to an MPhil Latin American Studies in 1988. The area studies programme fulfilled a desire to expand her borders of knowledge. The course itself developed her concept of internationalism but also provided direct human encounters and friendships with many individuals from Latin America. Fellow peers included early professionals who had served in diplomatic services for instance, and could share first hand insights of the political structures and procedures of their countries. Even while studying she was aware that many of her contemporaries would be the future policy makers of Latin America. These relationships and contacts have indeed endured through the years in both professional and personal capacities.

The actual 'launching pad' for Ms Lakshmanan's journalistic career was the period she spent during fieldwork in Santiago, Chile, for which Alan Angell supervised her. While researching the country's transition to democracy, the topic of her thesis and later also a recurring feature of her journalism, she began covering the democratic campaigns and elections to replace General Augusto Pinochet for National Public Radio and a number of other US radio networks. After returning home to the States, she continued to build upon the experience acquired in Chile. Many coups and democratic transitions later, she became the Latin America Bureau Chief for the *Boston Globe* in Bogotá, Colombia. This involved reporting on stories from the whole continent.

Other highlights and professional achievements have included working as the Asia Bureau Chief in Hong Kong for 7 years, also for the *Boston Globe*, traveling with Hilary Clinton and now John Kerry to report on US foreign policy and receiving the Nieman Fellowship from Harvard in 2003-4, which allowed her to take a year long mid-career break for study and research. As well as having an accomplished professional life, she is also a happily married mother of two; proving it is possible to have both a thriving professional life and a beautiful family!

Indira's achievements are undoubtedly inspiring stories of hope for current and prospective students of Latin American Studies! Her publications can be followed on twitter: @Indira_L.

Marcelo Pollack

by Amelie Hartmann, 1st year MPhil

Horizontes had an opportunity to interview Marcelo Pollack, MPhil 1991, currently working at Amnesty International, about his experiences as a student and human rights advocate.

You did your MPhil in Latin American Studies 25 years ago. How did you become interested in Latin America?

My parents are both Chilean, I was born in the States and came to the UK in 1973 when I was six years old, after the Pinochet coup. My father, Benny Pollack, taught Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool. One of the reasons I came to Oxford was because my father knew [Emeritus fellow] Alan Angell who recommended that I study here.

During your studies at Oxford, were you already working on human rights issues or did that begin later?

No, I first worked at Oxford Analytica as their Africa and Latin America Editor and finished my DPhil [in Politics in 1995] while I was working there. After two years I went to Madrid where I worked with a think tank which did policy work for the European Commission and the European Parliament. After five years I came back to the UK and that's when I started my human rights work. I first worked in a publishing and campaigning non-governmental organization (NGO) called Latin American Bureau. Then I joined Amnesty International as their researcher on Colombia.

What exactly does your job as AI's 'Researcher on Colombia' involve?

It's a strange name because it isn't like an academic researcher. Within Amnesty, the researcher is the person who leads the work on a particular country or region. I am responsible for research, advocacy, media, strategy, and campaigning work.

How much do you travel within the scope of your job at Amnesty?

We travel about two or three times a year for about two to three weeks, sometimes more. Mostly, we go to Colombia with the aim of carrying out research work and we travel around the country. We try to spend as much time as we can outside the capital and actually doing the research work in the field. We also do a lot of advocacy work in Brussels for the European Parliament and Commission and in Geneva for the Human Rights Council and other bodies based in these cities.

Do you have current projects that you particularly focus on?

Yes, we are working on issues of land restitution. Land has always been one of the main drivers of the armed conflict in Colombia. And the fact that most of the parties involved in the conflict see the control of territory as a necessity to further economic, military, and political objectives has led to a massive forced displacement situation. In its attempts to promote a peace dialogue with the FARC guerrillas, the government adopted the idea of land restitution, a programme to return land to its rightful occupants. What we're looking at in detail is how that land restitution law is being implemented. The main concern for us is the security issue, because since the [land restitution] law was passed, there has been a significant increase in the number of killings of land claimants and also human rights activists who accompany land claimants in their efforts to have their land restored.

Do you think AI's work has a significant impact in Colombia and Latin America in general?

Evaluating impact is always very difficult. I can speculate – but I can only speak for Colombia – that Amnesty's work over the decades has helped develop and strengthen Colombia's national human rights community. I'd like to think that the work of Amnesty and other human rights organizations – I don't want to take the credit just for Amnesty – has kept the issue of human rights in Colombia a priority on the political agenda. But the whole issue of impact is rife with difficulty, it is something that organizations like Amnesty grapple with constantly.



ALUMNI PROFILE

José Manuel Puente

By Maryhen Jiménez Morales, 1st year MPhil

Horizontes had an opportunity to interview alumnus José Manuel Puente, LAC MSc Public Policy in Latin America, who returned to Oxford this year as a academic visitor.



Could you describe what you do now and how you got there?

I am Professor of Public Policy at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) in Caracas. I completed my BA in Economics at the Universidad Central in Venezuela and then my MSc at The London School of Economics, and my MSc at the LAC (1998) and a DPhil in Economics (2005) at the University of Oxford. Currently, I am a visiting academic fellow at the Latin American Centre, Oxford, where I am working on two different projects related to the Venezuelan economy.

Can you describe your experience of being a student at the Latin American Centre? Has the LAC changed much since then?

On the one hand, it was a very productive and intellectually stimulating time. On the other, it was a unique time from a personal point of view. The friends that I made at St Antony's are still among my closest friends. My message to all the students at the LAC is to realize that their time in Oxford will be one of the most exciting times of their lives, both intellectually and socially, as they will be building long enduring friendships. Enjoy this opportunity!

Regarding the changes at the University, I can say that in some ways Oxford has been the same for the last 900 years. Every time you come back you have the feeling that everything is still the same. However, in the case of the LAC there has been an important transformation that is related to the

generational shift of faculty members. Many of my former professors, such as Rosemary Thorp, Alan Angell, Malcolm Deas and Alan Knight retired. Today a new generation of clever academics are leading the Centre.

What were the highlights of your time as a student at the LAC?

Oxford is an extraordinary place where you can meet fantastic people that I would probably never met anywhere else. I remember having a chat with Joseph Stiglitz (Nobel prize winner in economics) and having long discussions with Álvaro Uribe (former President of Colombia) and spending a whole day in a debate on Venezuela with Hugo Chávez (President of Venezuela) when he was a candidate for the presidency back in 1998. Moreover, many of my friends and colleagues back then have become prominent leaders in academia, politics, culture, and international organizations.

Can you tell us about your current projects?

During this academic year, I am working on two different projects. The first one is a macroeconomic history of the Bolivarian Revolution, a project that tries to understand the performance of the Venezuelan economy during the last 14 years. The second project is called 'The Political Economy of Social Spending in Venezuela from 1974 to 2012' and aims to present an analysis of social spending in Venezuela, including a complete database with all the variables of the social sector spending for this period.

Is Venezuela at a turning point and can you foresee upcoming political and economic developments in the country in the near future?

After 14 years of doing nothing, or doing the wrong things in terms of economic policy, the Venezuelan economy shows terrible disequilibrium and the worst macroeconomic performance in Latin America in terms of GDP growth, inflation and scarcity, paradoxically in the middle of the highest oil boom in history. This shows that the development project that has been implemented is clearly an economic failure. Sadly, this economic failure is having very negative impacts on Venezuelan society, especially for the poor. It is also causing great political instability. Venezuela will continue experiencing this crisis for some time to come. However, Venezuela is still one of the economies with the highest potential in the continent; with the right set of economic policies it could generate equal wealth and progress for all. This will depend on the Maduro administration, or a new government, correcting the economic imbalances to generate a minimum of stability and political and social agreements between the opposition and government. Probably the most important challenge for the country is to start a process of reconstruction and acceptance between the political and ideological divides, the two Venezuelas: Chavismo and its opposition. The current crisis provides that opportunity to identify and construct a new inclusive Venezuela where every citizen can benefit from economic growth and progress.

In your opinion, what is Chávez's most important legacy?

Chávez left in place some lessons that Venezuelan society will never forget. One of his legacies has been his effort to confront the existence of two Venezuelas. Clearly, Venezuela was a deeply divided society for several decades where an important part of the population did not benefit from the wealth generated in the 50s, 60s and 70s in the same way as the other half. President Chávez exploited this existing contradiction yet, paradoxically, did not do much to change this division/duality. Instead, he used this phenomenon to nurture his project. However, the most important lesson is that, thanks to that process of bringing awareness to the social divide, a large number of Venezuelans now understand that we have to build bridges between the two Venezuelas and walk together to construct a better future for all.

My message to all the students at the LAC is to realize that their time in Oxford will be one of the most exciting times of their lives, both intellectually and socially.

The Brazilian Studies Programme in 2013-2014

The Brazilian Studies Programme stimulates research, events and outreach on key issues facing Brazil as an emerging global power. Professor Andrew Hurrell (Balliol College) is a leading specialist on Brazil's international relations; Professor Leigh Payne (St Antony's) is a noted voice on human rights and transitional justice in Brazil; and Dr Timothy Power (St Antony's) researches the comparative politics of Brazilian democracy. These three scholars are joined every year by a number of distinguished academic visitors from Brazil, including the Rio Branco Visiting Professor of International Relations.

On 30th January 2014, the BSP joined forces with the Kellogg Institute of the University of Notre Dame to hold an event on 'The Brazilian Outlook in 2014: Elections, Economy and Mega-Events.' The event took place in Notre Dame's London Global Gateway building in Trafalgar Square and was opened by Brazilian Ambassador to the UK, Roberto Jaguaribe. Scholars from Oxford, Notre Dame, and the Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Rio de Janeiro) examined changing economic, social, and electoral conditions, with special attention to the impact of protests and the World Cup in 2014.

On 31st January, and with the generous support of Santander Universities UK, the BSP hosted a day-long workshop on 'The Brazilian Political Class: Ideology, Values, and Policy Preferences.' Papers explored results from the latest wave (2013) of the Brazilian Legislative Surveys co-directed by Timothy Power (BSP) and Cesar Zucco Jr. (FGV Rio de Janeiro). Field research was financed by the John Fell Oxford University Press Research Fund. The integrated dataset of the first seven waves of the BLS (1990-2013) was released subsequently at the conference of the Brazilian Political Science Association (ABCP) held in Brasília in August 2014.

In 2013-2014, the BSP hosted four senior academics and three visiting doctoral students, all sponsored by Brazilian funding agencies such as CAPES, CNPq, and FAPESP. In Hilary Term 2014, they each presented their research projects in a unique Portuguese-language weekly seminar that brings together faculty and students from the LAC and throughout the University.



Dr Timothy Power discusses the impact of sporting mega-events on Brazil's electoral scenarios for 2014. Photo credit: Emily Grassby



The Brazilian Ambassador to the UK, HE Roberto Jaguaribe, opens the joint Oxford-Notre Dame event. Photo credit: Emily Grassby

BRAZILIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

Portuguese-language Research Workshops on Brazilian Society, Politics, and International Relations

Céli Pinto (UFRGS), sponsored by CNPq
As manifestações de 2013 no Brasil: espaços de disputas discursivas

Simone Diniz (UFABC), sponsored by FAPESP
A participação do Poder Legislativo na deliberação de políticas públicas: o caso da política externa

Paulo Visentini (UFRGS), Rio Branco Visiting Professor of the International Relations of Brazil, sponsored by CAPES
O Brasil e a cooperação Sul-Sul: ruptura ou continuidade?

Débora Messenberg (UnB), sponsored by CAPES
O paradoxo da democracia: a participação política dos alunos da Universidade de Brasília

Fernando Leite (UFPR), sponsored by CAPES
Estrutura e trajetória da Ciência Política brasileira: uma análise a partir de seu campo de produção

The LAC DPhil Group

By Christian Arnold, Departmental Lecturer in the International Relations of Latin America



The LAC continued its DPhil seminar series in 2013-2014. The seminar series meets once per term to serve as an interdisciplinary network of doctoral students conducting research on Latin America. DPhil students from across all of the social sciences receive feedback on their projects from fellow students, visiting scholars, and the LAC faculty who share an academic passion for the region.

The first seminar took place in Michaelmas Term. Carsten-Andreas Schulz, a doctoral candidate in International Relations from Nuffield College, presented a paper questioning the notion that Pan-Americanism was a political project imposed on the region by the United States. In his presentation, which received comments by Dr Christian Arnold and Mark Petersen, Carsten pointed to the critical role of Latin American states in shaping the political purpose of Pan-Americanism, despite growing power asymmetries leading up to the Montevideo Conference in 1933.

Carmen Contreras Romero focussed on Chile's 21st century biomedical sector, emphasising the importance of social capital in the emergence of industrial clusters in the metropolitan region. She received comments from Professor Mario Tello, the CAF visiting fellow for Michaelmas 2013, and from Luis Valenzuela, DPhil student in the department of economics.

The discussion of Chile continued in the Hilary Term presentations, with María Teresa Flórez Petour presenting her recently completed doctoral research on the politics of education assessment reform in that Southern Cone country. Her work takes a systemic perspective to capture the relationship between assessment reform and the number of different actors involved in education reform over time. Academic visitor Dr Joan Dassin and masters student Francisca Corbalán from the Institute of Education, University of London, discussed the presentation.

In Trinity Term, Marco Calo Medina, DPhil student in Social Anthropology, presented his research on indigenous Catholicism in Chiapas. Comments were given to Marco by Dr Sarah Washbrook, from the University of Oxford's History Department, and Alejandro Olayo-Méndez, a doctoral student in Development Studies.

The LAC DPhil seminar series welcomes researchers from all fields whose work is related to Latin America.



Following the deep discussion of students' work, the group enjoys some levity over post-presentation pints in the Rose and Crown.



David Doyle

Current LAC Fellow

By Jonas von Hoffman, 1st year MPhil

Dr David Doyle is the newest academic staff member of the LAC, arriving in Autumn 2013 from Dublin City University. In 2009, David earned his PhD from the National University of Ireland, focussing on the relationship between political institutions and partisanship in Latin America. Since then, David has published extensively on comparative politics and comparative political economy in Latin America, specifically on ideology and partisanship. Currently, David is involved in a collaborative project (Textos Políticos) examining the positioning of Latin American presidents in their speeches.

Horizontes got a chance to sit down with David to ask him about his current research, reflections on his first months at the LAC, and what is on the horizon for his academic pursuits.

What is your current research on?

I am very interested in the cross-national determinants of the political economy of partisanship and ideology. Specifically, why do parties change their political positions. I am trying to understand why politicians suddenly switch policies from one year to the next, or after elections. I am focussing mostly on macro-economic determinants, together with institutional determinants, and how these factors change incentives for politicians and for voters' preferences. This explanation is really about a nexus between macro-economic and institutional variables, together with voters' preferences, and, how all of these factors come together to change incentives for political parties to pursue certain policies or change policies.

In your research, you have used both existing data sets and are now involved in building a new data repository (Textos Políticos). What are the differences and advantages of building your own data set?

It is very difficult to measure the preferences of an actor. We just do not know their true preferences, unless we get into their heads. Since we cannot get into their heads, we have to find different ways to try and understand their preferences. There are expert surveys, but these are static across time. They have lots of use and value, but we do not really have a cross-national or cross-temporal measure of an actor's policy position. That is why we are conducting the project on political speeches. We are trying to create a nuanced measure of an actor's position that we can use across countries and across time. That is not to say that there are no issues with these measures. But they are definitively an advance over what we had previously, because they are not reliant on third party judgements.

I think we are seeing a revolution in the study of Latin American politics. That is because of the widespread availability of good data. Latin America has a wealth of individual and macro-level data for the first time. It is very well documented, easily available, and researchers are using them increasingly to understand broad comparative and historical trends.

You are involved in two academic blogs: Presidential Power (presidential-power.com) and Textos Políticos (textospoliticospresblog.net). Do you think that blogging is the future for disseminating academic research?

There is definitively more of a demand and a responsibility for academics to make their research much more publicly accessible. I think these blogs are born out of a sense of transmitting ideas in real time or at least within a short space of what is going on. Because with academic work there is often a huge -- two or three year -- lag between when something happens and when the study of that phenomenon is published. What blogs do is bring this research to a wider audience, in a more accessible way, in a much quicker way. Whether, that is the future, I do not know. In the very long term it might be the model.

What does it mean to you to be at the LAC?

For me, it means to be able to work in an intellectual community of people who study Latin America, where every day is amazingly intellectually fulfilling.

The Colombian Peace Talks: A Challenge for Security and Democracy?

By Annette Idler, DPhil candidate in International Development

On 20 November 2013, the Oxford Network of Peace Studies (OxPeace), the LAC and the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID) hosted the conference, 'The Colombian Peace Talks: A Challenge for Security and Democracy?' at St Antony's College.

I suggested and organized the event because I felt it was crucial to have a space at Oxford where we could share thoughts on Colombia's challenges related to security and democracy during the current peace process and to reflect upon the long-term implications for a potential post-conflict period. Thanks to the support of the LAC, OxPeace and ODID, as well as the Colombian Embassy and Canning House, this idea became reality in a timely manner: as the first of its kind, the conference took place one year after the beginning of the current peace talks between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Based on multidisciplinary dialogue, the one day conference provided a critical space to engage in a fruitful, intellectually-stimulating, discussion. The event brought together some ninety delegates from Oxford and across the

UK, Europe, and Colombia. Participants included academics, students, members of the NGO community, diplomats, and analysts from think tanks and development agencies as well as other citizens interested in the topic. Among the distinguished guest panellists were Ingrid Betancourt, former presidential candidate and former hostage of the FARC; Jorge Orlando Melo, one of Colombia's most important contemporary intellectuals, and John Dew, former Ambassador of the UK to Colombia, to name just a few.

The conference opened with a keynote speech on past peace negotiations in Colombia by Jorge Orlando Melo. The speech was followed by four panels with each of them comprising both a doctoral candidate and senior researchers to encourage inter-generational academic exchange. The first panel discussed the issues of political participation and democracy against the backdrop of the current peace talks. It was followed by a panel on security, the illicit drug problem, and justice. The third panel reflected on the land issue, at the root of the Colombian conflict, and the victims, one of the symptoms of the conflict. In the fourth session, the panellists shared experiences and lessons learned from



Ingrid Betancourt on the panel on Lessons Learned from other Peace Processes
Photo by Alejandro Olayo-Méndez

the peace processes of Guatemala and Northern Ireland. The conference ended with a wine reception and a formal dinner.

The highlight of the evening was the dinner speech, by Mauricio Rodríguez Múnera, the Special Peace Advisor to the Colombian President and former Ambassador of Colombia to the UK, that reflected the main themes of the conference: challenges for security and democracy in Colombia.



Markus Schultze-Kraft and Annette Idler on the panel on Security, Drugs and Justice.
Photo by Alejandro Olayo-Méndez



The LAC Joint Consultative Committee 2013-2014

By Kathryn Babineau and Maryhen Jiménez Morales, 1st year MPhils

Even after fifty years of impressive scholarship, the students and faculty of the Latin American Centre can still find plenty to change and improve. To that end, this year's joint consultative committee, known around the Centre as the JCC, met in October to begin its work for the year. Members include first year MPhil students Maryhen Jiménez Morales, Andreas Kopp, Amelie Hartmann, Kathryn Babineau and Ilona de Zamaroczy and MSc student, Mateusz Mazzini. Together with faculty and staff members LAC administrator Gilberto Estrada Harris, Centre Director Leigh Payne, and Director of Graduate Studies Eduardo Posada Carbó, the JCC entertained ideas and proposals on a wide array of issues pertaining to the LAC. These included utilizing online survey technology to provide increased feedback from students on classes, workload, and overall student experience, with the intention of using these data to improve LAC programming in the coming years. Following this survey, the JCC students are focusing on ways to update the Centre website

in order to ensure that potential students, current students, faculty, and alumni can easily access information on current LAC programme events. The JCC also worked to create stronger ties between MPhil students, many of whom aspire to continue on in academia at the doctoral level, and current Oxford DPhil students whose research focuses on Latin America. The goal of this program was to help potential DPhil applicants to better understand the life of a doctoral student and the elements of a successful application. Recognizing the profound positive impact that students from Latin America have on the overall success of the Centre and its student community, the JCC student representatives explored additional funding options for applicants from the region, many of whom might not be able to fund their own studies at Oxford. As the LAC prepares to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2015, the JCC looks forward to being an important contributor to student life at the Centre for many years to come.



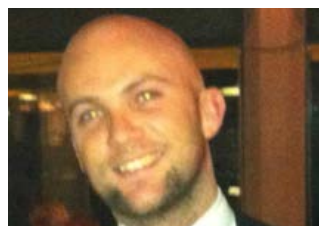
MSc Students

The Latin American Centre offers a one-year masters (MSc) course as well as a one-year MSc-Public Policy course. These are the MSc and MSc-PP graduates of 2013-2014. It has been a pleasure having them here for the past year. We wish them well and we hope that they will stay in touch and drop by when they are back in Oxford.



María Pilar Pinto de la Sota Diaz (MSc-PP)

I am a Peruvian national and hold a BA in Economics and a MSc in Social Policy. During the past years, I have gained experience in both the public and development sector. My work has focused on the implementation of projects aimed at improving living conditions of the poor in Peru in different areas: income generating activities, microfinance and environment. Currently, at Oxford, my research interests are focused on inequality and poverty dynamics and their relation to public policies.



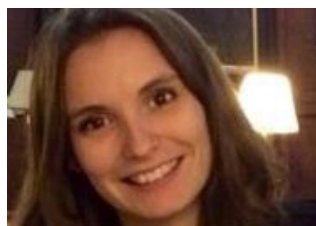
José Luis Aragón

As an undergraduate of International Politics at King's College London, I studied abroad at Georgetown. There I became interested in US-Latin American relations during the Cold War. The Latin American Centre has given me the opportunity to better understand security issues in Latin America from a regional perspective. My particular interests are US interventions in Central America during the 1950s and 1960s, with a focus on security threats from a US perspective.



Jaskiran Chohan

I'm a born and bred Punjabi-Londoner who first became interested in Latin America from the many Che Guevara t-shirts hanging from market stalls on Portobello Road. This curiosity was fed during my BA History and Spanish at UCL, as I ate my way through Latin American history. I am fascinated by the history and current political movements of the continent but particularly interested in agrarian issues, which has led to a focus on Colombia. I hope to pursue this in the future, combining social sciences and history with a more transnational approach.



Jennifer Evans

As an undergraduate of International Politics at King's College London, I studied abroad at Georgetown. There I became interested in US-Latin American relations during the Cold War. The Latin American Centre has given me the opportunity to better understand security issues in Latin America from a regional perspective. My particular interests are US interventions in Central America during the 1950s and 1960s, with a focus on security threats from a US perspective.



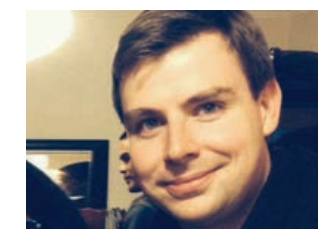
David Fischer

Originally from Germany, I completed my undergraduate degree in International Relations at Aberystwyth University in Wales. Before coming to Oxford, I worked as a lobbyist for a multinational chemical company in Brussels specialising in environmental and sustainability issues. I hold a Clarendon Fund Scholarship from the University and my research interests focus on Brazilian foreign and economic policy, EU-Latin America relations, and environmental policy.



Sophie Hall

I have travelled extensively in Latin America and I have lived in Buenos Aires where I was a teacher. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Southampton in Spanish and Latin American studies. My recent academic interests include inequality, education and gender and I have written on the benefits of educating women to reduce inequality in Latin America for my extended essay. After graduation I am excited to be starting my new job as a secondary school Spanish teacher in London.



Mateusz Mazzini

My name is Mateusz, but known as Mateo (reflecting my Polish-Italian family background) in Oxford. I came to the LAC after completing my BA in International Politics and Spanish at Aberystwyth University. A life spent in Poland, Spain, Argentina and France makes the truly international spirit of LAC, St Antony's College, and Oxford a familiar environment. I focus my academic work on political participation and youth in young democracies for my extended essay. Outside academia, I'm a proud fan of Inter Milan football team and a committed groupie of Coldplay, chasing the band on gigs around the world.



Hector Méndez Huerta

Born and raised in Mexico City, I studied for my BA in European Studies at King's College London. Prior to joining Oxford I worked as an analyst investment banker at the Royal Bank of Scotland. I decided to study Latin America because I believe in the potential of the region and would like to play a key role in its future success. My current research interest focus is the study of presidential elections in Mexico.



Liam Raftery

I came to the LAC in October 2013 to study for an MSc in Latin American Studies, following four years working in campaigns and communications for NGOs in the UK and Chile. I focused my extended essay on transitional justice issues in Chile. My time at the LAC has been fantastic - wonderful people, an unrivalled educational experience, and knowledge which will equip me for wherever my life and career takes me in the future.



Mark Scott

I made the rather unusual leap from a degree in German to doing the MSc, where I have nurtured my interest in Latin America and, in particular, Brazil. In the future I will hopefully be able to combine these two German and Latin American courses into a career in business consultancy. My extended essay compared Brazil's costs of doing business to determine the validity of the oft-mentioned Brazil Cost.



Amaya Tanaka Galdos

I am half Japanese-Argentine and half Venezuelan-Basque. Having been raised in Southeast Asia, however, my contact with Latin America has been somewhat limited. I graduated from the University of Cambridge in June 2013, where I specialised in Sociology. This year, my main focus has been the Japanese in Latin America. My study looked at the communities in Brazil, Peru and Argentina from a comparative perspective, with a focus on Japanese-Argentine identity.



Sean Toal

I am from Flushing, Michigan and received my first degree from the US Military Academy at West Point. My interest in Latin America grew from trips I took to Honduras, Ecuador, and Mexico. At the Latin American Centre, I took courses on politics, international relations, and the history of Mexico. My extended essay investigates human rights and security cooperation between the United States and Latin American countries.



Elizabeth Zotti

My interest in Latin America began when I spent a semester of my undergraduate degree at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, sipping café con leche, nibbling on medialunas, and occasionally revising. At the LAC I have become particularly interested in the political economy of Brazil, focusing my extended essay on the future prospects of the Brazilian oil industry. This year has surprised me by renewing my love of economics, and next year I hope to take my first steps towards a career in political risk assessment.

MPhil Students, first year

All of the LAC's first year MPhil students have received funding to carry out fieldwork in Latin America during the long (summer) vacation. The sources of this funding include Banco Santander travel grants, the LAC Carlos de Sola fund, and the LAC. Colleges have also supplemented these research grants in some cases. Students receive about 1000 pounds to defray the cost of roundtrip travel to Latin America, internal travel, lodging, meals, and incidentals for three months of research.



Kathryn Babineau

I will be making my first fieldwork trip to Peru this summer to research the interaction between corporations, civil society and government in the context of global human rights accountability. The project involves mixed – quantitative and qualitative – methods. A native of the US, I hold a BA in History and Foreign Affairs and a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Virginia. My masters focused on juvenile judicial reform in Mexico. The warmth of the students and faculty at the LAC have compensated for the many rainy days in Oxford, so much so that I look forward to next year.



Andreia Carmo

I am a Brazilian student. Ever since my sociology undergraduate studies in the University of Brasília, I have researched political corruption. In my MSC in Political Science at the University of São Paulo, I focused on historical and cultural causes of corruption. Currently, I am developing my interests around political behaviour; my thesis project will analyse data from the World Values Survey. Additionally, I am interested in Brazil's conditional cash transfer policies such as BPC (Benefício de Prestação Continuada) and PBF (Programa Bolsa Família).



Lucinda Foote-Short

I came to Oxford after my BA in Development Studies and International Relations in Australia. I developed an interest in the region after spending six months backpacking through northern South America when I finished high school. Since then I have developed an academic interest in Central America, previously having completed research on the political and human security impact of narco-trafficking in Guatemala. My MPhil thesis will examine the social and political implications of Honduran business and political elite responses to violence. I am excited to be returning to Central America for fieldwork over the summer break.



Amelie Hartmann

My MPhil research focuses on police violence in Brazil where I will be conducting fieldwork over the summer. My journey to Latin American studies has not been linear. After finishing high school in Germany I started off as a cook in a haute cuisine restaurant in France. I abandoned my plans of becoming a world renowned chef to study Social Anthropology at the University of Leipzig, the University of São Paulo, and the University of San Marcos in Lima. I then began my social justice work at an NGO in Togo, the German Embassy in Nepal, and the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag.



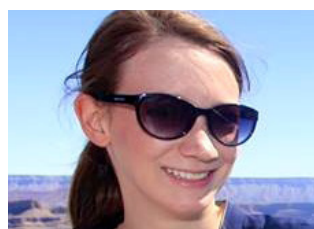
Maryhen Jiménez Morales

I am Venezuelan-born of Italian heritage who grew up in Germany. As an undergraduate in Frankfurt, I studied Political Science and Public Law. Since then I have worked in a variety of areas including climate and indigenous rights in Latin America; children's rights and child labour at an NGO in Lima; and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as a Visiting Professional researching the gap between politics and law, especially in cases against Ecuador and Venezuela. My current research looks at the development of Venezuelan democracy after Chávez, with a special focus on opposition parties.



Andreas Kopp

I studied International Relations at LSE. Having lived in Germany, the USA, Argentina, and the UK, I am interested in the intersection of international politics and economics. At the LAC, I have become focused on the challenge concerning the Latin American energy market caused by increased demand, new technologies, environmental considerations, and immense resource endowment. I am, therefore, working on a project investigating energy policies in Brazil, looking in particular at how energy security can be maintained through small-scale energy production among other strategies.



Maximilia Lane

I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Amsterdam where I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the journey of undocumented Central American migrants through Mexico. This involved a study of Mexican and US policies that impact migrants' basic human rights. For this study and after graduation, I worked with a grassroots NGO providing basic assistance to migrants who made the long and dangerous trip to the US. This sparked my interest in the regulatory policies regarding practices deemed illicit. I will further research this topic in Mexico this summer for my MPhil thesis on money laundering legislation.



Carla López Medina

I am a Peruvian student focusing on the politics and history of my country. After completing my first degree in History at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP), I worked as a researcher on colonial and contemporary Peruvian history and also in academic publishing. My MPhil thesis deals with right-wing populism during the Alberto Fujimori government in Peru, specifically the reasons behind Fujimori's rise and fall. I will be in Lima this summer conducting research on this topic.



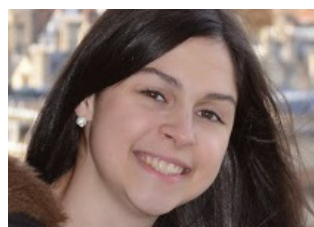
Thomas Shortland

I am originally from Cardiff, Wales and I did my BA in Liberal Arts (Philosophy major) at University College Maastricht. During my undergraduate studies, I spent a semester abroad at La Universidad Iberoamericana where I learnt to *alburear* and fell for Mexico City. My research at the LAC focuses on *usos y costumbres* in Oaxaca (Mexico) and the relative effectiveness of participatory/representative governance in providing public goods.



Jonas von Hoffmann

My undergraduate dissertation at 'the other place' focused on coca/cocaine production and violence in Colombia. I continue to study drug policy in Latin America while at Oxford, but I have shifted away from analysis of the ongoing and frustrating 'war on drugs' that ignores the evidence demonstrating its deficiencies. Instead, my MPhil research focuses on the legalization of cannabis in Uruguay. To understand why Uruguay has become the first country in the world to take this step, despite popular opinion against it, I will conduct fieldwork in Montevideo over the summer.



Ilona de Zamaroczy

I am a dual French-American citizen and have spent most of my life living in Washington, D.C. My interest in Latin America was piqued after studying and traveling in Argentina during my undergraduate studies. Before beginning my MPhil at the LAC, I worked at the Inter-American Development Bank. My MPhil research focuses on the Colombian conflict. In particular, I am interested in the role Venezuela has played in the conflict and in the current peace talks.





MPhil Students, second year

After receiving funding for their Summer 2013 fieldwork from the Santander Travel grants, the Carlos de Sola fund, and their Colleges, LAC MPhils spent their second year writing their theses. They did so in the year of record rains in the UK. Here are brief synopses of their work.



Top Row from Left to Right

Rafael J. Gude

My thesis is about the current gang truce in El Salvador, brokered between the state and the two largest gangs, the Mara Salvatrucha and the Barrio 18. I evaluate the truce from three different -- state, the gang, and civil society -- angles. I explore how the truce was negotiated, the gangs' capacity to enforce the ban on killing, and civil society reluctance to accept the truce. I am currently looking for work in the area of mediation in violent contexts.

Hester Borm

Originally from the Netherlands, I arrived for the MPhil Latin American Studies after having previously pursued a BA in History at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. My research at the LAC focuses on civil opposition's influence on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in Chile's energy sector. I highly enjoyed investigating this topic, which enabled me to combine my interest in mixed methods research, state-society relations, social mobilization, environmentalism, and energy politics. Besides my research, I'm also highly passionate about traveling, cooking, literature, writing, and learning new languages. In the future I hope to continue working on environmental policy in Latin America.

Maria Angelica DeGaetano

My MPhil thesis is a comparative study of trials and memorializations in Guatemala and El Salvador in the aftermath of armed conflict. Taking the theoretical and empirical experiences garnered while at the Latin American Centre, I will now expand this transitional justice work at one of the oldest academic human rights centres in the world. This fall I begin my studies at the University of Essex for an LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.



Bottom Row from Left to Right

Pablo Kerblat

My thesis seeks to understand the surge in criminal violence in Venezuela in the past two decades. Homicide rates in the country are unparalleled in the world and seemingly inexplicable given the decrease in inequality and poverty at the same time. I explore political institutional and governance weakness as explanations for violence, specifically the policy and discursive blocks on the effective functioning of the security sector. In my future, I hope to pursue a career in public policy.

Anna C. O'Kelly

My thesis examines healthcare approaches to, and regulation of, sex work in Buenos Aires. Undertaking fieldwork in Buenos Aires was key to answering my research question and to addressing a highly under-researched area of sex work and public health. In Autumn 2014, I will enter Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where I hope to weave together my medical training with my public health concerns for Latin Americans in and outside the US.

Julia Zulver

My thesis on 'High Risk Feminism in El Salvador: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts' develops and tests a theoretical explanation for the unexpected mobilization by women in violent contexts. It examines not only the contemporary violent crime period but also the earlier civil war. After leaving the LAC, I will intern with the Centre for Reproductive Rights in Bogotá, Colombia. I hope to eventually extend my MPhil research into a doctoral project, incorporating different case studies.

Andrea Salinas Ivanenko

My thesis is based on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Ecuador. Ecuador's policies shows both the enhancement of the social and economic rights of refugees and setbacks in the right to claim asylum in recent years. I examine these paradoxical trends in relation to the political processes the country has experienced under the Correa administration. I am returning to Ecuador to work in the field of public policy, human rights, and development, but I hope to return to Oxford for doctoral studies.

LAC Recognised Students 2013 – 2014



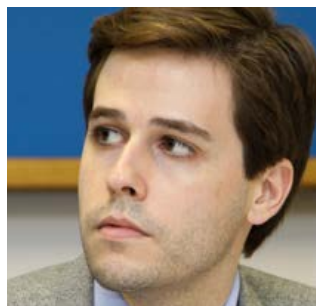
Fernando Leite
MT13/HT14

My name is Fernando Leite and I'm a DPhil student in Sociology at the Universidade Federal do Paraná. The topic of my research is the field of Brazilian political science. There are three units that compose the field: political scientists, academic production of ideas and academic institutions. I try to answer two questions: *how is the field of Brazilian political science structured? Why is it structured this way?* My hypothesis is that the units are based on two oppositions: (i) between those that study institutionalized politics and those that do not; and (ii) between empiricist and 'theorist' approaches. I use statistical techniques such as correspondence analysis to analyse the field and logistic regression to test the hypothesis. Then, I argue that these oppositions were the product of a conflict between political scientists following the role model of the American Political Scientist "scholar" and social scientists following the role model of the French "intellectual". If you have any questions, observations or simply would like to chat, feel free to contact me. It would be a pleasure to hear from you!



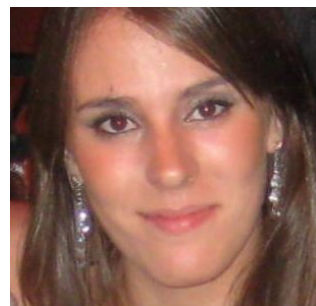
Claudio Riveros
HT14/TT14

My name is Claudio Riveros F. I am Instructor Professor at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile. My fields of interest are social movements, nationalism, ideology and populism. I am a DPhil candidate in sociology at the University Alberto Hurtado, Chile and I am currently working on my thesis. My topic of research is populism in Chile. As it is well known, populism is one of the most important political issues in Latin America. On the one hand, the purpose of my thesis is to clear up highly ideological and general perceptions of populism, which hinder a full understanding of its real dimension. On the other, to empirically enquire if in Chilean history it is possible to recognize *populist regimes* or alternatively, *populist moments* or *populist phenomena*. In fact, the aim of my research is to demonstrate that in Chile there has not been *populist regimes* but only *populist moments* or *populist phenomena*. I will focus on trying to establish why this did not occur and, at the same time, which are its consequences. My hypothesis is that Chile has not developed *populist regimes* because the oligarchy, political parties and in the last stance, the Armed Forces, blocked the *populist moments* or *phenomena*.



Marcelo Torelly
HT14/TT14

I arrived in Oxford early January 2014 sponsored by Brazil's CNPq. I'll spend the semester here researching how institutional interactions between the Inter-American Human Rights System and constitutional legal regimes from Latin American countries are reshaping Constitutional Law across the region and allowing the emergence of new constitutional actors and patterns of transconstitutional governance. During my stay at the University, I'm also a visiting academic at the Faculty of Law. Before this season in the United Kingdom I've been a visiting researcher in the Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School; a Special Advisor for Brazilian Ministry of Justice in Transitional Justice issues; the Head of Brazil's Amnesty Commission Historical Memory Department; and the manager of the joying international program for transitional justice in the global south sponsored by Brazil's Federal Government and the United Nations Program for Development. I'm originally from Rio Grande do Sul, where I earned a Law Degree at PUCRS, but spend most of my career living in Brasília. There I've studied at UnB, where I earned a Master Degree in Law and am currently a DPhil candidate. I'm the author of "*Justiça de Transição e Estado Constitucional de Direito*" (Fórum, 2012) and have works on transitional justice, constitutional law and human rights available in English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.



Natalia Navarro

I am a PhD student at Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), São Paulo, Brazil, where I completed my MA in Public Administration and Government after graduating in Social Science from the Pontifical Catholic University (PUC, São Paulo). I study political corruption in the Brazilian Congress and the performance of agencies of control in fighting it. I also teach a course in public administration and political science at the Senac University Centre, and work as an independent political consultant.



Esteban Ramírez González

I studied mathematics and international relations at the University of St Andrews and hold an MA from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, where I am currently a PhD candidate in international relations and political science. I have written about multilateral diplomacy and global governance, including for the *UN Chronicle*, and held positions with the UN, CARE International Secretariat, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Mexican Permanent Mission in Geneva. My dissertation is on post-conflict state building in 19th and early 20th century Mexico. During 2012-13, I was a visiting doctoral student at Colegio de México before coming to the LAC.



Bruno Pasquarelli

As a PhD Student at the Federal University of São Carlos, my research seeks to show political parties' active role in foreign policy-making in Brazil and Chile, focusing on the Lula and Bachelet administrations.



Marie Arana discusses her best-selling new biography of Bolívar



In Recognition

The day-to-day functioning of the Latin American Centre and support for our many special events depend increasingly on LAC friends and colleagues. We would like to take the opportunity here to recognize some of them.

First, without our students we would not have a dynamic Centre full of intellectual life and energy. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of the **JCC** featured in this issue and also the editorial committee of this second *Horizontes* issue: **Kathryn Babineau, Jaskiran Chohan, Amelie Hartmann, Jonas Hoffman, Maryhen Jiménez Morales, and Carla López Medina.**

Professors Alan Knight and Edmund ('Valpy') Fitzgerald have both retired this year. We wish to recognize their service to the LAC over their many years at Oxford. Valpy is returning to the LAC post-retirement to spend a year as a visiting academic working on his book on Nicaragua.

Our administrative staff has had increasingly high demands on their time with the expanding activities of the Centre and the shrinking size of the staff. To **Elvira Ryan** and **Gilberto Estrada Harris** we extend our gratitude for their good cheer and hard work. We would also like to recognize Gilberto's major accomplishment this year in finishing his doctoral degree at ANU. Congratulations!

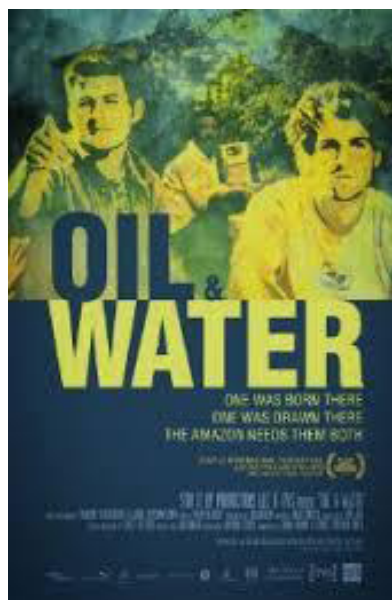
LAC librarians **Frank Edgerton, Rebeca Otazua** and **Sam Truman** are held in great esteem by the students and staff at the LAC for their helpful dedication to the research on and study of Latin America. That we have such a library and such responsive and responsible librarians is rare particularly in a time of scarce resources.

As always, we wish to thank those donors who have provided funds: alumnus **Andrew Crawley** for academic prizes; **Santander Universities UK** and the **Carlos de Sola Wright** family for student research travel funds; and the **CAF Development Bank** for student scholarships.

David Poritz (MSc-PP, 2014)
co-stars in PBS documentary
Oil and Water

Our special events throughout this and last year have relied on donor contributions from **Nelly Di Tella, CAF Development Bank, and Rio Branco funding from CAPES (Brazilian Ministry of Education).** **COMFAMA** (Caja de Compensación Familiar, Colombia) contributed to our activities significantly this year and we thank **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea** and **Annette Idler** for their hard work organizing those activities.

Recognition also comes in the form of the many accomplishments by our academic staff and former students. **Timothy Power**, together with his co-authors, received the Comparative Area Studies Award for best article from the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA). **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea** was elected editor to the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. **Leigh Payne** received British Academy-Leverhulme support for her research on Business and Human Rights. **Alice Baumgarten** (MPhil 2013) received the 2014 Louis Pelzer Memorial Award from the Organization of American Historians for the research she carried out for her thesis. The documentary film *Oil & Water* explores the work carried out in Ecuador by **David Poritz** (MSc-PP 2013).



Elvira Ryan
(LAC Admissions Secretary) and Tex



COMFAMA executive training session at the
LAC-St Antony's College.
Photo by Alejandro Olayo-Méndez.





Winners of the Crawley Prize (in the middle) Julia Zulver (MPhil – distinction on the thesis; distinction in the course) and David Fischer (MSc – distinction on the extended essay) with their supervisors Leigh Payne and Christian Arnold.



Oxford-Santander Universities signing ceremony (from left to right): Gilberto Estrada Harris (LAC Administrator), Andrew Hamilton (Vice Chancellor, University of Oxford), Steve Pateman (Executive Director and Head of UK Banking for Santander), Anna O'Kelly (LAC MPhil & Santander travel award recipient), Leigh Payne (LAC Director), and Timothy Power (Director of LAC's Brazilian Studies Programme).
Photo by John Cairns.



50th Anniversary Celebration

18 – 20 September 2015

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