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Latin America  
Specialty Group

# CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) and AAG Latin America Specialty Group (LASG)  
*Dr. Catherine Nolin & Alexandra Pedersen (CLAG) Co-Editors | Adrienne Johnson & Nikolai Alvarado (LASG) Liaisons*

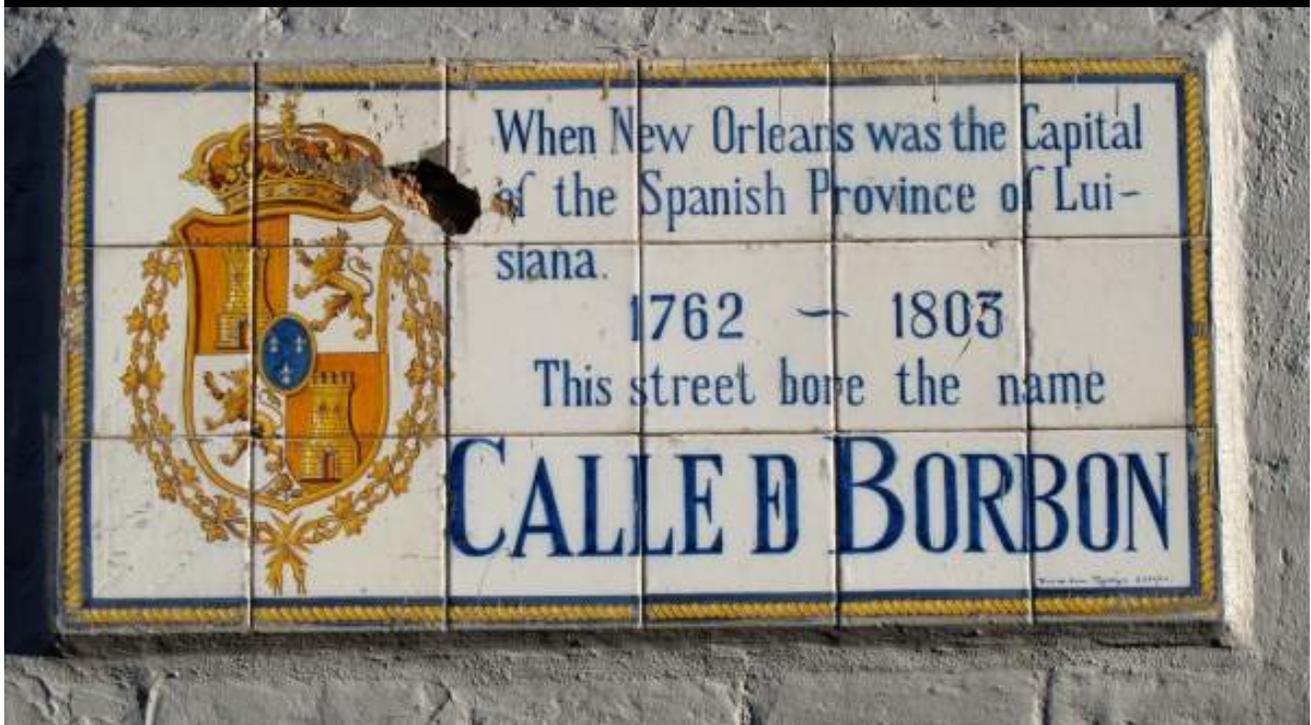
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## LASG Correspondence:

New Email: [LASGnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:LASGnewsletter@gmail.com)  
 Website: <http://community.aag.org/lasg/home>  
 New Facebook profile:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AAGLASG/>

**CLAG is Heading to New Orleans in 2017! Details below!**



# CLAG 2017 in New Orleans!

## CLAG 2017 New Orleans, January 3-5 (Tuesday-Thursday)

We are pleased to announce that our 2017 conference will be in New Orleans, once the capital of the Spanish colony of Luisiana.

All sessions will take place on Wednesday and Thursday in the [Bourbon Orleans](#), a historic hotel in the heart of the French Quarter. That small area of the city retains much of its historic ambience and abounds with restaurants, jazz clubs, museums, art galleries, street life, and other attractions. The hotel is on Orleans Street between Bourbon and Royal Streets, directly behind St. Louis Cathedral and a block from Jackson Square, the colonial Plaza de Armas with its Cabildo. The Café du Monde, streetcar line, and Mississippi River are just the other side of Jackson Square. The negotiated room price of \$149 single/double is exceptional for such a conveniently located, high quality hotel.

We hope you will join us in a conference that is always large enough to be diverse but small enough for participants to enjoy that diversity. Reunite with old friends and make new ones at the opening reception on Tuesday evening. Over the following two days, share and discuss the latest research in Latin Americanist geography. At the closing reception on Thursday evening celebrate individual awards and the accomplishments of our community of scholars. On the Friday take time to enjoy one of the field trips in and around New Orleans.

We believe this will be a memorable CLAG conference because New Orleans remains one of the most distinctive of American cities, with something for all who enjoy music, food, art, architecture, history, and cultural spectacle. Its boosters once promoted it as the “gateway to Latin America.” The Mexican politician and intellectual Justo Sierra claimed it “is one of those Gulf cities that all seem like sisters, but very large, very developed; Tampico, Veracruz, and Campeche would all fit within it, and it has something of all of them within it, of Veracruz above all.” And since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, its longstanding Hispanic and Latino communities have experienced rapid growth associated with the reconstruction.

The scheduled dates offer much more comfortable temperatures than the torrid summers of south Louisiana, with an average January high of only 62° F/17° C and low of 43° F/6° C. Averages aside, January days are often sunny with temperatures that rise into the 70s/20s in the afternoons.

New Orleans is highly accessible to participants from throughout the Americas. It is within a day’s drive for many CLAG members, from Texas to Florida and northward to Kansas and Virginia. Direct flights are available from all major airports in the USA, and COPA has direct flights four times per week from its hub in Panama City.

As planning progresses, a dedicated webpage at [clagscholar.org](http://clagscholar.org) will provide links to register, submit abstracts, book your hotel room at the conference rate, and sign up for field trips.

– Andrew Sluyter, CLAG Executive Director

# Letter from CLAG Chair, Karl Offen

CLAGistas,

I hope this Fall 2015 Newsletter finds everybody doing well. There are a lot of good things happening at CLAG and I want to use this space to share some of them.

The May 2015 CLAG meeting in Fortaleza was smashing success! Special thanks are due to Christian Brannstrom, Jörn Seeman, and Andrew Sluyter on the CLAG side and above all to Professors Christian Dennys Monteiro, Clélia Lustosa, Adryane Gorayeb Caetano, and Eustógio Wanderley Correia from the Universidade Federal do Ceará, Fortaleza.

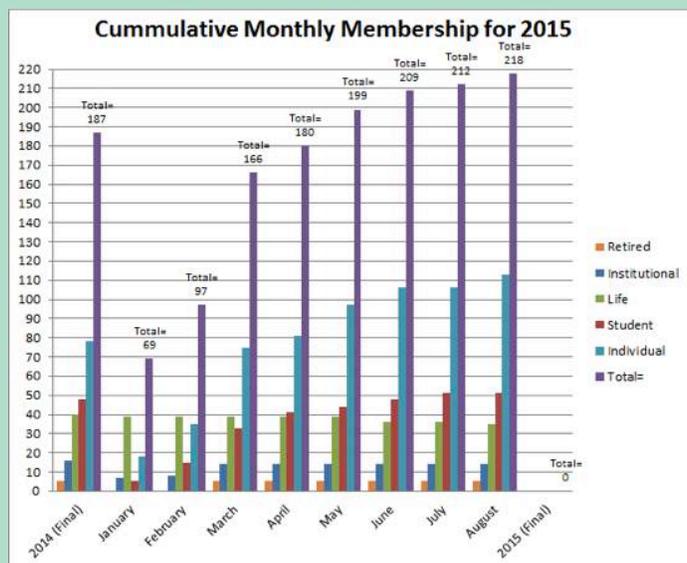
Plans for the January 3-5, 2017, CLAG meeting in New Orleans is well underway, and thanks to the hard work of Executive Director and conference organizer, Andrew Sluyter, we've signed a solid contract with the Bourbon Orleans hotel. Details will appear soon on the CLAG website and listserv.

Speaking of the CLAG website, a new page and 'look' will be rolled out soon! I've not seen a draft of it yet but webmaster Matthew Fry has had this in the works for some time. The current site is generating more traffic than usual, likely related to the embedded @CLAGeogs Twitter feed which has more than 400 followers after less than a year in operation.

I am happy to announce that we have established an editorial board to oversee CLAG's new book series with Springer called SpringerBriefs in Latin American Studies. Please see <http://clagscholar.org/clag-book-series/> and consider submitting your own proposal. Given the intentions of the SpringerBriefs series, graduate students and their advisors should look at this opportunity very carefully. One could potentially publish one's timely Master's thesis or section of the PhD dissertation via the series; or conversely graduate advisers might consider the acceptance and publication of a SpringerBrief book in lieu of a Master's thesis. The possibilities are really open here. Andrew Sluyter and Jörn Seeman should receive a hearty thanks for arranging such a fair deal with Springer.

It is always a pleasure to gloat over the amount of money CLAG gives away to support graduate student research. In 2015 we gave out approximately \$10,000 in research awards to seven of our student members (see a summary of their field reports below). Our largesse reinforces the fact that a CLAG student membership is one of the best deals in geography since awards are up to \$1500 and a student membership is only \$20 a year.

Speaking of membership, ours continues to rebound (see the below graph put together by Andrew Sluyter). Our various efforts with the new website, social media, outreach, and so on have increased membership by 19% over 2014. The only downside is that student membership remains stagnant, a contradiction given the incredible return on the \$20 student membership rate just mentioned. Perhaps we can all take some initiative and get more graduate students to join in 2016.



Perhaps the biggest CLAG news relates to *JLAG*. All three issues of volume 14 are now published and have been mailed to members. Hopefully you have enjoyed the larger format and font size of the last two issues. I remind members that full color pdf versions of all *JLAG* articles are available on Project Muse. For those of us who have access to Muse through our colleges and universities,

and who may wish to only receive this digital access, we are working hard to make ‘opting out’ of the print version easier to select on the *JLAG* website of the University of Texas Press (*JLAG*’s publisher). This will save CLAG a lot of money, but may not be in UT Press’s own financial interest and therein is part of the problem.

Meanwhile, LSU Libraries has agreed to host *JLAG* on its Open Journal System management platform so that the editor, authors, and reviewers can enjoy a more centralized and organized publication system. This is part of our ongoing efforts to make *JLAG* a more attractive and scholarly outlet for all sorts of geographic research on Latin America. As proof that we’re moving in the right direction, Thomson Reuters is considering putting *JLAG* into their Journal Citation Report so that the journal will acquire an impact factor. *JLAG* is already listed as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest impact journal in Latin American studies in the Elsevier SCOPUS system, and the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in that group on Google Scholar, which uses the h-index.

Last but not least, Bill Denevan generously donated a 100% complete set of CLAG and *JLAG* publications to the executive director of CLAG. This trove to be known as the William M. Denevan Collection will be held by the current executive director and passed along to the next one whoever that shall be.

Karl Offen, CLAG Chair  
Oberlin College

## Letter from LASG Chair, Claudia Radel

Dear LASG members,

The upcoming AAG meetings in San Francisco are months away, yet just around the corner. As is our custom, the Latin American Specialty Group of the AAG will be active at the meetings in a number of ways. We will hold our annual business meeting (ceding half our time, as usual, to CLAG for its business meeting). At our business meeting, we will be holding elections for chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer, as the terms for all these officers will come to an end 30 June 2016. If you have someone in mind you plan to nominate from the floor, please check with that individual in advance to make sure she/he plans on attending the meeting and to confirm her/his willingness to serve. If you would like to nominate yourself, please do so, and/or contact me or one of the other out-going officers with any questions about the work effort involved.

Our student officers are organizing an AAG session specifically targeted to serving our student membership—a discussion on conducting research in Latin America. They are also organizing a “happy hour” get-together for LASG student members. I also anticipate we will be co-organizing a party with CLAG at the AAGs, just as in recent past years. And finally, we are sponsoring and co-sponsoring a number of exciting sessions which I expect will be of considerable interest to our members. Keep your eyes open for announcements on all these events and activities as we get closer to the meeting dates.

In the coming month we’ll issue the calls for proposals and papers for our student competitions. We will again be offering support for our graduate student members to conduct fieldwork in Latin America through our competitive selection. And we will again be offering prizes for papers written by our student members based on research already conducted. Following online discussion with the LASG membership earlier this semester, we will again “try out” the multi-authored submission category for the paper competition, to continue gauging need for this category. But we may be changing some of the amounts of the awards. Look for further details and changes in the soon-to-be-released CFPs. If you are a non-student member interested in serving on one of the award selection committees, please contact Vice-Chair Johnny Finn ([john.finn@cnu.edu](mailto:john.finn@cnu.edu)).

Best wishes to all of you and to a successful end to your semesters,

Claudia Radel, LASG Chair

# CLAG Board Members

CLAG Chair: Karl Offen

Executive Director: Andrew Sluyter

CLAG Vice Chair: Kendra McSweeney

JLAG Editor: Christopher Gaffney

## Terms ending June 30, 2016

Gerardo Bocco

Heidi Scott

Robert B. Kent (CLAG Treasurer)

Julie Velásquez Runk

## Terms ending June 30, 2017

Sarah Blue

Richard Hunter

Rebecca Clouser (CLAG Secretary)

Alexandra Pedersen

J. Christopher Brown

Jörn Seemann

Christian Abizaid

Jeffrey Smith

## Terms ending June 30, 2018

Andrés Guhl

Patricia Solís

Oliver Coomes

Catherine Nolin

David Robinson

# LASG Officers (2014-2016)

LASG Chair: Claudia Radel

LASG Vice-Chair: Johnny Finn

LASG Secretary/Treasurer: Ben Tillman

\*Anna Sveinsdóttir, University of Denver

\*Diego Pons, University of Denver

\*Joshua Rudow, University of Texas at Austin

\*LASG Graduate Student Directors (2015-2017)

# CLAG/LASG Co-Editors

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## LASG Newsletter Liaisons & LASG Social Media Co-Editors

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**Nikolai Alvarado** is a PhD Student at the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Denver, Denver, CO. Internet: <http://www.du.edu/nsm/departments/geography/students/> Email: [Nikolai.Alvarado@du.edu](mailto:Nikolai.Alvarado@du.edu)

## LASG Facebook Launch

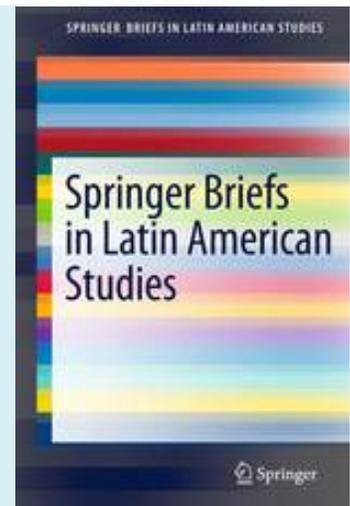
The importance of social media as a place to connect and communicate with a wide group of individuals is unquestionable. With the launching of our Facebook page, we envision an opportunity to start new conversations and exchange ideas about our region of interest with audiences across the globe. We also see our Facebook presence to serve as a platform where our members can stay informed and engage in more informal conversations about the work we do. Please help us start building this community by liking our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AAGLASG/>) page and sharing LASG members' latest accomplishments with the wider community. We also welcome contributions and suggestions to make our social media presence better and stronger. Kindly send these to: [LASGnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:LASGnewsletter@gmail.com)

Saludos,  
Nikolai and Adrienne

## New Book Series

### Call for book proposals and manuscripts

CLAG is collaborating with Springer Publishers to publish the new “[Springer Briefs in Latin American Studies](#).” The series will publish compact volumes (50 to 125 pages) on geographical, environmental, cultural, economic, political and urban research about Latin America. Regional experts will referee all submissions, authors retain copyright, books are published within three months of acceptance, and each will feature the CLAG logo. For more information, [see the series flyer](#). To submit a proposal or manuscript, please contact the Andrew Sluyter, Chair of the CLAG Book Series Editorial Board, at [asluyter@lsu.edu](mailto:asluyter@lsu.edu).



## Awards

Billie Lee Turner (see photo) received the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Award and Diana Liverman the Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award at the 2015 CLAG meeting in Fortaleza. Diana could not attend in person, but Billie was with us in Brazil.



## Remembering William (Bill) Woods



William “Bill” Woods passed away on September 11<sup>th</sup>, in Lawrence, Kansas. Bill was born in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and during high school he participated in a summer Spanish language program in Taxco, Mexico. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he continued and earned his Master’s and Ph.D. in Geography, working with Clinton R. Edwards as his advisor.

Bill was the Director of the Contract Archaeology Program and Professor in the Department of Geography at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville for many years. He later moved to the University of Kansas as a Professor in the Department of Geography, and also worked with the Latin American Studies Program and the Center for Global and International Studies, held a Courtesy Professor position with the Department of Anthropology, and served as the Director of Environmental Studies for several years. During his career, Bill also served as a Guest Professor at Wageningen Universiteit, The Netherlands, Escuela de Antropología, Universidad de Costa Rica, Jagiellonian University, Krakow Poland, The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala University, Sweden, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, and was a Guest Professor and Faculty Member at the Centro de Energia Nuclear na Agricultura, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. Bill was also Emeritus Professor at both Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE) and University of Kansas (KU).

Bill’s research interests centered on abandoned settlements, anthropogenic environmental change, cultural landscapes, soils and sediments, and traditional settlement-subsistence systems. He had extensive field experience in Mexico, Brazil, Belize, Belgium, Germany, and Italy; with lesser amounts of time in Argentina, Colombia, and Ireland. He was a member of research teams that worked with anthropogenic soils and related environmental history and prehistory in the Brazilian Amazon, Belgium, and at the UNESCO World Heritage Cahokia Mounds Site in southwestern Illinois. His contributions to the discipline include a clearer understanding of the nature of the physical environment of the Amazon Basin and how the indigenous peoples there helped to shape it. He was a recognized world leader through research on Amazonian “dark earth” soils — islands of fertility in otherwise nutrient-poor soils. His last research topic concerned carbon sequestration in soils as a potential mitigating process for land degradation and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation. An ancillary interest involved birds as an indicator of anthropogenic environmental change.

Bill was also the 2006 recipient of CLAG’s Carol O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award for his work with anthropogenic soils. During his career Bill earned many awards, including the Paul Simon Outstanding Scholar Award (1999 SIUE), the 2004 Book of the Year Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for co-authoring a book on the archaeology and landscape of Cahokia, the 2006 Robert McC. Netting Award from the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the AAG, and in 2013 was awarded both the Rip Rapp Award by the Geological Society of America for contributions to geoarchaeology and an Honorary Doctorate in the Historical-Philosophical Faculty of Uppsala University, Sweden.

Bill’s interment was private. He will be missed by his family and friends, many of whom are members of CLAG.

# New Publications/Papers & Reports

Click on article title to go directly to the publication

**Abizaid, Christian, Oliver T. Coomes**, Yoshito Takasaki and Stephanie Brisson. 2015. [Social network analysis and peasant agriculture: cooperative labor as gendered relational networks](#). *The Professional Geographer* 67(3): 447-463. DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2015.1006562.

**Aguilar-Støen, Mariel, Matthew Taylor** y Edwin Castellanos (2015) [Columnista Invitado: Migración, remesas familiares y acceso a la tierra](#), *Plaza Publica*, August 4

**Allen, Reuben** (2015) [Alternative methods to enumerate data on race in Puerto Rico](#). *Social Science Quarterly* 96(2): 608-628. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.12163

**Bell, Martha G.** (2015) [Historical political ecology of water: Access to municipal drinking water in colonial Lima, Peru \(1578–1700\)](#). *The Professional Geographer* 67(4): 504-526. DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2015.1062700

**Caldas, Marcellus M.**, Matthew R. Sanderson, Jason Bergtold, David Haukos, Jessica L. Heier Stamm, Martha Mather, Joseph Aistrup, Kyle Douglas-Mankin, Melinda D. Daniels, Aleksey Sheshukov, and **David López-Carr** (2015). [Culture into Sustainability Science Research and Policy](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112(27): 8157-8159.

**Brannstrom, Christian**, and C. Houser (2015, early view) ['Riding the rip': An experiential and integrated human-physical geography curriculum in Costa Rica](#). *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 39(4). DOI:10.1080/03098265.2015.1084497

Santos, Anna N., and **Christian Brannstrom** (2015) [Livelihood strategies in a marine extractive reserve: Implications for conservation interventions](#). *Marine Policy* 59, September: 44-52. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2015.05.004

**Brannstrom, Christian.** (2015) [A sustentabilidade em função do uso não sustentável dos recursos naturais no Oeste Baiano e Eagle Ford Texano](#). *Revista Mercator* 14(1): 89-104.

Loureiro, Caroline Vitor, Adryane Gorayeb, and **Christian Brannstrom**. (2015) [Implantação de energia eólica e estimativa das perdas ambientais em um setor do litoral oeste do Ceará, Brasil](#). *Geosaberes: Revista de Estudos Geoeducacionais* 6(1): 24-38.

**Coomes, Oliver T.**, Shawn J. McGuire, Eric Garine, Sophie Caillon, Doyle McKey, Elise Demeulenaere, Devra I. Jarvis, Guntra Aistara, Adeline Barnaud, Pascal Clouvel, Laure Empeiraire, Selim Louafi, Pierre Martin, François Massol, Marco Pautasso, Chloe Violon, J. Jean Wencélius (2015) [Farmer seed networks make a limited contribution to agriculture? Four common misconceptions](#). *Food Policy* 56: 41-50 DOI:10.1016/j.foodpol.2015.07.008

Webb, Jena, **Oliver T. Coomes**, Nicolas Mainville and Donna Mergler (2015) [Mercury contamination of fish from rivers affected by oil extraction and deforestation in the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon](#). *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* DOI 10.1007/s00128-015-1588-3

Miltner, Benjamin C. and **Oliver T. Coomes** (2015) [Indigenous innovation incorporates biochar into swidden-fallow agroforestry systems: Charcoal kiln site agriculture in the Peruvian Amazon](#). *Agroforestry Systems* 89(3): 409-420. DOI 10.1007/s10457-014-9775-5.

**Crane, Nicholas Jon** (2015) [Politics squeezed through a police state: Policing and vinculación in post-1968 Mexico City](#). *Political Geography* 47: 1-10. DOI:10.1016/j.polgeo.2015.01.003

**Crane, Nicholas Jon** (2014) [It could be and could have been otherwise: For a non-Euclidean engagement with Mexico City's '68](#). *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 13(4): 609-621.

**Delgado, Elvin** (2015, in press) [Energy geographies: Thinking critically about energy issues in the classroom](#). *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*. DOI: 10.1080/03098265.2015.1089475

Clement, Charles R., **William M. Denevan**, Michael J. Heckenberger, Andre B. Junqueira, Eduardo G. Neves, Wenceslau G. Teixeira, and **William I. Woods**. (2015) [The domestication of Amazonia before European conquest](#). *Proceedings Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 282 (1813) July. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2015.0813

**Fadiman, Maria** (2015) TEDx Cancún- Invited Guest Speaker, [Yucatec Mayan Relationship with Nature: Local and Global Identity](#), Cancún.

Bozigar, M., **C. Gray**, and R. Bilsborrow. (2016) [Oil extraction and indigenous livelihoods in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon](#). *World Development* 78: 125–135. DOI:10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.10.035

Ettlinger, Nancy and **Hartmann, Chris** (2015) [Post/neo/liberalism in relational perspective](#). *Political Geography* 48: 37-48. DOI: doi:10.1016/j.polgeo.2015.05.009

**McAfee, K.** (2015) [The post- and future politics of green economy and REDD+](#). In *The Politics of Carbon Markets*, B. Stephan and R. Lane (eds.), pp. 237-260. New York: Routledge.

Shapiro, E. and **McAfee, K.** (2015) Les paiements pour services écosystémiques au Mexique: rhétoriques et pratiques. In [Le pouvoir de la biodiversité: Néolibéralisation de la nature dans les pays émergents](#). F. Thomas and V. Boisvert (eds.). France: IRD Éditions and Éditions Quae.

**McSweeney, Kendra** et al. (2015) [Seven Reasons to Scrap the \\$1 Billion Aid Package to Central America](#). *CIP Americas Program*, 30 June.

Mardero, S., **B. Schmook**, **C. Radel**, Z. Christman, D. Lawrence, M. Millones, E. Nickl, J. Rogan, and **L. Schneider**. 2015. [Smallholders' adaptations to droughts and climatic variability in southeastern Mexico](#). *Environmental Hazards*. 14(4): 271-288. DOI:10.1080/17477891.2015.1058741

**Turner II, B. L.**, J. Geoghegan, D. Lawrence, **C. Radel**, **B. Schmook**, C. Vance, S. Manson, E. Keys, D. Foster, P. Klepeis, H. Vester, J. Rogan, **R. Roy Chowdhury**, L. Schneider, R. Dickson, Y. Ogenva-Himmelberger. 2016. [Land system science and the social-environmental system: the case of Southern Yucatán Peninsular Region \(SYPR\) project](#). *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. 19:18-29. DOI:10.1016/j.cosust.2015.08.014

**Sili, Marcelo** (2014) [El cooperativismo agrario y su contribución al desarrollo rural. La experiencia de la Unión Agrícola de Avellaneda, Argentina.](#) En *Revista CIRIEC. Revista de economía pública, social y cooperativa*. España. Agosto 2014.

**Sili, Marcelo** (2014) [La cooperación internacional en materia agrícola y rural. La experiencia reciente en Argentina.](#) En *Revista Temas y Debates, Revista de Ciencias Sociales*. Universidad Nacional de Rosario. Diciembre 2014.

**Sluyter, Andrew** and Chris Duvall (2015) [African fire cultures, cattle ranching, and colonial landscape transformations in the neo-tropics.](#) *Geographical Review* 106. doi: 10.1111/j.1931-0846.2015.12138.x

**Sluyter, Andrew** (2015) [How Africans and their descendants participated in establishing open-range cattle ranching in the Americas.](#) *Environment and History* 21: 77- 101. DOI: 10.3197 /096734015X14183179969782

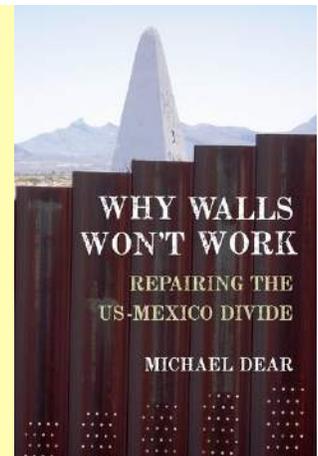
## New Publications/Books

**Dear, Michael** (2015) *Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the US-Mexico Divide*. Oxford University Press, New York. 9780190235253, 332 pages | Paperback | \$21.95

*“Why Walls Won't Work is an excellent book that offers valuable insight into the forces that fracture the borderlands, or the third nation. Dear's contribution is important and a regional survey of the borderlands.”*

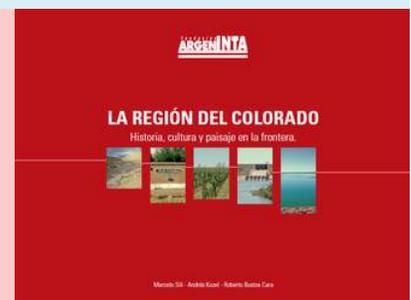
— **JOURNAL OF REGIONAL SCIENCE**

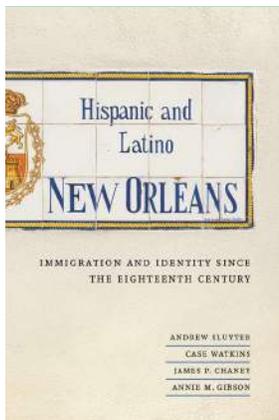
**Michael Dear** is a LASG member & Professor of City and Regional Planning in the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley.



**Sili, Marcelo, Ed.** (2015) [Atlas de la Argentina Rural](#). Capital Intelectual. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 298 pg.

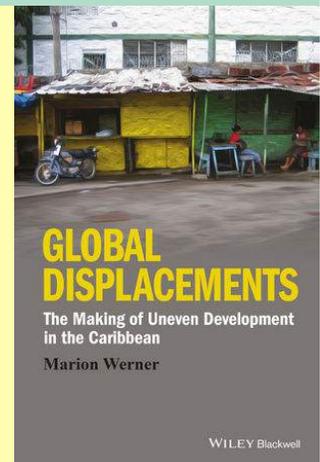
**Sili, Marcelo, Ed.** (2015, in press) [La Región del Colorado. Historia, cultura y paisaje en la frontera.](#) ArgenINTA, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 215 pg.





**Sluyter, Andrew, Case Watkins, James Chaney, and Annie M. Gibson** (2015) [\*Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity since the Eighteenth Century\*](#). Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

**Werner, Marion.** 2015. [\*Global Displacements: The Making of Uneven Development in the Caribbean\*](#). Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.



## UNAM Publications. *Artículos 2015* *Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental*

### Artículos indexados / Articles

Álvarez, Pablo, Georges Seingier, Gerardo Bocco, Ileana Espejel and Julie Noriega (2015) [\*Regional landscape change in fishing communities of the Mexican North Pacific\*](#). *Landscape Research*, 40(7): 855-874. DOI 10.1080/01426397.2015.1031095

**Bocco, Gerardo and Antoinette WinklerPrins** (2015, early view) [\*General principles behind traditional environmental knowledge: the local dimension in land management\*](#). *The Geographical Journal*. DOI: 10.1111/geoj.12147

Güiza, Frida, Peter Simmons, Michael K. McCall and Jacquie Burgess (2015, early view) [\*Chronic institutional failure exacerbates vulnerability to flash floods in Cuenca Alta del Río Lerma\*](#). *Disasters* DOI: 10.1111/disa.12134

Soler-Arechalde Ana, Avto Goguitchaichvili, Ángel Carrancho, Sergey Sedov, Cecilia I. Caballero-Miranda, Beatriz Ortega, Berenice Solis, Juan J. Morales Contreras, Jaime Urrutia-Fucugauchi and Francisco Bautista (2015) [\*A detailed paleomagnetic and rock-magnetic investigation of the Matuyama-Brunhes geomagnetic reversal recorded in the tephra-paleosol sequence of Tlaxcala \(Central Mexico\)\*](#). *Frontiers in Earth Science*, 20 April

## Libros / Books

Francisco Bautista, María Ángeles Gallegos Tavera, Oscar Álvarez Arriaga (2015) *La evaluación automatizada de las funciones ambientales del suelo con base en datos de perfiles*. UNAM – CIGA.

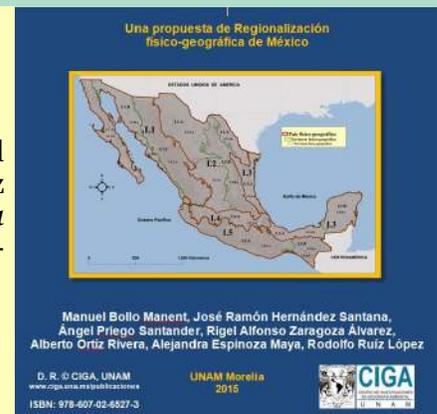


Tres niveles de análisis en la sierra-costa michoacana (Insumos para el ordenamiento ecológico)



Priego, Ángel and **Gerardo Bocco** (2015) *Tres niveles de análisis en la sierra-costa michoacana (Insumos para el ordenamiento ecológico)*. UNAM-CIGA.

Bollo Manent, Manuel, José Ramón Hernández Santana, Ángel Priego Santander, Rigel Alfonso Zaragoza Álvarez, Alberto Ortiz Rivera, Alejandra Espinoza Maya, Rodolfo Ruíz López (2015) *Una propuesta de regionalización físico-geográfica de México*. UNAM-CIGA.



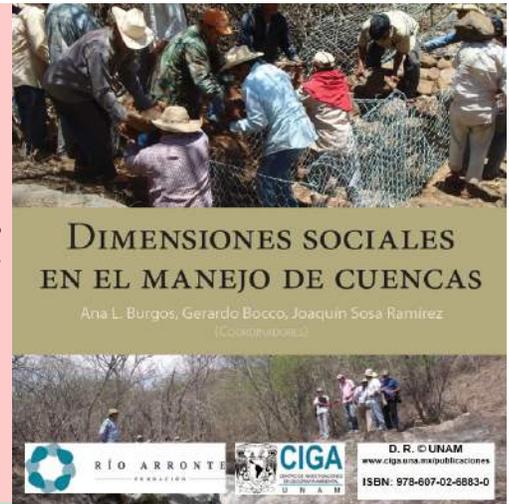
Sistema de análisis de datos para el monitoreo regional y local del cambio climático con índices agroclimáticos (MOCLIC)

Manual de usuario



Bautista Francisco, Dorian Antonio Bautista-Hernández, Oscar Álvarez and Diego de la Rosa (2015) *Software for the regional and local monitoring of climate change with agroclimatic indices (Moclic)*. UNAM-CIGA.

Burgos, Ana L., **Gerardo Bocco** and Joaquin Sosa Ramírez, Eds. (2015) *La dimensión social en el manejo de cuencas*. UNAM-CIGA, INECC.



Vessuri Hebe and **Gerardo Bocco**, Eds. (2015) *Conocimiento, paisaje, territorio. Procesos de cambio individual y colectivo*. Universidad Nacional de Río Negro/ Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral/ Centro Nacional Patagónico-CONICET.

## Maestría / Master's

**López de la Rosa, José Avertano**. (2015) Los nuevos paisajes mineros del oriente de Michoacán y occidente del Estado de México. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Isabel Ramírez.

**García, Luz Elena**. (2015) Transformaciones de los paisajes agrícolas de la cuenca del Lago de Pátzcuaro de 1990 a 2007: cambios en el uso de suelo y en el sector agropecuario. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Isabel Ramírez.

**López, Cruz**. (2015) Atributos visuales y ecológicos para la evaluación de las preferencias en el paisaje costero. Maestría Gestión Sustentable del Turismo. Universidad de Quintana Roo. Advisor: Sara Barrasa.

**Gómez, Enrique**. (2015). Turismo y apropiación del espacio, el caso de la Laguna de Bacalar. (MA Human Geography, Colegio de Michoacán). Advisor: Sara Barrasa.

**Caballero, José Luis**. (2015). Modelación prospectiva de la extracción de leña para carbón de la cuenca del lago de Cuitzeo, Michoacán. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Jean Francois Mas.

**Alvarado, Patricia**. 2015. El mundo, el puerto la mina. Articulaciones y discontinuidades en el caso del enclave Lázaro Cárdenas-La Mira. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Claudio Garibay.



**Barajas, Alma Guadalupe**. (2015). Uso del suelo y saberes locales municipio de la Huacana, Michoacán, México. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Francisco Bautista.

**Guzmán, Carina**. (2015). Aportaciones de los sistemas de información geográficos a los estudios históricos: modelo de simulación de cambio de cobertura y uso de suelo en Dzibanché, Quintana Roo, entre 250 d.C. y 900 d.C. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM): Advisor: Pedro Urquijo.

**Castillo, Beatriz.** (2015). Estudio comparativo de deforestación en dos regiones de México usando un modelo probabilístico espacial. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM): Advisor: Luis Miguel Morales.



**Fragoso, Marisol.** (2015) Distribución espacial de propiedades magnéticas y su relación con el contenido de metales pesados en las zonas urbana y costera de Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Bertha Aguilar. Mención Honorífica

**Lemoine, Richard.** (2015) Conurbaciones de la ciudad de Morelia, Michoacán, en el periodo 1970-2010 y su influencia en el sentido de pertenencia al lugar de sus habitantes (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Antonio Vieyra.

**Dassaef, Ian.** (2015) Análisis visual del paisaje con base en la planificación territorial, para el municipio de Angangueo edo. de Michoacán (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM): Advisor. Manuel Bollo.

## Doctorado / Doctorates

**Urquijo, Pedro.** (2015) Impacto en el paisaje por desaparición de pequeñas localidades, casos en México y Argentina. (PhD Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: **Gerardo Bocco.**

**Infante, Agustín.** (2015) Sustentabilidad y Sistemas de Manejo en Comunidades Indígenas en Chile. (PhD Universidad de Antioquia). Advisor: Marta Astier.

**Farfán, Michelle.** (2015) Escenarios de deforestación (2004-2018) en la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Manantlán y su impacto en las áreas potenciales de distribución de dos especies de felinos. (PhD Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Jean Francois Mas.



**Carlón, Teodoro.** (2015) Análisis dendrocronológico e influencia de variables climáticas en bosques templados de la reserva de la biósfera mariposa monarca, México (PhD Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Manuel Mendoza.

## Member News

In April and May 2016, **Jahzeel Aguilera Lara**, a master's degree student in geography (landscape management concentration) at the Research Center in Environmental Geography (CIGA) at the Universidad Autónoma de México (Morelia campus), will be a Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, where she will work with Assistant Professor **John Kelly** (Department of Geography and Earth Science) on participatory research mapping and GIS methods for use in her thesis work. Lic. Aguilera's advisor is UNAM geographer Pedro Urquijo.

**Christian Brannstrom** co-led a study abroad trip to Costa Rica, supervising student projects in Jacó and Puerto Viejo in July. He then spent August in Fortaleza, Brazil, where he taught a course on methods for socio-environmental research in the Department of Geography and participated in fieldwork on the impact of wind farms on traditional communities in coastal Fortaleza. These teaching and research activities were supported by a grant to the Universidade Federal do Ceará from Brazil's CAPES. (Photos taken in eastern Ceará, Aug. 2015)



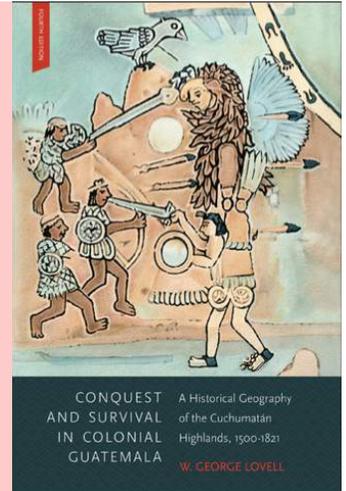
**Joel Correia** (University of Colorado, Boulder), was awarded a [National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant](#) (PI: **Dr. Joseph Bryan**) from the Geography and Spatial Sciences program in support of his current PhD research on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the Paraguayan Chaco.

**Elvin Delgado** received a Research Grant from the Patricia Galloway and Kris Nielsen Foundation (\$10,000) for the project: "Commodifying the Underground: Political Economy of Hydraulic Fracturing in Northern Patagonia, Argentina." With the support of the Patricia Galloway and Kris Nielsen Foundation grant, Elvin spent two months (July and August 2015) doing fieldwork in Argentina (one month in Buenos Aires and one month in Neuquén – northern Patagonia) for this new research.

- Elvin recently received the "Honoring Our Professors' Excellence Award," *National Residence Hall Honorary*, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA
- Recently Elvin was accepted with two other colleagues from Central Washington University to join the Cuba Higher Education Initiative sponsored by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The trip included 11 universities from USA. The group visited several Cuban universities and organizations located in Havana, Santa Clara, Ciego de Avila, and Camagüey. The trip began on October 24th until November 1st. Some of the goals of this trip were: (1) understand the Cuban higher education system; (2) have first-hand experience at a variety of institutional types; and (3) gain knowledge of Cuban structures for partnership building.



Continuing his investigations into the whereabouts of Guatemalan patrimony begun with Wendy Kramer and Christopher H. Lutz, **W. George Lovell** has had an illustrated piece called “Patrimonio perdido: Tesoros guatemaltecos en colecciones extranjeras” published online in *AMERICANIA*, the *Revista de Estudios Latinoamericanos de la Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla* (Nueva Época, no. 2, pp. 186-215, julio-diciembre, 2015). The piece, focusing on how materials housed at the Hispanic Society of America in New York were acquired by its founder, Archer Milton Huntington (1870-1955), via the acumen of the Leipzig book dealer Karl W. Hiersemann (1854-1928), may be accessed [HERE](#). A fourth edition of his first book, *Conquest and Survival in Colonial Guatemala: A Historical Geography of the Cuchumatán Highlands, 1500-1821*, is now available from McGill-Queen’s University Press. The new edition will be officially launched in Huehuetenango and Chiantla in Guatemala on December 11 and 12, and in Montreal on February 5, 2016. George’s presidency of the American Society of Ethnohistory (ASE) began at the close of its annual meeting in Las Vegas (November 5-7) and runs until the Society next convenes, in Nashville (November 9-12, 2016). Geographers with interests that pertain to the field of ethnohistory are encouraged to consider participating in the next ASE conference, an intimate, always lively, and stimulating affair.



**David López-Carr** was recently awarded with the [Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award](#) of Latin American and Iberian Studies. After three years as the Director of UC Santa Barbara’s Latin American and Iberian Studies program, David Lopez-Carr is leaving the LAIS program in new hands.

**Catherine Nolin** received the 2015 Community Advancement Award from the UNBC Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute in recognition of her dedication to field schools and experiential learning.

- Catherine is a member of CICADA (Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives) based at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Catherine is a co-leader of the research axis: Violence, Criminalization and Dispute Resolution in Resource Extractive Contexts
- Catherine received two small research grants to develop a research project with the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) titled: “Memory-Truth-Justice: The Crisis of the Living in the Search for Guatemala’s Dead and Disappeared.”

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**Karl Offen** was a contributing guest editor for issue 3 of volume 14 of *JLAG* entitled 'Mapping Latin American Geographies'. The issue builds upon a special session at the 2014 CLAG conference in Panama City, and contains a diverse representation of different work being done within Latin American geography across the hemisphere (and across the Atlantic) that makes use of historical maps in creative new ways, and above all seeks to locate them within larger geographic research.

**Marcelo Sili** (University Professor of Geography and Development at the Universidad Nacional del Sur – Argentina) is an expert in Territorial Development. Dr. Sili is a new CLAG member and would like to develop closer links with its members. Marcelo is willing to think and build new research projects on Latin America in conjunction with other network colleagues.





During the fall of 2014, **Steven Rainey** and Maura Rainey organized field notes and transcribed interviews from Fulbright-related fieldwork on the impacts of recently-constructed hydroelectric dams on the Madeira River in Rondônia, Brazil. Steven also prepared a manuscript for a special issue of the joint Brazilian-French online journal *Confins*. Steven also received a McNeese State University Shearman Family Professorship in Liberal Arts for conducting additional fieldwork in Rondônia during the summer of 2015.

Steven presented results of the previous field season's research at the Chicago AAG meeting and the Fortaleza CLAG meeting during the spring of 2015, and returned to Porto Velho to continue research on hydropower impacts. While interviews are being transcribed and translated,

Steven is preparing a manuscript on the 2014 Madeira River flood's impacts on riverside communities, and its role in reinvigorating controversies over the dams. This fall, Steven also applied for, and received, a second endowed professorship from McNeese State University to purchase a survey grade GPS unit for improving locational accuracy for soil sample collection sites and measurements of river bank retreat rates, and to support the creation of an advanced course on GIS and remote sensing applications.

**David Salisbury** received a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to facilitate the first Binational Ashaninka Congress and present the results at the COP21 meetings in Paris, France. David is currently on sabbatical in Granada, Spain. **Photo caption:** David Salisbury and Amazonian Indigenous Leaders in front of the UN Climate Change Conference entrance in Lima, Peru



**Andrew Sluyter** has joined the [LandCover6k project](#) as one of the land-use coordinators for the Americas.

- This is currently a working group within the PAGES ([Past Global Changes](#)) project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program ([IGBP](#)) but will transition to the new global sustainability science program called [Future Earth](#). The goal of LandCover6k is to create three global land-use maps, for 6,000 years ago, 1500, and 1850. Those maps will serve as the basis for calibrating models of anthropogenic land-cover change that, in turn, contribute to global climate models used to predict future environmental change.
- Andrew indicates that it is an exciting opportunity for historical geographers and the digital humanities to contribute to a global project of social and environmental significance at the same time that the improved models of the relationship between anthropogenic land-cover change and climate change will improve my interpretation of the details of landscape change in particular places. The land-use working group within LandCover6k had its first meeting in Paris in October in order to work out the land-use classifications.



**Claudia Radel, Beth Bee,** and Dianne Rocheleau were all invited speakers for Mexico's 1<sup>a</sup> Reunión Internacional de la Red Temática "Genero, Sociedad y Medio Ambiente," funded by CONACYT and held in Mérida, México, 5-6 November 2015.

Since retiring from Fresno State in May 2011, **James Kus** has lead six tours to Peru for Smithsonian, three for the Archaeological Institute of America, and several for universities and private groups. He has also lectured on the cruise ships Celebrity Infinity, Norwegian Sun, and Star Princess on voyages between California and Valparaiso and/or around southern South America.

**G. Thomas Lavanchy** received the Dr. Robert D. Rudd Memorial Award from the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Denver. This award recognizes outstanding graduate scholarship and research.

**Peter Wood** (Florida State University) recently attended a conference in Encarnación, Paraguay, presenting results from field work he conducted in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. The conference was focused on issues related to borders, and was bilingual (Portuguese and Spanish). Peter's research is on perceptions of participation and representation in urban development planning in the tri-border area between Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. Peter has spent some time there conducting interviews and collecting Q sorts (using Q methodology) to help understand what local development stakeholders value in development planning, whose participation they feel is limited or overrepresented, and what general worldview are present in those involved with development in the area.



## Recent Graduates and New Positions

Congratulations to the following people who are in new positions



**Martha Bell** (PhD, Penn State '13) started a new position as Professor of Geography in the Facultad de Humanidades, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), starting in August 2015.

**G. Thomas LaVanchy** (PhD, University of Denver '15) accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN starting September 2015.



## Congratulations to the following people who successfully defended their theses and dissertations

**Marie-Line Sarrazin** (2015) *The Political Ecology of Indigenous Territorial Struggles in the Darién, Panama: Land Invasions, Partial State Recognition, and Racialized Discrimination in the Emberá-Wounaan Collective Land Struggle*. MA in Department of Geography and School of the Environment, University of Toronto, September. [Supervisor: Christian Abizaid].

**Case Watkins** (2015) *An Afro-Brazilian Landscape: African Oil Palms and Socioecological Change in Bahia, Brazil*. PhD, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University [Supervisor: Andrew Sluyter]. He is currently an Instructor at James Madison University.

**G. Thomas LaVanchy**. 2015. *When Wells Run Dry: Water and Tourism Along The Western Coast of Nicaragua*. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Denver, Department of Geography and the Environment. Supervisor: Matthew Taylor

**Jamie Worms** (2015) *Mental Mapping the Transformation of Social Space in Rio's Oldest Favela: Morro da Providência*. PhD, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University. [Supervisor: Andrew Sluyter]. She is currently an Instructor at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

## Events and Conferences

Fortaleza Revisited: Executive Director Andrew Sluyter sends a few memories from Fortaleza, Brazil



Left to right: CLAG Editor; View from Fortaleza; Billie Lee Turner

## Then and Now (*Ayer y Hoy*)

### Announcing New Section: Then and Now

The LASG Co-Editors of the newsletter would like to announce the creation of a new section. Since 2008, CLAG and LASG have offered various awards to top students to assist them in their fieldwork and to recognize them for their high-quality writing and dissemination of research results. Our new section, *Then and Now* is an attempt to reconnect with past winners and to follow up with how these awards have helped establish the careers, projects, and activities they are pursuing today. Ultimately, the purpose of section is to demonstrate the long-standing impacts these awards can have on the academic trajectories of CLAG/LASG student members. Please get in touch with us if you have won a previous CLAG/LASG award and would like to be profiled in a future edition of *Then and Now*.

#### G. Thomas LaVanchy

I received the PhD Field Study Award in 2012 from LASG for my dissertation work on water and tourism in Nicaragua. Portions of the field study results were published (with my advisor Matthew Taylor) in an article titled “Tourism as Tragedy? Common problems with water in post-revolutionary Nicaragua” in the *International Journal of Water Resources Development*. Three additional articles are now in journal review or submission stages. The field study award from LASG provided a springboard for my research in Nicaragua that led to other successful grant proposals, meaningful and productive research in Nicaragua, and a rewarding dissertation

experience at the University of Denver. Latin America remains at the center of my research as a first year professor. The opportunity and need for understanding the nexus of groundwater and tourism in southwest Nicaragua continues to drive my research. I look forward to extending my research through data collection, engagement with local communities and tourism developers, and collaboration with academic colleagues, both in and outside of Nicaragua.



# Grad Student Awards

## Reports from CLAG Field Study Award Winners, 2015

Named Award	Recipient	Project Title
Bernard Nietschmann (PhD)	María Belén Noroña S., Univ Oregon (advisors: Derrick Hindery & Shaul Cohen)	Indigenous adaptation in fragile environments affected by urbanization and road expansion within their traditional community territory. (\$500)
Robert C. West (PhD)	Aaron Groth, Univ. Texas (advisor: Kenneth Young)	Property rights, land tenure, and Andean forest conservation. (\$1400)
Robert C. West (PhD)	Diego Pons, Univ Denver (advisor: Matthew Taylor)	Climate change and coffee adaptation: Development dendroclimatological records in the southern volcanic chain of Guatemala. (\$1500)
James J. Parsons (PhD)	Colleen Hammelman, Temple Univ. (advisor Alison Hayes-Conroy)	Connecting for survival: Understanding the spatial implications of migrant women's survival strategies in Medellín, Colombia. (\$1300)
James J. Parsons (PhD)	Nora Sylvander, Ohio State Univ. (advisor: Kendra McSweeney)	Saneamiento for whom? Adjudicating space and rights in Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, Nicaragua. (\$1500)
William M. Denevan (Master's)	Sophia Borgias, Univ. Arizona (advisor: Carl Bauer)	Conflict, change, and the challenges of water governance in Chile's Maipo River Basin. (\$500)
Clarissa Kimber (Master's)	Christine Woodward, Univ. Kentucky (advisor: Patricia Ehrkamp)	Transgendered space in urban Brazil. (\$800)

## Report Vignettes

Full Reports from the CLAG Field Student Award winners are available in the 'Community' section of the CLAG website here: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

**Colleen Hammelman's** (Temple University) research examines the political, economic, and environmental contexts in which displaced women in Medellín, Colombia, cope with food insecurity. In particular, this fieldwork focused on the agency of displaced women practicing urban agriculture and the impact of wider structural influences on their food insecurity coping strategies.

- Colleen spent July 2015 in Medellín, Colombia, conducting focus groups with 30 displaced women living in marginalized communities on the periphery of the city. This fieldwork was following up on 2.5 months of fieldwork in Medellín in 2014.
- During five focus groups Colleen used the qualitative GIS technique of sketch mapping during the meetings which offered insight into important spaces for procuring food, meeting daily needs, and holding community meetings in their neighborhoods.
- Driven by participants' interest in discussing their urban gardens, Colleen's research focused on the relationship between the powerful urban sustainability agenda of the government and the urban agriculture practices of less powerful, marginalized communities.
- Findings indicate that small urban gardens are a tremendous survival strategy community. Yet the land for the gardens is threatened by the city's planning of a greenbelt in the name of sustainability.

**Sophia Borgias's** (University of Arizona) MA research examines water governance in Chile, as prolonged drought and escalating conflicts are placing new pressures on the country's neoliberal legal framework for water management. Sophia is interested in how shifting environmental and social dynamics interact with water law and policy to shape decision-making, negotiation, and conflict resolution. *Photos by David Vonnegut Chambers*

- During the summer in the Maipo River basin in central Chile, Borgias split time between the capital city of Santiago and the mountainous upper basin area known as the Cajón del Maipo, with some excursions into the lower basin agricultural communities.
- In Santiago, Borgias participated in meetings, workshops, and roundtables about water management, climate change, and water code reform. Sophia conducted 50 semi-structured interviews with NGO representatives, private water companies, water user organizations, academics, activists, and government officials; and also collected pertinent legal and policy documents.
- Three main themes emerging from the data are the perceptions of water scarcity within the context of drought and climate change, the role of social movements in water conflicts, and the implications of the administrative river sectioning on water user organizations and conflict resolution.
- Sophia is also collaborating on several publications and a photo project that highlight some of this work. Visit <http://www.davidvonnegutchambers.com/maipo/> to see some of the stories. from the Maipo basin come to life.



**María Belén Noroña's** (University of Oregon) PhD research examines Indigenous adaptation in fragile environments affected by urbanization and road expansion within their traditional community territory.

- Belén's summer research was aimed at collecting preliminary information to better understand how indigenous peoples adapt to the growth of modern towns and new roads as the oil extraction industry expands into their territories.
- Belén spent two weeks in the cities of Quito and Coca during August and two weeks living with and amongst indigenous and peasant families from three different communities: Tereré, Pañayacu and Pañacocha (in September). In the Amazon, she was able to collect ten interviews with household heads and community leaders, attend two community assemblies, and collect several pages of notes while doing participant observations.
- Key initial findings: (1) despite the fact that at least 9 similar urban projects and associated roads will be built in the Amazon in the next year, the case of Pañacocha shows that, because the population in the lower Amazon is still reliant on subsistence agriculture, fishing and forest gathering, small urban areas in the region will not be used for housing purposes unless there are regional economic and cultural transformations to mediate a transition to waged labor; and (2) local leaders are worried about foreign unskilled labor being attracted to the area to join the oil sector and so local communities such as Pañacocha are trying to legalize their territories as communal land to prevent land alienation.

**PHOTO 1:** Interview with Franco Viteri, President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Amazon Region in Ecuador and **PHOTO 2:** Pañacocha city. Courtesy of Petroamazonas.



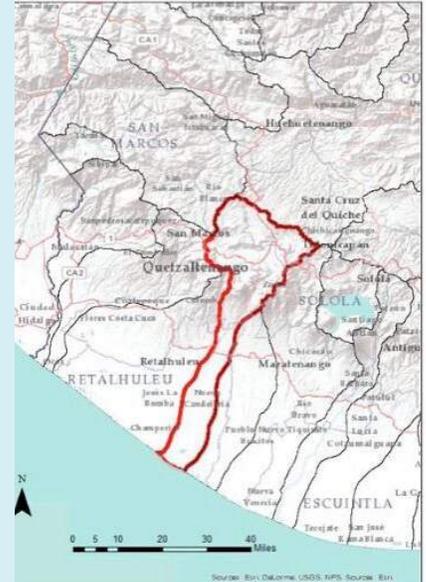
**Aaron Groth's** (University of Texas – Austin) initial fieldwork focused upon identifying actors influencing Andean forest conservation, and also developing a typology of livelihoods and land uses.

- Aaron's first season of dissertation research was spent in Peru for three months in total; two months spent in his study areas of Apurímac (Mancomunidad Saywite-Choquequirao-Ampay); Province of Abancay (districts of Huanipaca, Curahuasi, Tamburco, and San Pedro de Cachora); Province of Andahuaylas (district of Pacobamba). In Lima, Groth met with a number of government institutions and non-governmental organizations and universities.
- Aaron conducted over 20 interviews with government officials and NGO staff, and met with a number of mayors and community leaders. In coordination with a local NGO, Aaron undertook six community research workshops where workshop participants produced over 20 maps, during a participatory mapping component.
- Aaron made a number of contacts with Professors and students of the Agronomy and Environmental Engineering Departments at the Universidad Tecnológico de los Andes (UTEA) and with the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FMVZ) of the Universidad Nacional Michaela Bastides de Apurímac (UNAMBA), both located in the Regional Capital of Abancay.



**Diego Pons** (University of Denver) is studying climate change and coffee adaptation through the process of developing dendroclimatological records in the southern volcanic chain of Guatemala.

- Diego spent two months in Guatemala collecting dendrochronological samples during an intense field trip to these highlands (visited the forest known at “Kanchej” located in Cantel, Quetzaltenango at 10,200 ft.) within the Salamá River watershed.
- Samples were mounted and sanded at Del Valle University in Guatemala to assist in the training of interested university students
- Through the Fall months, cores will be measured to 0.001mm precision; cross-dating will be assessed and verified using the program COFECHA; and, depending on the length of years on the samples, Diego plans to detrend the measured rings accordingly and create a master chronology using Arstan software. Calibration of the chronology will be evaluated against yearly and monthly rainfall, obtained from local meteorological data from the official weather Institute (INSIVUMEH) and by the network of National Coffee Association (ANACAFE).
- If this initial sampling and subsequent data analysis proves successful, that is, *Abies guatemalensis* reliably reflects precipitation regimes of the southern volcanic slopes of Guatemala, Diego will return to collect more samples from the same and similar sites.



**PHOTO 1:** Site of collection of dendrochronological samples at the Salamá River watershed (red). **PHOTO 2:** Dendrochronological samples obtained with support of the CLAG fieldtrip award.



**Christine Woodward's** (University of Kentucky) Master's research examines transgendered space in urban Brazil.

- Christine spent five weeks carrying out fieldwork in Brazil, meeting Brazilian scholars working on trans topics, conducting sixteen interviews with transgendered Brazilians, and carrying out participant observation to document the ways in which, for example, the changing space of an urban street was changing bodies, and how those bodies were working to change the street.
- Christine took a day trip to the Universidade Federal de São Paulo where the Sociology department is well-known for its collective work on issues of gender and sexuality. Additionally, much time was spent with the Geography department at the Universidade de São Paulo.



**Photo caption:** A freshly painted mural as seen from the Minhocão. The Minhocão is an elevated highway that closes to car traffic on Sundays. The road runs parallel to Rua Rêgo Freitas and empties near Praça Roosevelt.

**Nora Sylvander's** (The Ohio State University) doctoral research investigates the premises of *saneamiento*, the reportedly last phase of indigenous land titling in Nicaragua's Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. While intended to be an issue of cadastral regularization conducted by the state, *saneamiento* in practice (aka "*autosaneamiento*"), Nora argues, is serving to 'cleanse' non-indigenous mestizos from indigenous lands.

- Nora conducted preliminary fieldwork in Nicaragua this summer, spending 6 weeks in Managua conducting semi-structured and in-depth interviews with policy makers, NGOs and international organizations and saved a more in-depth analysis of implications of *saneamiento* and marginalization at the local level for the second phase of the research.
- Preliminary findings include: (1) the slowness of the government to implement *saneamiento*, and the implications of this; (2) as for the drivers of mestizo migration to the agricultural frontier in Bosawas, Nora found out that there are powerful actors that may use poor mestizo peasants as an instrument to gain access to yet new areas of indigenous territories in Bosawas. These uneven power relations may, to a certain extent, also explain why the government has thus far been unenthusiastic to carry out *saneamiento*.

## Members

### Section Highlighting Contributors to the Fall Newsletter

CLAG contributions received

**Christian Abizaid** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and School of the Environment at the University of Toronto in Toronto, ON. Internet: <http://geography.utoronto.ca/profiles/christian-abizaid/> Email: [christian.abizaid@utoronto.ca](mailto:christian.abizaid@utoronto.ca)

**Mariel Aguilar-Støen** is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Studies of Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo, Norway.

**Reuben Allen** is an Instructor in the Department of Geography at Ball State University in Muncie, IN.

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