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CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) and AAG Latin America Specialty Group (LASG)

Dr. Catherine Nolin & Alexandra Pedersen, Co-Editors

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Website: <http://clagscholar.org/>
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LASG Correspondence:

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 Website: <http://community.aag.org/lasg.home>
 New Facebook and Twitter profiles: TBA



Visit the **2015 CLAG Conference** [page](#) created by the Universidade Federal do Ceará.

**Join CLAG in Fortaleza, Brazil
May 26-30, 2015!**

**Further Information on page 28
of Newsletter.**

Letter from CLAG Chair, Karl Offen

CLAGistas,

We had a great showing at the AAG meeting in Chicago. CLAG co-sponsored with LASG and Development Geographies Specialty Group four outstanding sessions on Wednesday titled Central American 'Crisis' Revisited. Headed up by Kendra McSweeney, Zoe Pearson and Brian Williams, with impassioned participation by many others, the sessions sought to challenge the media hype entangling the Peninsula by putting the region, its history, its landscapes and politicized environments into a more meaningful and empirical context, one strongly tied to a history of U.S. domestic policies, economic interests, and regional security initiatives. What I appreciated most was the empirical richness, narrative complexity, and ethical reflections that the speakers and discussants provided. Hopefully we can look forward to future CLAG initiatives of this kind.

Thursday at the AAG was a long day for CLAG board members. We met for our annual board meeting at 6:45 am and stayed huddled in our room until 9:15. Four of the five Executive Committee members were new to their posts, and it was JLAG editor Chris Gaffney's first chance to meet with the Board in person. The minutes will be posted to the CLAG web page soon, perhaps by the time you're reading this. The Business meeting Thursday evening was too short and one of the many things we wanted to talk about was the CLAG 2017 conference slated for New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA 2017!). Thursday night was the CLAG party, and a party it was. Kendra McSweeney arranged for the annual CLAG fiesta at Blue Frog's Local 22 (family owned!), and from what I could tell a good time was had by all.

A few days ago I put out a call for CLAG Board nominations. Please consider serving a 3-year term, or asking someone you think would make a good board member if you could submit their name. I think CLAG is especially interested in getting new blood on the board and ultimately into positions of leadership. Nominations are open until May 31st. please send nominations to me at koffen62@gmail.com. Web voting by all CLAG members will ensue shortly thereafter.

Last but not least I would like to take a moment to thank Taylor Mack for his years of service to CLAG. He wrote me recently to say he would be unable to fulfill the remaining year on his umpteenth board term. Taylor is a lifetime CLAG member, he's served as CLAG chair and vice chair, he's been CLAG Newsletter editor, and he's chaired several CLAG committees over the last dozen or more years. Mil gracias compañero, pronto nos vemos.

Karl Offen, CLAG Chair
Oberlin College

Letter from LASG Chair, Claudia Radel

We had a productive and fun time at the AAG Meetings in Chicago. At the Thursday evening business meeting, which was well attended, we voted unanimously to adopt the proposed revisions to the LASG bylaws. We elected three graduate students to serve as LASG Graduate Student Directors. These students will serve terms of two years and will join the other officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer) in guiding LASG activities. We also selected two LASG members to work on the *CLAG-LASG Newsletter*, together with the CLAG editors. These members are both graduate students as well: Adrienne Johnson (Clark University) and Nikolai Alexander Alvarado (University of Denver).



The presence and engagement of so many outstanding students within our specialty group is exciting! The leadership these students will assume in our group is highly appropriate and welcome, given that our membership is now almost half students.

We then awarded prizes to five great graduate students in support of their excellent work (see elsewhere here in this newsletter for details). A great thanks to all of you who served on the selection committees (Brittany Davis, Steve Drier, John Finn, and Rachel Russell, for the field study awards; Ashley Coles, Anne-Marie Hanson, Sharlene Mollett, Peter Richards, and Mathew Taylor for the paper awards). Special thanks to our Vice-Chair, John Finn, for coordinating this whole process.

From our meeting, one item of business remains for us to consider over the coming months—How do we want to proceed following our experience with the new paper category for multi-authored papers? Vice-Chair John Finn will take the lead in pursuing the discussion online with the membership in the near future. We then had an AMAZING party at Blue Frog Local 22. Coming from Utah, I have to say that the beer was outstanding. My thanks to Ben Tillman, our Secretary-Treasurer, for his work organizing this party together with CLAG Vice-Chair, Kendra McSweeney.

As many of you know, I participated on a panel in Chicago on the relevance of the “region” within the AAG and within the discipline. I did so in my capacity as LASG Chair and solicited input from members to inform my remarks. The panel, “The Re-birth of the Region,” was not particularly well-attended, perhaps because it took place on the Tuesday of the Meetings. I thought that some of you might be interested in the sense I made of the member input I received (from 19 of you), combined with my own take on the role that LASG plays in our professional networks. I have written up my remarks and share them below.

Now, as we head into the summer, I wish us all rewarding fieldwork seasons, moments of recharge with family and friends, and personal and professional satisfaction with whatever the summer and then fall brings you!

Adelante!

Claudia, LASG Chair, Utah State University

CLAG Board Members

CLAG Chair: Karl Offen

Executive Director: Andrew Sluyter (new!)

CLAG Vice Chair: Kendra McSweeney

JLAG Editor: Christopher Gaffney (new!)

Terms ending June 30, 2015

Kristen Conway-Gómez

Claudia Radel

Luis Sánchez

Michael Steinberg

Terms ending June 30, 2016

Gerardo Bocco

Heidi Scott

Robert B. Kent (CLAG Treasurer)

Julie Velásquez Runk

Taylor Mack

Terms ending June 30, 2017

Sarah Blue

Richard Hunter

Rebecca Clouser (CLAG Secretary)

Alexandra Pedersen (Student Rep)

J. Christopher Brown

Jörn Seemann

Christian Abizaid

Jeffrey Smith

LASG Officers (2014-2016)

LASG Chair: Claudia Radel

LASG Secretary/Treasurer: Ben Tillman

LASG Vice-Chair: Johnny Finn



Radel



Finn



Tillman

New LASG Graduate Student Directors (2015-2017)

Diego Pons, University of Denver

Anna Sveinsdóttir, University of Denver

Joshua Rudow, University of Texas Austin



Pons



Rudow



Sveinsdóttir

Note from the Co-Editors

Dear CLAGistas & LASG members,

We are really pleased to share the news that we have two new LASG liaisons for the newsletter who will bring to us news from our LASG colleagues: **Adrienne Johnson and Nikolai Alvarado**. We will maintain our role as Co-Editors of the Newsletter and, over the next months, work with **Adrienne** and **Nikolai** - who volunteered and were selected at the LASG-CLAG Business Meeting at the AAG in Chicago – to best work with a team of four. We are so fortunate to benefit from the participation of so many graduate students in CLAG & LASG. Welcome, Adrienne and Nikolai! We look forward to all the LASG news that you will share with us over the next two years, both in the newsletter and in the social media world.

- Catherine & Alexandra

Saludos a todos,

Curating a highly detailed, organized, and fun-to-read newsletter is no small feat. But Catherine Nolin and Alexandra Pedersen have done a formidable job this past academic year keeping both the CLAG and LASG communities up-to-date with current news items via the standard newsletter but also through brand new social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. We are delighted to join these efforts in the coming 2015-16 academic year to make the CLAG/LASG newsletter better than ever! Although our work will focus more on collecting and reporting on recent events and accomplishments from LASG, we are committed to expanding the CLAG/LASG network and to showcasing the excellent work of geographers doing research in Latin American.

Please feel free to get in touch with us at: **LASGnewsletter@gmail**. In the coming months, we will also establish a social media presence so stay tuned for that!

- Best Wishes, Adrienne and Nikolai

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New: LASG Newsletter Liaisons & LASG Social Media Co-Editors:

Adrienne Johnson is a PhD Candidate at the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, Worcester, MA. Internet: http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Adrienne_Johnson2 Email: AdJohnson@clarku.edu

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

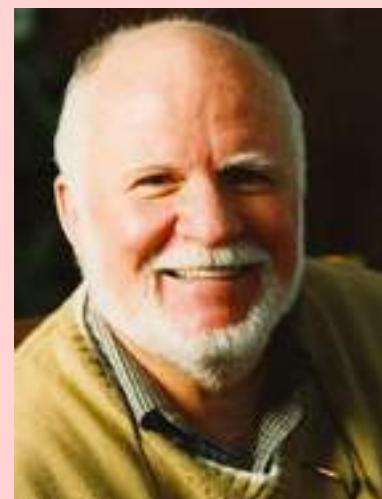


Congratulations to our Distinguished Scholars!

Leading up to the CLAG Conference in Fortaleza, Brazil, we would like to remind you of the recipients of CLAG's most prestigious awards. Full details are included on pg. 4 of the Fall 2014 newsletter.

Billie Lee (B.L.) Turner II, CLAG 2015 Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award

CLAG is very pleased to announce that BL Turner II is the 2015 recipient of the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award. Dr. Turner received the CLAG Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award in 1986, and since that time, he has garnered many other honors and awards. Prof. Turner is currently the Gilbert F. White Professor of Environment and Society at Arizona State University's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (since 2008). In a range of capacities, he has brought the discipline of geography into a larger interdisciplinary scientific conversation and elevated the profile and policy relevance both of Latin Americanist geography and human-environment geography.





Diana Liverman, CLAG's 2015 Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award

CLAG is very pleased to announce that Diana Liverman is the 2015 recipient of the CLAG Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award. Dr. Liverman is co-director (since 2009) of the Institute of the Environment and Regents Professor in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona, where she previously directed the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) (1996-2003). Prof. Liverman is a leading authority on the human dimensions of global climate change and arguably one of the most important and influential geographers engaged in environmental research in Latin America.

New Publications/Papers & Reports:

Click on article title to go directly to the publication

Arozarena, I., Houser, C., Gutiérrez Echeverría, A., **Brannstrom, C.** 2015. [The rip current hazard in Costa Rica](#). *Natural Hazards* 77(2): 753-768. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-015-1626-9

Frate, C.A and **C. Brannstrom**. 2015. [Will Brazil's ethanol ambitions undermine its agrarian reform goals? A study of social perspectives using Q-method](#). *Journal of Rural Studies* 38, April: 89-98. DOI: 10.1016/j.jrurstud.2014.10.007

Iribarnegaray, M.A., de la Zerda, M.F.E., Hutton, C. M., **Brannstrom, C.**, Liberal, V.I., Tejerina, W., and Seghezze, L. 2014. [Water-conservation policies in perspective: Insights from a Q-method study in Salta, Argentina](#). *Water Policy* 16: 897-916. DOI: 10.2166/wp.2014.159

Brannstrom, C. 2015. [Brazil](#). In *Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic and Regional Survey*, 7th edition. B.W. Blouet and O.M. Blouet (eds.), pp. 293-318. New York: Wiley.

Brannstrom, C. 2014. Geography: [Brazil](#). In *Handbook of Latin American Studies: No. 69: Social Sciences*. T. North (ed.), pp. 178-187. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Crane, N.J. 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.

Crane, N.J. and Kusek, W. 2014. [Embracing dissensus: Reflections on contemporary research strategies in cultural geography](#). *Journal of Cultural Geography* 31(2): 121-126. DOI: 10.1080/08873631.2014.906857

Fadiman, M. 2015. [January 30: Amazon and the Planet](#). In *Global Chorus: 365 Voices on the Future of the Planet*. T. Mclean (ed). p. 32. Victoria, BC, Canada: Rocky Mountain Books.

Fry, M., Ponette-González, A.G. and Young, K.R. 2015. [A low-cost GPS-based protocol to create high-resolution DEMs for remote mountain areas](#). *Mountain Research and Development* 35(1): 39-48. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-14-00065.1>

Davis, J. Bilsborrow, R., and **Gray, C.** 2015. [Delayed fertility transition among indigenous women: A case study in the Ecuadorian Amazon](#). *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 41(1): 1-10. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1363/4100115>

- Gray, C.,** Bozigar, M., and Bilsborrow, R. 2015. [Declining use of wild resources by indigenous peoples of the Ecuadorian Amazon](#). *Biological Conservation* 182: 270–277.
- Hanson, A.** 2015. [Women's ecological oral histories of recycling and development in coastal Yucatán](#). *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2015.1013445
- Hilburn, A.** 2015. [Participatory risk mapping of garbage-related issues in a rural Mexican municipality](#). *Geographical Review* 105(1): 41–60. DOI: 10.1111/j.1931-0846.2014.12044.x
- Hunter, R.,** and **Sluyter, A.** 2015. [Sixteenth-century soil carbon sequestration rates based on Mexican land-grant documents](#). *The Holocene* 25: 880–885. DOI: 10.1177/0959683615569323
- López-Carr, D.** and Marter-Kenyon, J. 2015. [Comment: Human adaptation: Manage climate-induced resettlement](#). *Nature*. 517: 265–267.
- Boni, A., Garibay, C., and **McCall, M.K.** 2014. [Sustainable mining, indigenous rights and conservation: Conflict and discourse in Wirikuta/Catorce, San Luis Potosi, Mexico](#). *GeoJournal* DOI: 10.1007/s10708-014-9593-3
- McCall, M.K.** 2014. [Mapping territories, land resources and rights: Communities deploying participatory mapping/PGIS in Latin America](#). *Revistado Departamento de Geografía, USP (FFLCH/USP)* Vol. Especial Cartogeo, pp. 94–122. DOI: 10.7154/RDG.2014.0114.0004
- Madsen K.D.** 2014. [A Basis for Bordering: Land, Migration, and Inter-Tohono O'odham Distinction along the U.S.-Mexico Line](#). In *Placing the Border in Everyday Life*, R. Jones and C. Johnson (eds.), pp. 93–116. London: Ashgate.
- Mollett, S.** 2014 [‘Bargaining with Patriarchy’: Miskito Struggles over Family Land in the Rio Plátano Biosphere Reserve](#). In *Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas: A New Paradigm Linking Conservation, Culture, and Rights*, S. Stevens (ed.), Chp. 8. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Mollett, S.** 2014. [A reply to Wainwright's Geopiracy: Oaxaca, Militant Empiricism and Geographical Thought. Unpacking our “privilege to plunder.”](#) *Human Geography*, 7(3): 71–75. (Book Review).
- Mullaney, E.G.** 2014. [Geopolitical maize: Peasant seeds, everyday practices, and food security in Mexico](#). *Geopolitics* 19(2): 406–30. DOI: 10.1080/14650045.2014.920232
- Nolin, C.** and Fraser, C. 2015. *Feminicidio: Placing gendered violence in Guatemala*. *Western Geography* 20.
- Offen, K.** 2012. [Historical geography I: Vital traditions](#). *Progress in Human Geography* 36(4): 527–540. DOI: 10.1177/0309132511417964
- Offen, K.** 2013. [Historical geography II: Digital imaginations](#). *Progress in Human Geography* 37(4): 562–574. DOI: 10.1177/0309132512462807
- Offen, K.** 2014. [Historical geography III: Climate matters](#). *Progress in Human Geography* 38(3): 476–489. DOI: 10.1177/0309132513501429
- Ponette-González, A.G.,** Brauman, K.A., Marín-Spiotta, E., Farley, K.A., Weathers, K.C., Young, K.R. and Curran, L.M. 2014. [Managing water services in tropical regions: From land cover proxies to hydrologic fluxes](#). *Ambio* DOI: 10.1007/s13280-014-0578-8.
- Ponette-González, A.G.** and **Fry, M.** 2014. [Enduring footprint of historical land tenure on modern land cover in eastern Mexico: Implications for environmental services programmes](#). *Area* 46(4): 398–409. DOI: 10.1111/area.12125.

de Souza, P.A., **Ponette-González, A.G.**, Z de Mello, W., Weathers, K.C. and Santos, I.A. 2015. [Atmospheric organic and inorganic nitrogen inputs to coastal urban and montane Atlantic Forest sites in southeastern Brazil](#). *Atmospheric Research* 160: 126-137. DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosres.2015.03.011

Navarro-Olmedo, S., Haenn, N., **Schmook, B.** and **Radel, C.** 2015. [The legacy of Mexico's agrarian counter-reforms: Reinforcing social hierarchies in Calakmul, Campeche](#). *Journal of Agrarian Change*. DOI: 10.1111/joac.12095.

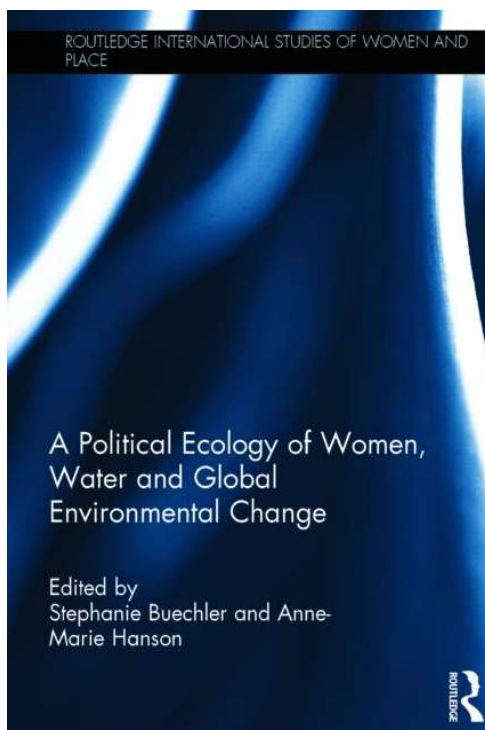
Ramírez, I.J. 2015. [Cholera resurgence in Piura, Peru: Examining climate associations during the 1997-98 El Niño](#). *GeoJournal* 80(1): 129-143. DOI: 10.1007/s10708-014-9541-2

Scarpaci, J.L. 2015. [A tale of two cities: Hialeah's economic ties with Havana](#). *FOCUS on Geography* 58: 49-58. DOI: 10.1111/foge.12049

Vargas-del-Río, D. 2014. [The assistive conservation approach for community-based lands: The case of La Ventanilla](#). *The Geographical Journal* 180(4): 377-391. DOI: 10.1111/geoj.1205

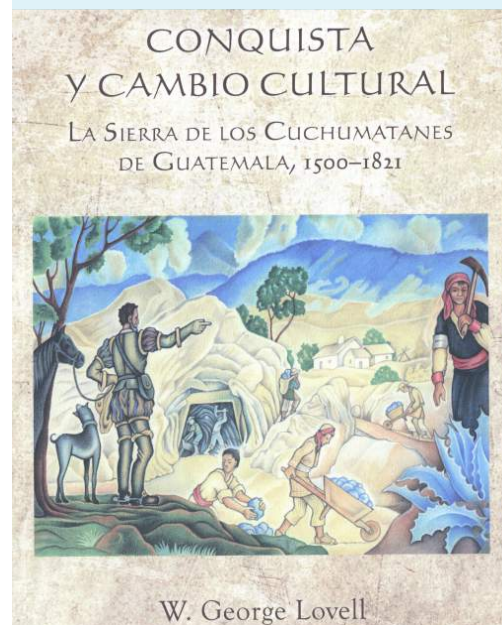
Watkins, C. 2015. [African oil palms, colonial socioecological transformation and the making of an Afro-Brazilian landscape in Bahia, Brazil](#). *Environment and History* 21(1): 13-42. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096734015X14183179969700>

New Publications/Books



Buechler, S. and **Hanson, A.** (eds.). 2015. [A Political Ecology of Women, Water, and Global Environmental Change](#). London: Routledge.

Lovell, W. George [1990] 2015. *Conquista y cambio cultural: La sierra de los Cuchumatanes de Guatemala, 1500-1821, Revised & Expanded 2nd Ed.* Antigua Guatemala: Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA).



Members News

The National Science Foundation recently awarded **Héctor Agredano Rivera (Co-PI)** and **Professor James Biles (PI)** a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement award for the project: "Doctoral Dissertation Research: Railroads, Railroad Workers and Geographies of Social Change" (Award #1459108).

- ✿ With this funding, Héctor will conduct archival research in Mexico for the coming year. This project "will focus on the role of railroads and railroad workers during the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) in order to systematically analyze the role of transportation in the production of space and democratic social change.
- ✿ Although the Mexican Revolution is usually thought of as a series of agrarian revolts, the railroad and railroad workers played an important and often decisive role at various stages of the Revolution. This project focuses on railroad workers and their working conditions in order to understand how transportation infrastructures are fundamental to social change.
- ✿ In so doing it will offer new insights into the process of national identity formation and make novel theoretical contributions to labor history, transportation geography, and critical social theory. An additional benefit of this study is the indexing of a variety of archival materials and the creation of original, historical GIS datasets that future scholars can build upon."



Warm congratulations to Clark University Professor of Geography **Anthony Bebbington** who was among 164 influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at a ceremony in Cambridge on October 11, 2014. Full details [HERE](#).



Suffering from CLAG withdrawal symptoms after leaving the position of CLAG Chair in July 2014, **Christian Brannstrom** became Director of two undergraduate degree programs, Environmental Studies and Environmental Geosciences, in September 2014.

- ✿ In June will co-lead a study abroad trip for undergraduates to Costa Rica, focusing on Jaco' and Puerto Viejo beaches before turning over the program to his colleague Steven Quiring at the Soltis Center, a Texas A&M University property located near La Fortuna.
- ✿ He also co-supervised (with Alessandra Carvalho) a Brazilian Master's student, Lucas Vinicius Erichsen da Rocha, who defended his thesis at the Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, Paraná in April 2015.

Jeff Brewer (PhD Candidate in Geography at the University of Cincinnati) and his advisor & project PI **Nicholas P. Dunning**, recently received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for 2015/16 for Jeff's dissertation research entitled "Ancient Maya Water Management at the Early Urban Center of Yaxnohcah, Mexico."

- ✿ This research employs a combination of archaeological excavation and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) analysis to identify and investigate water management features at the Maya urban center of Yaxnohcah in Southern Campeche, Mexico. Jeff's work is taking place within the Yaxnohcah Archaeological Project, a tri-national, interdisciplinary program comprised on scholars from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. More information [HERE](#).



Maria Fadiman, Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University, works with the human / environmental aspect of conservation and works primarily in rural areas with indigenous people and subsistence agriculturalists.

- ✿ This summer, Maria will serve as the National Geographic Expert on a student field course in Ecuador.

Eric D. Carter (Associate Professor of Geography at Macalester College) received a pair of prestigious grants to support his upcoming research and teaching in Latin America: an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship and a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award.

- ✿ For a book project entitled "The Health of the People: A History of Latin American Social Medicine," Eric will conduct archival research in Argentina, Chile, and Costa Rica during his post-tenure sabbatical in 2015-2016. The main goals of the project are to understand the ideological roots of socially conscious health policies in Latin America and the institutional and interpersonal networks that sustained them, from the 1920s onward.
- ✿ This new project builds on Carter's previous research on the history of public health in the region, particularly the book *Enemy in the Blood: Malaria, Environment, and Development in Argentina* (University of Alabama Press, 2012).
- ✿ With his Fulbright, Eric will also be teaching a graduate-level course for three months on "Health, Society, and Environment" at the Advanced Social Studies Institute at the National University of Tucumán, in Northwest Argentina.





The AAG Water Resources Specialty Group awarded **G. Thomas LaVanchy**, PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography and the Environment (University of Denver), with their 2015 Graduate Student Paper Competition Award, for his paper: "Tourism as Tragedy? Common problems with water in post-Revolutionary Nicaragua." (Available [HERE](#)).

UC Santa Barbara's **David López-Carr** was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in November 2014. One of 20 elected for distinguished contributions to the field of geology and geography, he was recognized specifically for advancing the scientific understanding of the coupled process of human population dynamics and environmental change.

- ✱ David has received various academic honors, including the 2002 Nystrom Award for outstanding paper based on a dissertation in the field of geography.
- ✱ In 2013, he was one of a select handful of geographers and social scientists chosen as Kavli Frontiers of Science fellows.
- ✱ Full details of the AAAS news found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



Kendra McSweeney, Associate Professor of Geography (The Ohio State University), presented to over 100 delegates at a special meeting, Identifying Common Ground on Development for UNGASS 2016 on the World Drug Problem at UN Headquarters on May 6, 2015 (full video [HERE](#)).

- ✱ Panelists considered how global development and drug policy goals can better be aligned with the work of the UN system in the run-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in 2016. Kendra presents her materials from about 49min. to 1hr. 4min. in this video.



A winter-term sabbatical leave saw **W. George Lovell** spend January to March conducting SSHRC-funded archival research in Spain, with April set aside for a sojourn in Guatemala. While in Spain, he traveled from Seville to Lisbon for a presentation of [Saqueo en el Archivo: El paradero de los tesoros documentales guatemaltecos](#) (2014), a book co-authored with Wendy Kramer and Christopher H. Lutz.

- ✻ The publication of a revised and expanded second edition of his monograph on the [Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Conquista y cambio cultural](#) ([1990] 2015), afforded George the opportunity not only of launching the book in La Antigua Guatemala but also in the region itself, in Huehuetenango and the Maya communities of Chaculá, Yalambojoch, and San Mateo Ixtatán.
- ✻ In London in July, George will attend and present a paper at the 16th International Conference of Historical Geographers, a gathering that also marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the [Journal of Historical Geography](#). One of his articles, “To Submit and to Serve: Forced Native Labour in the Cuchumatán Highlands of Guatemala, 1525-1821” (1983), was selected for inclusion in an editors’ pick of contributions spanning the journals content over the past four decades.
- ✻ July 1 sees him assume regular teaching, supervisory, and administrative duties at Queen’s University for academic year 2015-2016.



David Salisbury, Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment, received the University of Richmond’s 2015 International Education Award and the University of Richmond School of Arts and Sciences 2015 Outstanding Mentor award.

- ✻ Pictured here are seven University of Richmond students who conducted research in Peru along with two counterparts from the Universidad Nacional de Ucayali in Peru who attended the University of Richmond’s Research Symposium banquet.

PhD Candidate **Emma Gaalaas Mullaney** (Geography & Women's Studies at Penn State) was recent appointed as a lead author for the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Assessment of the *UNEP GEO-6 report*.

[United Nations Environmental Programme, Regional Assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-6), Panama City, Panama, 2015]. Emma is also the recipient of an amazing number of awards this past year:

2015:

- ✿ United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Fellowship
- ✿ Women's Studies Department Sara Woods Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
- ✿ Geography Department E. Willard Miller Paper Award, Doctor of Philosophy, 1st place
- ✿ AAG Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group (CAPE) Student Paper Award
- ✿ AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Award
- ✿ Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Graduate Paper Award

2014:

- ✿ Women's Studies Department Sara Woods Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- ✿ Pennsylvania State University Spirit of Internationalization Award
- ✿ Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) Jennifer Fluri and Amy Trauger Essay Competition, 1st place



This spring, **Heidi V. Scott** (Assistant Professor of History, University of Massachusetts Amherst) guest curated an exhibition entitled *Subterranean Worlds: Under the Earth in the Early Americas* (until August 2015) at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island, with the assistance of Ken Ward (Curator of Latin American Books).

- ✿ As the inaugural event of a project entitled 'Exploring the Four Elements,' this exhibition showcases the John Carter Brown Library's rich collection of texts, illustrations, and maps that open a window onto the quest for metals below the surface of the earth in Latin America between the sixteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In addition to reflecting the central importance of mining in colonial society, the materials on display also offer insight into the ideas and values that inhabitants of early modern Europe and the colonial Americas attached to subterranean realms and their metallic riches. In particular, the exhibition seeks to bring the history of mining into conversation with the environmental history of the Americas.
- ✿ Neil Safier (JCB Director) and Heidi Scott opened the exhibition with a full-day symposium also entitled "Subterranean Worlds: Under the Earth in the Early Americas." (Available [HERE](#)). Roundtable Participants: Orlando Betancor, *Barnard College*, John Demos, *Yale University*, Allison Bigelow, *University of Virginia*, May Van Buren, *Colorado State University*, Kenneth Mills, *University of Toronto*, and Heidi Scott.
- ✿ Heidi is currently working on a book manuscript provisionally entitled "Mining places and Subterranean Spaces in Colonial Spanish America: Nature, Government, and Moral Debate in the Exploitation of the Underground," under contract with Cambria Press. Her proposal for the exhibition and symposium emerged out of her book project research, which included a two-month research fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library in 2012.



James Wiley is retiring from Hofstra University at the end of this spring (2015) semester after teaching there for 24 years, the last seven spent in the newly created [Department of Global Studies and Geography](#).

- ✿ To cap of this time, James recently received Hofstra's Mentor of the Year Award for his work with their students.
- ✿ While at Hofstra, James created a Latin American-Caribbean portion of the geography curriculum and will leave behind courses entitled *The Geography of Latin America*, *The Geography of the Caribbean*, *The Geography of Mexico and Central America*, and *The Geography of South America*, all of which are part of the university's cross-cultural curriculum as well as applying to the Geography and LACS majors and minors. Unfortunately, no plans are in place to replace James with another Latin Americanist.
- ✿ Before retiring, **James Wiley** ran (with a colleague in the Economics Department) a study abroad odyssey-like program in Cuba during January 2015 on behalf of Hofstra's inter-disciplinary Latin American and Caribbean Studies program. Spanish Studies Abroad facilitated the program. They are an organization that is legally authorized to operate educational programs in Cuba.
- ✿ The Hofstra course specifically created for this traveling program "Putting Cuba (Back) on the Map" is an inter-disciplinary course that captured some of the spirit embodied in the recent thaw in relations between Cuba and the U.S.A. The course will be offered again during the January 2016 semester (I will come out of retirement briefly to do the program). See [HERE](#) for more details.



Left: Hofstra's 'Putting Cuba (Back) on the Map' study abroad course: 14 of 15 students in the Museo de la Revolucion in Havana.

Top right: Casa de Cultura in Santa Clara: Hofstra study abroad students with elderly Cubans who demonstrated how to dance to Piquete music played by a small Piquete orquesta, using antique instruments to play a music genre that was popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Bottom right: Improvised classroom at Playa Ancon, near Trinidad on the Cuban south central coast. Setting up shop to teach in whatever space might be available, including on the bus, is a necessity of Hofstra's odyssey-style study abroad program!





Niki vonHedemann, now a PhD student at University of Arizona and working with Dr. Tracey Osborne, has been awarded a 2015 Inter-American Foundation “Grassroots Development Fellowship” & the Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group Travel Grant for her dissertation research, Payments for Ecosystem Services: Communities and Environmental Governance in the Guatemalan Highlands.

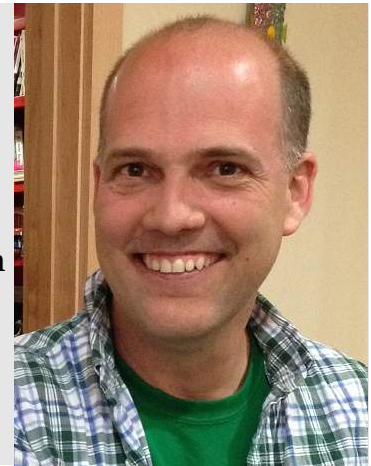
- ✻ Niki was a CLAG Field Study Award winner in support of her 2012 fieldwork in Guatemala.

Recent Graduates and New Positions

Congratulations to the following people who are in new positions:

Andy Hilburn (PhD, University of Kansas ‘14) accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of Social Sciences at Texas A & M International University in Laredo, Texas where he will begin teaching and conducting research in August 2015.

John Kelly (PhD University of Kansas ‘13) accepted an Associate Professor position in the Department of Geography and Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, to begin in August 2015. Through May 2015, John was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow with the American Geographical Society’s Centroamérica Indígena project.



Iván J. Ramírez (Assistant Professor of Environmental Health at The New School) has a new appointment as an Affiliated Faculty member with the Tishman Environment and Design Center (TEDC) at The New School in New York, NY. As Affiliated Faculty, Iván will continue to work on climate change, health and vulnerability research in Peru (Lima and Piura) and U.S. (NYC).

Jörn Seemann accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana starting August 2015.

Congratulations to the following people who successfully defended their theses:

Rickmers, Arne. 2014. Conditions and Applicability of VGI Tools in Poor Urban Areas: Coping with Risks in the Midsized City of Morelia, Mexico. Unpublished Masterarbeit (MSc) Geographie der Mathematisch Naturwissenschaftlichen-Fakultät, Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel, Germany. Supervisors: Dr. Florian Dünckmann, **Dr. Michael Keith McCall**

Roquette, Maria Elisa Tosi. 2015. Mapeamento Participativo em um Contexto de Conflito Territorial: e Experiência com a População Indígena da Chapada do Á, Anchieta. Dissertação de Mestrado (MSc), Universidade Federal de Espírito Santo (UFES) Brasil, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Geografia Supervisors: Dr. Gisele Girardi, **Dr. Michael K. McCall**

Events and Conferences

Remarks by the LASG Chair, at the 2015 AAG Panel, “Re-birth of the region: salience, implications and imaginaries”

The Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) has almost 500 members, almost half of whom are students and about 1/10th of whom have residence in Latin America, and that membership has been growing. Since I was invited here [the panel] as the LASG chair, I will focus my remarks on the specialty group and input I collected from members.

I sent all members three questions. My first question focused on why we geographers might join a regionally-defined specialty group, like the LASG. I asked LASG members, why did you join? I see specialty group membership as an aspect of how we choose to identify ourselves professionally. And most of us are members of various different specialty groups, expressing different aspects of our professional identities. The responses I received were largely very practical—we join a group like LASG to connect with colleagues whose company we enjoy, we join to stay informed about research and professional opportunities; we join to build and maintain professional networks. But these can be reasons to join any specialty group. So, I will come back to why a regionally-defined specialty group in a moment.

My third question (I will turn to my second question shortly) asked members to reflect on the usefulness (or not) of the concept or construct of Latin America in our research and/or teaching. Most responses I got focused on teaching. I think for many of us, Latin America as a region has little to do with our research per se. We focus on linkages, flows, and connections of all different kinds. But in our teaching, and often in our place within the university, “Latin America” is a means of communication with colleagues, students, and administrators. Many of us also find “Latin America” (as a construct) useful for stimulating discussion and critical thinking with students. In this way, “Latin America” becomes a tool for us within our own university contexts.

[continued on next page]

So this brings me to a point I want to explore: How might our regionally-defined identities and associations with each other be different from our thematically- or methodologically-defined ones? I for example, belong to the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, Geographical Perspectives on Women (GPOW), and others—where, in some ways, I encounter people more like me, in terms of research questions and approaches. And I think this used to be the case with a group like LASG too, in the past. The “Latin Americanist” identity had greater commonality or overlap of questions, approaches, and interests. But I think this has changed and is changing. We are still linked by our commitments to places, but we are increasingly diverse or intra-disciplinary. In an important way, through LASG I connect to a wider cross-section of the discipline of geography. What I see as this relative openness of LASG was mirrored in some of the responses I received from other members. But I think this is still new and emerging, and where it might take us, in teaching and research, is still an open question.

Claudia Radel, LASG Chair
21 April 2015, Chicago

Grad Student Awards

Reports from the LASG Field Study Award Winners, 2014

New LASG Liaison’s Adrienne Johnson and Nikolai Alvarado provide the excerpts below from our award winners. Full reports from the LASG Field Study Award winners are available in the [‘student awards’](#) section of the LASG website.

Cadi Fung, a PhD Candidate from Michigan State, was awarded a 2014 LASG Field Study Travel Award for her PhD project entitled, *Territorialization of Protected Areas and Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Brazilian Amazon: The Case of the Amazon River Dolphin*. Fung’s work looks at the socioeconomic and perceptual aspects of conservation of the Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*, locally known as the “boto”) and focuses on two primary field sites – Santarém and Manaus.

- ✿ While in Santarém, Fung made a fruitful connection with a professor from the Institute of Science and Technology of Water at the Federal University of Western *Pará* whose current work deals with, among other things, the sustainability of local fisheries and the interference from, and direct killing of, botos.
- ✿ While in Manaus, Fung assessed the different ways that botos are presented, exploited, and consumed through tourism. She interacted with several tour operators and spoke with tourists and locals, and discovered interesting and differing perceptions of Amazonian identity. She also networked with faculty researchers at the Federal University of Amazonas and identified a geographer who will be serving as her advisor while in Manaus.
- ✿ Fung’s project continues to evolve as a result of her dedicated research efforts. For example, Fung decided to split her data collection phase into two separate research trips (the second which will happen in summer 2015). Another change is that the project will focus on two research sites instead of three; originally Fung intended to include analysis of the protected areas of Mamirauá. According to Fung, she will still pursue research of this area – but only after she completes her PhD program.



Max Counter (University of Colorado Boulder) was awarded a 2014 LASG Field Study Award to conduct fieldwork for his Master's thesis research concerning landmine victims' intersecting experiences of internal displacement and physical disability in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

- ✿ Counter spent six weeks in July and August of 2014 conducting semi-structure interviews at *Finca El Tabacal*, a landmine survivor support facility operated by the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines.
- ✿ Interviews were aimed at understanding survivors' experiences of physical disability, perceptions about re-constituting social and economic activities in light of internal displacement, and difficulties in obtaining restitution measures promised by Colombia's 2011 Victims' Law.
- ✿ In addition, Counter engaged in daily path analysis accompanying landmine survivors on their daily travels in which victims were able to display their capacities for physical mobility in spite of such injury.
- ✿ Although Counter originally hypothesized that landmine victims' physical mobility would play a key role in their establishment of new social and economic connections, interviews and participant observation showed that the largest challenges facing landmine victims were not necessarily their injured bodies, but rather the institutional and bureaucratic challenges they faced as they sought to realize the restitution measures to which they are guaranteed by Colombia's Victims' Law.



Announcing LASG Student Paper Award Winners, 2015



Chris Courtheyn, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Advisor Altha Cravey. Paper: 'Peace Does Not Come from Them': Competing Territorialities of Neoextractivism and Autonomy in Colombia. *Best PhD Paper Award (\$500)*

Aaron Groth, University of Texas at Austin, Advisor Kenneth Young. Paper: "Selective Logging of Big-Leaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in Peruvian Indigenous Communities." *Best Master's Paper Award (\$250)*





Edward Park, University of Texas at Austin, Advisor Edgardo Latrubesse. Paper: “The Amazon River: Modeling suspended sediment distribution patterns using MODIS data.” *Best Co-authored Paper Award* (\$250)

Announcing LASG Student Field Study Award Winners, 2015

Diego Pons, University of Denver, Advisor Matthew Taylor. Research Project: “Climate change and coffee adaptation: Developing dendroclimatological records in the southern volcanic chain of Guatemala.” *LASG Field Study Ph.D. Award* \$600



Sophia Borgias, University of Arizona, Advisor Carl Bauer. Research Project: “Conflict, change, and the challenges of water governance in Chile’s Maipo River Basin.” *LASG Field Study Master’s Award* \$300

Announcing the CLAG Field Study Award Winners, 2015

CLAG Chair Karl Offen is pleased to announce that we are giving away \$7,500 to seven motivated and capable graduate students, winners of the 2015 CLAG Student Field Study Awards. Thanks to the ad hoc committee for evaluating the many qualified submissions, including: Gerardo Bocco, Kristen Conway-Gómez, Matthew Fry, Jörn Seemann and, above all, committee chair Rick Hunter. The lucky winners, their affiliation, major advisors, research project, and award amounts are as follows:

Sophia Borgias, University of Arizona, Advisor Carl Bauer. Research Project: “Conflict, change, and the challenges of water governance in Chile’s Maipo River Basin.” *William Denevan M.A. Award* \$500

Aaron Groth, University of Texas - Austin, Advisor Kenneth Young. Research Project: “Property rights, land tenure, and Andean forest conservation.” *Robert C. West Ph.D. Award* \$1,400

Colleen Hammelman, Temple University, Advisor Allison Hayes-Conroy. Research Project: “Connecting for survival: Understanding the spatial implications of migrant women’s survival strategies in Medellín, Colombia.” *James J. Parsons Ph.D. Award* \$1,300

María Noroña, University of Oregon, Advisors Derrick Hindery and Shaul Cohen. Research Project: “Indigenous adaptation in fragile environments affected by urbanization and road expansion within their traditional community territory.” *Bernard Nietschmann Ph.D. Award \$500*

Diego Pons, University of Denver, Advisor Matthew Taylor. Research Project: “Climate change and coffee adaptation: Developing dendroclimatological records in the southern volcanic chain of Guatemala.” *Robert C. West Ph.D. Award \$1,500*

Nora Sylvander, The Ohio State University, Advisor Kendra McSweeney. Research Project: “*Saneamiento* for whom? Adjudicating space and rights in Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, Nicaragua.” *James J. Parsons Ph.D. Award \$1,500*

Christine Woodward, University of Kentucky, Advisor Patricia Ehrkamp. Research Project: “Transgendered Space in Urban Brazil.” *Clarissa Kimber Master’s Award \$800*

Announcing the CLAG Student Travel Award Winners, 2015

CLAG Chair Karl Offen shares the news of this year’s winners of four CLAG Student Travel Awards valued at \$500 each. Karl sends hearty congratulations to them all.

Jamie Worms, Ph.D. student, LSU, “Exploring the Favela-city Binary through Conceived and Lived Representational Space amid Mega-Events in Brazil”

Gabriel Granco, Ph.D. student, Kansas State University, “Land use change in the Brazilian Cerrado: Impacts of sugarcane expansion”

Theresa Miller, D.Phil. student, Oxford, “Soil companheiros and garden ‘couples:’ an indigenous perspective on landscape management in the Brazilian Cerrado”

Marie-Line Sarrazin, M.A. student, University of Toronto, “Land invasions and indigenous rights struggles: Challenges for community-based resource management in the collective land of Arimaé in the Darién, Panama”

Karl thanks all the students who applied and sincerely hopes that even those not fortunate enough to have been selected will still be able to attend the upcoming CLAG conference in Fortaleza, Brazil.

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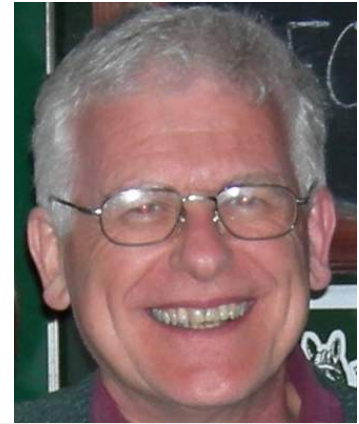


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Journal of Latin American Geography

Volume 14, Number 1, 2015 Special Issue: Amenity Migration

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Health Care Imaginaries and Retirement Migration to Cuenca, Ecuador pp. 39-55 Ann Miles

En búsqueda de lo rural: Migración de amenidad en los Valles Calchaquíes, Argentina pp. 57-78 Gerhard Rainer, Matilde Malizia

Into the Universe of the Hacienda: Lifestyle Migration, Individualism and Social Dislocation in Vilcabamba, Ecuador pp. 79-100 Matthew Hayes

Lifestyle Transmigration: Understanding a Hypermobile Minority in Mérida, Mexico pp. 101-117 Eve Bantman-Masum

Cultural Imaginaries in the Residential Migration to Cotacachi pp. 119-138 María Amelia Viteri

Transnationality and Social Integration within Lifestyle Migration. A comparative study of two cases in Mexico and Spain pp. 139-159 Omar Lizarraga, Alejandro Mantecón, Raquel Huete

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Book Reviews

Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History by Gregory T. Cushman (review) pp. 173-175 W. George Lovell

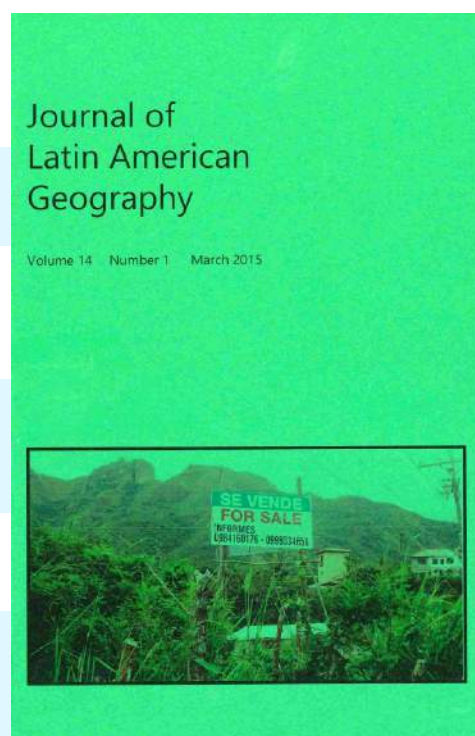
Postcards from the Rio Bravo Border by Daniel D. Arreola (review) pp. 175-178 Lawrence A. Herzog

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I Speak of the City: Mexico City at the Turn of the Twentieth Century by Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo (review) pp. 184-186 Gregory Montes



CLAG Conference, Fortaleza, Brazil

May 26-30, 2015

Programação

Pré-congresso

Dia 26 de maio

- 9h – 11h: Reunião da diretoria da CLAG com a comissão organizadora no mini-auditório
- 14h - 16h30: Visita ao campus do Pici e do Benfica da Universidade Federal do Ceará
- 17h - 20h: Visita ao Centro Cultural “Dragão do Mar”

1º dia de congresso - 27 de maio

- 8h – 9h: Recepção/Credenciamento no bloco 911
- 9h – 9h30: Abertura do 33º Congresso da CLAG no auditório.
Representantes das Agências Promotoras, do CREA, da Reitoria, do Centro e do Departamento de Geografia
Local: Auditório
- 9h30 - 10h50: 1º Simpósio "Espaço-Tempo dos Estudos Latino Americanistas"
Dr. Andrew Sluyter, Dr. Jorn Seemann, Dr. José Borzacchiello da Silva
Mediadora: Dra. Maria Elisa Zanella
Local: Auditório do Centro de Ciências
- 10h50 - 12h30: Exposição dos painéis (Eixos 2,3,4) no bloco 911
- 13h40 - 18h: Comunicações orais dos artigos (Eixos 1 a 6 - primeira parte) no bloco 911
- 18h15 - 19h: Entrega dos Prêmios Preston E. James e Carl O. Sauer no auditório
- 19h - 20h: Coquetel e apresentação artística no Centro de Ciências

2º dia de congresso - 28 de maio

- 8h40– 10h30: 2º Simpósio "A CLAG e suas Interfaces com Grupos de Pesquisa"
Dr. Christian Brannstrom; Dr. J. Christopher Brow; Dr. Eustógio W. Dantas, Dr. Luis Alberto Salinas
Mediadora: Dra. Adryane Gorayeb
Local: Auditório do Centro de Ciências
- 10h50 - 12h30: Exposição dos painéis (Eixos 5 e 6) no bloco 911
- 13h40 - 18h: Comunicações orais dos artigos (Eixos 1 a 6 - segunda parte) no bloco 911
- 18h - 19h30: Lançamento de livros/revistas e apresentação artística no Centro de Ciências

3º dia de congresso - 29 de maio

- 8h40 - 10h30: 3º Simpósio "Olhares da CLAG: a Latinidade e o Brasil"
Dr. Robert Walker; Dr. David Salisbury, Dr. Edson Vicente da Silva, Dra. Cristina Carballo
Mediador: Dr. Otavio José Lemos Costa
Local: Auditório
- 10h50 - 12h: Encerramento - Homenagem ao Dia do Geógrafo
Dr. Christian Dennys Monteiro de Oliveira (UFC) e representantes das universidades cearenses
Local: Auditório
- A partir de 12h: Entrega de certificados (on-line)
- 14h: Encaminhamentos das relatorias dos eixos e fechamento de propostas de convênios no mini-auditório e na sala da chefia

Pós-congresso

Dia 30 e 31 de maio

- A partir das 7h: Roteiros de campo com saídas previstas no sábado e no domingo