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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 | Dr. Adrienne Johnson & Nikolai Alvarado (LASG) Liaisons

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LASG Correspondence:

Website: <http://community.aag.org/lasg/home>
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New Facebook profile:
<https://www.facebook.com/AAGLASG/>

New Orleans | 3-5 January 2017

The [Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers](#) is headed to New Orleans! The [program](#) is now available. Remember to hashtag [#clag2017](#) and share your experience!



New Orleans Second Line by Bob Graham

Letter from the CLAG's New Chair, Kendra McSweeney:

Dear CLAGistas,

(Columbus, 11/17/2016) Yesterday, in the context of a growing movement to make Ohio State a sanctuary campus, I spoke with an undergraduate who describes herself as undocumented. A top student who is graduating in the spring, she is scrambling to re-map her future in light of last week's election. Two weeks ago, she was getting ready to apply to graduate schools. Now, she's deeply concerned that after January 20, she will no longer be able to count on the protection of her DACA status and work permit. She's reluctantly contemplating returning to San Cristóbal, Chiapas, where several years ago she invested in an undeveloped suburban *lote*. At least, she said, I have somewhere to go.

I recount this conversation because it gets to the heart-breaking center of life for many Latinx* living in the U.S. today. It is also an urgent reminder of the ways in which lives, livelihoods, and landscapes in the U.S. and Latin America are mutually created not just through material transactions around things like land, but around the fear, aspirations, and struggles of peoples who are constantly negotiating and navigating life across borders, communities, and unstable legal regimes.

Latin Americanist geographers have studied this stuff for a long time. But I wonder if, for our scholarly community, this election might not come to represent a critical moment of intellectual focus and collective political mobilization. I say this because for many, the election has inspired us to try harder to articulate, and to double down on, our commitments to the people and communities we care about. In our professional lives, I think this can translate into renewed effort to study what matters not just to us but to the communities in which we live and work, and into finding more ways to share our insights beyond academia. The importance of such work is affirmed in the new JLAG [Statement of Purpose](#), where the editorial team

...extend[s] an invitation to scholars who are researching issues of migration and immigration, border policy, trans-national flows and identities, and the ways in which Latin America intersects with global political economies. [...] We strongly encourage nuanced, textured, and socially engaged research. While this can manifest in a wide-range of sub-disciplines and can occur in diverse places, we seek specifically to publish work that engages issues of social and environmental justice, human rights, political agency, and power from critical perspectives.

We meet next month in New Orleans. In the meantime, I encourage you to check out *Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity since the Eighteenth Century* (LSU Press, 2015) by CLAG members Andrew Sluyter, Case Watkins, James P. Chaney, and Annie M. Gibson. The book describes the long and varied contributions made to the city by Isleños, Cubans, Hondurans, Mexicans, Brazilians and other communities. Here's intellectually robust scholarship that is also selling out in airport bookstores. It's an incredibly timely reminder of how Latin Americanist geographic scholarship can be a vital check on racist and xenophobic interpretations of the U.S.' history and present, and a crucial defense of a world enriched by the work, creativity and dreams of a brilliant diversity of people.

Kendra McSweeney, CLAG Chair
Ohio State University



*An imperfect word used for expediency. The student identifies as Latina in the U.S.; her family is Tzotzil.

Letter from LASG's Incoming Chair, Johnny Finn:

Dear LASG Members,

I'm honored to write my first "Letter from the Chair" to the membership of LASG. There has been a whirl of LASG-related activity in the run up to the abstract deadline for the 2017 AAG meeting that I'd like to update you all about.

First, though, I want to mention the other new LASG Officers: Federica Bono (KU Leuven) is the new Vice Chair of LASG, and Denielle Perry (University of Oregon) is the new Secretary-Treasurer. Diego Pons, Anna Sveinsdóttir, and Josh Rudow continue their excellent work as our graduate student representatives. Since these three are in the second year of their two-year terms, in early 2017 we'll circulate a call for nominations for the graduate student representative positions, and we'll hold elections to these positions at our business meeting in Boston.

Speaking of Boston, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there. As usual, LASG will sponsor many paper and panel sessions (total count TBA). One of the benefits of sponsorship is that it helps avoid too much overlap of LASG-sponsored sessions. In the weeks leading up to the conference we will circulate a complete list of all LASG-sponsored sessions. Among those sessions, I'm excited to report that LASG, along with CLAG, will be co-sponsoring the participation of Brazilian geographer Rogerio Haesbaert da Costa from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in a session dedicated to the life and work of Doreen Massey. As usual, we will also share our business meeting with CLAG, which is traditionally followed by our joint social event (stay tuned for the details).

In the coming weeks we will also be circulating our calls for submissions to our various student award categories. As has been discussed via the LASG discussion board and in the last two business meetings, we've adjusted the total award sizes in order to put more emphasis (and money!) toward the field study awards. As an added incentive for the PhD-level paper award, the winning paper will once again be eligible for automatic submission for peer review in *The Journal of Latin American Geography*. This year we'll also continue the co-authored paper award. Like last year, we'll have five total awards:

Field Study Award, PhD: \$1,000
 Field Study Award, MA: \$500
 Best Paper Award, PhD: \$200 + *JLAG* submission
 Best Paper Award, MA: \$100
 Best Paper Award, co-author: \$100

As these awards make up the single largest expenditure from the annual LASG budget, I strongly encourage all graduate students to consider submitting proposals and/or completed papers for these awards. Be on the lookout for the coming CFPs. Submission deadline will be in late winter/early spring 2017.

Finally, I'm happy to report that as of November 15, 2016, LASG has a total of 561 members. Of this total number, nearly 30% are international members, including 83 from Latin America (including Puerto Rico). Importantly, 263 of our members – 47% of our total membership – are students. This portrait of our membership demonstrates both how important students are in our specialty group, and the international breadth of our membership, especially in Latin America.

I look forward to seeing you all in Boston!

Best,

Johnny

Johnny Finn, LASG Chair
 Christopher Newport University



LASG Officers



Chair: John Finn,
Christopher Newport
University



Vice Chair: Federica
Bono, University of
Leuven (Belgium)



Secretary-Treasurer:
Denielle Perry, University
of Oregon

LASG Graduate Student Directors (2015-2017)

Diego Pons, University of Denver

Joshua Rudow, University of Texas at Austin

Anna Sveinsdóttir, University of Denver

CLAG Board Members

CLAG Chair: Kendra McSweeney

CLAG Vice Chair: Brad Jokisch

Executive Director: Andrew Sluyter

JLAG Editor: Christopher Gaffney

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

Terms ending June 30, 2019

Martha Bell

Christian Brannstrom

Brad Jokisch (Vice Chair)

Robert Kent

CLAG / LASG Co-Editors

Catherine Nolin is an Associate Professor & Chair of Geography at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, BC, Canada.

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Alexandra Pedersen is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. Email: a.pedersen@queensu.ca CLAG Email: clagnewsletter@gmail.com

LASG Newsletter Liaisons & LASG Social Media Co-Editors

Adrienne Johnson is a postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University in Toronto, ON. Email: adriennj@yorku.ca

Nikolai Alvarado is a PhD Student at the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Denver, Denver, CO. Email: Nikolai.Alvarado@du.edu

New Publications/Papers & Reports:

Abizaid, Christian, Oliver T. Coomes and Mathilde Perrault-Archambault. 2016. [Seed sharing in Amazonian indigenous rain forest communities: A social network analysis in three Achuar villages, Peru](#). *Human Ecology*. DOI: 10.1007/s10745-016- 9852-7

Aguilar-Støen, Mariel C., Taylor, Matthew J., Castellanos, Edwin. 2016. [Land tenure and international migration in rural Guatemala](#). *Journal of Agrarian Change* 16(1): 123-144. DOI: 10.1111/joac.12091

Arima, Eugenio. 2016. [A spatial probit econometric model of land change: The case of infrastructure development in Western Amazonia, Peru](#). *PloS one*.

Richards, Peter, **Arima, Eugenio**, Vanwey, Leah, Cohn, Avery and Bhattarai, Nishan. 2016. [Are Brazil's deforesters avoiding detection?](#) *Conservation Letters*, 1-7. doi: 10.1111/conl.12310

Tasker, Kaitlin A. and **Arima, Eugenio Y.** 2016. [Fire regimes in Amazonia: The relative roles of policy and precipitation](#). *Anthropocene*, 14: 46-57.

Bell, Martha G. 2016. [Delimitar y gobernar las aguas de Lima: relaciones urbano-rurales y rivalidades administrativas en Lima colonial](#). *Historica XL*(1): 7-33.

Brannstrom, Christian. 2016. [A Ferro e Fogo, história ambiental e a geografia brasileira: Um diálogo por inventor](#). *Revista Brasileira de Geografia* 61(1): 109-125.

Brannstrom, Christian, Adryane Gorayeb, Jocicléa Sousa Mendes, Caroline Loureiro, Antonio Jeovah de Andrade Meireles, Edson Vicente da Silva, Ana Larissa Ribeiro de Freitas, Rafael Fialho de Oliveira. 2017. [Is Brazilian wind power development sustainable? Insights from a review of conflicts in Ceará state](#). *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 67: 62-71.

Bruzzone, Mario. 2016. [On exterior and interior detention regimes: Governing, bordering and economy in transit migration across Mexico](#). In D. Conlon and N. Hiemstra (eds). *Intimate Economies of Immigrant Detention: Critical Perspectives*. pp. 105-120. London: Routledge.

Clouser, Rebecca. 2016. [Nexus of emotional and development geographies](#). *Geography Compass*, 10 (8): 321-332. DOI 10.1111/gec3.12275

Coomes, Oliver T., Yoshito Takasaki and Jeanine M. Rhemtulla. 2016. [Forests as landscapes of social inequality: Tropical forest cover and land distribution among shifting cultivators](#). *Ecology and Society* 21(3): 20. DOI: 10.5751/ES-08684- 210320

Coomes, Oliver T., Yoshito Takasaki, **Christian Abizaid** and J. Pablo Arroyo-Mora. 2016. [Environmental and market determinants of economic orientation among rain forest communities: evidence from a large-scale survey in western Amazonia](#). *Ecological Economics* 129: 260-271. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2016.06.001

Coomes, Oliver T., Michael Lapointe, Michael Templeton and Geneva List. 2016. [Amazon river flow regime and flood recession agriculture: Flood stage reversals and risk of annual crop loss](#). *Journal of Hydrology* 539: 214-222. DOI 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.05.027

Holland, Tim, **Oliver T. Coomes** and Brian E. Robinson. 2016. [Evolving frontier land markets and the opportunity cost of sparing forests in western Amazonia](#). *Land Use Policy* 58: 456-471. DOI: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2016.08.015

Webb, Jena, **Oliver T. Coomes**, Nancy Ross, and Donna Mergler. 2016. [Mercury concentrations in urine of Amerindian populations near oil fields in the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon](#). *Environmental Research* 151: 344-350. DOI: 10.1016/j.envres.2016.07.040

Crane, Nicholas Jon. 2016. Carlos Fuentes. In S. Ray, H. Schwarz, A. Shemak, A. Moreiras, J. L. Villacanas Verlanga, and D. Megestu (eds). [Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies](#). Blackwell Publishing. DOI: 10.1111/b.9781444334982.2016.x.

Crane, Nicholas Jon. 2016. Octavio Paz. In S. Ray, H. Schwarz, A. Shemak, A. Moreiras, J. L. Villacanas Verlanga, and D. Megestu (eds). [Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies](#). Blackwell Publishing. DOI: 10.1111/b.9781444334982.2016.x.

Crane, Nicholas Jon. 2016. Review of Stuart Aitken's "[The Ethnopoetics of Space and Transformation: Young People's Engagement, Activism and Aesthetics](#)". *Emotion, Space and Society*, 21: 3-4.

Fadiman, Maria. 2016. Rainforest creatures: the creepy, cute and us. In A. Hegan (Ed). [No More Endlings: Saving Species One Story at a Time](#). pp. 129-136. Motivational Press, Inc. Melbourne, FL. ISBN: 1628651989

Finley-Brook, Mary. 2016. [Territorial 'fix'? Tenure insecurity in titled indigenous territories](#). *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 35(3): 338-354. DOI: 10.1111/blar.12489

Gaffney, Christopher. 2016a. [The Brazilian Experience as 'role-model'](#). In *Global Corruption Report: Sport*, edited by Gareth Sweeny, 204 – 210. Abingdon: Routledge.

Gaffney, Christopher. 2016b. An Anatomy of Resistance: The Comitês Populares of Brazil. In [Sport, Protest and Globalisation: Stopping Play](#), edited by Stephen Wagg and Jonathan Dart, s/n. Palgrave Macmillan.

Gaffney, Christopher and Cerianne Robertson. 2016. [Smarter than Smart? Rio's failed emergence as a smart city](#). *Journal of Urban Technology*, 23 (1), 1-18.

Hartmann, Chris. 2016. [Postneoliberal public healthcare reforms: Neoliberalism, social medicine, and persistent health inequalities in Latin America](#). *American Journal of Public Health*. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2016.303470

Himley, Matthew. 2016. Mining, property, and the reordering of socio-natural relations in Peru. In K. Deonandan and M. L. Dougherty (eds.) [Mining in Latin America: Critical Approaches to the New Extraction](#). pp. 208-226. Routledge: New York.

Pons, Diego, Matthew J. Taylor, Daniel Griffin, Edwin J. Castellanos & **Kevin J. Anchukaitis.** 2016 (early online). [On the production of climate information in the high mountain forests of Guatemala](#). *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2016.1235481

Radel, Claudia, Schmook, Birgit, Haenn, Nora and Green, Lisa. 2016. [The gender dynamics of conditional cash transfers and smallholder farming in Calakmul, Mexico.](#) *Women's Studies International Forum*. DOI:10.1016/j.wsif.2016.06.004

Romano, Sarah T. 2016. [Democratizing discourses: Conceptions of ownership, autonomy, and "the state" in Nicaragua's rural water governance.](#) *Water International* 41(1): 74-90. DOI: 10.1080/02508060.2016.1107706

Vadjunec, Jacqueline, Radel, Claudia and Turner II, B. L. 2016. [Introduction: The continued importance of smallholders today.](#) *Land*, 5(4): 34-46. DOI:10.3390/land5040034.

Wise, Nicholas. 2016. [Outlining triple bottom line contexts in urban tourism regeneration.](#) *Cities* 53: 30-34.

Wise, Nicholas and Harris, John. 2016. [Community, identity and contested notions of place: A study of Haitian recreational soccer players in the Dominican Republic.](#) *Soccer & Society* 17(4): 610-627.

Wise, Nicholas. 2017. "In the Shadow of Mega-Events: The Value of Ethnography in Sports Geography". In [Critical Geographies of Sport: Space, Power, and Sport in Global Perspective](#), N. Koch (ed.), pp. 220-234. London: Routledge.

UNAM Publications y Información 2016

Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental

Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental Información 2016

Recent Publications

Gao, Y., Ghilardi, A., Paneque-Galvez, J., Skutsch, M., Mas, J F. 2015. Validation of MODIS vegetation continuous fields for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation: two cases in Mexico. *Geocarto International*. 1-13. doi: 10.1080/10106049.2015.1110205

Ghilardi, A., R. Bailis, J.-F. Mas, M. Skutsch, J.A. Elvir, A. Quevedo, O. Masera, P. Dwivedi, R. Drigo, E. Vega. 2016. Spatiotemporal modeling of fuelwood environmental impacts: Towards improved accounting for non-renewable biomass. *Environmental Modelling & Software* (82): 241-254. doi: 10.1016/j.envsoft.2016.04.023

González-Arqueros ML, Mendoza-Cantú M, Vázquez-Selem L. . 2016. Human impact on natural systems modeled through soil erosion in GeoWEPP: a comparison between pre-Hispanic periods and modern times in the Teotihuacan Valley (central Mexico). *CATENA*. doi:10.1016/j.catena.2016.07.028

Martínez-Torres, L., A. Castillo, MI. Ramírez, D.R. Pérez-Salicrup. 2016. The importance of the traditional fire knowledge system in a subtropical montane socio-ecosystem in a protected natural area. *International Journal of Wildland Fire*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/WF15181>

Mas, J.F., Couturier, S., Paneque-Gálvez, J., Skutsch, M. Castillo, M.A. and Bocco, G. 2016. Comment on Gerhardt et al: MAD-MEX Automatic Wall-to-Wall Land Cover Monitoring for the Mexican REDD-MRV Program. *Remote sensing*. 8: 533. doi:10.3390/rs8070533

Orozco Ramirez, Q., Perales, H. Hijmans, R. 2016. Geographical distribution and diversity of maize (*Zea mays* L. subsp. *mays*) races in Mexico. *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution*. doi: 10.1007/s10722-016-0405-0 (SCI:IF 1.258) En digital.

Bocco, G. 2016. Remoteness and remote places. A geographic perspective. *Geoforum*. 77(2016): 178-181. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2016.11.003>

Recent Books

Bautista F. y V. Luna. 2015. Consejos a los jóvenes con vocación científica o de cómo perderle el miedo al estudio de las ciencias. 2. Skiu (Eds). 227. ISBN: 978-607-96883-0-1.

Burgos, Ana, Gerardo Bocco & Joaquín Sosa. 2015. Dimensiones sociales en el manejo de cuencas. na. CIGA-UNAM. 318. ISBN: 978-607-02-6883-0 .

Ortíz Rivera, A., Bollo Manent, M., Hernández Santana, J.R. & A.G. Priego-Santander . 2015. La regionalización físico-geográfica del estado de Guerrero, México. N/A. CIGA, UNAM. 157. ISBN: 978-607-02-6706-2.

Rodríguez, M., J. M, Bollo. 2016. La Región como categoría geográfica. Primera edición. Morevalladolid. 108. ISBN: 978-607-02-7872-3.

Vieyra, A., Méndez-Lemus y J. Hernández. (Coords.) 2016. *Procesos Urbanos, Pobreza y Ambiente. Experiencias en Megaciudades y Ciudades Medias*, CIGA-UNAM, CONACyT. México, ISBN: 978-607-02-8098-6. 179 pp.

Zinck, J.A., Metternicht, G., Bocco, G., Del Valle, H.F. (Eds). 2016. *Geopedology. An integration of geomorphology and pedology for soil and landscape*. Springer.

Recent Graduates

BACHELOR

Aida Figueroa Pasos. (2016) "Agricultura periurbana, calidad y uso de aguas residuales en Tarímbaro, Michoacán". (BA Environmental Sciences. ENES – UNAM). Advisors: Antonio Vieyra y Yadira. Mendez.

Luis Daniel Olivares Martínez. (2016) "Inferencias sobre el uso de canales Mayas en la zona de Pich, Campeche, mediante el estudio de suelos". (BA Environmental Sciences. ENES – UNAM). Advisor: Berenice Solis.

Carlos Eduardo Corona Jaimez. (2016) "Estimación del contenido de Carbono en biomasa aérea en la Comunidad Indígena Carpinteros, Zitácuaro, Michoacán" (BA Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Morelia). Advisor: Isabel Ramírez.

Diana Beatriz Chávez Aranda. (2016) "Análisis de susceptibilidad por deslizamientos con el uso de paisajes físico-geográficos en el municipio de Tetipac Guerrero" (BA Geography, UA Guerrero). Advisor: Manuel Bollo.

MASTERS

Fabiola Vargas Mendoza (2016) "Estado ambiental de la región Bajío, Michoacán en el periodo 1990, 2000 y 2010". (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisors: Manuel Bollo y Gabriela Cuevas.

Karla Aurora de Peña Guillén (2016)
 “Monitoreo de los deslizamientos de los Cerros de la Cruz y Bola por medio de MEMS en la Ciudad de Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero, México”. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Luis Miguel Morales



Margarita Alvarado Bautista (2016) “Variaciones espaciales de la calidad del agua, factores y riesgos en cuencas del Bajo Balsas”. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Ana Burgos Tornadú.

Guillermo Cisneros Máximo (2016) Geomorfología volcánica de Morelia y alrededores, propuesta de cartografía geomorfológica jerárquica a nivel detalle y semidetalle”. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Manuel Mendoza

PHD

Pavel Alejandro Castaneda Hernandez (2016), "Los asentamientos irregulares en Morelia, Michoacán (2000-2015): Acción colectiva y territorialización urbana". (PHd ININEE, UMSNH). Advisor: Michael McCall.

Consuelo Medina García (2016) "Fitosociología del transecto Tancitaro-Apatzingan-Sierra madre del Sur". (PHd Universidad de Santiago de Compostela). Advisor: Alejandro Velázquez.

Luis Fernando Gopar Merino. (2016) "El contexto geográfico de los bioclimas: el caso de regiones ecogeográficamente complejas". (PHd CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Alejandro Velázquez.



Camilo Correa Ayram (2016)
 “Integración del estudio de la conectividad del paisaje en la priorización de áreas de conservación: un caso comparado entre los Bosques Húmedos de Montaña en Colombia y México” (PHd CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Manuel Mendoza.

AWARDS

Guillermo Cisneros Máximo (2016) Geomorfología volcánica de Morelia y alrededores, propuesta de cartografía geomorfológica jerárquica a nivel detalle y semidetalle”. (MA Geography. CIGA – UNAM). Advisor: Manuel Mendoza



CLAG Member News



Christian Brannstrom conducted fieldwork and taught short courses on wind energy in Fortaleza, Brazil during May-June 2016. He also co-taught a study abroad program in Costa Rica, which included visits to Pacific and Caribbean coasts. In July 2016 he was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University.

Christopher Gaffney conducted ten weeks of fieldwork in Río de Janeiro before, during and after the Olympic Games. His research appeared in numerous media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *ARD*, The CBS Evening News, *La Nacion*, *O Globo*, and others.

Diego Pons (University of Denver) was awarded the Graduate Student Research Award for Excellence in Research from the University of Denver, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, May 2016.

Jorge Ruiz (Profesor Asociado Escuela de Ciencias Sociales, Área de Geografía, Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia) is part way through a Research Scholar appointment in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, a 24-month sabbatical-postdoctoral plan. Email: jorge.ruiz@geog.ucsb.edu



Catherine Nolin (University of Northern British Columbia, UNBC) recently traveled for three invited lectures at Kent State University (*Documenting Violence: Seeing the Disappeared*, with James Rodríguez), McMaster University (*Transnational ruptures in a time of impunity: Genocide, mining, and migration at Dis/placing the Borders of North America Workshop*), and Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany (*Transnational violence in a time of impunity: Genocide, mining, and migration at Encountering Transnational (In)Security and Violence in Guatemala research workshop*).

Antoinette WinklerPrins sends news as the Chair of the Publications Committee of the American Geographic Society (AGS) about the journal [FOCUS on Geography](#). Until 2015, the print format journal has been reinvented for the digital age by members of the AGS. The journal is now a peer-reviewed digital only journal (with DOIs for each article) that focuses on highly visual and dynamic presentation. Interested authors can submit a feature article or photo essay. Three of its first four articles are Latin America focused and written by CLAG members. Dr. WinklerPrins believes that, in addition to JLAG, this journal will be attractive to CLAGistas. Note: the new President of the AGS is long active CLAGista Dr. Marie Price of the George Washington University.

LASG Member News

Adrienne Johnson, Anna Zalik, David Szablowski, Eduardo Canel, and Social Action were awarded a grant from [York University's Canada @ 150 initiative](#) to fund a conference entitled, *The Past, Present, and Future of Canada and the Global Extractives Complex*. The conference seeks to examine the ambivalent role that Canada plays in building, governing, and maintaining extractive frontiers within the country and abroad. The multi-day conference will take place in late-2017 and will provide a platform for scholarly paper presentations and roundtable discussions on resource governance and extractive industries in a global context.

Recent Graduates and New Positions

Congratulations to the following people who are in new positions:

Chris Hartmann (PhD, Ohio State University '16) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at SUNY Old Westbury.



Claudia Radel is now serving as Associate Dean of the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University

Julio C. Postigo is now a Senior Research Scientist of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. He is also a newly-appointed Liaison Scientist for the Collaborative Crop Research Program of the McKnight Foundation.



Nicholas Wise has a new position as Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Events Management, Faculty of Education, Health and Community at the Liverpool [John Moores University](#).

LASG Available Opportunities

We have a Ph.D. graduate fellowship available to begin Fall 2017 in the Ecology, Evolution, Ecosystems, and Society (EEES) graduate program at Dartmouth College. The student would join an ongoing research program on community-based fishing and rice farming in the Dominican Republic.

The successful candidate will have a background in an environmentally-oriented social science, and a desire to integrate applied social and ecological research. Extensive fieldwork in the Dominican Republic will be required, and as such a high level of Spanish fluency with substantial speaking experience is also required. The new EEES graduate program at Dartmouth College offers an interdisciplinary intellectual environment, ample resources for graduate students, and a committed faculty. To initiate an application, email a CV and statement of interest to Michael Cox (Michael.e.cox@dartmouth.edu). Please forward this to anyone who might be interested.

Grad Student Awards

CLAG Student Conference Travel Awards, 2016

The following CLAG student members have been awarded competitive travel grants of \$500 each to present their research at the CLAG conference in New Orleans in January 2017.

- Aghane de Carvalho Antunes (University of Florida)
- Megan D. Baumann (Pennsylvania State University)
- Teresa Bornschlegl (Clark University)
- Alejandra Guzmán Luna (Colegio de la Frontera Sur)
- Paula Haddad (PUCMINAS-Brazil); declined.
- Lorena I. Toro Mayorga (Universidad Técnica del Norte-Ecuador)
- Karly Marie Miller (University of California, Santa Barbara)
- Diego Pons (University of Denver)
- Emilie L. Schur (University of Arizona)

CLAG Field Study Award Winner Reports, 2016

<i>Named Award</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Project Title & Amount Awarded</i>
Bernard Nietschmann (PhD)	Seth Denizen, University of California at Berkeley (advisor: Michael Watts)	The Vertical Geopolitics of 42 Centimeters in Iztapalapa, Mexico City (\$1,500)
Robert C. West (PhD)	Diana Denham, Portland State University (advisor: Nathan McClintock)	Traditional markets in an era of supermarketization: A case study of Mexico's <i>tianguis</i> (\$1,500)
James J. Parsons (PhD)	Rebecca McMillan, University of Toronto (advisor: Scott Prudham)	Coproducing the state? Water, participation, and justice in Venezuela (\$1,500)
Bernard Nietschmann (PhD)	Elizabeth Tellman, Arizona State University (advisor: Billie Lee Turner II)	Clandestine transactions and land use change: The consequences of clientelism in Mexico City and cocaine transit in Central America (\$1,334)
Robert C. West (PhD)	Laurel Bellante, University of Arizona (advisor: Tracey Osborne)	Dispossession through 'Double Exposure': The Struggle for Farmer Autonomy in the Face of Climate Change and Neoliberalism (\$1,333)
James J. Parsons (PhD)	Gabriel Granco, Kansas State University (advisor: Marcellus Caldas)	Modeling land change dynamics of sugarcane to predict Cerrado biodiversity vulnerability (\$1,333)
Clarissa Kimber (Master's)	Emilie Schur, University of Arizona (advisor: Margaret Wilder)	Reimagining water security: The case of two colonias across the U.S.-Mexico border (\$500)
William M. Denevan (Master's)	Blaise Murphy, University of Denver (advisor: J. Michael Daniels)	Terracing, Land Management, and Agricultural Soils in the Andagua Valley of the Southern Peruvian Andes (\$500)

CLAG Field Study Award Winner Reports, 2016

Seth Denizen's (University of California at Berkeley) doctoral research examines the vertical geopolitics of Iztapalapa's shifting ground. The purpose of the research project is to study the emergence of Iztapalapa's geography of geological risk through the work of hybrid empirical and political institutions like Centro de Evaluación de Riesgo Geológico (CERG) / Center for the Evaluation of Geological Risk, in order better understand how complex social, political, and scientific negotiations in a contingent environment transform empirical evidence into a plan of survival.

- With the support of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers Seth traveled to Mexico in 2016 and worked primarily with CERG that has been tasked with mapping geological hazards in order to try to predict which areas of the city will be affected in the future.
- In the municipality of Iztapalapa, just east of the center of Mexico City, the rate of subsidence has reached forty-two centimeters per year. This is one of the highest rates of subsidence in the world, causing water lines to rupture, buildings to become unstable, and sewer flow gradients to reverse. The cause of this subsidence is the extraction of groundwater, which has been known with absolute certainty since the late 1948.
- In the absence of a plan to stop extracting groundwater, and as a result of the geotechnical effects of the water already extracted, high rates of subsidence in Iztapalapa will continue for the foreseeable future. The question for residents then becomes how to survive the subsidence as it continues.

Rebecca McMillan’s (University of Toronto) doctoral research examines Venezuela’s participatory water management institutions – referred to as “technical water committees” – and their relationship to water equity and changing state-society relations. This summer, the country was at the peak of its worst drought in nearly half a century. Because Venezuela is highly reliant on hydroelectricity, the drought had multiple spin-off effects across the public and private sectors.

- Rebecca spent summer 2016 in Venezuela conducting preliminary research for the first stage of PhD field research, to be conducted over 1-1.5 years and divided between Caracas and a rural case community.
- During this first phase of field research, Rebecca carried out interviews with water activists, government officials, and other researchers in Caracas to establish the broader context of the project. Additionally, Rebecca began attending water committee meetings in the community of Antímamo.
- One research theme in this first phase has been exploring the roots of the present water crisis, and competing narratives about its causes. Water narratives, as political ecologists suggest, do important “work” in terms of supporting political coalitions or (de)legitimizing projects.
- The next phase of research involves 11 months of community-level ethnographic research with the water committees.



Photo Caption: Illegal home construction in a National Protected Area in Sierra de Santa Catarina, Iztapalapa. According to nearby residents, an actor from a smaller political party, Partido de Trabajo, is selling the land, registering people to vote, and providing services.

Elizabeth Tellman’s (Arizona State University) doctoral research examines how clientelism works in the process of urban land change in Mexico City and cocaine transit in Central America.

- Preliminary fieldwork on informal settlements was conducted from June-August, 2016 and focused on interviewing academic experts on Mexico City’s urbanization and key agents shaping and regulating informal urbanization, including government officials, residents, and political party and social movement leaders. In addition to these interviews, visits were made to informal urban communities and participant observation engaging in government meetings discussing regulating urbanization in the Mexican Megalopolis (Megalopolis II, July 25-26, Mexican Legislative Assembly) and planning eviction of informal settlements in one borough of the city (Xochimilco), which is rapidly urbanizing on formal conservation land.
- Initial expert interviews confirmed politics permeates informal settlements and the regularization process at all stages. Politicians at every level—local delegation, local representatives, federal level senators, mayors, and even the President—can formally or informally influence regularization or access to urban services.

Laurel Bellante’s (University of Arizona) doctoral research involves in-depth research in two corn-farming counties in Chiapas, Mexico. Laurel’s study documents farmers’ experiences of “double exposure” to both climate change and neoliberal agricultural policies and the associated impacts on land use decisions, resource control, farmer organizing, and the long-term viability of smallholder corn production.

- Preliminary data analysis reveals the many ways in which farmers are experiencing and responding to ‘double exposure.’ On the one hand, farmers observe worrisome changes in their local environment and climate and increasing yield losses from drought, climate extremes, and pests. On the other hand, neoliberal agricultural policies have increased competition among corn farmers just as agricultural supports in the form of credit access, subsidized seeds and inputs, and state-based extension services have been sharply curtailed.
- This research demonstrates the complex ways in which political economic factors intersect with and compound farmers’ vulnerability to environmental changes.
- In the absence of new efforts to reinvigorate Mexico’s seed, inputs, and extension services, this research identifies strong economic and environmental trends that reduce the long-term viability of small-scale farming and thwart transitions to more sustainable and resilient agricultural practices.

Gabriel Granco's (Kansas State University) fieldwork had the objective to advance an approach to studying land change dynamics' impacts on biodiversity considering climate change scenarios. Environmental impacts are of concern when ethanol is produced in areas of high biodiversity value such as the Brazilian savanna known as Cerrado. This biome has been the breadbasket of the Brazil since the agricultural revolution in the 1970s powered by intensive capital and the conversion of the large plains to grain production and pastureland.

- Gabriel's fieldwork took place at the laboratory of Meta-population and Landscape Ecology at Federal University of Goias, Goiania, Brazil, under the supervision of Dr. de Marco Jr. This laboratory is on the leading edge of ecological niche modeling (ENM) concerning the Cerrado's biodiversity investigating the response of a wide number of mammals, amphibians, and insects to land use and climate change. It was a rich experience to collaborate with a large lab developing partnerships, sharing data and insights.
- Gabriel spent 45 days in this laboratory; during this time he was trained in the most recent modeling and evaluation methods on ENM.
- During fieldwork, Gabriel collaborated in the development of an ENM for sugarcane. They modeled the areas suitable for sugarcane production, thus the ENM result indicates areas where sugarcane can be grown.

Emilie Schur's (University of Arizona) thesis is a comparative study of two colonia communities—Columbus, New Mexico and Palomas, Chihuahua—that are separated by the U.S.-Mexico border, but interconnected by contaminated groundwater from the transboundary Mimbres Basin Aquifer. During summer fieldwork, Emilie focused on answering two primary research questions: *What causes household water insecurity in colonia communities, and how can access to clean and reliable water be improved?*

- Emilie stayed in Palomas, Chihuahua for a month and traveled to the county seat of Ascension and Ciudad Juarez for interviews with policymakers. Emilie lived for a second month in Deming, New Mexico.
- In Palomas, Emilie collaborated with eight community health workers, *promotoras de salud*, to co-design a survey for assessing household water security. Emilie held two focus groups during the design phase with the *promotoras*, and afterward they surveyed 102 households in Palomas. In Columbus, Emilie collaborated with a local NGO to survey 50 households.
- Emilie conducted semi-structured interviews with 52 stakeholders. These included representatives from water utilities, environmental/ conservation organizations, border agencies, government officials, farmers/ ranchers, well drillers, teachers, community health workers, and academics. My research contributes to a growing body of work that calls for a refining of water security metrics based on grounded, participatory research.

Blaise Murphy (University of Denver) completed field work for her Master's thesis studying agricultural soils in the Andagua Valley of the Southern Peruvian Andes. The overarching goal of this project was to answer the following question: *What effects do terracing and land management have on agriculturally relevant soil properties in the Andagua Valley?*

- To complete this research, Blaise collected 90 topsoil samples from both abandoned and cultivated agricultural terraces of varying ages, aspects and types across the valley. Throughout the research process, she became particularly interested in the areas called *Paccareta* and *Tauca*, both of which were reconstructed within the last 50 years but have drastically different occupational histories, resulting in distinct agricultural soil properties.
- Observations from the field show that wall collapse can induce sheet erosion in abandoned agricultural terraces. The process removes topsoil from terraces on micro-shoulderslopes and micro-backslopes exposing a subsurface compacted clay horizon also found underlying currently cultivated terraces across the valley. Lab analysis will further illuminate the effects of land management on the soil systems in the valley and their potential for future agricultural fertility.
- Outcomes of this project will be compiled in the form of a Master's thesis and shared with the community on Blaise's return to Peru.



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