CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

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

Timothy B Norris - Editor

CLAG San Jose Costa Rica
May 2018

Well over 200 conference attendees converged on San Jose Costa Rica for the 35th Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers.

Many thanks to Peter Herlihy of the University of Kansas who organized the event around the theme “Geographic Research in 21st Century Latin America”. See page 13 and page 18 for more!

Donaldo Allen González, Presidente actual de la Confederación de Pueblos Autóctonos de Honduras (CONPAH) y Brooklyn Rivera el fundador de YATAMA (Yatpi Tasba Masrika nani Asla Takanka-Niños de la Madre Tierra), una organización indígena y afro-descendente y a la vez un partido político en Nicaragua, exponen sus experiencias y posiciones a audiencia atestada.

CLAG Correspondence: http://clagscholar.org/ communications@clagscholar.org
@CLAGGeography #CLAGScholar

LASG Correspondence: http://community.aag.org/lasg/
https://www.facebook.com/AAGLASG/

CLAG Board Members
Board of Directors

CLAG Chair:  Kendra McSweeney - mcsweeney.14@osu.edu - The Ohio State University
CLAG Vice Chair:  Brad Jokisch - jokisch@ohio.edu - Ohio University
Executive Director:  Michael Steinberg - mksteinberg@ua.edu - University of Alabama
Treasurer:  Robert B. Kent - rkent@csun.edu - California State University Northridge
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Communications Coordinator:  Timothy Norris – tnorris@miami.edu - University of Miami

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Matthew Taylor – U. Denver

* terms end on June 30 of year indicated

LASG Officers

LASG Chair:  Johnny Finn - john.finn@cnu.edu - Christopher Newport University
LASG Vice Chair:  Federica Bono - federica.bono@kuleuven.be - University of Leuven
Secretary:  Denielle Perry - denielle.perry@nau.edu – Northern Arizona University
Letter from the Executive Director
Michael Steinberg

Dear CLAG Members,

As I begin my term as CLAG Executive Director I want to first thank Andrew Sluyter for all his hard work on behalf of CLAG. Andrew not only served as executive director, but also organized a highly successful CLAG meeting in New Orleans. Organizing a meeting on top of the duties of executive director was not part of the job description, but Andrew pulled it off flawlessly. In addition, Kendra McSweeney’s term as Chair is coming to an end, and Brad Jokisch’s tenure will begin. Kendra has been a steady force for CLAG and was never afraid to make tough decisions that benefitted CLAG both in the short and long runs. I also want to thank Peter Herlihy who organized a wonderful meeting in Costa Rica. Peter showed great flexibility when he was asked to move the meeting location from Honduras. Finally, I want to thank Chris Gaffney whose tenure as editor for JLAG has recently come to an end. Chris begins a new position at New York University and regrettably won’t have the time needed to dedicate to the journal. Chris has truly helped elevate JLAG, and in turn CLAG. We are fortunate that Johnny Finn applied and was selected to serve as JLAG’s next editor. Johnny served as assistant editor so he brings a wealth of experience and energy to the position. Johnny was also instrumental in organizing our inaugural JLAG speaker at the last AAG meeting, and what a talk it was! Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote, a Cuban scholar and farmer, spoke about agro-ecology, sustainable agriculture, and Cuban rural development. In short, after a short academic career, Funes Monzote bought a small, dilapidated farm outside of Havana, and quickly turned the farm into a successful laboratory for agro-ecological practices. It was an outstanding and inspirational talk to launch our new speaking event at the AAG.

Looking ahead, our next meeting will be held in Antigua, Guatemala in January 2020. This will be our 50th anniversary meeting/celebration, so let’s make it a highly attended meeting. Antigua is a beautiful colonial city with a plethora of activities in and around the city. Matthew Taylor and I will serve as primary organizers, with help from Catherine Nolin, George Lovell and many other Guatemalan scholars. Although our sponsored sessions and party at the AAG are of course important events that we all look forward to, the CLAG meeting is critical in terms of developing collaborations and friendships. Our meeting has helped create a group of tight knit, multi-generational scholars, which I consider more important than ever given the ever-growing size of the AAG meeting. It is never too early to start thinking about paper topics and organized sessions. So as I begin my term as executive director, I am happy to report that CLAG remains in excellent shape regarding our membership, finances, and again, JLAG. However, we can’t take past success for granted. So please encourage colleagues to join CLAG and submit articles. We all benefit from a top-tier journal because the journal represents the academic “face” of our group. No matter the stage of your career, make JLAG the first publishing destination for your research. Also, and somewhat related, part of our financial strength is directly connected to JLAG and downloads of its articles. Through a complicated equation, CLAG’s coffers grow as more articles are downloaded. So please regularly peruse the journal and download articles. Better yet, assign JLAG articles in your classes so that students also download material! CLAG is able to be generous with support for students largely because of our journal, and support for graduate student research and conference travel represents an important way that CLAG has fostered geographic education and research on Latin America since 1970. So again, please encourage colleagues, young and old, to join CLAG, submit research, and download articles.

All the best,
Michael Steinberg
CLAG Executive Director
University of Alabama
"GEOGRAPHY AND TERRITORY: CHANGES AND PERMANENCES" XXXIX National Congress and XXIV International Geography

The Chilean Society of Geographical Sciences, together with the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism, and Geography, of the University of Concepción, Region of Biobío, Chile, is pleased to invite you to participate in the XXXIX National Congress and XXIV International Geography to be held in the city of Concepción, between October 23-26, 2018, titled: "GEOGRAPHY AND TERRITORY: CHANGES AND PERMANENCES".

Letter from the CLAG Chair
Kendra McSweeney

Dear CLAGist@s near and far,

By the time you read this, my term as Chair will have ended, and the Chairship of CLAG will be in the eminently capable hands of Brad Jokisch. So I’d like to reflect here on a few things that I’ve learned over the past two years in this position. First: CLAG has never been healthier. I’m not just talking about membership—although our numbers are climbing steadily. Rather, I’m referring to the broad and deep scope of our collective scholarship and the increasing diversity of our membership. We’re attracting more scholars from Latin America—as we should—and we are continuing to demonstrate that we are a supportive and collegial space for students. These traits were on superb display in San José, at CLAG35, where the talks ranged from unexpected archives to climate change to drug wars, and included participants from across the hemisphere. As I talked with people about their conference experience, they routinely mentioned the friendly atmosphere and ample social time—both so central to a thriving intellectual community. Another frequent compliment was appreciation of the way that CLAG brings together researchers and practitioners from so many different sub-disciplines who can often feel isolated in bounded intellectual communities, but at CLAG can appreciate one another’s insights in the inclusive context of our shared passion for Latin America.

I’ve also learned just how much the business of CLAG runs on the volunteer labor of so many. That includes the 19 members of the CLAG board, the 12 members of the JLAG editorial team, the various members pulled in for ad-hoc committee work, all those involved in the heavy lifting of conference organizing, and—of course—all the rest of you who write the papers, give the talks, review manuscripts, and attend our parties and sponsored events. This what makes CLAG hum. It has been an honor to help negotiate this complex dance over the past two years. And it’s been a busy time! We conducted three searches—for Executive Director, Communication Coordinator, and new JLAG Editor-in-Chief. We’ve launched a new showcase lecture for JLAG at the AAG, streamlined our bylaws, and are in the process of reconstructing the website and consolidating and facilitating the membership renewal process. These, to me, are the hallmarks of an organization that is adaptable and responsive to its members.

Finally, I’ve come to appreciate how our organization and its scholarship matter now more than ever. In politically polarizing times, it is essential for us to maintain intellectual communities that span borders and languages. In times of economic retrenchment and shrinking funding, it is vital that we continue to financially support and create space for research that is committed to improving our understanding of other places, spaces, and their interconnection—whether the focus is on history, geomorphology, or emergent economic relations. I see CLAG as an important champion of this crucial perspective on the world.

Kendra McSweeney
CLAG Chair 2016-18
Letter from the LASG Chair
Johnny Finn

Dear LASG Members,

Greetings from Newport News, Virginia. It’s an honor to write one final letter as I conclude my term as the Chair of the AAG’s Latin America Specialty Group. As always, many thanks to LASG Vice-Chair Federica Bono, and LASG Secretary/Treasurer Denielle Perry for their service.

The 2018 AAG meeting in New Orleans was a success for the Latin America Specialty Group. In total we sponsored 20 paper and panel sessions covering a diverse array of topics, perspectives, and locations. Notably, LASG co-sponsored and co-organized the inaugural JLAG Lecture, featuring Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote, a well-known Cuban farmer and agroecologist. His lecture will be published in JLAG in the near future. And of course, LASG and CLAG co-hosted our annual party, this year at the Apres Lounge on Fulton Street. It was great to see so many people there.

The bulk of LASG’s annual budget goes to supporting multiple graduate student awards, and we were happy to announce three winners this year: Megan Mills-Novoa (University of Arizona) won the Field Study Award at the PhD level for her project titled “After Adaptation: A comparative study of two completed climate change adaptation projects in Guatemala and Colombia.” Ruchi Patel (Penn State) won the Field Study Award at the Masters level for her project titled “Finding common ground: Reconciling indigenous and conservationist priorities for dry tropical forest protection in Nicaragua.” Finally, the Best Paper Award at the PhD level went to Max Counter (University of Colorado, Boulder) for his paper entitled “‘In Good Faith’: land grabbing, ‘legal dispossession’, and land restitution in Colombia.” Congratulations to these winners, and many thanks to the ad hoc awards committees, including Chris Hartmann, Federica Bono, Denielle Perry, Nicholas Padilla, Anne-Marie Hanson, and Chris Gaffney, who reviewed all field study proposals and read all paper submissions.

During the LASG business meeting in New Orleans we voted on several items that I’d like to briefly outline:

First, due to consistently low submission rates for the MA and co-authored paper award, after a spirited discussion we voted to collapse all paper award categories into a single “Best Paper Award” category. To be considered, the lead author on the paper must be a graduate student (at any level), and a member of LASG. Both single-authored and co-authored papers will be accepted. The award amount will be raised from $200 to $300, and the option to submit the winning paper for review in JLAG will remain in place.

Second, we voted to increase dues from $8/$2 (for students and faculty, respectively) to $10/$5. This should make it possible to raise our award funding within two to three years.

Third, we voted to change the LASG bylaws to allow for nominations for officer positions prior to the annual business meeting. Specifically, the new language on nominations reads: “Article VIII: Nominations and Elections: Nominations for offices being vacated will be made up to 30 days prior to the annual business meeting, and nominees will be announced to the LASG membership via the LASG discussion board. Elections will be held at the annual LASG business meeting.”

Finally, I’d like to welcome the new LASG officers who were voted into office at the business meeting. Effective July 1, Ben Gerlofs (Princeton University) will take over as Chair, I will move to Vice-Chair, and Beth Bee (East Carolina University) will become the new Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, I would like to welcome three new graduate student directors to the team: Vanessa Guerra (Virginia Tech), Karen Hudlet Vazquez (Clark University), and Adam Dohrenwend (University of Kansas).

Happy summer everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all next year in Washington DC, if not before.

Sincerely,

Johnny Finn
Christopher Newport University
LASG Chair, 2016-2018
john.finn@cnu.edu
Upcoming: Race Ethnicity and Place IXth Conference

Texas State University and the University of Texas at Austin will be co-hosting the ninth bi-annual Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference in Austin from **October 23-25, 2018**. In the spirit of this year’s theme, "Engaged Scholarship: Fostering Civil and Human Rights," we are collaborating with the City of Austin’s Mexican American Cultural Center to hold the conference in the community. The beautiful Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB MACC) is located adjacent to Town Lake and the Rainey Street Historic District in downtown Austin with many opportunities to enjoy the lake and live music.

**Call for Participation:**
Students, faculty, and other professionals representing a wide range of disciplines will share papers, posters, and panel presentations. These scholars share an interest in racial and ethnic transformation of places worldwide and reflect a mix of applied and theoretical perspectives, often within a spatial framework.

**Tentative Schedule:**
The conference will feature an opening reception on Tuesday evening, paper and poster sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, field trips on Friday morning, as well as great food, music, and keynote speakers with local artist & activist participation throughout the conference.

**Conference Hotels**
The Holiday Inn Express and Indigo Hotels have a block of rooms available at reduced rates for attendees. Book through the conference website to access the discounted rate. Once this block is full, the reduced rate will no longer be available, so book today!

**Registration and Details**
Register and submit your paper, paper session, panel or poster before August 1st 2018 to get the early registration rate at [http://www.repconference.org/](http://www.repconference.org/)
Meet the Editor

It is with excitement and humility that I’ll become the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Latin American Geography in early 2019. I eagerly look forward to building upon the tremendous efforts of previous editors, most recently Chris Gaffney, who have made JLAG a truly transnational, multilingual academic journal with reach far beyond the North American Latin Americanist geography community. As JLAG’s incoming editor, I will consider it my primary mission to continue to expand the hemispheric reach and visibility of JLAG, to maintain it as the obvious choice for publishing geographical scholarship on Latin America, and to increase the standing of JLAG among the top journals in all disciplines of Latin American(ist) scholarship. First and foremost, this means continuing to emphasize the quality and readability of the articles, essays, and reviews that we publish. This also means expanding upon recent initiatives that the editorial team has undertaken, including the creation of the JLAG Perspectives section and the newly introduced JLAG Retrospectives section. But this also means looking for new areas of improvement and/or expansion to further consolidate JLAG as a top-tier journal for geographical scholarship on and from Latin America. To that end, I’ll soon begin working with the journal’s associate editors to roll out several new initiatives aimed at furthering JLAG’s explicit engagement with critical geographies in Latin America, increasing the visibility of Latin American scholars and scholarship amongst North American/Anglophone geographers, and broadening JLAG’s operational conception of Latin America as a region by directly engaging with the emergent Latinx geography community. Be on the lookout for more information on these initiatives in the coming weeks and months.

The success of JLAG is a direct result of the ongoing efforts of authors, reviewers, and of course readers. So please keep the submissions coming! If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to get in touch with me directly. I’m so grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

Sincerely,
Johnny Finn
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Latin American Studies Book Series
Call for book proposals and manuscripts

Please remember that CLAG collaborates with Springer-Nature to publish “Springer Briefs in Latin American Studies.” It is a great place for manuscripts too short for a lengthy book but too long for a journal article to submit to JLAG. Several CLAG members have published graduate theses and other short manuscripts in it, as you can see at the following link:


Another option, for longer manuscripts, is the “The Latin American Studies Book Series,” (http://www.springer.com/series/15104).

To submit a proposal or manuscript, please contact Michael Steinberg – CLAG Executive Director at mksteinberg@ua.edu.
New Publications: Papers/Reports/Book Chapters:


New Publications: Books

https://global.oup.com/academic/product/governing-extractive-industries-9780198820932


New Publications: Special Issues


Guest Editors: Ray Bromley and Tamar Diana Wilson

Introduction: The Urban Informal Economy Revisited, Ray Bromley, Tamar Diana Wilson

Articles

**James M. Cypher.** From Structuralism to Neoliberal Depredation and Beyond: Economic Transformations and Labor Policies in Latin America, 1950–2016

**Rodolfo Elbert.** Informality, Class Structure, and Class Identity in Contemporary Argentina

**Dasten Julián.** Unions Opposing Labor Precarity in Chile: Union Leaders’ Perceptions and Representations of Collective Action

**Álvaro del Águila.** Living on the Construction Site: Paraguayan Construction Workers in Buenos Aires


**Marta Marello, Ann Helwege.** Solid Waste Management and Social Inclusion of Wastepickers: Opportunities and Challenges
Tamar Diana Wilson. The Informal Economy and Social Programs in Mexico: A Critique

Georgina Rojas-García, Mónica Patricia Toledo González. Paid Domestic Work: Gender and the Informal Economy in Mexico


Daliany Jerónimo Kersh. Women’s Small-Scale, Home-Based Informal Employment during Cuba’s Special Period


Book Reviews


Figure 1 Brazil - Lisa Rausch - UW Madison
CLAG 2018 Awards and Honors

The 2018 Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award - Nicholas P. Dunning - University of Cincinnati

The 2018 Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award - W. George Lovell – Queen’s University

The 2018 Enlaces Award - Patricia Solis - Texas Tech University

The 2018 Outstanding Service to CLAG - Robert Kent - California State University-Northridge.

The 2018 Private Sector and Government Award - David S. Salisbury – University of Richmond
CLAG/LASG Member News

Awards and Honors:

Julie Velásquez Runk won a National Humanities Center Fellowship for 2018-2019 (for more info, see: https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/nhc-names-fellows-2018-19/). The fellowship funds my residence at the NHC during the academic year to work on a multi-modal book project entitled *Entangled Rosewood: Loss, Being, and Belonging*.

Araby Smyth, PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky, was awarded a Evelyn L. Pruitt Fellowship for Dissertation Research from the Society of Woman Geographers and a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award. The awards will support her fieldwork in Mexico from September 2018-August 2019. The title of the project is Gender and Remittances: Lived experiences of women in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Anthony Bebbington was honored with an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship (2017-2022).

Notes from the Field:

In March 2018, Chris Hartmann, Assistant Professor of Public Health at SUNY Old Westbury, led a group of 12 undergraduate public health majors to Nicaragua as part of a 10-day study abroad course over spring break. The course, a first for the Public Health Department, focused on several contemporary public health issues: mosquito-borne diseases in urban areas, rural maternal and child health, occupational health hazards among sugarcane workers, and the healthcare system. The group met with community volunteers, state officials, labor activists, and representatives of NGOs in Managua, León, and Matagalpa. (Photo: SUNY OW students and community volunteers participate in mock mosquito prevention campaign in Managua.)

Joe Scarpaci from the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy just completed an eight-day trip to Cuba. The title of the program was “The Afro Cuban Experience,” and explored African contributions to material culture, religion, entrepreneurs, music, the arts, as well as the evolution of race relations. Fellow CLAG geographer Kent Mathewson was also in tow.

Christopher Gaffney was the Project Manager for Team Rubicon's Long-Term Recovery Project in Puerto Rico between February and June of 2018.
Recent Graduates and New Positions

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

**Dr. Ginés A. Sánchez Arias, PhD**, Louisiana State University, May 2018. Dissertation title: “Linguistic Political Ecology with the Ngäbe Indigenous People of Panama.” Andrew Sluyter, major professor.

**Sarah McCall Harris** graduated with her doctoral degree from the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University in June 2018. Her dissertation title is “The Political Economy of Sandinismo 2.0: Environmental and social implications of paradoxical economic ideologies in post-revolutionary Nicaragua.”

Congratulations to the following people who are in new positions:

**Christopher Gaffney** recently accepted a position as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality as a part of the School of Professional Studies at New York University.

**Carolina Sternberg** is recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, DePaul University, Chicago. She was also recently appointed Chair in the same department.

Journal of Latin American Geography

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Please download all the Articles and Book Reviews from Project Muse

**Francisco Molina Camacho**
Decolonizando los riesgos naturales: poder, territorio y conocimiento ancestral en la comuna de Saavedra, Chile
pp. 7-33, doi: [10.1353/lag.2018.0001](https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2018.0001)

**Alejandra I. Monti**
Cambio de referentes: El Instituto de Planeamiento Regional y Urbano del Litoral (IPRUL) como vector de ingreso del planning en la Argentina.

**Yurixhi Manriquez-Bucio, Claudio Garibay Orozco, Pedro S. Urquijo Torres**
Resistencia ante proyectos minero-energéticos: de la oposición local a la regionalización en la Sierra Norte de Puebla, México
Daniel M. Freitas
Neoliberalização da política urbana nos Grandes Projetos Urbanos da Região Metropolitana de Belo Horizonte
pp. 86-107, doi: 10.1353/lag.2018.0004

Cristian D. Ramírez, Sergio A. Orrego, Laura C. Schneider
Identifying Drivers and Spatial Patterns of Deforestation in the Rio Grande Basin, Colombia

Aaron Malone, T. Elizabeth Durden
Who Drives Diaspora Development?: Replication of Mexico’s 3×1 Program in Yucatán
pp. 139-165, doi: 10.1353/lag.2018.0006

Nora Sylvander
Saneamiento Territorial in Nicaragua, and the Prospects for Resolving Indigenous-Mestizo Land Conflicts

Johnathan A. Abreu
Fugitive Slave Communities in Northern Brazil between 1880 and 1900: Territoriality, Resistance, and the Struggle for Autonomy

Talia G. Anderson, Daniel Griffin, Kevin J. Anchukaitis, Diego Pons, Matthew J. Taylor
Climate Sensitivity and Potential Vulnerability of Guatemalan Fir (Abies guatemalensis) Forests in Totonicapán, Guatemala

Margaret Skutsch, Marcela Olguín, Patricia Gerez, Carlos Muench, Gonzalo Chapela, Raúl Benet, Adolfo Chavez, Rodrigo Galindo
Increasing Inequalities in Access to Forests and Forest Benefits in Mexico

Jared P. Van Ramshorst
Anti-immigrant Sentiment, Rising Populism, and the Oaxacan Trump

Gilles Martinet, Chloé Nicolas Artero, Florian Opillard, Claudio Pulgar Pinaud
Descolonizar la producción de conocimiento sobre espacios latinoamericanos desde Europa: límites críticos y aprendizajes desde la experiencia interdisciplinaria del GRECAL

Mary Finley-Brook
Violent Green Spaces in Neoliberal Central America
Book Reviews

Marcellus M. Caldas
Conjuring Property: Speculation and Environmental Futures in the Brazilian Amazon by Jeremy M. Campbell (review)

Eric Perramond
Whither the Waters: Mapping the Great Basin from Bernardo de Miera to John C. Frémont by John L. Kessell (review)

Christian Brannstrom
Cattle in the Backlands: Mato Grosso and the Evolution of Ranching in the Brazilian Tropics by Robert W. Wilcox (review)

Karl S. Zimmerer
The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World by Andrea Wulf (review)

Kathleen Schroeder
Owners of the Sidewalk: Security and Survival in the Informal City by Daniel M. Goldstein (review)

Cíntia Leone S. dos Santos, Wagner C. Ribeiro
Volcanes y ecoturismo en México y América Central ed. by Lilliam Quirós Arias, Álvaro Sánchez Crispín (review)

Brazil - Lisa Rausch - UW Madison