



Latin America  
Specialty Group

## CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG) and AAG's Latin America Specialty Group (LASG)

*Elise Arellano-Thompson and Beth Tellman – Co-Editors*

### CLAG 2026 – PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

Save the date for the 39th Conference of Latin American Geography in Puerto Vallarta, scheduled to take place January 6-9, 2026, with additional field trips scheduled for January 10-11 2026. Details coming soon, please stay tuned!



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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTEN CONWAY-GÓMEZ

January 1, 2025

Happy New Year! ¡Prospero Año Nuevo! Feliz Año Novo! I wish for all a peaceful and productive 2025.

Mark your calendars for January 6-9, 2026, when we'll meet in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for CLAG 2026! Our Comité CLAG Mexico – Isabel Ramirez, Manuel Bollo, Jaime Paneque-Gálvez, and Oliver Gabriel Hernández Lara – is already hard at work on the meeting, which sees us returning to Mexico. Stay tuned, more details will be forthcoming. A subtle reminder that it is not too early to start thinking about honors nominations!

The Field Study Award deadline for students is coming up on March 1st. This is a wonderful financial opportunity that CLAG can make available to student members, which reminds me to encourage your participation. As you make connections with students through your activities, please consider inviting them to join us – we all benefit from the success of the next generation. Please also keep colleagues in mind as you go about your work, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean because we aim to be a hemispheric organization with representation. CLAG's financial standing remains solid and steady, which makes our funding offerings possible and one important means by which to maintain our vibrancy.

Our scholarly outlets - JLAG and our book series Critical Geographies of Latin America and the Caribbean, with University Press of Florida – serve as thriving sources of scholarship and testament to the activity of our members and all who are interested in Latin American and Caribbean geography. In case you missed it with all your holiday duties, don't forget to look at JLAG 23(3), which came out in December. Co-editors Martha Bell and Jessica Budds continue making strides toward getting JLAG indexed on Scopus, which is likely to be a benefit for a wider international

audience. The breadth encompassed in the book series means this is a potential outlet for your work, consider contacting one of the editors to discuss your monograph or short text.



CLAG membership continues to be strong, with 257 active members. We've seen this high membership number maintained since April 2024, in part linked to CLAG 2024 participation, but still a highwater mark for CLAG over the past five years, which has average membership at 202. An exciting aspect of this membership is that a majority of these are student memberships – 105 of them to be exact! I am pleased to see this level of student involvement, which bodes well for the future of our organization, reflects recruitment efforts, and will benefit all of us as we aim to remain a vibrant forum for Latin American geography. As you are aware, there are great assets associated with CLAG membership – a strong community of geographers doing quality work in and about Latin America; biannual conferences to bring us together and strengthen our community; access to JLAG, a soon-to-be Scopus indexed journal; an exciting new book series; various honors for work in Latin American geography; student field work awards; and, student/young professional/Global South conference travel awards. An area of membership we might continue improving is in the Global South. We currently have 60 active members from

seven Latin American countries – Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, México, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela – a difference since my last column when our Latin American membership was among 16 members. This is good growth, a trend I think we'd all like to see continue in our organization. We can all be part of this – by continuing our activity in CLAG efforts and energies to introduce CLAG to our students and colleagues.

As always, thank you for your interest in and contributions to CLAG, I look forward to seeing folks this year when opportunities arise and in Puerto Vallarta in 2026!

Kristen Conway-Gómez  
Professor  
Department of Geography and Anthropology, Cal  
Poly Pomona  
Pomona, CA 91768

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## LETTER FROM THE CLAG CHAIR

Sarah Blue

Dear CLAGistas,

Happy New Year! I hope 2025 brings many opportunities for personal and professional growth and connections. I am currently in Guadalajara, Mexico on a Fulbright grant, which has been a wonderful opportunity to expand and deepen my professional networks while researching Mexican immigration policies. I would encourage everyone to consider applying for a Fulbright as an opportunity to establish and deepen bonds with our colleagues in Latin America.

We have exciting 2026 conference updates. Kristen Conway-Gómez and I, together with Jaime Paneque-Gálvez, Isabel Ramirez, and Manuel Bollo from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Morelia, met in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in early January 2025. We were also joined by several graduate students and recent graduates from the Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental (CIGA) who are also contributing to the conference planning. Our group had a highly productive three days of site visits and planning, including a visit to the beautiful campus in Puerto Vallarta, the *Centro Universitario de la Costa* (CUCOSTA), where the conference will be held. While we are still working out final details, please mark your calendars for the next CLAG Conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from **January 6-9, 2026** – we hope to see you all there!

If you are a graduate student doing thesis or dissertation research in Latin America or concerning the Latin American diaspora, please apply to CLAG's student fieldwork grants before the March 1 deadline:

<https://clagscholar.org/honors-grants/student-field-study-grant/>. The grants, ranging from \$1,000 - \$1,500, are intended to support student fieldwork and/or archival research in Latin America towards completion of a master's degree or PhD. This year we are happy to announce a new 'Carl and Lorena Sauer' award, sponsored by a generous gift from the estate of Margaret FitzSimmons, that will be

awarded to the top PhD applicant. More details will be announced at the joint CLAG-LASG business meeting at the AAG meeting in Detroit (6pm on March 27), where the award winners will be announced with a reception to follow.

While at the AAG meeting this March, please also put the JLAG lecture on your calendar: *Weaving together the Americas: communities, bridges, belonging, from Abya Yala to Turtle Island*, organized by Gabriela Valdivia and Nick Padilla (March 27<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:30am).

Our ability to fund these grants and JLAG lectures comes from revenue generated from article downloads of CLAG's peer-reviewed journal: *the Journal of Latin American Geography* (JLAG). Please continue to submit articles for publication and to use Project Muse to assign articles for your classes: <https://clagscholar.org/publications/jlag>. Thanks to the co-editors of JLAG, Martha Bell and Jessica Budds for their work on JLAG.

Please remember to renew your own membership and encourage your graduate students and colleagues to become new members.

Finally, don't forget to follow CLAG on your favorite platforms (Facebook: @clagscholar, Instagram: clagscholar, Twitter: @CLAGGeography) to keep up with the latest goings-on of this great organization.

Cuidense mucho,  
Abrazos, Sarah





Caption: The CLAG 2026 planning committee hard at work in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, January 2025.

## LETTER FROM THE LASG CHAIR

Nicholas L. Padilla

Estimad@s coleg@s,

Happy new year and feliz año nuevo to everyone from cold and snowy Kalamazoo, Michigan. As we transition into the new year, I hoped to reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2025 in an uncertain moment. I am deeply thankful and grateful to colleagues from across LASG and CLAG for their support since I assumed the role of Chair in July 2024. A special thanks to colleagues in CLAG (especially Sarah Blue and David Salisbury) for working hard to keep strong connections between our two organizations. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you, learning about your research, and sharing a laugh together in my role as Chair of the LASG. I find so much hope and joy in those small moments.

Sadly, I also find that I am troubled by political shifts unfolding across the Americas, as we see a curious confluence of forces that will shape our collective future. These include increasingly antagonistic views of higher education, doubts about science, demonization of researchers, not-so-subtle threats to re-establish U.S. empire, and dehumanizing attacks against many of the people and places we hold dear. I hope this serves as a call to action for us all as we carry out our work in uncertain times, emboldens us to cultivate collaborative and supportive networks to protect the most vulnerable among us, and stand as strong, unequivocal voices against the hateful, racist, misogynistic, and jingoistic rhetoric of the current moment.

These are familiar forces in the context of Latin America. I personally find comfort in the reflections of our colleagues who remind us there are ebbs and flows to these currents. W. George Lovell's *A Beauty that Hurts: Life and Death in Guatemala* offers his personal reflections on the aching beauty and pain of a place he loves. George reminds us that our academic lives are full of privilege *and* responsibility. George argues these responsibilities entail, "responsibility...to the people and places we cherish and love, to the ideals we hope to live by" (1995, pg. X). The privileges are obvious to me and

the responsibilities are more relevant than ever. I cherish so many people and places across Latin America—from generous Amerindian farmers in Guyana's Rupununi to the Andean highlands of southern Colombia—and I take those responsibilities seriously.

### *Reflections on the last year*

On to important specialty group matters. The LASG has had a busy few months since our last update. We have elected two new members to the executive committee. Our new Vice Chair is Sylvia Cifuentes (Assistant Professor, Mount Holyoke), and our new Secretary-Treasurer is Jose-Benito Rosales Chavez (Assistant Professor, Arizona State University). Both Sylvia and Jose-Benito will serve progressive terms on the executive committee. We are thankful for the leadership and support offered by our former executive committee members, Amy Thompson and Priscilla Pinto Ferreira. Sylvia, Jose-Benito, and I look forward to serving you all, collaborating with colleagues, and continuing to support Latin American geography and geographers.

We have received updates from a number of our 2024 student award winners regarding the progress of their research. We awarded three Field Study Awards to Alec Armon (MA student, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison), Joycelin Van Caulart (MA student, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto), and Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton (PhD student, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley) last year. I am excited to hear more about their research adventures.

### *Looking Ahead*

The LASG finds itself in an enviable position this year. We have a relatively large amount of funds available to us to award to support student research and professional development. Our awards include the Student Field Study Awards for PhD students (up to \$800) and MA/MS students (up to \$500), Best Student Paper Award (\$100 + the opportunity to submit their paper to the *Journal of Latin American Geography*), and the Solidarity Award



(up to \$200). The solidarity award is to support students from historically under-represented communities to attend the AAG in-person or virtually. The calls for proposals can be found on the LASG website (<https://community.aag.org/lasg/home>) under the Awards tab. All applications are due February 28, 2024, by 11:59 pm Eastern Time. Please share this information widely with your students, colleagues, and friends. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. We would like to recruit 3-4 people to serve as ad hoc reviewers for the student award submissions. If you're interested in supporting LASG and student research as an ad hoc reviewer, please email me at [nicholas.padilla@wmich.edu](mailto:nicholas.padilla@wmich.edu). I find it exciting to review these submissions, and it always leaves me feeling hopeful about the future of Latin American geography.

I am looking forward to the upcoming annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Detroit, Michigan. LASG has been working with JLAG and Gabriela Valdivia to organize the JLAG Keynote. It promises to be a thought-provoking discussion that will challenge us to critically reflect on our work in and around Latin America. Mark your calendars for the LASG Business meeting on March 27 (6-7 PM, Huntington Place 358). We will announce student award winners, discuss specialty group business, and reconnect with old friends and colleagues. Sylvia, Jose-Benito, and I are working to plan an event for the meeting. We would welcome any input or volunteers from the CLAG/LASG community to assist with these efforts.

Lastly, I will transition off the executive committee on July 1, 2025. I strongly encourage you to consider running for the open executive committee position (will elect one member to a progressive three-year term). I have found this service work to be a manageable time commitment and incredibly rewarding. There are also opportunities to serve the LASG as a Director. According to bylaws there are openings for up to three Directors (though we have not had sufficient interest to fill these positions during my tenure) to assist with group business. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss any of these positions.

Yours in solidarity,  
Nick Padilla

Chair, Latin America Specialty Group  
Assistant Professor  
School of Environment, Geography, and  
Sustainability  
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo



## LETTER FROM THE CO-EDITORS - JLAG

Martha Bell and Jessica Budds

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you all have had a happy new year and a refreshing festive season. We are pleased to write with several exciting updates.

First and foremost, since the past CLAG newsletter, we have published issues 23(2) and 23(3) in September and December, respectively. As always we thank our editorial and production team, especially Associate Editors Eugenio Arima and Gabriela Valdivia, Book Review Editor Jörn Seemann, and Production Manager Yulia García, for their careful and sustained work on these publications.

The September issue included four research articles on a diverse set of topics: biocultural landscapes and heritage, common land use and the agrarian question, the Antillean concept of “batey,” and the history of forced internal displacement in Chiapas. Complementing these articles were three *JLAG* Perspectives, an essay on Global Water Security written by Amber Wutich and derived from the 2024 *JLAG* lecture, a presentation of a Storymap project from a Guatemalan field school by Catherine Nolin and her students and collaborators, and an exploration of the Marañón River and indigenous rights in Peru by Mirella Pretell. In addition, issue 23(2) contained a book review forum on Andrea Marston’s monograph, *Subterranean Matters: Cooperative Mining and Resource Nationalism in Plurinational Bolivia* as well as a set of reviews of recently published books.

The December issue was a special issue entitled “Leaks: The Politics of Awkward Circulations in Latin America’s Geographies of Energy Production”, coordinated by guest editors Penelope Anthias, Maria Cariola, Stine Krøijer, and Mattias Borg Rasmussen.

The seven research articles in this special issue examined the unintended spillover consequences of energy infrastructure projects in South America, including explorations of: a coal company’s complaints office in Colombia, energy geographies in the Vaca Muerta region of Chile, the hydrocarbon-conservation frontier in Bolivia, wind energy in Chile, and the impacts of oil extraction on indigenous communities in Ecuador. The guest editors also wrote an introductory guest essay, which was translated to Spanish and Portuguese. Complementing the special issue material was a bilingual English-Spanish *JLAG* Perspective on Puerto Rico by José Javier Hernández Ayala, which had been presented as a keynote paper at the 2024 CLAG meeting, and a full suite of book reviews.

We invite you to read the issues, in print or online via Project MUSE (<https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/240>), and use the content in your teaching and research. We would also like to notify our readers that we have decided to retire our account on X (formerly Twitter, via the handle @JLatAmGeog), following the announcement of the content of issue 23(3). The account remains live so that the archive can be accessed, but will no longer be updated. In its place, we have set up a similar account on Bluesky, with the handle @jlatamgeog.bsky.social. Please join us there!

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite all CLAG members to the 2025 *JLAG* Annual Lecture, to be held at the AAG Meeting in Detroit in March, 2025. The session is co-sponsored by CLAG and the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) of the AAG. We are honored to introduce a panel co-organized by our Associate Editor, Gabriela Valdivia, in together with LASG chair, Nicholas Padilla. The panel includes four guest speakers – Yolanda Valencia, Sofia Zaragocin, Lorena Muñoz,

and Madelaine Cahuas –, who will contribute to a discussion entitled: “Weaving together the Americas: communities, bridges, belonging, from Abya Yala to Turtle Island”. For those attending the AAG whether virtually or in person, please do consider going along!



As always, we warmly invite new submissions from yourselves, your colleagues and students, and your collaborators. We welcome new research articles, proposals for special issues, *JLAG* Perspectives and Retrospectives (short essays on current issues and the impact of articles previously published in *JLAG*, respectively), as well as photographs or artwork for the journal cover (all these can be submitted through our Digital Commons portal, with the exception of special issue proposals, which should be emailed to [jlag@clagscholar.org](mailto:jlag@clagscholar.org)).



Through social media we have noticed a particular flurry of new books on Latin America! If you are interested in reviewing a book, or proposing a book review forum – which are particularly suited to writing up “author-meets-critics” type conference sessions –, please do get in touch with our book review editor, Jörn Seemann ([jseemann@bsu.edu](mailto:jseemann@bsu.edu)).

With our best wishes  
Martha Bell  
Jessica Budds  
Co-editors, *Journal of Latin American Geography*

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### NEW PUBLICATIONS: PAPERS

Abizaid, C., Takasaki, Y., & Coomes, O. T. (2024). COVID-19 and protection measures adopted in rural amazon communities during the first months of the pandemic. COVID-19 y medidas de protección adoptadas en comunidades rurales amazónicas durante los primeros meses de la pandemia. *Revista peruana de medicina experimental y salud publica*, 41(3), 239–246. <https://doi.org/10.17843/rpmesp.2024.413.13017>

Arima, E., & Blue, S. A. (2024). Evaluating the Use of Humanitarian Parole as a Border Management Strategy in the United States. *Migration and Diversity*, 3(4). <https://doi.org/10.33182/md.v3i4.3438>.

Ávalos-Rodríguez, M. L., Špiric, J., McCall, M. K., & Alvarado, J. J. (2024). Assessing the participation of local stakeholders in REDD+ relevant forest subsidies in Jalisco, Mexico. *International Forestry Review* 26(2) 141-176. <https://doi.org/10.1505/146554824838819905>

Córdoba, D. (2024). Fair trade certification and class formation in Nicaragua's coffee plantations. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 45(3), 475-497. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02255189.2024.2371358>

Correia, J. E. (2024). Land matters: How Indigenous land restitution can inform climate change loss and damage policy and chart a path toward an otherwise climate justice. *Climate and Development*, 16(9), 811–825. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17565529.2024.2378027>.

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Ding, Z., Angarita, H., Montesinos Cáceres, C. A., Lavado-Casimiro, W., Goldstein, J. A., Batista, N., Wu, T., Fisher, D., Baudoin Farah, A., Zheng, H., & Schmitt, R. J.P. (2024). Sustainable land and irrigation management to limit loss of hydropower in the Andes-Amazon headwaters. *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*, 5, 648. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01738-4>

Esbach, M., Correia, J. E., Valdivia, G., & Lu, F. (2024). Amazonian conservation across archipelagoes of Indigenous territories. *Conservation Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14407>.

Escosteguy, M., Insaurralde, C. O., Paz, W. F. D., Brannstrom, C., Iribarnegaray, M. A., Hufty, M., & Seghezzo, L. (2024). The political ecology of justice outcomes of lithium mining: The case of Salar del Hombre Muerto, Argentina. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 18, 101477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2024.101477>

Gifford, L., & Sauls, L. A. (2024). Defining Climate Finance Justice: Critical Geographies of Justice Amid Financialized Climate Action. *Geography Compass*, 18: e70008. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.70008>

Gorayeb, A., Brannstrom, C., Xavier, T., de Oliveira Soares, M., Teixeira, C. E. P., dos Santos, A. M. F., & de Carvalho, R. G. (2024). Emerging challenges of offshore wind energy in the Global South: Perspectives from Brazil. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 113, 103542. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103542>

Grady, C., Cabana, Y. C., & Malone, A. (2024). Participatory and user-centered design for hazard mapping: A case study from Achoma, Peru. *The Professional Geographer*, 76(5): 597–606.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2024.2355171>

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<https://doi.org/10.1111/fme.12651>

Souza, D. T. de, van Teijlingen, K., Boelens, R., & Ruales, G. (2025). Seeing Rivers Otherwise: Critical Cartography as a Form of Critical Pedagogy. *Geoforum* 158:104167.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718524002288>

Sorani, J., Seghezze, L., Brannstrom, C., Rodriguez-Alvarez, M. S., Albesa, F., & Iribarnegaray, M. A. (2024). Option of last resort or pragmatic solution? Social perspectives on onsite wastewater treatment systems in northern Argentina. *Urban Water Journal*, 21(7), 827-838. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1573062X.2024.2359663>

Takasaki, Y., Coomes, O. T., & Abizaid, C. (2024). Pervasive Indigenous and local knowledge of tropical wild species. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-024-02100-w>

Tung, D. (2025). Un Niño, Una Radio: Local Responses to Covid-19 in the Peruvian Amazon. *Latin American Perspectives*, 52(1), 102-105. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582X241300299>.

van Teijlingen, Karolien. (2023). Mapping the Truth about Mining: Corporate Cartography and its Contestations. *Environment and Planning F: Philosophy, Theory, Models, Methods and Practice*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/26349825231202251>

## NEW PUBLICATIONS: BOOK CHAPTERS

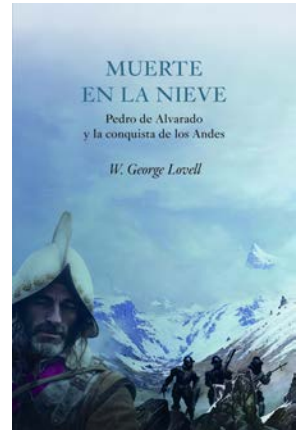
Cáceres Arteaga, N., & D. Lane, K. M. (2024). Capacidad adaptativa al cambio climático de la población agricultora del Ecuador. En *Colapso climático en la región andina. Dimensiones ecosistémicas, socioeconómicas y sociopolíticas*. <https://dspace.ups.edu.ec/handle/123456789/29382>

Correia, J. E., & Osborne, T. (2024). Public political ecology for climate and environmental justice. In *Doing Political Ecology*. Simon, G. and Kay, K. eds. pp. 209-222. New York: Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003165477>.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

A second edition of W. George Lovell's *MUERTE en la NIEVE: PEDRO de ALVARADO y la CONQUISTA de los ANDES* has been published in Guatemala by the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (<https://cirma.org.gt/>) and SOPHOS (<https://www.sophosonline.com/contacto/>).



## NEW PUBLICATIONS: PODCASTS

Belury, L. (2024). Flood Justice in the US-Mexico Borderlands: Falcon Dam/Presa Falcón (English Version) <https://jsw.arizona.edu/multimedia/podcasts/lucas-belury-flood-justice-in-the-us-mexico-borderlands-iii/>

In episode 3 of the Flood Justice in the Borderlands series Lucas Belury interviews Dr. Caroline Tracey, a geographer, journalist, and author of the forthcoming book *Salt Lakes* (W.W. Norton, 2026). In this episode we discuss the politics of the 1954 Falcon Dam (Presa Falcón) in the Rio Grande/Río Bravo river. This dam provided irrigation water and hydro-electricity to both Texas and Tamaulipas, yet flooded and displaced thousands of border residents.

Ñañez, Roxana Escobar. (2024). *Tertulia Day*. (Spanish with English subtitles): <https://youtube.com/@diadetertulia?si=SqY54iXVT6wABbQa>. English summaries: <https://open.spotify.com/show/51kcL4Sgt4754FKlzMAeEX?si=8ETXBDLzTJu8EuZkMRJWhw> and <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/d%C3%ADa-de-tertulia-tertulia-day/id1752711647?i=1000659418729>.

This podcast is based on Roxana's dissertation findings using decolonial and Black geographies as a framework, and critical podcasting as a methodology. The podcast launched on June 16th, and is called *Tertulia Day*. You can find it with English subtitles on YouTube, and English summaries on Spotify and Apple Podcast. In the podcast, Roxana interviews Afro-Peruvian women performers of criollo music, delving into their stories and spatial practices in the city of Lima.

# JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, No 23(2) 2024

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

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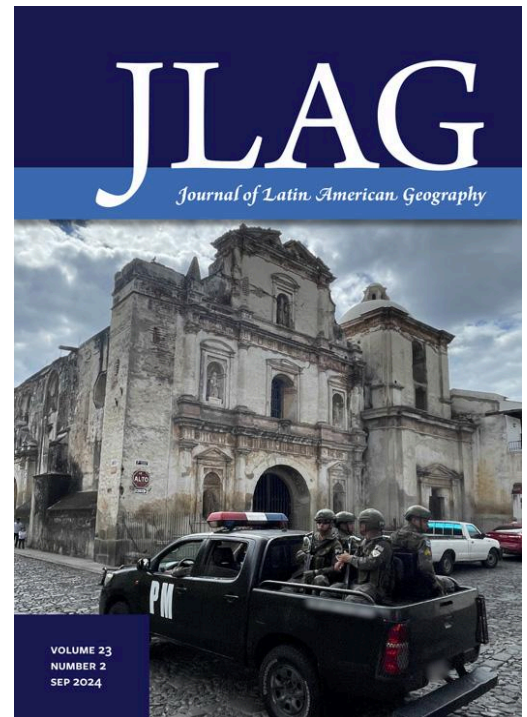
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## JLAG BOOK REVIEW FORUM:

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- Tenenbaum, J.E. (2024). [Review of the book *A Body of One’s Own: A Trans History of Argentina*, by Patricio Simonetto]. *Journal of Latin American Geography* 23(2), 195-197. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/lag.2024.a939034>.
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## JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, No 23(3) 2024

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Duarte, M.C., & L'Hoste, A.S. (2024). Vaca Muerta como territorio(s) en fricción: pueblo Mapuche e hidrocarburos al norte de la Patagonia argentina / Vaca Muerta as Territory of Friction: The Mapuche People and Hydrocarbons in Northern Argentine Patagonia. *Journal of Latin American Geography* 23(3), 115-137. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/lag.2024.a948098>.

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## CLAG/LASG MEMBER NEWS

### Member Awards and News:

**Joycelin Van Caulart** (right) of University of Toronto won a SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (CGS-M), the 2024 CLAG Student Field Study Grant, and the 2024 Latin American Specialty Group (LASG) Field Study Award through the AAG.



**John Harner** was invited to give the Cátedra de Geografía Humana Elisée Reclus at the Instituto José Maria Luis Mora in Mexico City from April 22-25, 2024. Entitled "La construcción de la identidad del lugar y las transformaciones en el sistema urbano de los Estados Unidos," this was a 5-class short course on the U.S. urban system and a research presentation on his book "Profiting from the Peak: Landscape and Liberty in Colorado Springs," the latter presented at the Centro de Investigación en Ciencias de Información Geoespacial (also in Mexico City).

**Joel E. Correia** received the 2024 Colorado State University Warner College of Natural Resources "Team Award" for co-directing the Just-Social Ecological Transformations in Latin America Program (JSET). \*The award was given to the whole JSET team. For more information about JSET, please visit their website here: <https://www.jset-la.org/>.

**Joel E. Correia** received a 2024 Warner College of Natural Resources "Outstanding Publication Award" for his book, *Disrupting the Patrón: Indigenous Land Rights and the Fight for Environmental Justice in Paraguay's Chaco*. *Disrupting the Patrón* was published by University of California Press in 2023 and is available open access here: <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/disrupting-the-patron/paper>.

**W. George Lovell** was the recipient of an Award of Public Recognition for his research, teaching, and publications on the historical geography of Central America, an honor extended to him jointly by the Academies of Geography and History of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. The award singled out George's long-standing commitment to generating and disseminating knowledge about Central America, foremost of all its experiences of conquest and how the region fared under Spanish colonial rule. Following the award ceremony (below) George had the additional pleasure of meeting and talking with the President of Guatemala, Dr. Bernardo Arévalo (right).



**Natali Cáceres-Arteaga** (Universidad Central del Ecuador) participated in a collaborative project between several important institutions, such as the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg and the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies to co-publish a book chapter that explores the ability of Ecuadorian farmers to adapt to climate change. The new book, titled "Climate Collapse," has just been published in Ecuador and can be accessed online for free <https://dspace.ups.edu.ec/handle/123456789/29382>.

**Dr. Alisa Hartsell** was awarded the Outstanding Doctoral Student in the College of Liberal Arts in 2024. Alisa is working with the USCIS on program development and continues to publish articles on legal geography. Congratulations Alisa!

### Other Noteworthy Activities:

**Joel E. Correia** has been busy recently with several international workshops and field research trips, including: 1) co-directing a workshop in Todos Santos Mexico with collaborators from Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Colorado State University to develop a new transdisciplinary graduate training program focused on nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss in Latin America; 2) continuing long-term field research in the Paraguayan Chaco that focuses on the political ecologies of mega-infrastructure development, climate change, and drought among Indigenous and other frontline communities; 3) continuing

NSF-funded, transdisciplinary research focused on adaptive Indigenous territorial stewardship and social-ecological system resilience in the face of extreme environmental change in the Ecuadorian Amazon; 4) co-directing the Just-Social Ecological Transformations in Latin America Program at Colorado State University and hosting weekly seminars that convene scholars, practitioners, community members, and students to build a transdisciplinary community of praxis.

PICTURES FROM THE FIELD:

**Joycelin Van Caulart** conducting fieldwork in the Peruvian Amazon (Ucayali, Peru) for her master's thesis at the University of Toronto.



**David Salisbury:** SEPTEMBER 2024: 11 young Amazonian and Andean leaders from Peru at the University of Richmond as part of the US Department of State/US Embassy in Peru/CINICIA Connecting Cultures Program. David Seward Salisbury led guests, UR students, faculty, and staff in 5 activities: A Landscape Riverwalk through downtown Richmond, Climate and Threats Mapping in the Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL), Participatory Dancing with the lead dancers of the Nansemond Nation of the Virginia Tidewater, the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual James River Regional Clean up w. UR Students**, and an **Amistoso Fútbol** match.



The first full day started with a landscape walk along the James River before analyzing satellite imagery of their home villages in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability's Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL)



The Nansemond Indian Nation's Chief and his son joined guests & students for dancing in the Well-Being Center



The last day ended with all participating in the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual James River Regional Clean-Up**

**David Salisbury:** OCTOBER 2024: 12 University of Richmond undergraduate students taking the Sophomore Scholars in Residence course titled **Amazonia Connected** joined their Professor, David Seward Salisbury, and Environmental Studies Coordinator Todd Lookingbill in the Peruvian Amazon for four days of field explorations in the Tambopata Research Center (TRC).



Students were amazed by the diversity of trees and insects along the Tambopata River in Southern Peru



Students captured the sounds and sights of the rainforest from the canopy to the understory



Squirrel monkeys, macaws, dusky titi monkeys, and arachnids represented some of the fauna seen, but students also had the opportunity to walk in swidden fields, the urban Amazon, Lima, and the Pacific Ocean



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## RECENT GRADUATES AND NEW POSITIONS

### NEW POSITIONS:

**Scott Odell** began a new position as a Program Scientist in the MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative, leading the Program on Mining and the Circular Economy. Scott will also continue as an Assistant Research Professor of Geography at George Washington University.

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## OPPORTUNITIES, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

**The Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department at Colorado State University is hiring a new Department Head!** Full position details are available at this link:

<https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/155056>. It is an exciting time for HDNR at CSU—the work that geographers do is well suited for our goals, mission, and future directions. Please see the brief excerpt below for a description of the department.

"The Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources prioritizes the importance of fostering meaningful connections between people and nature to promote the health and well-being of social-ecological systems. The Department aims to develop actionable strategies that inspire hope, address interconnected environmental challenges, and ensure that diverse voices and worldviews are included in the quest for a sustainable future.

The HDNR Department delivers transformative education and mentorship that prepares leaders and scientists to conserve biodiversity and promote meaningful and joyful relationships with nature. We do this by providing inclusive student-centered training and experiential learning that broaden individual perspectives and empower students to make meaningful contributions to their communities and environments. Through transdisciplinary social science approaches, the Department conducts research and outreach that bridges academic science, local knowledge systems, and practice to provide equitable and just solutions that enhance environmental conservation and human well-being outcomes, facilitate meaningful connections to nature, and instill hope for positive change for people, society and the planet."

Review of applications will begin February 10, 2025. Please consider applying and forward this opportunity to interested candidates.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Eric Toman, Search Committee Chair and Head, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, at [Eric.Toman@colostate.edu](mailto:Eric.Toman@colostate.edu). Although I am not on the search committee, I would be happy to share thoughts about Fort Collins, Colorado State, the Warner College of Natural Resources, and the HDNR Department.

**REDMAP** – La Red LatinoAmericana de Mapeo Participativo – an initiative of an online network for Participatory Mapping in Latin America started by colleagues in Mexico and Argentina.

Please find the description, vision and aims of the REDMAP network, as well as to the Registration Form to join the group here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1s\\_5hs6oNHtjkZzLoAT4BB6C8czg2oeopI3\\_dr\\_-wE/edit?ts=66bc96ff#responses](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1s_5hs6oNHtjkZzLoAT4BB6C8czg2oeopI3_dr_-wE/edit?ts=66bc96ff#responses)

Additionally, find access to the first three of the webinars in 2024 on participatory mapping, territoriality, resistance, spatial justice, etc. from REDMAP here: <https://www.youtube.com/@redmaplatam> and <https://comulab.geoint.mx/site/difusiones/id/1.html>

## NOTE FROM THE CLAG NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

CLAGistas,

Happy winter to all – we hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy time with loved ones over the winter break. We thank you all again for your exciting contributions to our newsletter.

It's impossible not to reflect on what is going on in the region without the shadow of the Trump administration and what it means for Latin America.

The dissolution of USAID, upending of asylum entry, threats to seize the Panama Canal, termination of deportation protection for Venezuelans, targeting of undocumented folks for deportation, massive potential tariffs on Mexico, exporting prisoners to El Salvador, and even the symbolic “renaming” of the Gulf of Mexico. Exiting climate agreements and policies that will likely accelerate climate change- and the list goes on. There is no sugarcoating it and it is hard to be optimistic. It is a disorienting barrage of assaults on people and the environment, the impacts of which will last far beyond what is (hopefully) just 4 years.

How do we resist? What networks of solidarity will we need to build or rekindle? How do we support those whose efforts to build social and ecological resilience will suddenly be without funding by the shuttering of USAID? How many of our research projects will be put on hold with massive budget cuts to NSF or censoring work because it includes any analysis of inequality? It is a dizzying, confusing, and for me personally, scary time.

In the midst of this grim reality, it remains important that we commit to care- for ourselves, supporting each other, especially care for students whose funding declines can be existential- and to take to heart the many rich lessons of resistance and community building across Latin American cultures. Don't we know so many stories of this creativity across many authoritarian regimes in the

region? Another world(s) is (are) still possible! I don't yet know how we build alternatives during the next four years, but I am committed to finding a way.

Elise and Beth  
CLAG Newsletter Co-Editors



